

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT



Opportunities for Prayer, Discussion & Bible Study

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated each Sunday at 9:30 am in the church sanctuary and outdoors at 11 am beginning January 2. If it rains, the outdoor service will meet on the front porch. 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 at garth.myers@trincoll.edu

From Our Pastor

Dear Trinity Community,

Here we are in a new year. Let's hope and pray that God has a good purpose for us in the coming year and that we can find out what it is and open our hearts and minds and lives to embrace the life that God intends for each one of us.

As we look at the month of January, we have a couple of special opportunities to grow deeper in our faith and life.

First, we have the Alpha program beginning on Monday, January 24. This course has been used by thousands of churches and experienced by millions of people all over the world, including the two churches of which I was the pastor for nearly 30 years. It is a good opportunity to grow deeper in your faith and in your relationship and friendships with others.

Because of the rising Covid numbers, we will offer the Alpha program in two formats: in-person and simultaneously on ZOOM. (See a registration form later in this Belfry, online and in upcoming e-newsletters.)

Secondly, we will be hosting two career missionaries. The Rev. Russ and Heidi Smith have served as missionaries for SAMS (Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders) in Chile for the past 35 years. Maryjane and I have supported them with finances and prayer for the past 25 years. They are great friends and true servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. They will be visiting us on Saturday, January 29 at 10 am for a "meet and greet" in our parish hall.

Again, because of rising Covid numbers, we may need to do this as a Zoom experience rather than in-person. We will let you know as the time gets nearer.

I wish you all every blessing from God in this new year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Tom

A Big Thank You from South Park Inn!



Christmas for South Park Inn residents was a whole lot brighter because of your generous donations! Thanks to all who contributed, 40 gift cards worth \$960 were delivered to South Park Inn for Christmas giving. The staff and residents of South Park Inn deeply appreciate all that Trinity has done for them this year.

Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 8 (snow date, February 9) for pizza and discussion at the home of Judith Melchreit. Our selection is *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline. Seduced by her employer's son, Evangeline, a naïve young governess in early 19th century London, is discharged when her pregnancy is discovered and sent to the notorious Newgate Prison. After months in the fetid, overcrowded jail, she learns she is sentenced to "the land beyond the seas," Van Diemen's Land, a penal colony in Australia. Though uncertain of what awaits, Evangeline knows one thing: the child she carries will be born on the months-long voyage to this distant land. For more information, contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com

Annual Parish Meeting

Last year, in January 2021, we met together by Zoom for our Annual Meeting. We voted on our Vestry slate and passed our resolutions by mail-in ballot and didn't expect to ever have to do it again in this way, but here we are. This year we find ourselves in the middle of another Covid surge and in an abundance of caution, the Vestry and Father Tom have decided to hold our Annual Meeting and our voting as we did last year.

We will be mailing a packet to each parish member in good standing on January 20th. This packet will contain an Annual Report, a ballot sheet, a stamped return envelope for the ballot and a prayer list. The ballots are to be returned by Friday, February the 11th.

The Annual meeting will be held by Zoom as it was last year on Tuesday evening the 15th of February at 7 pm. Zoom invitations will be sent out as the date comes closer.

So, save the dates and save your smiles since masks are not required at the Zoom Annual Meeting.

Father Tom and the Wardens

Citizens of the World

Resettling A Refugee Family

"They who assist others nearby are good neighbors, Ah but they who display compassion and fellowship to strangers across the seas are True Citizens of the World." Sir Francis Bacon

We have joined with First Church in Wethersfield, St. Andrew's in Rocky Hill and United Church of Christ in Newington to form an independent non-profit organization called Citizens of the World. Our mission is to resettle a refugee family in one of our communities. The family will probably be refugees or "humanitarian parolees" from Afghanistan and they will have been living on military bases since the Taliban takeover.

In addition to establishing our non-profit entity, we are preparing for our family in a variety of ways. Donna Brown is Trinity's Team Leader and she is coordinating our volunteers with regard to communications, training and special projects. She also meets regularly with the other three team leaders for Citizens of the World. If you want to know the latest and/or feel called to help out in the resettlement efforts, she's the person-in-the-know. You can contact her at dbrown921@gmail.com

One of our key activities right now is finding an affordable 3- or 4-bedroom apartment that's accessible to public transportation. Trinity and our partner churches are researching the towns of Newington, Wethersfield and Rocky Hill. If you know of an available apartment or have the time to help look around or are friends with a real estate agent, please contact our Housing Leader, Carol Jones, at jonesca144@att.net

Register for the ALPHA Program



We'll join with St. Andrew's in Rocky Hill for a ten-week program to discuss our Christian faith and to explore how we can grow deeper in faith and service to God.

Here are some of the topics: Who is Jesus and why should I care? Why did Jesus die? How can I have faith? How and why do I pray? Why and how should I read the Bible? How do we deal with evil in the world? How does God guide us? Why should I tell others? How does the Holy Spirit work in our lives? What can I do with the rest of my life?

Recognizing that many are concerned about the growing Covid metrics, we are offering this course both in-person (with a maximum of 30 people) and on Zoom beginning on Monday, January 24.

The in-person course will begin at 6:30 pm with a shared meal at St. Andrew's in Rocky Hill. The Zoom course will begin at 7 pm. To help us plan for this course, please fill out the registration form below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please indicate which format you will join:

☐ I would like to attend the in-person course at St. Andrew's.

☐ I would like to register for the Zoom course.

If registering for the in-person course, please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions. Please write any comments or questions below:

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

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of November)

Total Pledge	\$ 120,354
Received	\$ 122,573

Income/Expenses (end of November)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 140,665	\$ 156,719
Expenses	\$ 128,977	\$ 156,719

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

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If you prefer to receive The Belfry by email, please contact the office at operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org or 860-529-6825.