

# 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  
Bishop Seabury Room

## From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November begins with All Saints Day and ends (almost) with Thanksgiving Day. On All Saints Day, we remember and celebrate our interconnectedness with all of God's family throughout time and space and eternity. When you and I were baptized into the Body of Christ, we became members of a world-wide family.

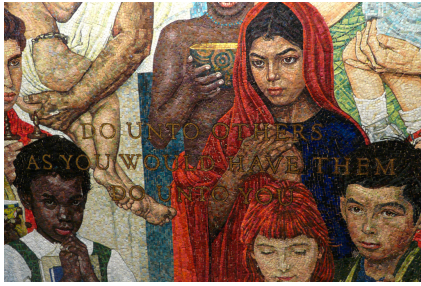
For most of the month of October, we have been blessed with the presence of Bishop Markus Dogo and his wife Nana from the Diocese of Kafanchan in central Nigeria – where we are sponsoring 48 children to go to primary school. It is also the home of one of the medical facilities that Kateri Medical Services has built and funds and runs in partnership with the local Christians. Our “small but mighty” church here in Wethersfield is making a big impact on the lives of many people there through education and health care. During their visit, we raised additional funds for school scholarships and other school related expenses – all together, just in the last three months, Trinity members have contributed about \$7,000 toward scholarships and other expenses. This also is an expression of the interconnectedness we celebrate on All Saints Day.

And the great thing about forming friendships and partnerships with Christians from around the world is that we get to see a wider dimension of how God works in our world. Many have told me how inspired and touched they were by the testimonies and sermons and prayers of Bishop Markus and Nana Dogo. This experience of family in Christ is what we celebrate on All Saints Day.

Also, in October, we began our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, remembering that we are standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us – and offering our own shoulders to those who come after us. At that service, we welcomed new members and confirmed young people and welcomed members of Good Shepherd Church in Hartford who helped to start our parish and also from St. Andrew's in Rocky Hill whose parish we helped to start about (I think) 40 years ago. Again, this is the interconnectedness that we celebrate on All Saints Day.

As you read this newsletter, I will be in Nigeria with seven

*(continued on page 2)*



*Golden Rule, mosaic in The United Nations, 1985 (scripture: Luke 6:20-31)*

## Sunday Readings

### November 3

Isaiah 1:10-18

Psalms 32:1-7

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10

### November 10

Job 19:23-27a

Psalms 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

### November 17

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalms 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

### November 24

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

FROM OUR PASTOR (continued from page 1)

other folks from different Episcopal churches here in Connecticut. We will be working on two different medical outreaches in two different places: Port Harcourt and Gusau. We will be working alongside 40 or 50 volunteers from Nigeria to help thousands of people with medical care – extending the love of Jesus to hurting people.

Whenever I participate in one of these medical outreaches, I try to look into the eyes of hurting people and see the face of Jesus. And when you look, you see. When you seek, you find. This also is the interconnectedness in Christ that we celebrate on All Saints Day.

At the end of November, we set a day apart to give thanks for all that God has given us. This year, we will be celebrating with members of other faith groups here at our church on Tuesday, November 26. At a minimum, we will be including several local Christian congregations as well as the Jewish community a few blocks from our church and a Muslim community from Meriden. Our theme for this service will be *Gratitude and Love* — gratitude to God for all God has blessed us with, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. I encourage you all to join us for this service. This too is an opportunity to reflect on a deep interconnectedness that we share with all people created in the image and likeness of God, even those who do not share our Christian faith.

Just writing about these different events and opportunities gives me a deep sense of gratitude for all that God has given us. November is gratitude month. And I am grateful.

Sincerely yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Father Tom

## Stewardship Campaign

Love God.

Love your neighbor.

Change the world.®

These three simple phrases clearly state God's goals for us as Christians. Loving God and loving our neighbor is something we can do alone but changing the world often takes a community. Our small community – Trinity Parish – has been working hard the last few years at changing the world.

It's important to keep that in mind when we begin to think about stewardship. In order to change the world we need first to have a solid foundation at home and that's what your pledge donation has done. It has provided Trinity with the ability to be a stable and self-sustaining community.

In past years it has been your generous response to outreach campaigns which has made it possible for Trinity to reach out its

(continued on page 3)

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN (continued from page 2)

hands in love to those in need both here at home and in other parts of the world.

This year we would like to challenge ourselves to think about our parish budget as an additional source of outreach funding. We would like to allocate a portion of our pledge income to add to your support of existing and new outreach initiatives.

We are beginning this year's Stewardship Campaign on November 10. It will end on Ingathering Sunday, November 24, the day on which we return our pledges. Early in November you will receive a letter outlining our needs in the upcoming year and a pledge form to offer your financial commitment to Trinity.

During the next few weeks spend some time if you can prayerfully considering how important this small community is to you and how your donation can help this community change the world.

## Annual Convention Update

The Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) took place in Hartford on October 26 and 27. Trinity sent two lay delegates, Ray Colburn and Rose Riley, to represent Trinity and vote on ECCT resolutions. On Saturday, there was also opportunity to meet in workshops with other delegates to discuss important issues. Our delegates chose to participate in discussions about how small churches could make disciples and how to reach out and retain our young people in the years following confirmation. Look for additional information about the convention later this month via email and in the December *Belfry*.

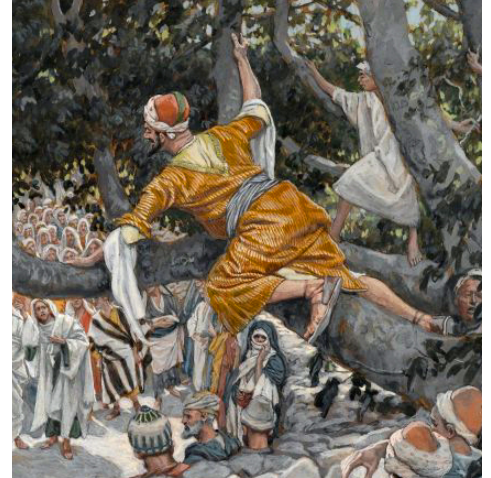
## Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors

*Who are our Muslim neighbors? What do they believe?  
How do extremist actions worldwide affect them?*

In an effort to build bridges and educate ourselves, we will sponsor "Honest Conversations" on Sunday, November 17 at 1pm in the Parish Hall. The program was developed and supported by the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU), the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut and the Hartford Seminary.

The format of the presentation involves attendees writing questions on cards. The questions are given to three speakers who take turns responding. The speakers are Muslims who live in our community and have their own unique view of the world based on their varied experiences.

Several members of our church attended one of these sessions a few months ago and felt it was very informative and well-presented. If you'd like more information, please contact Warren Blessing at 860-742-3253 or ctvalleywc@yahoo.com



*Zacchaeus in the Sycamore Awaiting the  
Passage of Jesus, James Tissot, 1886  
(scripture: Luke 19:1-10)*

## 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  
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





Sun of Righteousness, Albrecht Dürer, approx. 1500 (scripture: Malachi 4:1-2a)

## Soup Sale to Support Children in Honduras

November 10 is the day Ginger Smith will sell her famous homemade soups to help raise funds for Copprome Orphanage in El Progreso, Honduras. There will be 28 different kinds of soup available for purchase after church in the Parish Hall. Eleven will be vegetarian!

Ginger has been visiting the orphanage twice a year for the past 18 years. While there, she organizes and sponsors field trips, movies, birthday and pizza parties, and responds to specific needs such as shoes, athletic equipment, clothes, education and computer needs. The greatest need at this time is food so Ginger will use her soup money primarily for food for the children.

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

### GOLDEN OLDIES CONCERT

November 16, 7 pm (note change in date)

Come join your church family and the community for another great Sal and Dave concert in our Parish Hall. Sal Basile will be playing guitar and Dave Spitzer his bass guitar and keyboard, and both will be singing favorite songs. Bistro-style seating, snacks, appetizers, desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Please help by bringing snacks, finger foods, crackers and cheese, chips and dips, fruit, deviled eggs, brownies, cookies. \$10 at the door with proceeds going to Kateri Medical Services in Nigeria to buy medicine for the clinics where Father Tom conducts medical missions twice a year.

### CHILI + RICE & BEANS COOK-OFF

Our 12th cook-off last month was a fun evening with 15 cooks participating from Christ Church, Middle Haddam; St. Andrew's, Rocky Hill; St. James', Glastonbury; and our parish. The recipes (eleven chili and five rice & beans, some old and some new) were all delicious. Parishioners from all four churches attended; there was special music by Father Tom, Sal Basile, and J. R. Stanko; Bishop Marcus Dogo spoke on *Educating Children in Third World Countries*, and we celebrated our successful Nigerian scholarship fund drive which raised enough money to send 48 children to primary school in Kafanchan Diocese, Nigeria.

Jimmy LaBella (St. Andrew's), Doug Scott (St. James'), and Tom Traue (Trinity) served as judges. In the Judged Category, here are the winners: for Rice & Beans, first place went to Connie Harasymiw (Trinity) with her Bean and Avocado Salad. Second place went to Yaman (our Syrian friend) for Rice and Beans with Lamb. For Chili, first place went to Mark Rodbourn (St. Andrew's) for his Rowdy Con Carne and second place went to Peter and Sheila Dewberry (Trinity).

Here are the winners in the People's Choice Category: for Rice & Beans, first place went to Yaman (our Syrian friend) for his Rice and Beans with Lamb and second place went to Connie Harasymiw (Trinity) with her Bean and Avocado Salad. For Chili, first place went to Blake Crevoiserat (St. James') for Rick's Sunday Night Chili and second place went to Mark Rodbourn (St. Andrew's) for his Rowdy Con Carne.

The cook-off continues to take on a life of its own and has now become a multi-community event. A check for \$1,005 was sent to St. Vincent's Center for Disabled Children in Haiti to provide whatever these children most need. Thanks to all who participated in any way and some in many ways to make this a real success. Three of the cooks from other churches indicated they want to come back next year. The feedback is that this was the best cook-off of all!

## 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.

### WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK

Your response 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 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

The seasons are changing and cold weather will soon be here! We have updated our South Park Inn shopping list to include the following items: socks, gloves, hats, sweatshirts, thermal underwear, hand-warmers and toe-warmers, chapsticks and hand lotion. Larger clothing sizes (XL and XXL) are appreciated, especially for men's items.

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

Trinity has already been scheduled in for 2020. Father Tom will be the celebrant and preacher, and we'll prepare and hand out 50-60 bagged lunches after the service of Holy Eucharist in Bushnell Park, Hartford. We are scheduled to participate on March 7, May 23, August 1, and November 7.

## Community Meals

*Serving up  
some love on  
November 25*



We appreciate everyone who has been supporting the success of Community Meals at Christ Church Cathedral throughout the year. Our last dinner of 2019 is quickly approaching.

This year's final dinner is November 25. We need about eight individuals to help prepare and serve the dinners. It's a very satisfying evening of helping others. It takes approximately 2½ hours to fulfill our efforts. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to give Lynda or Warren Blessing a call at 860-742-3253

There is a sign-up sheet for the dinner at the back of the church. Please indicate if you'd like to help out with a donation of food or your time.



*Cloud of Witnesses, Coco Olson, 2017*

## Bible Verse for November

Therefore, since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of God.

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

## Morning Book Club

The next meeting will be November 11 at 10:30 am in the church library. All are welcome. The book that will be discussed is *The Room on Rue Amélie* by Kristin Harmel. Bring your own beverage.

## Ladies Luncheon

The next luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 5 at Bricco's in Glastonbury at noon. All are welcome. Call Sue DeCesare at 860-214-2498 if you need of a ride.

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Trinity will host our first Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26 at 7 pm. This service will reflect our many faith communities. We will have participants from other Episcopal churches, other Christian denominations, the Jewish faith and the Muslim faith. It will be an exciting service with prayers and music from all of our faith traditions. Please plan to come and bring your neighbors. This is truly an event for everyone.

A period of fellowship in the Parish Hall will follow the service. All are asked to bring desserts to share.

## Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair

Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair will be on Saturday, November 23 from 9 am to 2 pm. Come and shop for the holidays and have lunch with your friends. We'll have knitted hats, scarves and blankets, and many other handmade gifts. There will be books and puzzles as well as gifts for all your animal friends. Come and enjoy fresh baked goods and a wonderful Food Court.

We hope you'll come and shop for the holidays and come to help out. If you can help for a couple of hours, check out the list of tables below, find a friend listed below and offer support, or talk to Connie or Rose. We also need donations of baked goods and donations to the Book & Puzzle Table and for the Regifting Table.

Greg and Joan Joseph - books, puzzles, etc.  
 Vicki and Barbara - Christmas collectibles and regifting  
 Marilyn Ford - baked goods (see next page for details)  
 Jan Rouse - handmade gifts  
 Paul Milne - Food Court  
 Nan Heath - special gifts  
 Lynda Blessing - pet gifts

## Business Report

Pledge Status as of September 30, 2019

Total Annual Pledge	\$ 115,542
Pledge Budget	\$ 86,656
Received	\$ 92,509
Difference	+ \$ 5,853

Income/Expenses	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 107,846	\$ 102,082
Expenses	\$ 101,250	\$ 102,082

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

### November 3

Opener, D. Paternostro; Eucharistic Minister, A.M. Stavola;  
Lector, J.R. Stanko; Ushers, M. Kucka and J. Stavola;  
Intercessor, J. Shaw; Closer, K. Cole

### November 10

Opener, C. Harasymiw; Eucharistic Minister, S. Basile; Lector,  
P. Milne; Ushers, M. Kucka and D. Paternostro; Intercessor, S.  
Butters; Closer, K. Cole

### November 17

Opener, D. Paternostro; Eucharistic Minister, C. Jones;  
Lector, K. Cole; Ushers, M. Kucka and D. Paternostro;  
Intercessor, C. Chadsey; Closer, R. Riley

### November 24

Opener, D. Paternostro; Eucharistic Minister, J. Joseph;  
Lector, G. Lohman; Ushers, M. Kucka and D. Paternostro;  
Intercessor, R. Riley; Closer, K. Cole

## Christmas Flowers

Please consider a donation to Trinity Parish Christmas Flowers. We gratefully accept any amount you choose to give. We suggest a donation of \$50. Make your checks payable to "Trinity Parish" with "Flower Fund" on the memo line.

Printing deadline is December 19.

Please indicate (M) for a memorial or (T) for a living thanksgiving donation on the lines below.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

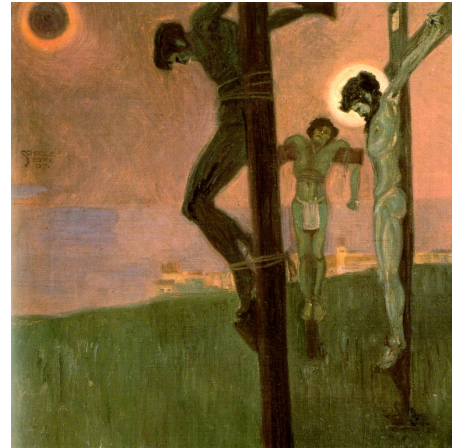
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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 thru Thursday from 9 - noon; include it with your Sunday contribution.

With appreciation, Trinity Altar Guild.



*Crucifixion, Egon Schiller, circa 1910  
(scripture: Luke 23:33-43)*

## Evening Book Club

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 5 at 5:45 pm for pizza and discussion. The book is *How to Read the Air* by Dinaw Mengestu. The meeting will be at Marilyn Ford's home and all are welcome. Call Joan Joseph at 860-666-4847 with questions.

## Baked Goods Table Needs Your Help

Please donate the following items for the Sugar Plum Fair: breads (small or large loaves), brownies, cookies, cakes, cupcakes, muffins, pies, scones, fudge, or other special items. You can leave them on the baked goods table on Friday afternoon, November 22, or on Saturday morning by 9 a.m.

The baked goods table is very profitable and we thank you for helping out.

## 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 December 27.

## 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.*