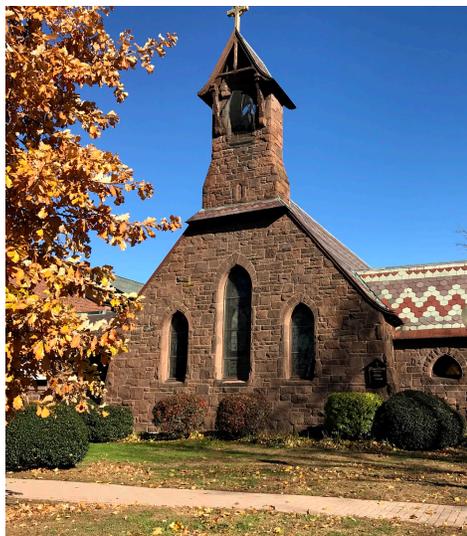


THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT



Opportunities for Prayer, Discussion & Bible Study

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated each Sunday at 9:30 in the church sanctuary. If you want to participate in Zoom Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings and/or Centering Prayer on Wednesday afternoons, please contact the office for an invite. If you're interested in the Richard Rohr Meditation discussions on Saturday mornings, email garth.myers@trincoll.edu

Advent - Waiting for Jesus

Dear Trinity Community,

Advent is a time of prayerful anticipation. Jesus came once in history, at the first Christmas when he was born. Each year, we **remember** that wonderful moment when God became one with us in the human life of Jesus.

Advent is also a time to **reimagine** our lives in light of the truth of Christmas. In and through Jesus, God came to share our humanity. In and through Jesus, God makes a home in our hearts and lives through a living faith. How am I going to live my short and fragile life with the knowledge that God has taken up his dwelling in my soul? How will the people around me see Jesus's love working through me?

Advent is a time to **revive hope**. In this world of sin and hurt and injustice and sorrow and disappointment, we are invited to live in hope that God will have his way in the whole creation. We look ahead to the second coming of Jesus. The doctrine of the second coming affirms that God will finish the work of redemption that God has begun in the first coming of Christ. We believe that the love of God, first manifested in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, will win the final victory over evil and death. Love wins!

I invite you all to take some time apart every day in December to **remember** what God has done for us in Christ, to **reimagine your life** in light of what God has done and to **revive hope** in what we expect God to do with all creation in the fullness of time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Tom

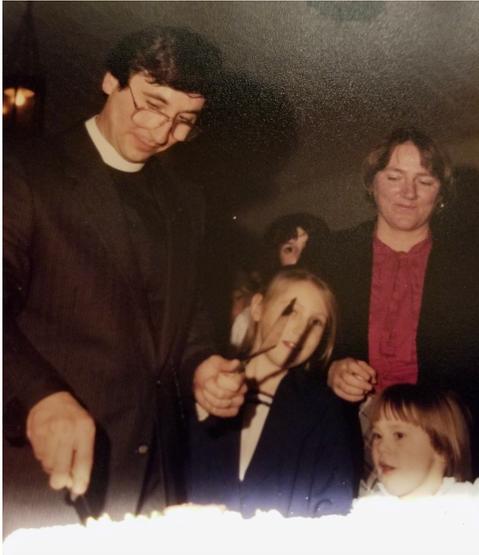
PERSONAL NOTE FROM FATHER TOM

Dear Beloved Trinity Family,

I want to thank everyone who has offered words of comfort and prayers for healing and offered to help during my recent Covid diagnosis. I really appreciate all of your concern and love expressed in this way.

Both Maryjane and I are fully vaccinated and boosted. And because my two previous cardiac crises were virus-induced, my primary care doctor sent me for monoclonal antibody treatment. The bottom line appears to be that my symptoms are not too bad at this time. But I am grateful for your continued prayers. As of this writing, Maryjane has tested negative for Covid, for which I am grateful.

(continued on next page)



Postponed: Anniversary Celebration of Father Tom's Ordination

Since Father Tom recently tested positive for Covid, the special celebration we'd planned for Sunday has been postponed. We'll plan to celebrate with him once again on January 23 after the church service.

Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet on Tuesday, January 4, at 5:45 for pizza and discussion (snow date: January 5). Our selection is *The Godmothers* by Camille Aubray. It's an irresistible novel about four women who marry into a prosperous Greenwich Village Italian family and then must take charge of the family's business when their husbands are forced to leave them during World War II. For more information, contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com

(FROM OUR PASTOR continued from first page)

One of the good things that comes from this ongoing Covid affliction is that we are all more aware of our vulnerabilities and we are praying for each other in more intentional ways. I am so grateful for all of your prayers. We both look forward to seeing you soon in church. And we are praying for all of you daily.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Tom*

Christmas Services and Covid Concerns

In December, we will have five special services to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

December 19 at 9:30 am — Nine Lessons and Carols
 December 24 at 3:00 pm — Outdoor Holy Communion with Carols
 December 24 at 4:00 pm — Holy Communion with Carols
 December 25 at 9:30 am — Holy Communion with Carols
 December 26 at 9:30 am — Holy Communion with Carols

If you are concerned about being too close to other people in worship, we encourage you to attend a Christmas service other than the 4 pm service on December 24. This service is usually more heavily attended.

The morning services on December 19, 25 and 26 are not typically crowded. Please be intentional in attending one of these if you want to avoid larger groups of people.

With the recent rise in Covid numbers in Wethersfield and many Connecticut towns, we are asking everyone to wear masks in church for all services. Coffee hour after services has been suspended until further notice.

Our Nativity Scene



The Nativity has returned to our front lawn with many additions. New figures were added through the gracious contributions of parishioners. The exhibit area was expanded and we invite you to stop by and see the new figures and setup. A big "thank you" goes out to the Property Team who set up everything up.

Giving Tree Wish List for South Park Inn



WALMART
 DUNKIN DONUTS
 OLD NAVY * TARGET
 VISA * SUBWAY * PANERA
 MAC DONALD'S * BURGER KING

Brighten Christmas for South Park Inn residents with a \$25 (suggested amount) gift card to one of their favorite spots. Return your gift card (be sure to note the amount if it is not visible on the card) to the special collection box located in the rear of the sanctuary by Sunday, December 19. Questions? Contact Joan or Greg Joseph at golfst4@aol.com



Parish Leadership

PASTOR

The Rev. Thomas Furrer
 For a pastoral emergency, please call
 860-212-6994

STAFF

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

VESTRY

Warren Blessing, Co-Warden
 Sarah Butters
 Peter Dewberry
 Connie Harasymiw, Co-Warden
 Robert Heath, Treasurer
 Melanie Hepburn, Clerk
 Carol Jones
 Greg Joseph
 Rebecca Scruton, Co-Warden
 J. R. Stanko
 Ann Marie Stavola

Check Out What's New on Our Website

New information typically appears on our website trinityepiscopalweth.org before it makes it to The Belfry or the weekly e-newsletter. The latest Covid protocols are always posted on the website along with any service changes. Upcoming events and outreach opportunities appear on the calendar, there are links to online worship services and spiritual opportunities, there's a collection of prayers and poetry written by parishioners, a photo gallery and so much more.

As webmaster Joan Joseph rightly states, "It's the best place to get the latest Trinity updates."

Flowers for Christmas



Please consider making a donation. The Altar Guild will accept any amount you choose to give. We suggest a donation of \$50. Print deadline is December 19. Make your check payable to "Trinity Parish" and on the check memo line indicate "Flower Fund."

On the form below please indicate (M) Memorial or (T) Thanksgiving.

Name(s) _____

Given by _____

Please mail your check to: Trinity Parish, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109. Or you can put it in the offertory plate on Sunday or bring your check to the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9 am and noon.



Business Report

Pledge Status (end of October)

Total Pledge	\$ 109,413
Received	\$ 113,497

Income/Expenses (end of October)

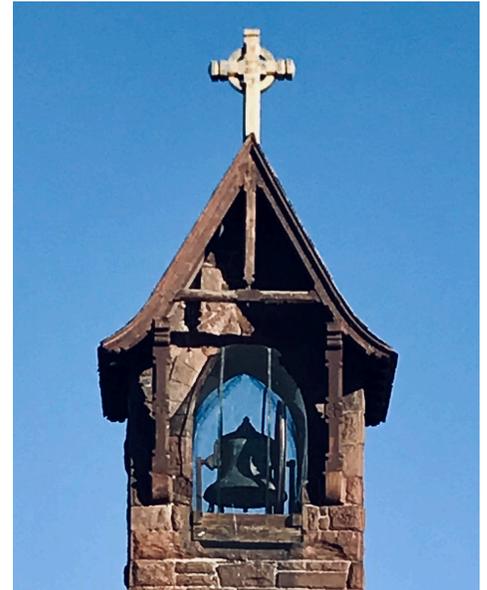
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 129,715	\$ 142,471
Expenses	\$ 116,524	\$ 142,471

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 is a monthly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT. Send articles and photographs to lesliejonesie@gmail.com

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 or 860-529-6825.