

# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Deacon's Message
- 2 Wardens' Message  
Sunday Readings
- 3 Lenten Programs
- 4-5 Outreach
- 6-7 Reports, Events,  
Lay Ministry Schedule
- 8 A Prayer for Parish Mission

## Weekly Services

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

## Lenten Studies

See page 3 for a full list of Bible studies and programs during Lent.

## Cancellations

For cancellations due to inclement weather, check WFSB TV.



## Taking On For Lent

*By Rev. Darryl C. Burke, Deacon*

Ash Wednesday will soon be upon us, so in just a matter of weeks Lent will once again be upon us! As we prepare for Easter, Lent is the liturgical season when we are asked to take some time to reflect on our spiritual journeys as Christians. Lent memorializes the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting, praying, questioning and being tempted by Satan, while he girded Himself to take on the mantle of discharging the task for which the incarnate Jesus had been sent to earth – the redemption and salvation of our souls.

Lent commemorates Jesus's preparation for His death and resurrection. Consequently, Lent is a penitential season; the altar is devoid of flowers, and the music and service take on a somewhat more somber tone. We are preparing ourselves to commit to the prayer, meditation, repentance and self-denial which are so much a part of our "doing" Lent. We take time to remember and to reflect upon Christ's ultimate sacrifice of His life, in order to insure the redemption of our souls, and assure us of our entrance into God's eternal kingdom. It is this on which we focus during Lent.

Traditionally, we "give up" something, e.g. sweets, smoking, drinking – something that is pleasurable or that brings us joy.

*(continued on page 2)*



*La Presentación de Cristo en el Templo, Kelly Latimore, 2018*

## Readings

### February 2

#### 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

### February 9

#### 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

### February 16

#### 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Sirach 15:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

### February 23

#### Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

### February 26

#### Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### TAKING ON FOR LENT (continued from page 1)

This self-denial is how we “live” Lent, for in so doing we emulate Jesus’s sacrifice for us, by sacrificing something of import throughout this season.

Perhaps, we may want to try something different, this Lent. Why not make our sacrifice differently this year and “taking on” something? Why not mark our sacrifice by taking on something, which could possibly strengthen our faith, rather than giving up something in recognition of our faith? Our sacrifice could take the form of adopting a new practice, such as a daily meditation, or additional prayer time, reading *The Bible* each day, or attending an additional service each week. Another possibility is join a book study or finding and reading a new book that enables you to explore or enhance your faith. These are practices which could easily be incorporated into our daily lives and eventually become a permanent part of our faith lives. Yes, Lent is a true penitential season, but the asset of this is that it proffers each of us an opportunity to grow spiritually.

During Lent, I am frequently reminded of Psalm 30:5 “... weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning.” During this season of Lent we explore and engage in the “weeping” that comes in the night, while self-denial is one manner of promoting our spiritual growth, but taking on a new life or spiritual practice is another way of deepening the significance of this season, as we enhance ourselves spiritually, and in so doing we strengthen our faith. May this time of “weeping” prepare us for the joy of Easter morning, but may Lent also, prayerfully, be marked by our own spiritual growth and renewal as we travel with Jesus during this season of reflection and penance.

## A Message From Your ‘Retired’ Wardens

*We would like to take the opportunity to simply say thank you to the people of Trinity Parish for allowing us the honor of being wardens at Trinity these last two years. We have grown so much, learned so much, felt so much love – it is truly a joy to be part of this vibrant and "mighty" Christian community.*

*Denise and Rose*

## Lent at Trinity

*Lent is a season of penitence and prayer to prepare for the Good Friday-Holy Saturday-Easter Sunday heart of our Christian faith. We invite you to join in as many of these special services and programs as you are able.  
And invite a friend.*

### Workshop, Sunday, February 23

Workshop for contemplative writing as a spiritual practice during Lent. Led by Melanie Hepburn and Garth Myers (see details on page 6).

### “Fat Tuesday” Pancake Supper, February 25, 5:30-7

The idea behind “Fat Tuesday” (Mardi Gras) is to eat up all of the fatty food in your house so that you can fast from it during Lent. One of the spiritual disciplines of Lent is fasting (not eating food for certain set periods to enhance your prayer life. So, come and enjoy the pancakes and make a resolve to fast on Ash Wednesday.

### Ash Wednesday Services, February 26

8 am at Trinity  
12 noon at Trinity  
7 pm at St. Paul’s Lutheran

### Wednesday nights during Lent, 6-8

“The Treasures of the Prayer Book”  
Soup supper and teaching by Bishop Gordon, Father Tom and Father Darryl

### Thursday mornings during Lent, 10:30 am - noon

“Spiritual Reflections on Handel’s Messiah”  
Led by Sarah Butters

### Quiet Day, Saturday, March 14, 9-3

Led by Bishop Gordon



*Detail of Via Vita, sculpture, Joseph Chaumet, 1894-1904, (Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12)*

## Parish Leadership

### PASTOR

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

### CURATE

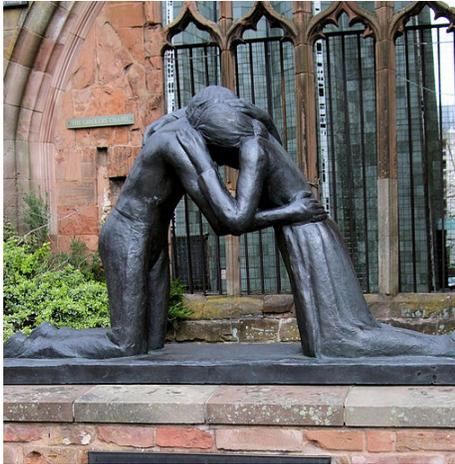
The Rev. Darryl Burke, Deacon

### STAFF

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

### VESTRY

Connie Harasymiw, Senior Warden  
Rebecca Scruton, Senior Warden  
Warren Blessing, Junior Warden  
Robert Heath, Treasurer  
Leslie Jones, Clerk  
Greg Joseph  
Tina LaMorte  
Cheryl Lewis  
J. R. Stanko  
Ann Marie Stavola  
Linda Traue



*Reconciliation, Coventry Cathedral, England (Scripture: Matthew 5:21-37)*

## Mission Conference

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The ECCT Companions in Mission Committee will hold its conference on March 7 at St. Paul's, Riverside. The keynote speaker's work in the community is a story you'll want to hear. Fifteen years ago when he came to First Corinthians Baptist Church in Harlem it had 300 members for a space designed to hold 1100 people. He decided to go out into the community and see what God was up to there. Result? This church now has over 10,000 members who are engaged in transformational work in the community. This conference is open to all people interested in God's mission. Please register here: [eventbrite.com/e/mission-conference-2020-tickets-89696804557](https://eventbrite.com/e/mission-conference-2020-tickets-89696804557)

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

### FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

We were recently asked to move funds for supplies and materials to the Wethersfield School System for children in need. After checking with people who are part of the school system as well as Wethersfield Social Services, a check for \$406 was sent to Kim Bobin, head of the Family Learning Center downstairs in our church. She was very grateful because they currently have a real need for supplies and materials. We received a thank you email from the Wethersfield Assistant Superintendent of Schools who said that this school has a special place in her heart and that the donation will support the children in that program. The Family Learning Center is part of the Wethersfield School System.

### WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK

Your response to our requests has been amazing. Thank you for your generosity. Please continue to bring canned chicken and tuna in water, jelly (plastic containers), pasta, rice, peanut butter, cans of fruit in 100% juice, low sodium soups, pasta sauce, no-salt-added canned vegetables, and cereal.

### BACKPACK PROGRAM

We continue to support Wethersfield Social Services by providing snacks to over 60 school children who take home backpacks full of healthy, kid-friendly items to keep them going over the weekend. Healthy snacks like granola bars, protein bars, low-sugar breakfast bars, peanut butter and cheese cracker packages, and juice boxes are needed. They go to lower income families in Wethersfield.

### OUR SYRIAN AMERICAN FAMILY

Thank you for the items you regularly donate. We will continue to provide paper towels, toilet paper, washing machine detergent, dish detergent, liquid hand soap, shampoo, no-tears shampoo, juice boxes for the children, vegetable oil and olive oil.

### SOUTH PARK INN

Winter will soon be winding down and the needs at South Park will change. Soon we will have a new shopping list for them. Trinity provides consistent and steady support for the needs for the homeless individuals at South Park Inn and they are always deeply appreciative. We are truly the hands of Christ as we provide for these simplest needs of our neighbors.

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

### COMMUNITY MEALS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Thanks to everyone who has been supporting these dinners and making them successful endeavors. Last month Corrine, Clark, Greg, Ginny, Mike, Ann Marie, Lynda, and Warren were on site to cook and serve meals to 70 people. Other parishioners purchased food for the dinner.

Our next community meal at the Cathedral will be March 23. We need about eight individuals each evening to help support preparing and serving the dinners. It's a very satisfying evening of helping others. It takes approximately 2½ hours to cook, serve a meal and clean up. Your food contributions and/or cash donations help us make the evening work, too.

We have placed the sign-up sheet for the March 23th dinner at the back of the church. Please sign-up if you'd like to help out. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to give Lynda or Warren Blessing a call at 860-742-3253.

### LUNCH IN THE PARK AND CHURCH BY THE POND



This is from Christ Church Cathedral about our recent gathering. "As February began, old and new friends gathered in Bushnell Park. Father Tom Furrer led our Church By The Pond congregation in song, prayer, and sharing of Holy Communion. Our enthusiastic group shared songs of thanks and praise to begin today's service. Father Tom's reflection on Luke's Gospel explained the usefulness of this story in our own lives. Simeon and Anna faithfully and prayerfully waited for a long time before Jesus was brought to them. We must

pray and wait also for God to reveal himself to us through those we encounter. Prayers of thanks and prayers for grace were shared for our friends, family and those in difficult times. Thirty-three congregants joined together today. Trinity, Wethersfield prepared and shared lunches with 37 guests following the service. Both the lunches and hot chocolate were appreciated by all."

We will next participate on Saturday, March 7. For details, contact Clark Tomlinson or Leslie Jones.

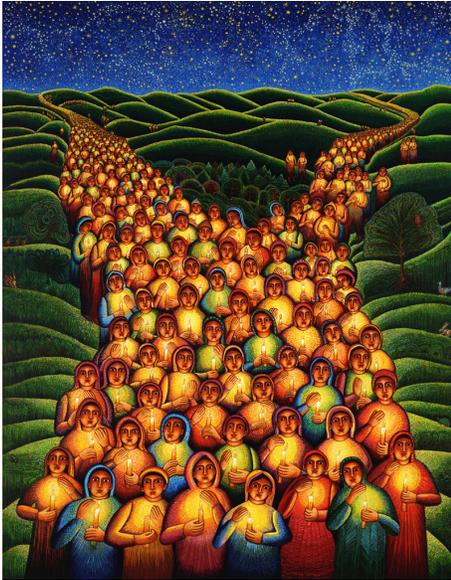


*Our joyful annual meeting ended With some impromptu singing led by Sal Basile.*

### Annual Meeting

Trinity's annual meeting took place on February 2 in the Parish Hall following the 9 am service. Food and camaraderie were abundant. Trinity ended 2019 in the black with growth in membership, pledges, and outreach activities. Speeches were made, thanks were given, reports were distributed, and new wardens and vestry were elected.

If you missed the meeting and would like to see Trinity's Annual Report, go to our website, [trinityepiscopalweth.org/annual-reports](http://trinityepiscopalweth.org/annual-reports)



*Festival of Lights, John Swanson, 2000  
(Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20)*

## Don't Miss the Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 25

Our traditional Fat Tuesday/Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be hosted by the men of Trinity – pancake flippers extraordinaire! Dinner will be served 5:30-7 in the Parish Hall. Come join the pre-Lenten fun!

HELP WANTED: Chefs to flip pancakes and kitchen help. Also, skillets and griddles are needed. If you can lend a hand, contact Jerry Stavola at 860-306-8497 or [jstavola1@gmail.com](mailto:jstavola1@gmail.com)

## Lenten Prayer Book Workshop – Artists, Poets Especially Invited!

*By Melanie Hepburn*

As the season of Lent approaches, many of us consider taking on a discipline to help deepen our spiritual journey. This year Garth and I will be creating prayer books, using glassine envelopes, to hold prayers, meditations, poetry prompts. Please join us for an easy workshop on Sunday, February 23 after the morning service. We will be assembling booklets (materials provided), using prepared book boards and envelope inserts. Collage, calligraphy, photographs are all encouraged to help make this booklet meaningful to you. We will also be discussing writing prompts for a contemplative practice during the Lenten season. Please contact me at [mhepburn61@gmail.com](mailto:mhepburn61@gmail.com) if you are interested so that I can prepare enough materials for everyone. I'll have some samples in the next few weeks for the curious!

## The Ordination of Darryl Burke to the Sacred Order of Priests

How blessed we are at Trinity to have an ordination take place at our church. And how blessed we are that it's the ordination of Deacon Darryl Burke whom we have come to love in his short time with us. Be sure to mark Tuesday, February 18 at 7 pm on your calendar to join in welcoming Darryl to the priesthood.

This will be a deeply moving and exciting service. Be sure to stay for the reception afterward. St. Monica's Episcopal Church in Hartford, Darryl's home parish, will join us in this celebration and the reception so we will have the added pleasure of meeting these sisters and brothers.

## Business Report

Pledge Status as of 12/30/2019

Total Pledge	\$ 115,542
Received	\$ 123,581
Difference	+ \$ 8,039

Income/Expenses	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 149,960	\$ 136,109
Expenses	\$ 135,536	\$ 136,109

Thanks to everyone, we had a fiscally successful year! 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](http://trinityepiscopalweth.org/vestry-minutes)

## Lay Ministry Schedule

<b>February 2</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	D. Paternostro
	Lector	R. Riley
	Intercessor	C. Chadsey
	Ushers	M. Kucka D. Paternostro
	Closer	K. Cole
<b>February 9</b>	Opener	C. Harasymiw
	Eucharistic Minister	G. Smith
	Lector	J. Shaw
	Intercessor	R. Colburn
	Ushers	M. Kucka D. Paternostro
	Closer	D. Paternostro
<b>February 16</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	A. M. Stavola
	Lector	G. Smith
	Intercessor	K. Cole
	Ushers	M. Kucka J. Stavola
	Closer	R. Riley
<b>February 23</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	S. Basile
	Lectors	J. R. Stanko
	Intercessor	H. Gebhardt
	Ushers	M. Kucka D. Paternostro
	Closer	K. Cole



*The Transfiguration, Cornelis Monsma, 2006 (Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9)*

### Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 11 (snow date: Wednesday, February 12) for pizza and a book discussion at the home of Barbara Rowley. Our selection is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Contact Joan Joseph at 860-666-4847 for more information.

### Ladies Luncheon

Church Ladies Luncheon will be Feb 4, 12 noon, at Lucky Lou's in Old Wethersfield. If you need a ride, call Sue Ellen DeCesare at 860-214-2498.

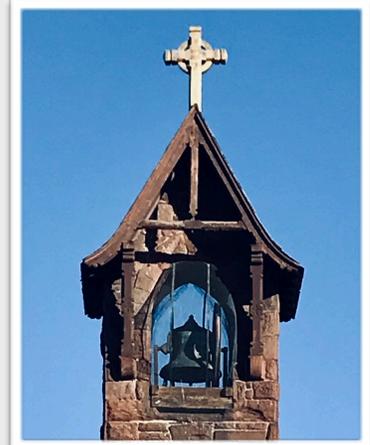
## A Prayer for Parish Mission

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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. Send articles and photographs to [lesliejonesie@gmail.com](mailto:lesliejonesie@gmail.com)

## The Belfry

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