

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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Weekly Services

Sundays - 9 am
Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays - 8 am
Morning Prayer

Lenten Studies

See page 4 for a list of Bible studies and programs during Lent.

Cancellations

For cancellations due to inclement weather, check WFSB TV.

Building Up the Body of Christ

“And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God...” Ephesians 4: 11 -13

Dear Trinity Family,

In late January we had a “Parish Discernment Meeting” on a Sunday morning after the worship service. The summary of the comments from the table groups is on the next page of this newsletter.

And here is a summary of the summary:

1. Our parish members have a sense of that we are moving in the right direction with a “new vitality” and “one family” feeling.
2. Our parish members sense that we need to devote more energy and attention to “reaching out” to engage our neighbors and the wider community and to attract more people to become part of our family of faith.
3. Our parish members are “more confident that God is leading us – even if we don’t know exactly where and how.” *(Editorial comment: This was my favorite quote from all of the reports!)*

All of these comments are a manifestation of the biblical imperative listed above: “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ”.

All of us are called, in one way or another, depending on the gifts that God gives us as individuals and as a unique congregation, to build up the Body of Christ.

As we begin the season of Lent, I want to invite and challenge each one of us to seek God’s guidance in discerning how God wants to use each one of us to build up the Body of Christ that meets for worship at Trinity Church in Wethersfield.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Tom



Jesus Carried Up to the Pinnacle of the Temple, James Jacques Joseph Tissot, 1886 (Scripture: 1 Lent, Temptation of Christ)

Readings

March 1

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
 Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11

March 8

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17

March 15

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95
 Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41

March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130
 Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

Our Parish Discernment Meeting

Here is a compilation of the main themes expressed in 6 table groups of 6 to 8 people on January 20, 2020.

1. *What seems to be going well in our parish community?*

New vitality and growing membership. Very welcoming parish. Community/family feel at coffee hour. Fun annual meetings.

Stable clergy leadership and good cooperation with lay leadership.

More variety in worship services (music, prayer, interfaith). Good sermons and more collaborative prayers of the people.

Bible studies that build stronger faith. New weekly morning prayer group on Wednesdays. Seasonal retreats.

Strong property committee. Taking good care of our physical plant.

Church community more caring: bringing Christ's love to members and outsiders. Strong sense of family.

Increasingly good financial support for parish ministry and outreach.

Mission/outreach transitioning from financial support only to more interpersonal engagement. Expansion to more local and international mission engagement.

2. *What new opportunities should we put our energy into in the future?*

More energy into recruiting, attracting, engaging new members. Explicit prayer on Sunday for mission to our neighbors. New member welcome committee. Engagement with Welcome Wagon. Invitations to people who have recently purchased a house in Wethersfield. More events to attract community to our buildings: Sal's concerts, chili cook-off, church fair, etc.

Pray for God to help us connect with families with young children.

More engagement with wider community (including Muslims, new immigrant groups and unchurched or ex-churched people). Increase interfaith services to twice per year.

Develop community meal program to attract local residents. Better advertising of our events. Better signage. Better engagement with people who walk past our church building every day of the week.

More engagement with Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. Start new services: healing services, either on Sunday or on another week day; Marian devotions (rosary); more engagement with Evensong services of other Episcopal churches.

Develop a more organized way to minister to parish members (meals, rides to appointments and church).

(continued on page 6)

A Lenten Reflection

By Rebecca Scruton

We will soon be in the season of Lent...40 days (excluding Sundays) culminating with Easter Sunday. 40, why 40? When we look at the Bible the number “40” is mentioned in various ways 146 times. Anything used 146 times causes us to take notice. Why? What happened? What happens? We see many of the prophets called to 40 days or 40 years journeying with God to serve God and God’s people. Moses, Elijah and Jesus all had their “40” experiences.

What did they experience? They experienced hardships, hunger, thirst, avoidance, struggling within and without, struggling in their relationship with God and ‘their neighbors’. Ultimately they experienced a profound relationship of love and ‘being’ with God and sense of purpose and knowing who they were and whose they were.

They experienced their reason for living.

Lent is a time of being focused on our relationship with God and each other. We look particularly at Jesus’ life and journey. He was baptized by John the Baptist at which time God declared, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”. After which Jesus was driven into the desert for 40 days to fast, pray and be tempted by the devil. He was being drawn more deeply into his relationship with God the Father, the application of scripture, and being empowered for the work that was his to do.

Lent provides for us the opportunity to spend 40 days with God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), to experience the deep, passionate love God has for us while at the same time forming us for the ‘call’ God has for us personally and as the community of Trinity. Individually and together, God has us where we are for a reason, for His reason. We are called to wake up, to engage with God and each other in order to fulfill God’s purpose.

Hence, Lent. A time to focus, to fast, to pray, to ‘be’, to worship, to serve. To be with God and to be prepared. We will experience challenges, hardships, unknowns and also tremendous love, direction and purpose as we read Scripture, pray and journey through these 40 days of Lent being open to God’s call in your life and in our life together.

In what way(s) will you and I intentionally focus on deepening our relationship with God and each other? What are you and I willing to embrace and do that we really don’t want to in order to love God and experience God’s love? Do we have the courage to move into the invitation of Lent?

“Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”

Book of Common Prayer, page 218



Born Again, Lauren Wright Pittman, 2016
(Scripture: 2 Lent, Nicodemus)

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

STAFF

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

VESTRY

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



*Christ and the Samaritan Woman,
Julio Romero de Torres, 1874-1930
(Scripture: 3 Lent)*

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

Lenten Project: Sewing Machines for Nana

After Nana Dogo, Bishop Marcus' wife, spoke to us last year about the work she heads up in Kafanchan Diocese, Nigeria, several people asked how we could help her. The project we chose is providing funds so that she can purchase sewing machines for young, mostly widowed mothers of young children. If you would like to do “something more” for Lent, please place a check in *any amount* in the collection plate payable to Trinity Parish with “sewing machines” on the memo line. At the end of Lent, we will forward money to Nana so she can purchase sewing machines.

Kafanchan Diocese is rural with 16,000 members, of which over 2,000 are widows. Under Mrs. Dogo's leadership, a Women's Center has been built where women are trained in various skills so that they can be self-sufficient and independent. Numerous skills are taught, such as sewing, weaving, and leatherwork. After their two weeks of training, the graduates return to their villages with a “starter kit” for their particular skill; a women who has chosen sewing for example, goes home with a kit that includes a sewing machine, fabric, and thread. The Women's Center has a shop where the items made by graduates of the training courses are sold. Their most important project is making uniforms for the diocesan schools; the Diocese pays the women for making the uniforms.

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 of 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.

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.

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, basmati rice, vegetable oil and olive oil.

Lenten Programs

The Treasures of the Prayer Book

Soup supper at 6, teaching and discussion with Bishop Gordon, Father Tom and Father Darryl from 6:30-7:45, compline at 7:45-8. Wednesday Evenings in Lent in the Parish Hall.

Spiritual Reflections on Handel's Messiah

Thursday Mornings in Lent, 10:30-noon. Led by Sarah Butters in the Bishop Seabury Room.

Quiet Day: Seeking and Finding God in Daily Life

Saturday, March 14, 9-3. Bring a bag lunch, beverages provided. Led by Bishop Gordon in the Parish Hall

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

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.

Community Meals at the Cathedral

Thanks to everyone who has been supporting these dinners and making them successful endeavors. Our next community meal at the Cathedral will be March 23. We need about eight individuals to help prepare and serve the dinners. 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 23 dinner at the back of the church. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to give Lynda or Warren Blessing a call at 860-742-3253.

Lunch in the Park

We are scheduled to prepare and serve lunches in Bushnell Park on March 7, May 23, August 1, and November 7. Our commitment is to prepare 50-75 bagged lunches to hand out after the Church by the Pond where Father Tom usually serves as celebrant. If you'd like to learn more about this ministry, speak to Leslie Jones or Clark Tomlinson.



*Christ and the Pauper,
Andrew Mironov, 2008
(Scripture: 4 Lent)*

All Are Welcome At Vestry Meetings

The vestry is the legal representative of the parish. Vestry members are elected at the annual parish meeting. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.

Vestry meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month. All parishioners are welcome to attend regular sessions.



Diocesan Bishop Ian Douglas ordained Darryl Burke, our curate, as a priest in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut on February 18.



The Raising of Lazarus, Vincent Van Gogh, 1890 (Scripture: 5 Lent)

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of January)

Total Pledge	\$ 11,078
Received	\$ 14,891
Difference	+ \$ 3,813

Income/Expenses (end of January)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 15,824	\$ 13,123
Expenses	\$ 14,421	\$ 13,123

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 and/or attend regular vestry meetings.

Our Parish Discernment Meeting (continued from page 2)

3. How do you perceive God leading us at this time in our parish?

God is leading us through what we are becoming: a welcoming and loving community open to new challenges and opportunities. Personal enrichment from increasing positive energy in our parish. Unselfish leadership among our members. A sense of belonging to one family of faith. Strengthened through hard times, embracing a new future.

Increasing belief that God is working through us as individuals. More outreach to attract new members. Encouraging members to attract new members.

We are more confident that God is leading us – even if we don't know exactly where and how.

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.

Make your checks payable to "Trinity Parish"

- On the memo line, please indicate "Flower Fund"
- Printing deadline is April 5
- Please indicate "M" for Memorial or "T" for Living Thanksgiving donation on the line(s) 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 - Thursday between 9 am and noon.
- Include with your Sunday contribution.

With appreciation, Trinity Altar Guild.

Lay Ministry Schedule

March 1	Opener	
	Eucharistic Minister	J. Joseph
	Lector	C. Chadsey
	Intercessor	M. Hepburn
	Ushers	M. Kucka
		D. Paternostro
	Closer	D. Paternostro
March 8	Opener	
	Eucharistic Minister	D. Paternostro
	Lector	R. Coburn
	Intercessor	C. Jones
	Ushers	M. Kucka
		C. Chadsey
	Closer	R. Riley
March 15	Opener	
	Eucharistic Minister	G. Smith
	Lector	K. Cole
	Intercessor	K. Cole
	Ushers	M. Kucka
		D. Paternostro
	Closer	K. Cole
March 22	Opener	
	Eucharistic Minister	A. M. Stavola
	Lectors	H. Gebhardt
	Intercessor	P. Milne
	Ushers	M. Kucka
		J. Stavola
	Closer	D. Paternostro
March 29	Opener	
	Eucharistic Minister	S. Basile
	Lectors	C. Helfant
	Intercessor	G. Myers
	Ushers	M. Kucka
		D. Paternostro
	Closer	R. Riley



*Good Shepherd, Kelly Latimore, 2019
(Scripture: 4 Lent)*

Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 10 (snow date, March 11). Our book is *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* by Maria Semple. We will meet at 5:45 for pizza and discussion at the home of Carol Jones. Contact Joan Joseph at 860-666-4847 with questions.

Ladies Luncheon

Church Ladies Luncheon will be March 3 at Marlborough Village Pizza in Marlborough at 12 noon. If in need of a ride or directions, call Sue Ellen DeCesare at 860-214-2498.

Annual Work Day

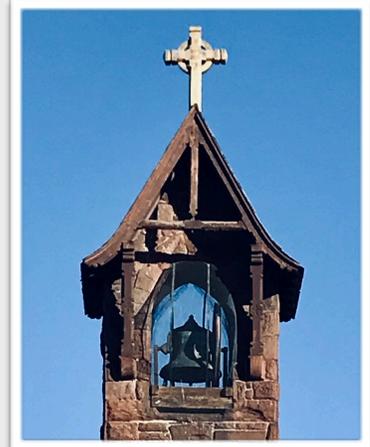
Please save the date: May 16.
Many hands, light work and all those good things. We will have plenty of tasks, from light work to cleaning out "stuff" and painting. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. You can also suggest tasks. What we are able to accomplish will be a direct result of the number who offer to assist.

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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