

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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Weekly Services

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

Bible Studies

- Wednesdays, 6 pm
Read and Feed
Bishop Seabury Room

- Thursdays, 10:30
Begins January 9
Bishop Seabury Room



From Our Pastor

Dear Trinity Family,

We are about to begin Advent – a brief season of spiritual preparation leading up to Christmas. As everyone knows, this brief season is packed with lots of competing activities and expectations: house decorating, shopping, food preparations, office parties, family celebrations, gift giving, card or e-card sending, traveling, receiving travelers, etc., etc., etc.

These many activities and expectations, while not bad things, can crowd out any time or energy or attention to the deeper meaning of the season. And we see some slogans which try to remind us of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas: “Jesus is the reason for the season,” “Keep Christ in Christmas,” “Wise men still seek Him,” and so on.

So, here is a suggestion for everyone who wishes to focus on Jesus in the midst of this season which has grown up around, and largely forgotten, the celebration of His Birth.

Every morning when you rise in December, before you do anything else, get down on your knees and thank God for sending Jesus to redeem us from our sins and brokenness. Then get up off your knees and read a small portion of the first three chapters of the Gospel according to Luke. Then focus on one verse or one thought for the

(continued on page 2)



Two Women at the Mill, James Tissot, between 1886 and 1894 (Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44)

Sunday Readings

December 1

Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm 122,
 Romans 13:11-14
 Matthew 24:36-44

December 8

Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

December 15

Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm 146:5-10,
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11

December 22

Isaiah 7:10-16
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 Romans 1:1-7
 Matthew 1:18-25

December 29

Isaiah 63:7-9
 Psalm 148
 Hebrews 2:10-18
 Matthew 2:13-23

FROM OUR PASTOR *(continued from page 1)*

day and meditate on it for five minutes. Then dedicate the day and yourself to God's purpose for you today.

When you stop to eat your lunch, repeat your verse for the day.

When you pray before dinner, repeat your verse for the day.

When you pray before going to bed at night, repeat your verse for the day and thank God for giving you the day you just lived through.

Repeat every day in December.

I am going to try my best to do this simple exercise. I invite you to join me.

Father Tom

A Word From Our Wardens

"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." This is how the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service ended. With voices raised in joyful song, the people of many faith communities came together to worship with their neighbors and praise the God of them all.

It was a night of reading scripture from Hebrew, Muslim and Christian traditions and a night of many hymns of praise. At the reception that followed there was the opportunity for renewing old friendships and building new ones.

For members of Trinity Parish it was a night of joy to open our church home to praise God with our neighbors. We are so blessed to be a blessing.



Rabbi Seth Riemer from Temple Beth Torah, Wethersfield, and Zahir Muhammad Mannan from House of Peace Mosque, Meriden, were two of the religious leaders participating in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

A Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols

Trinity will celebrate its second Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 22 at the 9 am service of Holy Eucharist. In this very special service the story of Advent and Christmas is told through scripture readings, hymns and anthems.

The service will be followed by a festive coffee hour. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to this joyous service.

Advent Quiet Day

The Hartford Chapter of the Companions of the Holy Cross invite all women of the parish to their Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 14 at Christ Church Cathedral from 10 - 1. Charlotte LaForest, the assistant at St. James's, West Hartford, will be our leader. We will hear several meditations followed by silent reflection time, concluding with a group Eucharist. Please bring a bag lunch if you wish to stay for fellowship. Parking will be across Church Street in the Hartford Stage parking garage. For further information and to sign up, please email Kate Smith at kate48smith@comcast.net or call 860-519-1591 by December 12.



Christmas Flowers

Please consider a donation to Trinity Parish Christmas Flowers. We gratefully accept any amount you choose to give. We suggest a donation of \$50. Make your checks payable to "Trinity Parish" with "Flower Fund" on the memo line. Printing deadline is December 18. Please indicate (M) for a memorial or (T) for a living thanksgiving donation on the lines below.

Name(s): _____

Given by: _____

You may deliver your payment in three ways: mail your check to Trinity Parish, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109; bring your check to the office, Tuesday thru Thursday from 9 - noon; include it with your Sunday contribution.

With appreciation, Trinity Altar Guild



Sojourner Truth, Kelly Latimore, 2018 (Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10)

Parish Leadership

PASTOR

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

CURATE

The Rev. Darryl Burke, Deacon

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



Saint John the Baptist, El Greco, circa 1600 (Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12)

Bible Verse for December

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, because he has looked upon the humble estate of his maidservant. Behold from now on all generations will call me blessed. Because the Mighty One has done great things for me and Holy is his name.' "

Luke 1:46-49

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

DUAL ADVENT GIVING

The Mission and Outreach Committee came up with some new ideas for Advent giving this year.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Instead of getting a gift every day during Advent, let's give one away. Add items to a box or bag each day and on Christmas, bring your collection to church as a gift to the Wethersfield Food Pantry. Here are some suggestions:

December 1	canned fruit
December 2	peanut butter
December 3	box of pasta
December 4	paper towels
December 5	shampoo
December 6	applesauce
December 7	tea
December 8	can of tuna
December 9	canned corn
December 10	rice
December 11	jelly (plastic container)
December 12	pasta sauce
December 13	juice boxes
December 14	can of beans
December 15	cake or brownie mix
December 16	canned tomatoes
December 17	coffee
December 18	toilet paper
December 19	crackers
December 20	dish soap
December 21	cereal
December 22	can of soup
December 23	toothpaste
December 24	salad dressing

Copies of this list are at the back of the church and in the Parish Hall. Keep in mind that the Food Bank prefers no-salt-added canned vegetables, fruit in 100% juice, low-sodium soups, and plastic containers (no glass).

St. Monica's Christmas Toys

St. Monica's Episcopal Church in the north end of Hartford gives an annual Christmas party to neighborhood children. This is an opportunity for us to help give gifts to less fortunate children. Deacon Darryl will deliver the toys for this event. Please remember that *all toys must be new, safe, unwrapped, and non-violent* for babies through teen years, e.g. cars, trucks, dolls, books, games, and stuffed animals. More information will be in the e-blasts and Sunday inserts.

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK

Please pick from the Reverse Advent Calendar list of items if you don't want to fully participate in the Reverse Advent program.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are supporting Wethersfield Social Services by providing snacks to over 60 children in Wethersfield schools who take home a backpack full of health, kid-friendly items to keep them going over the weekend. Healthy snacks such as granola bars, protein bars, lower-sugar breakfast bars, crackers (including peanut butter cracker packages and cheese cracker pages) and juice boxes are needed. These go to lower income families with children in Wethersfield.

SYRIAN FAMILY IN WETHERSFIELD

There is a need now for paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish detergent, and liquid hand soap. Yaman and her family really appreciate Trinity's generosity. Gift cards to Price Rite or Stop & Shop would be helpful. Please give the cards to Marilyn Ford.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

On Tuesday, November 26, Trinity hosted the first of what we hope will become an annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This service, which was lead by clergy from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith communities, was attended by well over 100 people from many diverse backgrounds. Participating in the service were clergy, musicians and choir members from Church of the Good Shepherd, Hartford; House of Peace Mosque, Meriden; St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wethersfield; Temple Beth Torah, Wethersfield; Trinity, Wethersfield; and the Wethersfield United Methodist Church.

Music, provided by a combined choir from participating churches, Wethersfield United Methodist's Praise Band and Rabbi Seth Riemer's wonderful guitar, gave opportunities for all to raise their voices in joy. A reception, following the service, offered a time of fellowship.



Refugees: Holy Family, Kelly Latimore, 2018 (Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23)

Need A Prayer?

The Trinity Prayer team accepts requests from parishioners who wish to have prayers for a person in immediate need because of illness or impending surgery. The communication and all details are confidential to the team.

Members of the team will pray for that person daily for two weeks from the time received. If there is further need for prayers, the parishioner who originally put in the request will need to get in touch again to ask for another two weeks.

Calls should be made to Janice Rouse at 860-529-5139 (please leave a message) or email dickandjan@cox.net

Team members include Janice Rouse (convener), Rebecca Scruton, Sue Smith, Mimi Basile, Sue Krupenvech-Rafala, Cheryl Chadsey, Tina LaMorte and Nancy Buttarro.



*While Mary Sleeps, Lester Yocum, 2009
(Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25)*

Our Christmas Pageant

In the '80s and '90s, there were lots of children at Trinity and Christmas pageants were exciting affairs. They usually took place in the late afternoon on the Sunday before Christmas with an audience of proud parents and grandparents. There were so many angels and shepherds it was hard to fit them all in the chancel! The older children had the leading roles; Mary, Joseph, Gabriel and narrators.

As years went by, the number of children in the pageant (and in church school) slowly dwindled. But, we still have a pageant! Adults of the congregation (at this time of year, they are children at heart) act out the Christmas story and visiting children and grandchildren join in as shepherds and angels. And so the Christmas pageant continues and with it the joy in our hearts that we first felt as children at the story of our Savior's birth.

Symbols on the Needlepoint Altar Rail Kneeling Cushions

Contributed by Nan Heath

Have you ever noticed the kneeling cushions at the communion rail and wondered about their history? They were created around 1973 by Angelyn Weeman (wife of the Rev. Gordon Weeman) and a group of capable parish needlewomen.

The design is based on the sequence of Holy Scripture beginning with creation from the Book of Genesis and concluding with the promised City of God in the final book of the Bible, the Revelation of John the Divine. Here is a brief description of each of the kneelers. Take a moment to admire them the next time you are at the communion rail.

- Sun, Moon, Stars - the creation story
- The Apple - the temptation in the Garden of Eden
- Noah's Ark and the Rainbow - the re-creation after the flood
- The Stone Tablets - the Ten Commandments
- The Ark of the Covenant - carried by the Hebrews through the wilderness, representing God's presence with God's people on their journey
- Star of David - symbol of the kingdom of Israel
- A break occurs in the altar rail for a kneeler that reflects our parish name, Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
- Gabriel: Angel Messenger - the Annunciation of Mary
- Crib with Chi Rho Symbol - a monogram of Jesus, the story of Jesus's birth
- Epiphany Star - the visit of the magi
- Crown of Thorns and the Nails - Passion symbols, the heart of the Gospel story
- The Chi Rho with Crown - Easter and Ascension
- Seven Candlesticks and Seven Stars - the seven churches of the Book of Revelation

Business Report

Pledge Status as of 10/31/2019

Total Annual Pledge	\$ 115,542
Pledge Budget	\$ 96,285
Received	\$ 101,454
Difference	+ \$ 5,189

Income/Expenses	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 122,370	\$ 113,424
Expenses	\$ 113,888	\$ 113,424

If you'd like to learn more about the business of the church, you can check out the monthly vestry minutes on our website at trinityepiscopalweth.org/vestry-minutes

Lay Ministry Schedule

December 1	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	G. Smith
	Lector	P. Milne
	Intercessor	J. Shaw
	Ushers	M. Kucka J. Stavola
	Closer	D. Paternostro
December 8	Opener	C. Harasymiw
	Eucharistic Minister	A.M. Stavola
	Lector	G. Myers
	Intercessor	J.R. Stanko
	Ushers	M. Kucka J. Stavola
	Closer	D. Paternostro
December 15	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	S. Basile
	Lector	R. Riley
	Intercessor	C. Chadsey
	Ushers	M. Kucka D. Paternostro
	Closer	R. Riley
December 22	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	D. Paternostro
	Lectors	Various
	Intercessor	J. Shaw
	Ushers	M. Kucka D. Paternostro
	Closer	K. Cole
December 29	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	G. Smith
	Lector	L. Jones
	Intercessor	K. Cole
	Ushers	M. Kucka D. Paternostro
	Closer	D. Paternostro



Harvest Arrangement designed for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 26

Evening Book Club

The next meeting will meet on Monday, January 6 (snow date: Tuesday, January 7) for pizza and a book at the home of Liz Zawadzki. Our selection is *The Red Address Book* by Sofia Lundberg. Contact Joan Joseph (860 666-4847) for more information.

Morning Book Club

The Morning Bookclub does not meet in December.

Ladies Luncheon

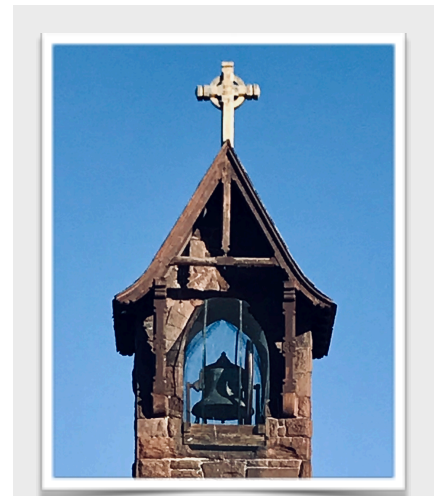
The Ladies Luncheon is Tuesday December 3 (12 noon) at Mykonos Mediterranean Restaurant on the Berlin Turnpike across from McDonalds. If in need of a ride, call Sue Ellen DeCesare at 860-214-2498. All are welcome.

A Prayer for Parish Mission

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

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 by December 27.

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If you prefer to receive The Belfry by email, please contact the office at operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org or 860-529-6825.