

# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

## Inside This Issue

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## Services

- Sundays - 9 am  
Holy Eucharist
- Wednesdays - 8 am  
Morning Prayer

## Bible Studies

- Wednesdays 6 pm  
Read and Feed  
Bishop Seabury Room  
(more info on page 6)

## From Our Pastor

*"The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."*

*John 1:9-14*

## *Of Sea Turtles and Humans*

Last evening, I was walking with two of my daughters on a stretch of the beach in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. As we were walking, we noticed some people erecting a small fence with a black tarp around a small enclosure. We went to see what they were doing.

We learned that they are a rescue team (all volunteers) who are trying to protect the nests of sea turtles which are about to hatch. Each nest has about 120 eggs. Sea turtles are an endangered species. Part of the reason for their precarious existence is that human beings have built lots of houses and hotels near their nesting areas. When the baby turtles hatch from their eggs, their natural instinct is to head for the light of the stars above the sea. The mother is not around to guide them. She lays her eggs and leaves. The newborn turtles rely on the instincts passed on in their DNA to head for the lights – and therefore the sea.

The problem with human habitation near the nesting areas is that we have our own lights in our houses and hotels. And when these newborn turtles see the human lights, they head in the wrong direction and very shortly after, they die.

So, the volunteers construct a black curtain around three sides of the nesting areas so that the only lights the little turtles can see are the stars. And therefore, the turtles head in the right direction and into the sea.

*(continued on page 2)*



*Sunday Morning, 1877, Thomas Waterman Wood.*

## Sunday Readings

### August 4- Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23

Psalms 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

### August 11 - Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

### August 18 - Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

### August 25 - Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalms 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17-56

*(FROM OUR PASTOR continued from page 1)*

This morning, while I was walking along the same stretch of beach at sunrise, it occurred to me that the mission of the turtle rescue volunteers and the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ are similar.

Jesus is, as the scripture passage on the previous page says, “the true light that enlightens every person”. When we see Jesus, through the eyes of faith, we see the light and love and redeeming purpose of God. But not everyone can see His light. And not everyone receives that light. And there are many other lights which attract people away from the true light. And many of these lights are destructive.

We live in the midst of an era of great change in our modern world. In some respects our society is doing well. We enjoy material prosperity and longer lives than our ancestors could ever have imagined. And yet, from another perspective, our moral and spiritual economy is in ruins. The polarization of our public discourse at the present moment and the vile rhetoric that is spewed on television and social media are symptoms – not the cause – of our moral and spiritual bankruptcy.

Our mission, like the folks who are trying to save the sea turtles, is to point people to the true light, the true love, the true purpose of humanity: to participate in the saving and redeeming work of God for all humanity. This is the light that Jesus is. This is the light that Jesus shows. This is the light we are invited to follow and embrace and live.

God bless,  
Father Tom

## A Word from the Wardens

### *Praying for others*

Are there people in your life that you don't like? People who have hurt your feelings in the past or who rub you the wrong way? People who make your life uncomfortable?

Jesus said to love our enemies and to pray for them yet sometimes it seems very difficult for us to love and pray for that annoying person just around the corner.

But prayer really works. Making an effort to interrupt yourself when you begin to criticize and think badly of another and to instead say a prayer for them may not change the person you're praying for but it changes you. Your behavior follows the change in your heart and the extra patience and kindness that you show in place of annoyance and resentment may impact another's life in ways that you will never know.

## Fun Facts from the Family Learning Center

The Family Learning Center has been holding classes in our church school area for the last two years. This program provides language and life navigation skills for parents from other countries and Puerto Rico and at the same time provides childcare for their infants and pre-schoolers. The following facts show the scope of the program.

2017 - 2018

Served 15 families with 17 children (6 weeks to 4 years old) representing Albania, Bosnia, China, Italy, Japan, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, and the Sudan.

2018 - 2019

Served 22 families with 24 children (3 months to 4 years old) representing Bosnia, China, El Salvador, Japan, Peru, Syria, and the Sudan.

Total for 2 years

31 adults, 34 children, eight languages spoken (Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Polish, and Spanish), eight towns served (Wethersfield, Glastonbury, New Britain, East Hartford, West Hartford, Rocky Hill, Hartford, Manchester).

Sixty-five lives positively impacted!

## Trinity's 150th Anniversary Service and Reception

*Save the Date: October 6, 2019*

Trinity will begin the celebration of our 150th anniversary on Sunday, October 6 with a festive service of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas, bishop diocesan. This will be followed by a reception featuring appetizers and hors d'oeuvres in the Parish Hall.

Former Trinity clergy, area clergy and local dignitaries will be invited to join us. There will be no 9 am service on that day. Invitations to this event will be mailed to parish members and other guests later this month.

Look for yours in the mail!



*Personal Devotions, 1881-1891,  
Adolf Hölzel.*

## Parish Leadership

### PASTOR

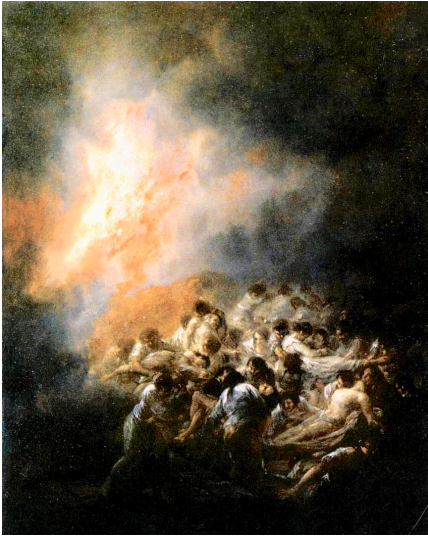
The Rev. Thomas Furrer  
In the case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Father Tom at 860-212-6994.

### STAFF

Linda Rubera, Administrator  
Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12  
860-529-6825  
operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org  
Dorothy LaBelle, Music Director  
Nick Tracano, Sexton

### VESTRY

Warren Blessing  
Robert Heath, Treasurer  
Carol Jones, Clerk  
Leslie Jones  
Tina LaMorte  
Cheryl Lewis  
Denise Paternostro, Warden  
Rose Riley, Warden  
Judith Shaw  
Linda Traue



*Incendio, fuego de noche,  
Fire at Night, 1793, Francisco Goya.*

## Sacred Healing: A Summer Film Series

The North Central and South Central Regions have been working together to offer a series of films, with facilitated conversation to follow, as a way to explore race and racism. The series is open to those in other regions, as well. Free.

The series continues August 6 and August 13 from 5:30 - 9 pm at St. Paul's, Wallingford and materials are from this year's Trinity Institute, "Scene and Unseen: Facing Race Through Film." August films include *Do the Right Thing* and *Trace of the Trade*.

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

### SAVE THE DATES

August	Nigerian Scholarship Renewals
Sept 7	From the 50s to Now Concert
Sept 30	Community Meal at Christ Church Cathedral
Oct 20	Chili + Rice & Beans Cook-Off
Nov 9	Golden Oldies Concert
Nov 23	Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair
Nov 25	Community Meal at Christ Church Cathedral

### NIGERIAN SCHOLARSHIP RENEWALS

We are well on our way to renewing scholarships to send 40 children to school for another year. To date we have collected \$2,545 which includes money carried over from 2018 (after the wire transfer took place). The African Palms sale contributed \$76 (thank you Carol Jones for heading this up) and the rest was contributed this year.

The cost for a full-year scholarship is \$92; a half scholarship is \$46. Please make your checks payable to "Trinity Parish" and put "Nigerian Scholarship" on the memo line. Please complete the form to accompany your check. Forms are available in the back of the church and on the table in the Outreach Corner of the Parish Hall. They can be placed in the collection plate, mailed to the church, dropped off in the office, or handed to Rose Riley or Marilyn Ford.

Thank you for joining us in this wonderful ministry of sending primary school children in the Kafanchan district of Nigeria to school, many for the first time. The cut-off date is August 30 so please make your donation before the money is wired.

### FROM THE 50S TO NOW

Saturday, September 7, 7 pm

Join your fellow parishioners and the community for another great Sal Basile concert in our Parish Hall. Bistro-style seating, snacks, appetizers, desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Please help us by bringing snacks, finger foods, crackers and cheese, chips and dips, fruit, deviled eggs, brownies, cookies, or something that does not need silverware. \$10 at the door with proceeds going to Trinity Parish.

### SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

We are helping Wethersfield Social Services with a new program for families with children who are experiencing some financial hardship. The program runs through August 23 and then we go back to the Backpack Program when school starts. Needed items include peanut butter and jelly (in plastic containers), canned tuna and chicken, peanut butter cracker packages, cheese cracker packages, granola bars, and other healthy snacks, plus juice boxes.



## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

### WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK

The foods listed under “Summer Lunch Program “ are pretty much what we donate to the food bank. In addition, pasta is needed. Last month, Trinity donated 91.6 lbs.!

### OUR SYRIAN FAMILY

Please continue to put the following items in the marked bin in the Parish Hall: paper towels, toilet paper, washing machine detergent, dish detergent, liquid hand soap, shampoo, no-tears shampoo, and juice boxes for the children. There is also need for vegetable oil, olive oil, and liquid hand soap at the present time. The family is so appreciative of your support for them.

### SOUTH PARK INN

From time to time South Park Inn updates their “shopping list” to reflect current needs. Copies of the list are attached to the South Park Inn collection bins. Feel free to take one.

Here’s their updated list.

- Gift cards — Walmart and Target, grocery stores and fast food restaurants, Cost Cutters (haircuts)
- Bus passes (to get clients to and from work or appointments)
- Household and clothing — ground coffee, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies, new or lightly used Twin sheet sets and bath towels, men’s new briefs (large - xxl), women’s new briefs (large - xxl), t-shirts and pajamas (xl, xxl, xxxl) for men and women, incontinence products
- Office supplies (new) — copy paper, pens, pencils, post-its, file folders

Your faithful stewardship is very much appreciated by South Park Inn and the fact that some of the items are fully stocked is reflective of your generous giving.



*Woman with an Infirmary of Eighteen Years, 1886-1894, James Tissot.*

## Community Meals at Christ Church Cathedral

Ministry leaders Lynda and Warren Blessing appreciate everyone who supports the success of these dinners. There are two left to support this year. Our next dinner is September 30 and the last one for 2019 will be November 25. We need about eight individuals each evening to help prepare and serve the dinners. It’s a very satisfying evening of helping others. It takes approximately 2½ hours to fulfill our efforts. It has been very nice to have some new volunteers cycle in and have an opportunity to help out. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to give Warren or Lynda a call at 860-742-3253.

There is a sign-up sheet for the next dinner at the back of the church. Please sign up if you’d like to help out with a donation of food or your time.

## Parish Directory

It's been a year and a half since we last updated our parish directory so it's time to do it again. We have begun the process by sending to parish members the information we currently have on file for them. We've asked them to review and, if needed, update this information. We'll also have an opportunity for people to have photos taken for the directory. We're hoping to have the new directories available to Trinity Parish members in September.

## Evening Book Club

Save the date! Mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 10, when the Evening Book Club will hold its annual planning meeting for the upcoming year. Join us at 5:45 pm at the home of Joan Joseph (860-666-4847) for pizza and books. Bring your suggestions and your calendar. All are welcome to join the fun!

## A Welcome Sight

The entry doors to the church look terrific thanks to the hard work of Jerry Stavola and Warren Blessing, members of our Property Committee.

All ironwork was taken off both sets of entry doors, cleaned and repainted black. The doors were sanded and an epoxy was used to fill the damaged areas. They were sanded again, primed, and then given two coats of official "Episcopal red" paint. The iron work was reattached and now we have a beautiful entry to our sanctuary.



## Read and Feed Bible Study

The Read and Feed Bible Study which is based on Brian McLaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*, continues in the Seabury Room at 6 pm on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. Bring your own dinner; beverages and desserts will be provided.

We will eat at 6 and begin our discussion at 6:30. If you don't wish to join the group for dinner, please come at 6:30 for the discussion. Bible Study generally ends between 7:30 and 8.

## Financial Report

Pledge Status as of 6/30/2019

Total Annual Pledge	\$ 115,542
Pledge Budget	\$ 57,771
Received	\$ 61,642
Difference	+ \$ 3,871

Income/Expenses

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 72,949	\$ 68,055
Expenses	\$ 67,936	\$ 68,055

## Lay Ministry Schedule

<b>August 4</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	G. Smith
	Lector	C. Helfant
	Intercessor	J. Shaw
	Ushers	M. Kucka
	Closer	D. Paternostro
<b>August 11</b>	Opener	C. Harasymiw
	Eucharistic Minister	C. Jones
	Lector	G. Lohman
	Intercessor	C. Chadsey
	Ushers	D. Paternostro
	Closer	M. Kucka
<b>August 18</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	J. Joseph
	Lector	G. Myers
	Intercessor	R. Riley
	Ushers	C. Chadsey
	Closer	M. Kucka
<b>August 25</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	S. Basile
	Lector	K. Cole
	Intercessor	R. Riley
	Ushers	M. Kucka
	Closer	D. Paternostro



### Because We're Expecting Guests...

Our recent guest preacher, Father Don Hamer, pointed out how important name tags are. As he reminded us, "There's only one of me but about 50 of you and name tags are very helpful." The same would be true for anyone new to Trinity.

Please wear your name tag every Sunday. After all, we've been praying that God will send us new people, and we want to be ready for them.

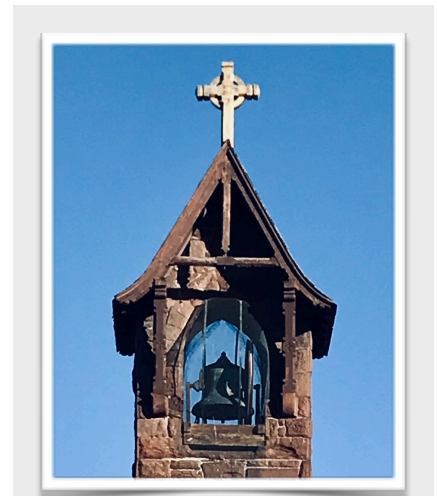
## A Prayer for Parish Mission

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Dear and Gracious God,

Please send us the people we need in order to become the church You want us to be, and please send us the people who need us in order to become the people You want them to be. Help us to respond with love to those You send, making room for them at our table and in our hearts so that together we can share Your love with our neighbors in need both locally and around the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who met people where they were, loved and cared for them, and invited them into a deeper relationship with You.

Amen



### The Belfry

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*The Belfry* is a monthly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109. Send items for the next publication to [lesliejonesie@gmail.com](mailto:lesliejonesie@gmail.com) by August 26.

## The Belfry

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