

# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT



## Save the Date: August 28

A potluck brunch in honor of Father Tom is being planned for August 28 following the Sunday service. Be sure to mark your calendar.

## Opportunities for Prayer, Discussion & Bible Study

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated each Sunday at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. There will also be Wednesday noontime services with prayers for peace during the month of August. There is Zoom Morning Prayer on Wednesdays and Centering Prayer on Wednesday afternoons. Richard Rohr Meditation discussions are on Saturday mornings. Contact the office for a Zoom invitation.

## From Our Pastor

Dear Trinity parish community,

This is the last Belfry article I will write. We will soon be moving to Ohio. We will move to a new chapter in our lives. And Trinity parish will move to another chapter in its long life.

Several of you have asked me what church community we will be a part of when we move to Ohio. The honest answer is we don't know. We will be praying about it. God is preparing a new chapter for us as well as you and the future is not completely clear.

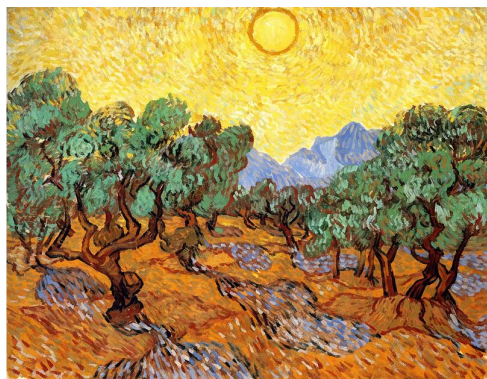
Church communities are not cookie-cutter replicas of each other. Every parish fellowship has different gifts, strengths and weaknesses and a unique opportunity to be a blessing to its community context. Over the past 46 years, Maryjane and I have been blessed to be part of five different parish communities. Each one was different. And each one was a great blessing to us. We look forward to wherever God is calling us next, expecting that our new church community will also be a blessing and an opportunity to serve God and our neighbors.

In the same way, clergy leaders are not cookie-cutter clones either. We each have our own unique gifts, strengths and weaknesses. We each have our own personal story of how God has directed our lives and how Jesus leads us to be faithful. Trinity members have been a great blessing to me and Maryjane. And I hope and pray that you will be a great blessing to whoever comes after us. Whoever the next pastor is, I pray that you will love and encourage him or her as much as you have loved and encouraged us.

We are not sure about the exact details of the future. But what we are sure about is the character of God. God has a plan and a purpose for our lives. And we can trust God with our future. And we can embrace the future with joy and hope.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope.* Romans 15:13

Sincerely and hopefully yours in Christ,  
Father Tom



## Sunday Services

AUGUST 7

*Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33:12-22*

*Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16*

*Luke 12:32-40*

AUGUST 14

*Jeremiah 23:23-29 and Psalm 82*

*Hebrews 11:29-12:2*

*Luke 12:49-56*

AUGUST 21

*Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Psalm 103:1-8*

*Hebrews 12:18-29*

*Luke 13:10-17*

AUGUST 28

*Sirach 10:12-18 and Psalm 112*

*Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16*

*Luke 14:1, 7-14*

## Sunday Hymn Sing

Many thanks to Heidi Tummescheit for having a vision and a new idea for us to experience. The Sunday Hymn Sing after a recent morning service was a great experience and delight. Many voices gathered informally to sing hymns chosen by folks from the parish. We sang with joy, gusto and verve. We hope to continue this on a regular basis...plan to join. Remember the psalmist says, "Make a joyful noise..."

## Transition Plans

First and most important, save August 28 on your calendars. That will be Father Tom's last Sunday service with us. We are planning a celebration/potluck brunch for Tom and Maryjane after the service. More information will be coming.

The wardens are prayerfully searching for supply clergy who can assist us at least through January. The diocesan policy is for ECCT to assess a parish's financial status and then decide how many hours the parish can afford to pay the next priest, thus determining the hours of the priest's involvement with a parish. We will then have their assistance in finding the best available clergy for our situation. It is our hope to have a priest-in-charge in place early next year. There are many challenges and bumps in the road ahead. The one thing we can promise, we will keep you as up-to-date as possible. At this point, any questions or thoughts can be directed to one of the wardens. Please keep this whole process in your prayers.

## Property Update

Our sanctuary ceiling and walls have been repaired and painted and are now complete. This work was approved by the vestry last year but the painter discovered new leaks in the slate roof. We had to retain the services of the roofing company to handle the slate work. When that was done, we brought the painter back in to finish the job. So finally, it's all done and looks great.

Based on parishioner input, additional projects are being considered, e.g. ADA (Americans with Disability Act) issues; repairing windows in the Seabury Room; roof leak off the old sanctuary; and streaming services. Our ADA compliance committee needs additional members who may be advocates or have special knowledge in the area. Please let one of the wardens know if you can help out.

## From the Vestry and Wardens

In the June 2022 Belfry, we began a discussion about our opportunity to redefine who we are and what we are. Our desire is to be as transparent as possible about the status of Trinity in its various areas. This transparency includes the positive movements being made as well as the areas of need.

We shared about the workings of the Finance Committee, Mission and Outreach, and the Building Committee. Orientation for Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and Lay Preachers has begun. As we are now worshipping in the sanctuary and following the seasons of the church year, a new Worship Committee under the leadership of Garth Myers is being formed to support and guide our worship, liturgy, and music.

The following are some areas that need volunteers and co-leaders.

- Christian Formation: Bible studies, Sunday forums, and small groups for spiritual deepening

- **Special Events:** Oversee setup for receptions and special parish events
- **Kitchen Maintenance:** Oversee cleanliness of counters, refrigerator/freezer, other appliances; keep supplies stocked (plates, napkins, cups, glasses, coffee, etc.)
- **Hospitality:** Welcoming all; ushers/greeters
- **Outdoor Beautification:** Weeding, trimming, planting as needed
- **Sexton Duties:** Since we have a cleaning service but not a sexton, there are several tasks to attend to: setting up tables and chairs in the Parish Hall as needed and putting the trash/recycle containers out each Sunday and returning them to their proper place on Tuesdays.
- **Media Liaison:** Connecting with our area news sources about who we are, what we are doing and when.
- **Social Events/Fellowship:** Whatever leaders/co-leaders envision with regard to dances, travelogues, game nights, movies, pot-lucks, etc.

So dear friends, these are some of the areas that need leadership, support and, in some cases, re-visioning. Please connect with any of the wardens or vestry with questions, ideas and willingness to help.

## Meeting Chief Medina

Chief Rafael Medina of the Wethersfield Police Department recently met with the wardens and Father Tom. He is focused on getting to know the community and getting the community to know of the police's positive presence and availability. He described the various ways this is being effected. We were able to ask questions and he answered candidly and collegially. Our conversation was very positive and important given the times in which we are living. We are fortunate to have him heading our police department.

## Refugee Resettlement Update

Our coalition with First Church in Wethersfield, St. Andrew's in Rocky Hill, and Church of Christ in Newington started in December. By March, we had raised \$15k, 40 volunteers were trained and background checked, and we secured an apartment in Hartford that was accessible to medical facilities, recreation areas, and public transportation. The arrival of a refugee family was imminent and we were organized into 14 different committees to help with employment, education, healthcare, transportation, etc.

Regrettably, according to IRIS, refugee arrivals have decreased dramatically. Therefore, we're planning to forgo the apartment and wait for various government agencies to begin allowing additional refugees into the United States through the federal refugee resettlement program.

In the meantime we'll continue to do as Jesus commands his disciples in Luke 12:35, "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit..."



## Parish Leadership

### PASTOR

The Rev. Thomas Furrer

For a pastoral emergency, please call  
860-212-6994

### STAFF

Linda Rubera, Administrator

Tuesday-Thursday, 9-2

operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org

860-529-6825

Dorothy LaBelle, Music Director

### VESTRY

Warren Blessing, Co-Warden

Susanna Brown

Sarah Butters

Peter Dewberry

Don Ghostlaw

Robert Heath, Treasurer

Melanie Hepburn, Clerk

Carol Jones

Charles Melchreit

Garth Myers, Co-Warden

Rebecca Scruton, Co-Warden

## Business Report

### *Pledge Status (through June 30)*

Total Pledge	\$ 79,426
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Received	\$ 75,505
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### *Income/Expenses (through June 30)*

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 90,520	\$ 92,491
Expenses	\$ 89,850	\$ 96,086



## Student Scholarships

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Dear Trinity community,

This is my last note about scholarships for the students in the Diocese of Kafanchan, Nigeria.

For the past three years, we have asked Trinity members to provide a scholarship of \$100 per student. This pays for tuition, school uniforms, books and lunches for one academic year. In the Diocese of Kafanchan, everyone is poor by American standards but some families are poorer than average in that context. These scholarships help the families that are most economically disadvantaged.

I hope you will continue to give to these scholarships after I have left you. The need remains even though I am not here to remind you. Cheryl Chadsey, who has had a long career in educating young people, has agreed to lead this effort in years to come. I hope that you will respond to her appeals as generously as you have responded to mine.

Sincerely yours,  
Father Tom

## Reflections in Extreme Heat of this Summer

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Fields, lawns now brittle  
brown, sun scorched, dormant,  
rain starved,  
aching, dying grass.

What might scorched earth say  
To us? What might Creator  
Ask us earth stewards?

Too much of this once  
Blue green planet now suffers  
From global warming,

Drought, violence, greed, war,  
Hatred, long term neglect of  
Seeking harmony,

Work for common good,  
For all neighbors, creation,  
With generous love,

Gratitude, wonder,  
Search for truth, justice, mercy,  
Humble walk with God.

How much more dying,  
Destruction, neglect must come  
Before better way

Emerges, slowly  
From dead end holocaust? Will  
Cosmic restart come?

Apocalyptic  
Transformation into God's  
Fresh New Creation?

What small next steps am  
I/you called to take right now  
To embody hope?

*Bishop Gordon Scruton*  
7/18/22



## Evening Book Club

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The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 13 from 5:45-7:45 at the home of Joan Joseph. Bring your calendar and your ideas. Contact Joan Joseph at [golfst4@aol.com](mailto:golfst4@aol.com) for additional information.

## Lemonade Cafe (Coffee Hour)

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Two people are needed each week to host this wonderful time together. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall on Sunday for those who would like to participate. For the summer, lemonade and water will be the beverages. Tasty tidbits will be the hosts' choice. (Keep in mind that some parishioners have gluten-free diets and are allergic to cinnamon.) As we go into cooler weather, beverages will be coffee and tea to warm the spirit. Cheryl Chadsey is the coordinator of our fellowship time and she'll gladly show newcomer hosts the ropes. It's easy and fun! Let's all gather together to share the love of the kitchen with each other and share in God's love. Check out the sign up sheet for the Lemonade Cafe!