

# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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- 1 From Our Wardens
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## Services

- Ash Wednesday  
March 6 at 8 am and 12 pm
- Sundays - 9 am  
Holy Eucharist
- Wednesdays - 8 am  
Morning Prayer

## Bible Studies

- Thursdays - 10:30 am  
Bishop Seabury Room
- Third Sundays - 10:30 am  
"Growing in Grace" classes for confirmation, reception, reaffirmation and renewal of faith  
Bishop Seabury Room
- Wednesdays - 6 pm  
Read and Feed  
Bishop Seabury Room



## What We Need Is Here

*... And we pray, not/ for new earth or heaven, but to be/ quiet in heart,  
and in eye/ clear. What we need is here.*

From 'The Wild Geese', Selected Poems by Wendell Berry

In this complicated and challenging world do we pray only for what we want in a demanding and hurried way — “Just do what I ask, Lord, and all will be fine,” — or do we pray to hear God's plan? To see God's abundance around us? The abundance of God's grace is everywhere.

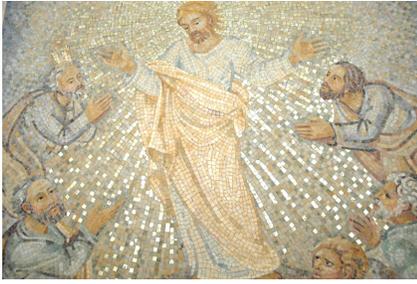
In the hard years that we have been through as a parish, we began to pray more and more frequently but we didn't pray for certain actions or specific outcomes. We didn't pray that God would send us a new rector as soon as possible or that more money would come into the parish coffers. We prayed for each other in our parish prayer list, we prayed for those that we care for through our outreach efforts, we prayed that God would send us the people we need and the people who need us.

God will answer prayers — but not always in the way we expect. There is a saying, “The only word for God which doesn't limit God is surprise.”

Here at Trinity we have seen many prayers answered, many examples of God's abundance, many surprises. Our path was sometimes hard but God's guidance was sure.

As we go forward as individuals and as a parish, let us bear in mind that abundance is everywhere and that all of “what we need is here.”

*By Rose Riley and Denise Paternostro*



*Transfiguration - Mosaic along the entryway to the Basilica of Saint. Peter, Vatican, Rome*

## Sunday Readings

### March 3 - Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-43a

### March 10 - First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

### March 17 - Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

### March 24 - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

### March 31 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## From Our Pastor

*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9*

We are about to begin the Season of Lent — a 40-day season of repentance. Why 40 days? Why repentance?

**Why 40 days?** The forty days of Lent is based on the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, immediately after his baptism and immediately before he began his public ministry. The Bible tells us, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil.” Luke 4: 1-2

Notice the dual, and apparently contradictory emphases: “full of the Holy Spirit” on one hand and “tempted by the devil” on the other hand. Jesus’ time in the wilderness was a season of preparation and strengthening and focus. A time to face the reality of evil in the world and the power of evil to pull him (and us) away from God’s purpose.

This time of strengthening was, for Jesus, like going to the gym. Or training for a marathon. A time to get toughened up for the competition that lay ahead for him when he proclaimed and demonstrated God’s kingdom of love and when he had to pay the ultimate price for doing so. It was a time in which the Holy Spirit led him to face the challenges ahead.

**Why repentance?** The 40 days of Lent is the intentional retracing of the steps of Jesus during his time in the wilderness. It is a time for us to face the reality of sin and the power of evil.

The reality of sin and the power of evil is all around us. All you need to do is read or watch the daily news of your TV or your computer or the newspaper. Bad stuff is happening all around us all the time.

But evil and sin and bad stuff are not just “out there.” They are an ever present reality “in here” also. In where? In my heart and your heart. In my life and your life. *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”*

Lent is a time for us (like Jesus) to face the unhappy reality of sin, in our world and in our own lives. It is a time to refocus our attention on the multiple ways we all fall short of the glory of God. And it is also a time to focus on the second half of the verse from the Bible: *“...but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Lent is a time to ask, again and again and again, for God’s strength to overcome the power of sin in our lives and shape us into the people God wants us to be.

Wishing us all a happy and holy and Christ-centered Lent.

Father Tom

## Trinity's 150th Celebration

Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God."  
Micah 6:8

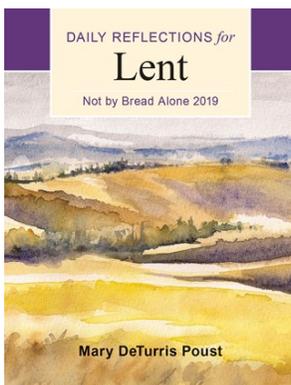
This wonderful verse from the prophet, Micah, is the theme for our 150th anniversary. It will provide guidance to us as individuals and to our parish not only in this year of celebration but in the years to come.

Here's a little history of Trinity leading up to its formation:

- In January of 1867, a group of individuals from Church of the Good Shepherd and from Wethersfield began to hold services at the Old Academy in Wethersfield. Slowly a neophyte parish began to emerge. Confirmations, weddings, and baptisms all took place along with church services, at first during the week and later on Sunday mornings.
- On October 8 of 1869, a group of individuals associated with this new parish met and completed the paperwork to officially request that Trinity Parish Wethersfield become a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.
- On June 15 of 1870, Trinity was officially welcomed into the Diocese.

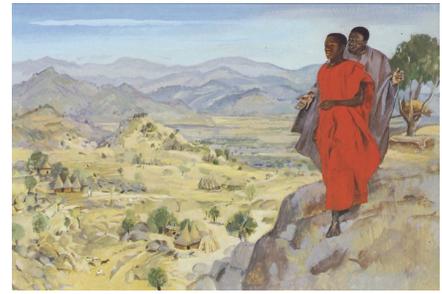
Those two dates (or the Sundays closest to them) will be celebrated as the opening and closing events in our anniversary celebration. Work is well underway on a number of anniversary events but for now mark your calendars for Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 4 pm. There will be a Festive Eucharist with Bishop Ian Douglas presiding followed by a gathering in the parish hall.

## Tools For Our Lenten Journey



We have available to all parishioners a booklet for use during Lent called *Not by Bread Alone* by Mary DeTurrís Proust. Each day has a reflection, meditation and prayer based on the readings appointed for that day in the lectionary. We also have a few copies of other Lenten guides including a reflection on the psalms and on the Sermon on the Mount. All of these resources are free and available on a table at the rear of the church.

Church Publishing has a variety of Lenten resources including *The Way of Love in Lent* calendar which is available for download at [www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/living-the-way-of-love/way-of-love-in-lent-2019-calendar.pdf](http://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/living-the-way-of-love/way-of-love-in-lent-2019-calendar.pdf) and paper copies are at the back of the church.



*Jesus Is Tempted - "If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Luke 4:7, JESUS MAFA, Cameroon, Africa*

## Parish Leadership

### PASTOR

The Rev. Thomas Furrer

### STAFF

Kathy Cole, 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

Diane Paternostro, Warden

Rose Riley, Warden

Judith Shaw

Linda Traue



*Hen Gathers Her Brood - "How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings..." Luke 13:34b, mosaic, Dominus Flevit Church, Jerusalem*

## **This Month's Bible Verse**

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1: 8 - 9

## **Annual Spring Training & Gathering**

Join Episcopalians from across the Episcopal Church in Connecticut for a day of fellowship, learning, prayer and fun. All are welcome – people in the pews to vestry members to parish leaders and staff. The 7th Annual Spring Training & Gathering will be held at Berlin High School from 9-4. For more information, go to <https://www.episcopalct.org/spring-training/>

## **Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities**

### **DINNERS AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

Warren and Lynda Blessing coordinate the Cathedral dinners and truly appreciate everyone who has been supporting the success of these dinners. The next dinner is March 25 and about eight individuals are needed to help support preparing and serving the dinners. It's a very satisfying evening of helping others and only takes approximately 2½ hours. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Please sign up if you'd like to help out with a donation of food or your time. Questions? Call Warren or Lynda at 860-742-3253.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Wethersfield Social Services has a town-wide Backpack Program. Every week, more than 60 kids take home a backpack full of healthy, kid-friendly items to keep them going over the weekend. Please consider donating healthy snacks, lower sugar breakfast bars, protein bars, and crackers to fill a backpack! All types of crackers including Goldfish® can be placed in the Food Bank bin along with the snacks mentioned above.

### **FOOD PACKAGING PROJECT**

On April 27, Trinity will be joining forces with St. Andrew's in Rocky Hill to sponsor a food packaging outreach project. This project (which will need volunteers) will consist of taking bulk food items and combining them into food packets which will serve 4 to 6 people and be distributed to various food pantries and organizations working with those in need. Look for more information in upcoming e-news and bulletins. Plan to join your brothers and sisters from Trinity and St. Andrews for a day of outreach and fellowship.

### **WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK**

In addition to the above items, the food bank is looking for canned chicken, jelly (in plastic containers), pasta, canned goods, tuna fish, and peanut butter.

### **SYRIAN FAMILY IN WETHERSFIELD**

This family is very grateful for all the items donated by our parishioners. Toilet paper, paper towels, washing machine detergent, dish detergent, liquid hand soap, juice boxes (lower sugar), shampoo, and no tears shampoo are the items most needed.

### **SCHOOL CHILDREN IN NIGERIA**

To raise more scholarship money, we are selling African palm crosses; they can be used as bookmarks or in whatever way you choose to mark the season. They are available in the Parish Hall for a donation of \$1 each.

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

SOUTH PARK INN —  
FOLDING UMBRELLAS AND CHILDREN’S PAJAMAS!  
Once more Trinity was able to meet the special needs of those who turn to South Park Inn for shelter and support. Children have already received the pajamas we sent and, with cold heavy rain in the weather forecast, it’s great that we learned about their need for umbrellas. We donated many other items during our Epiphany collection. We’ve brought nine large plastic bags full of items plus two big boxes of diapers and we’ll make one more trip with more items. Thank you for your ongoing kindness, generosity and love. May your blessing of others be a blessing to you.



*The Gardener and the Fig Tree -  
Luke 13:6-9, stained glass,  
Dungarvan, Waterford, Ireland*

## Ministry Sundays

How would you like to volunteer at Trinity? Not sure? Beginning in March, the first Sunday of the month will be Trinity Ministry Sunday. There will be a brief description of that month's highlighted ministry in the e-news and bulletin and representatives of that month's ministry will be available to talk to interested volunteers at coffee hour.

The first Sunday in March we will highlight Worship Service Ministries – ushers, oblationers (the people who bring the wine and bread from the back of the church to the altar), readers of the lessons, and readers of the prayers of the people. Look for more information in next week's Trinity e-news and bulletin.

### Easter Flowers

Please consider a donation to Trinity Parish Easter Flowers. We gratefully accept any amount you choose to give. We suggest a donation of \$50.  
With appreciation, Trinity Altar Guild.

Please make your check payable to Trinity Parish and note “flower fund” on the memo line. Please indicate (M) for Memorial, or (T) for Living Thanksgiving donation on the line(s) below.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

You may mail your donation to Trinity Parish, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109, or bring it to the office on Tuesday through Thursday from 9 to 12 or include it with your Sunday contribution.



## Upcoming Events

MARCH 5

Pancake Supper, 5:30, Parish Hall

MARCH 5

Ladies Luncheon, noon, First & Last Tavern, Glastonbury.

MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27

Read & Feed, pizza at 6 and discussion from 6:30-7:30, Bishop Seabury Room.

MARCH 6

Ash Wednesday services. 8 am and noon here at Trinity and 7 pm at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran with combined choirs.

MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28

Bible Study, 10:30, Bishop Seabury Room

MARCH 11

Morning Book Club, 10:30 at the home of Irene Rusheon (860-436-5664). All are welcome to discuss *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb.

MARCH 17

Growing in Grace class, "Breaking of Bread," following service, Bishop Seabury Room.

MARCH 26

Evening Book Club, 5:45 for pizza at the home of Carol Jones. Join us for a lively discussion of our two selections: *Waking Up White* by Debbi Irving and *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah.

## Financial Report

Here are the financials as of the end of January.

### Pledge Status as of 1/31/2019

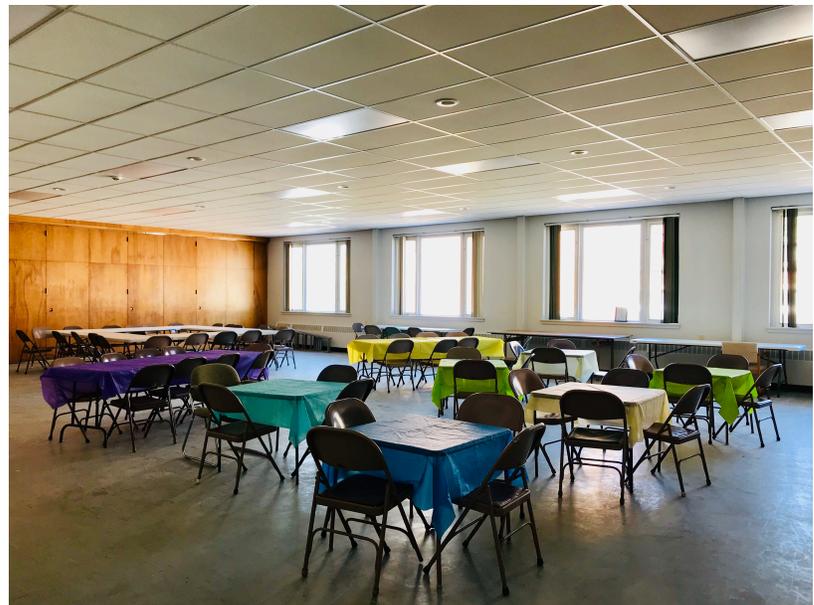
Total Annual Pledge	\$ 115,542
Pledge Budget	\$ 9,629
Received	\$ 15,061
Difference	+ \$ 5,432

### Income/Expenses as of 1/31/2019

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 15,910	\$ 11,342
Expenses	\$ 12,177	\$ 11,342

Nothing transferred from investments to cover 2019 expenses as of 1/31/2019.

## Our New and Improved Parish Hall



We all got our first look at the new and improved Parish Hall at our annual meeting last month. Everything was freshly painted, a new ceiling had been installed and there was new LED lighting. It looks all new, fresh and clean. Project manager Warren Blessing said, "I would like to thank everyone who participated in working on this complex project. It started last May and was targeted for completion by the annual meeting. It surely needed many hands to complete, and I'm grateful to everyone who assisted." Trinity's biggest thank you goes, of course, to Warren.

## Lay Ministry Schedule

<b>March 3</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	A. Stavola
	Lector	J. Joseph
	Intercessor	J. Shaw
	Ushers	D. Paternostro J. Stavola
	Closer	R. Riley
<b>March 10</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	R. Colburn
	Lector	G. Lohman
	Intercessor	G. Smith
	Ushers	D. Paternostro Volunteer
	Closer	D. Paternostro
<b>March 17</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	J. Joseph
	Lector	P. Milne
	Intercessor	K. Cole
	Ushers	D. Paternostro Volunteer
	Closer	K. Cole
<b>March 24</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	D. Paternostro
	Lector	G. Myers
	Intercessor	C. Chadsey
	Ushers	Volunteers
	Closer	D. Paternostro
<b>March 31</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	G. Smith
	Lector	L. Jones
	Intercessor	M. Koehler
	Ushers	D. Paternostro Volunteer
	Closer	D. Paternostro



*Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32,  
Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn,  
1606-1669*

## Looking Ahead to Holy Week

- APRIL 17  
Maundy Thursday service,  
7 pm
- APRIL 18  
Good Friday service, noon  
Stations of the Cross, 3 pm
- APRIL 18  
Tenebrae, St. Paul's, 7 pm

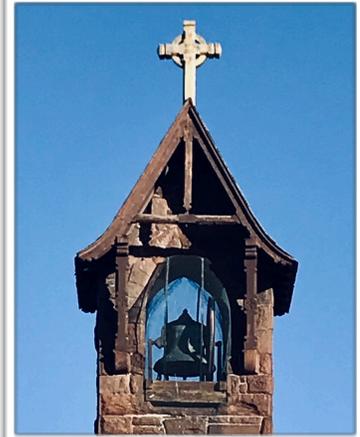
## A Prayer for Parish Mission

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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 March 22.

## The Belfry

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### Trinity Episcopal Church

300 Main Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

*If you prefer to receive The Belfry by email, please contact the office at [operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org](mailto:operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org) or 860-529-6825.*