

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
Bishop Seabury Room

Cancellations

For cancellations due to inclement weather, check WFSB TV.



From Our Pastor

Behold, I am doing a new thing.

*“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?”*

Isaiah 43:19

Dear Trinity Family,

The beginning of a new calendar year is a natural time to reflect on our lives. How are things going? What am I doing? What will this next chapter of my life be like? What changes do I want to make? Sometimes these reflections end in New Year's resolutions. Exercise more and be a couch potato less. Eat healthier food. Read more books and spend less time watching TV. Spend more time interacting with people and less with my smart phone. Make new friends or reconnect with old friends. Pray more and complain less. Trust God more and worry less. And so on.

It is also a time to take stock of our life as a Christian community. I have just spent my first year as your pastor. Unless you decide to fire me, I expect to be around for another year. It is a good time to think about what God is doing in our parish community.

As the passage from Isaiah asks, “Don't you see what God is

(continued on page 2)



The Lord is My Light, Mike Meyers, 2014 (Scripture: John 1:1-14)

Readings

January 5

Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 12

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 19

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 26

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

FROM OUR PASTOR (*continued from page 1*)

doing in our community of faith? Don't you understand what God wants us to focus on? Don't you see what new adventures God has in store for you?"

To be honest, sometimes I think I can see what God is doing with us. And sometimes, I have no clue whatsoever. I just put one foot in front of the other and try to listen for God to direct me.

So, I want to ask you all to help me. On Sunday, January 12, I would like to ask all of you to come to coffee hour after the 9 o'clock worship service. And I would like you to share your thoughts on three topics:

1. What seems to be going well in our parish community?
2. What new opportunities should we put our energy into in the future?
3. How do you perceive God leading us at this time in our parish?

I am sending this out now to ask you to pray about these three questions over the next two weeks. I am very sure that God has a good plan and purpose for Trinity Church in Wethersfield and I want to hear what God is saying to the people who love and serve God in this community.

Your brother in faith,
Father Tom

A Word From Our Wardens

One Sunday in 2018, the Rev. Valerie Miller was our supply clergy. In her sermon she quoted a fellow student at Episcopal Divinity School saying to her, "We are truly blessed and highly favored."

Those words have stayed with me in part for their beauty but also because they suggest a way of thinking. Many of us think that we are highly blessed: blessed in the love of family and friends, blessed in our community, blessed to be able to be a blessing to others.

And highly favored? Do we think of ourselves as having been given wonderful gifts as the beloved children of God? As we enter this new year of 2020 it would be good for us to think with gratitude of how highly favored we are to have each other as a community: a community that prays for each other and brings dinners to those who are sick or in sorrow, a community that reaches its hands out in love to those who are less fortunate, a community which meets together in Bible study to learn more about our Lord. We are truly highly favored.

Hold the Date

Ordination of Deacon Darryl Burke

Our curate, the Rev. Darryl Burke, Deacon, will be ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church on the evening of February 18 at Trinity. More details will follow soon.

In the Episcopal church, there are two types of deacons: vocational and transitional. Vocational deacons primarily focus on ministries which involve serving the poor, sick, weak and lonely, usually outside the church. Transitional deacons are on the path to becoming priests, being ordained as deacons first after completing all of their academic and other preparation. They remain as transitional deacons for about six months until they are ordained as priests.

Deacon Darryl was ordained a transitional deacon at Christ Church Cathedral last year. We are so blessed to have his ordination to the priesthood in our parish home. And, we'll have the added joy of hosting the ordination with Deacon Darryl's former home parish, St. Monica's, Hartford.

Pasta Dinner



Enjoy a pasta dinner and help grant a child's wish! Join your friends and neighbors from Trinity and beyond on Friday, January 10 between 6 and 9 pm for a dinner to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Individual tickets are \$15 each, with a senior discount of \$12 per ticket. Bring the family, and get a discounted family group ticket for \$50 (for four or more people)!

Hannah Desrochers, a member of our church and UCONN student, is coordinating this event. She will be selling tickets in the Parish Hall on Sunday, January 5. You can also get your tickets online by clicking [here](#) or by contacting Hannah at hannah.desrochers@uconn.edu

Thursday Morning Bible Study



Morning Bible Study will resume on January 9. We will meet at 10:30 in the Bishop Seabury Room. Come early for coffee and conversation. If Wethersfield schools has a snow day or delay, Bible Study will not meet. All are welcome. Rebecca Scruton, facilitator.



John Baptizes Jesus, JESUS MAFA,, 1973 (Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17)

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

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



Shining Hope, Lauren Wright Pittman, 2016 (Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12)

Purse Ministry

Thank you all for your generosity to fill purses for homeless people. To date, they have been distributed to South Park Inn, the YWCA, Prudence Crandall in New Britain, and New Life Ministry at Niantic Women's Prison. Arrangements are being made to visit the Salvation Army and My Sister's Place. If you would like to see them go to a specific organization, please let Sue Rafala know.

Trial size toiletries, ready-to-eat meals and snacks are put into every purse. Other items may include Kleenex, deodorant, notebooks, pens and hair accessories. Larger purses for people who have children may include readers, small puzzles, crayons and coloring books.

This ministry would not have been possible without your continued support. Thank you for all your help to bring a smile to other people's faces!

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

NEWS FROM ST. VINCENT'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, HAITI

Marilyn Ford recently received a letter from Ken Quigley, board president of St. Vincent's, with some very sad news. "Blockades, businesses, and schools have been shuttered for three months because of corrupt political leadership. There is no commerce and drastic shortages of food and fuel. Haitian politicians refuse to acknowledge agendas other than their own so there is no simple solution." The downtown area where the Medical Clinic and Brace Shop are located is a center of ongoing protests. It is not safe for the physicians so the clinic is closed. The children are safe, and they continue to pay all faculty and staff. Their monthly payroll is the lifeline for some 100 people and their families. The check which we forwarded from the October cook-off did arrive safely for food and water.

The good news is that their Trustees in the United States have five new brailers and parts for eight broken ones plus wheels for the three drill presses in the Brace Shop. Workers have been trained to repair wheelchairs and brailers. In spite of the upheaval with the government, they are ready to lift St. Vincent's to a new and higher operational level than ever before.

CHRISTMAS TOYS FOR ST. MONICA'S IN HARTFORD

Thanks to all who participated in our Christmas toy drive and to Deacon Darryl for taking the toys to St. Monica's. The Holy Spirit had a hand in making this effort successful this year. Within only two days we had a car full of toys, and more the following Sunday to help give many children a joyous Christmas.

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. These 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.

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

COMMUNITY MEALS AT THE CATHEDRAL

We have our dates for 2020. As usual all dates are on Monday evenings. They include January 27, March 23, July 27, September 28 and November 23. We will not have a May dinner this year because of Memorial Day.

Sign up sheets are at the back the church. We are all set in January for hams. There have been some great sales. It's okay to purchase them anytime and place in the church freezer.

Hands on Hartford has issued new Food Safety Guidelines. If you want one and haven't received a copy, please let Warren or Lynda Blessing know.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

We had a great response to this Advent project. Thanks go out to all who participated. We're hoping that our Advent contribution helps Trinity exceed our goal of 1500 lbs. of food donated in 2019!

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.

SOUTH PARK INN

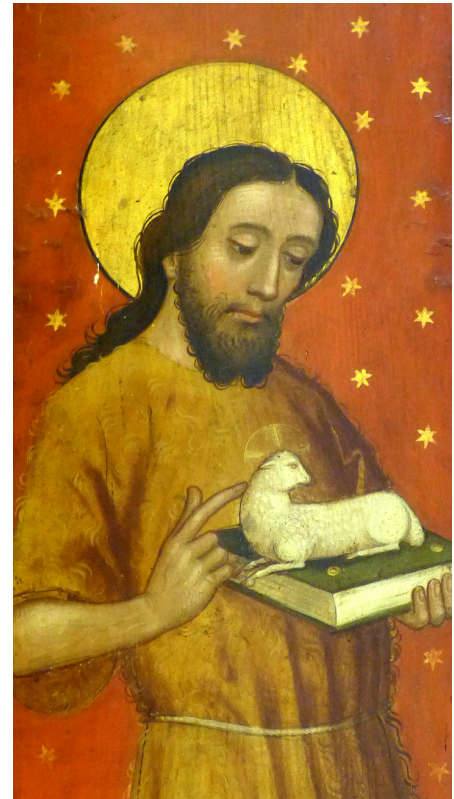
Although the last few weeks of December were unseasonably warm, cold and wet weather still lies ahead of us. Your continued support of South Park Inn makes a real difference.

Right now there are not too many children at the shelter and that's a good thing. But there are still men and women in need. Those warm t-shirts, hats, gloves and all the other things that you donate so faithfully are the hands and heart of Jesus here in our small corner of the world. Thank you so much.

Thank You...

to all who participated in the various Mission & Outreach Committee programs and projects during 2019. We could not have helped those less fortunate locally, regionally and worldwide without your help.

Marilyn Ford, Committee Chair



John the Baptist, 1465, Stadtkirche St. Johannes und St. Martin, Schwabach, Germany (Scripture: John 1:29-42)

Annual Meeting

Trinity's annual meeting will take place on February 2 in the Parish Hall following the 9 am service. We will have a potluck brunch. Watch your weekly e-news and bulletin inserts for more details.

Evening Bible Study

Wednesday Evening Bible Study will resume on January 8 at 6 pm in the Bishop Seabury Room. Closings due to inclement weather will be listed on WFSB TV.



Calling of Saints Peter and Andrew, English engraving c. 1160-1180, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City (Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23)

Ordination of Deacon Erin Flinn

Many of us have come to know Erin Flinn in the two years that she has served as missionary of the North-Central Region. On January 14, she will be ordained a priest at Christ Church Cathedral. She has invited us all to attend her ordination. Some members of Trinity are planning to attend. If you would like to carpool, please contact Rose Riley.

New Members of Our Extended Family

On December 1 the Tri-Town YMCA began renting an office in our building for their Child Development Director, Sarah Marquis. Her office is located downstairs in the Family Learning Program area. It's truly a blessing for Trinity to be able to use our building to help organizations in our local community.

Church by the Pond and Lunch in the Park

While Father Tom is scheduled to celebrate Holy Eucharist at Church by the Pond in Hartford's Bushnell Park throughout this year, Trinity Parish has been scheduled to prepare and serve lunches on February 1, March 7, May 23, August 1, and November 7.

Our commitment is to prepare 50-75 bagged lunches to hand out after the service. We'll bag the lunches from about 12:45-1:30. The service in the park is from 2-2:30. Lunches are handed out about 2:45-3:00. Volunteers don't need to do it all. Feel free to pick and choose any of the three parts you are available for and enjoy. If you'd like more information, speak to Leslie Jones.

Visiting Ministry

Please join us for a planning meeting of the Trinity Parish Visiting Ministry on Tuesday, January 28 at 4 pm in the Bishop Seabury Room. Several parishioners who weren't able to attend our initial meeting have expressed their interest in joining with others in our community to help enrich the days of those who are unable to join in worship or fellowship.

Your thoughts, questions and ideas will help guide us together as we further our planning. Please RSVP to Judy Shaw (203-505-9124) or email jazjaxmiamax@me.com

Business Report

Pledge Status as of 11/30/2019

Total Annual Pledge	\$ 115,542
Pledge Budget	\$ 105,914
Received	\$ 110,969
Difference	+ \$ 5,055

Income/Expenses	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 132,469	\$ 124,767
Expenses	\$ 124,047	\$ 124,767

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

January 5	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	J. Joseph
	Lector	M. Koehler
	Intercessor	J. Gebhardt
	Ushers	M. Kucka D. Paternostro
	Closer	K. Cole
January 12	Opener	C. Harasymiw
	Eucharistic Minister	A.M. Stavola
	Lector	G. Lohman
	Intercessor	H. Gebhardt
	Ushers	M. Kucka J. Stavola
	Closer	D. Paternostro
January 19	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	S. Basile
	Lector	P. Milne
	Intercessor	C. Helfant
	Ushers	M. Kucka D. Paternostro
	Closer	R. Riley
January 26	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	G. Smith
	Lectors	G. Myers
	Intercessor	K. Cole
	Ushers	M. Kucka D. Paternostro
	Closer	K. Cole



"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Isaiah 43:19

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.

Ladies Luncheon

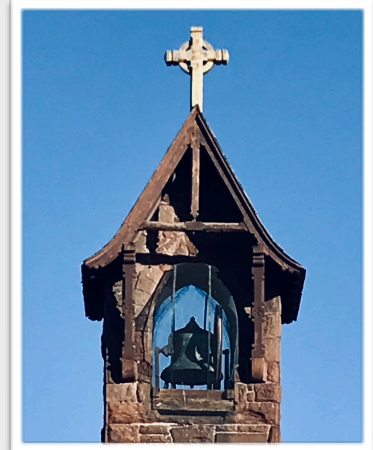
Church Ladies Luncheon will be Feb 4, 12 noon, at Lucky Lou's in Old Wethersfield. If you need a ride, call Sue Ellen DeCesare at 860-214-2498.

A Prayer for Parish Mission

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. Send articles and photographs to lesliejonesie@gmail.com

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