

# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

## Inside This Issue

- 1 From Our Pastor
- 3 Spring Training
- 4-5 Outreach
- 6-7 Lay Ministry Schedule, Reports, Events
- 8 A Prayer for Parish Mission

## Services

- 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

## From Our Pastor



Dear Trinity People,

When you read this, I will be in Nigeria in the midst of a three-week medical mission. We will be working at three separate clinic locations for one week at a time.

Over the past 16 years, the non-profit corporation of which I am the founder and president (Kateri Medical Services) has built and/or funded five, full-time clinics. During the year, we charge a small amount to each patient (the equivalent of \$1 for a child and \$2 for an adult) and the patients must pay

for their prescribed medicine. We cannot afford to give free medicine to everyone all year long. But once a year, we conduct a free medical outreach at each clinic. These free clinics draw many thousands of people and we try our best to help everyone who comes.

While I am here, I would like to ask each of you to pray for our work in this outreach. As you may know from various news reports on TV and social media, there are many tensions in Nigeria. Sometimes, these tensions erupt in violence. Please pray for the following:

- 1) Pray that our medical mission will be a credible witness to the love of Jesus working through us. When Jesus walked this earth, he healed the sick as an expression of the Kingdom of God. And he sends us to do the same in his name. So please pray that people will see Jesus alive in our work.
- 2) Pray that our medical mission will be an instrument of

*(continued on page 2)*



*The Ascension, JESUS MAFA,  
1973, Cameroon..*

## Sunday Readings

### May 5 - Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

### May 12 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

### May 19 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

### May 26 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

(FROM OUR PASTOR continued from page 1)

reconciliation between Christians and Muslims. We have intentionally built our clinics in areas of tension. Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." We intentionally strive to make peace between Muslims and Christians. It is difficult work and sometimes it seems like we are taking one step forward and three steps back, but we believe God will honor our efforts.

3) Pray that we can strengthen the witness of the local Christian communities in Nigeria. We conduct all of our clinics in partnership with the local Anglican diocese. Saint Paul tells us that the work of ministry is intended to "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ."

4) Pray for the physical safety of our team members and the people we serve. The areas in which we work have experienced some security challenges recently. We do have security guards working with our outreach efforts. But ultimately, we trust God for our physical and spiritual security. So please intercede for us to the One who really counts.

Thank you for your prayers. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

God bless,

Father Tom

*If you want to know more about this work in Nigeria, go to  
[www.katericlinic.org](http://www.katericlinic.org)*



*HONORING OUR PARISH  
ADMINISTRATOR  
Wardens Denise  
Paternostro (left) and Rose  
Riley (right) presented a  
icon of St. Francis to Kathy  
Cole on behalf of the  
Trinity congregation. Kathy  
is looking forward to  
retirement after serving as  
Parish Administrator for  
the past year.*

## From Our Wardens: Many Hands Make Light Work

*By Rose Riley and Denise Paternostro*

Did your mom or dad share this old saying with you when you were growing up? We'd guess most of your parents did because Trinity members seem to embrace that thought: many hands make light work.

As your wardens, we have seen that willingness to pitch in and lend a hand grow – bringing meals to those who are experiencing a family crisis, helping with a special Sunday coffee hour, transporting donations to the food pantry or South Park Inn – simple requests that are met with willing hands that show up all over this church in so many aspects of our church life.

So where are you finding your ministries at Trinity?

If you had fun painting the parish hall, perhaps you might talk to Warren Blessing about joining the property committee. Were you one of the readers for the Palm Sunday passion? Speak with Denise Paternostro to become one of the regular readers for Sunday mornings. Did you find satisfaction in bringing meals to parish members? We could use someone to coordinate that effort. If you think you would like to do this, see Rose Riley.

Many hands are needed. Do you have an idea that you would like to see brought into being at Trinity? Do you have special skills or a passion that you would like to pursue here? Or have you simply found the fun and joy of working with other parish members doing God's work?

If you would like to lend your hands to more parish ministries, check out the list below and contact the individual named to see how you can help. If you have an area that you are interested in and don't see it mentioned, contact one of us to talk about it!

Christian Education - Denise Paternostro  
 Parish Communications - Leslie Jones  
 Altar Guild - Carol Jones  
 Sunday Worship Ministries (ushers, readers, oblationers) -  
 Denise Paternostro  
 Pastoral Care - Leslie Jones, Judy Shaw, Rose Riley  
 Property and Gardens - Warren Blessing  
 Mission (Outreach) - Marilyn Ford  
 Hospitality - Connie Harasymiw, Cheryl Chadsey, Lorraine Ficara  
 Choir - Rose Riley, Dorothy LaBelle  
 Church Fair - Connie Harasymiw  
 Men's Club - Clark Tomlinson, Michael Kucka  
 Finance Team - Barbara Rowley  
 Counters - Kathy Cole  
 Prayer Team - Jan Rouse



*The Great Catch, John August Swanson, 1993.*

## Parish Leadership

### PASTOR

The Rev. Thomas Furrer

### 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



*Painting from Bishop Skilton Center, Boca Chica, Dominican Republic, artist unknown.*

## This Month's Bible Verse

"God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son, so that all who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

*John 3:16 - 17*

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

### SAVE THE DATES

- May 4 Neighbors Feeding Neighbors  
9 am to 12 noon  
St Andrew's, Rocky Hill
- May 4 Church by the Pond and Lunch in the Park  
Bushnell Park, Hartford
- May 19 Teddy Bears & Friends Sunday
- June 8 Golden Oldies Concert  
7 pm, Parish Hall  
For benefit of the outreach committee
- July 22 Community Meal  
Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford
- July & August Renewal of scholarships for 40 Nigerian students
- Sept. 23 Community Meal  
Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford
- Sept. 29 Chili + Rice & Beans Cook-off  
5 pm, Parish Hall
- Nov. 25 Community Meal  
Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford

### NEIGHBORS FEEDING NEIGHBORS

Saturday, May 4

There is still time to sign up for this program at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Rocky Hill. We will be packaging 10,000 freeze-dried meals of macaroni and cheese that will be distributed to the Wethersfield Food Bank, South Park Inn in Hartford, and Cornerstone Shelter in Vernon. The fundraising dinner at St. Andrew's in April earned over \$500, so it looks like 1,000 packages of oatmeal will also be provided to those less fortunate.

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

Saturday, May 4

Church by the Pond take place at 2 pm, rain or shine. Plan to gather at Trinity at 12:15 pm to prepare 50 bag lunches to be distributed to those who come to worship in the open air of Bushnell Park in Hartford. Many of those who come to worship are homeless and hungry because soup kitchens are closed on Saturdays. The bag lunches will be distributed after a service of Holy Eucharist. If you can't make the trip to Bushnell Park, your help in preparing the lunches would be greatly appreciated! Trinity's confirmation class is invited to attend, as you continue your walking with Jesus. For more information on Church by the Pond, talk with Leslie Jones or Clark Tomlinson.

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

### TEDDY BEARS AND FRIENDS

Sunday, May 19

It has been a tradition for several years to collect stuffed animals for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. For those who wish to participate, please bring a *new* teddy bear or "friend" to church on May 19. Your gift of a cuddly animal will bring a smile to a child at the hospital, whether an inpatient or not. If they are not admitted, they receive a cuddly animal while being treated and then take it home with them. *Please note that the stuffed animals must be purchased within 30 days of May 19 in order for CCMC to accept them.* Many of the children are critically ill so this is important. And it is a good idea to leave the tags on them.

### SYRIAN FAMILY

Our Wethersfield family has had an unexpected one-month layoff from work so we would like to help them with food. Please bring basmati rice, macaroni, canned tomatoes (plain, no spices), plain tomato sauce, and low-sugar juice boxes.

### WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK

The Wethersfield Food Bank needs items for the Backpack Program (healthy snacks such as lower sugar breakfast bars, protein bars, and crackers). In addition, they are looking for canned chicken, jelly (plastic containers), pasta, canned goods (low sodium), tuna fish, and peanut butter.

### COMMUNITY DINNERS

Trinity's next turn to provide and serve dinner to the clients at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford will be on July 22. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church. We will need parishioners to donate food and also to volunteer their time to help serve dinner. Anyone who needs a ride can come to Trinity on Monday at 4:15 pm for carpooling, if arranged in advance with Warren or Lynda Blessing. Arrival time at Christ Church Cathedral is 4:30 pm and we are finished by 6:45 pm.

We have a very rewarding time with those in attendance. It would be great to have new volunteers along with the old faithful ones. We hope you'll consider serving in one or both capacities. You can also make monetary contributions to help pay for the food. If you have any questions, please call Warren or Lynda Blessing at 860-742-3253 or email [ctvalleywc@yahoo.com](mailto:ctvalleywc@yahoo.com).



*Peace I Leave with You, tile from  
Peace Wall in Hamilton, New  
Zealand, late 20th century.*

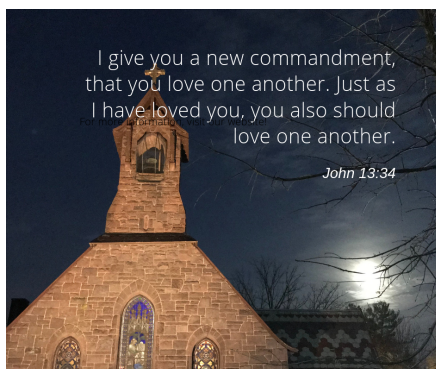
## Income Taxes and Your Pledge

With tax season just ending it's a good time to think about how you make your pledge to Trinity. You are probably aware that pledge donations are a charitable deduction. But are you aware that if you have an IRA you may be able to make your pledge directly from your IRA without first withdrawing the funds and paying income tax on them?

This is called a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD).

The IRS defines it as follows: "QCD is generally a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax deductible contributions." See *Qualified Charitable Distributions* in Pub. 590-B for more information.

See your financial advisor or tax attorney for more information.



## Upcoming Events

### MAY 4

Neighbors Feeding Neighbors will take place at St. Andrew's, Rocky Hill, 9-noon.

### MAY 4

Trinity Men & Friends: assemble bagged lunches at 12:15; attend Church by the Pond at 2; and/or serve lunches at 2:45 in Bushnell Park, Hartford.

### MAY 7

Ladies Luncheon, 12 noon, at DeNovellis Restaurant in Rocky Hill. For a ride or any questions, call Sue Ellen DeCesare, 860-214-2498.

### MAY 13

The Morning Bookclub will meet at Judy Shaw's home at 10:30 am. RSVP by calling 203-505-9124. The book is *Letter from a Stranger* by Barbara Taylor Bradford. Any questions, call Sue Ellen DeCesare at 860-214-2498.

### MAY 21

The Evening Book Club will meet for the last time until September at 5:45 pm for pizza and discussion at the home of Liz Zawadzki. Our book is *The Storyteller's Secret* by Sejal Badani. Contact Joan Joseph at 860-666-4847 for more info.

## Financial Report

Here are the financials as of the end of 3/31/19.

### Pledge Status

Total Annual Pledge	\$ 115,542
Pledge Budget	\$ 28,886
Received	\$ 34,117
Difference	+ \$ 5,231

### Income/Expenses

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 38,408	\$ 34,027
Expenses	\$ 35,397	\$ 34,027

Nothing transferred from investments to cover 2019 expenses. However \$25,000 was transferred in February to cover the Parish Hall renovation.

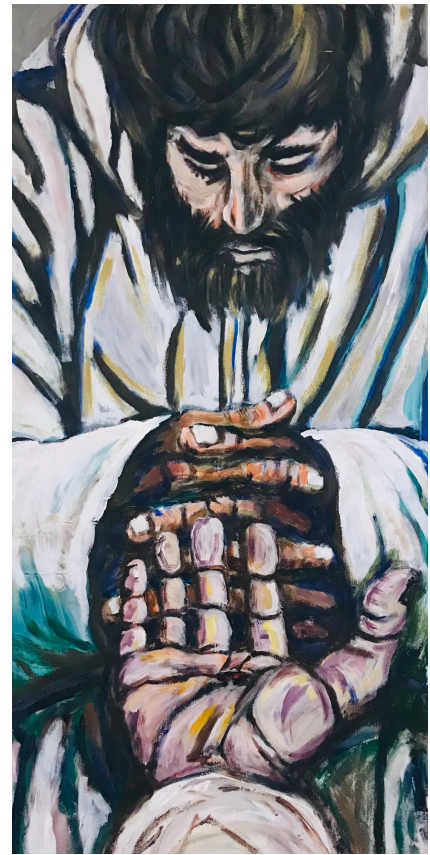
## Thank you, Sal Basile!



The April 27 concert, *From the 50s to Now*, was a fantastic success thanks to parishioner Sal Basile and his music partner, Dave Spitzer. A record 123 people came to sing, dance and have a great time. Sal will return with his Golden Oldies concert on June 8 to benefit Trinity's outreach programs. Before that, he'll be doing a benefit for Friendship Force of CT on May 25.

## Lay Ministry Schedule

<b>May 5</b>	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	R. Colburn
	Lector	C. Helfant
	Intercessor	G. Smith
	Ushers	M. Kucka
	Closer	D. Paternostro
<b>May 12</b>	Opener	C. Harasymiw
	Eucharistic Minister	D. Paternostro
	Lector	G. Lohman
	Intercessor	R. Riley
	Ushers	D. Paternostro
	Closer	C. Helfant
<b>May 19</b>	Opener	K. Cole
	Eucharistic Minister	D. Paternostro
	Lector	A.M. Stavola
	Intercessor	J.R. Stanko
	Ushers	C. Chadsey
	Closer	J. Stavola
<b>May 26</b>	Opener	M. Kucka
	Eucharistic Minister	R. Riley
	Lector	D. Paternostro
	Intercessor	S. Basile
	Ushers	J. Shaw
	Closer	K. Cole



*Painting from Bishop Skilton Center, Boca Chica, Dominican Republic, artist unknown.*

## Hold The Date

### NORTH CENTRAL REGION CONVOCATION, MAY 18

Join the North Central Region in the Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. We will gather at St. Paul's, Southington from 9 am - 1 pm. Breakfast, snacks and lunch will be included.

More information will be available in weekly parish emails and bulletin inserts.

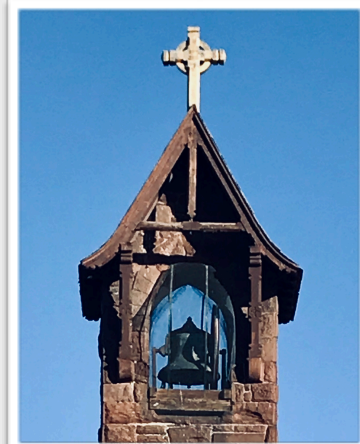
## A Prayer for Parish Mission

---

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](mailto:lesliejonesie@gmail.com) by May 24.

## The Belfry

---

### 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.*