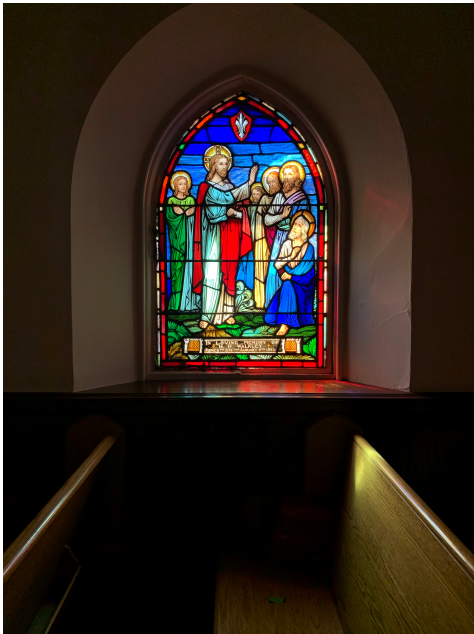


# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT



## Opportunities for Prayer, Discussion & Bible Study

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated each Sunday at 9 am in the church sanctuary as well as 10:30 am in the parking lot. If you want to participate in our 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](mailto:garth.myers@trincoll.edu)

## From Our Pastor

*For they gave according to their means, and as I can testify, beyond their means, of their own free will, begging earnestly for the favor of giving for the relief of the saints ...but first they gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.*

2 Corinthians 8: 3-5

Dear Trinity Parish Community,

The words of St. Paul (above) are part of the first recorded effort by Christians to raise funds to help their fellow Christians (whom they had never met) when a famine was afflicting their brothers and sisters in Jerusalem.

There are at least three important lessons in this short passage:

1. those early Christians gave generously and out of “their own free will” to help their beleaguered brothers and sisters, 2. they regarded giving for this purpose as a “favor” — a privilege you might say — to help others in need, and 3. their generosity flowed from their prior commitment to Jesus (“but first they gave themselves to the Lord”).

I want to say a big “thank you” again for the generosity of so many of you in providing sewing machines to the Women's' Centre in the Diocese of Kafanchan, Nigeria which will help our suffering widowed sisters earn their own living in a very difficult context. All together, we contributed \$8,435 — enough to buy 56 sewing machines. That means 56 women and their families will be able to survive.

And I want to thank you for your generous support for scholarships for school children. We had a goal of providing 50 scholarships this year. So far, we have received \$6,000 — enough to provide full scholarships for 60 children in four different elementary schools in the Diocese.

**In the coming weeks and months, we are going to be sending you pictures and stories of the women and children we are helping. And we will be posting videos on our website. We want everyone to see the big difference our giving is making in**

*(continued on page 2)*



Young Beggar, 1645,  
Bartolome Esteban Musillo

(FROM OUR PASTOR continued on page 1)

## **the lives of our Christian brothers and sisters on the other side of the world.**

Returning to the quote from St. Paul, there is a connection between giving ourselves to the Lord and giving generously for the Lord's work. Giving of our time and our talents and our treasure is a spiritual discipline that bears good fruit and gives great joy in our lives. In the coming months, we will be talking about this reality in our stewardship program.

Once again, thank you all for giving so generously to God's work.

Sincerely,  
Father Tom

## **SUNDAY READINGS**

### SEPTEMBER 5

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalms 146

James 2:1-10(11-13)14-17

Mark 7:24-27

### SEPTEMBER 12

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 116:1-8

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

### SEPTEMBER 19

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalms 54

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

### SEPTEMBER 26

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalms 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

## **Bishop Search and Transition**

The Bishop Transition Committee was formed in April following Bishop Douglas's decision to retire in 2022. To facilitate information sharing, both across ECCT and with those exploring a call to Connecticut as our next bishop, they have created a [website](#) and encourage people to [sign up to receive the BTC eNews](#). Both will provide helpful information and be the platform for you to share your questions and wonderings with the bishop search and transition process.

### LISTENING SESSIONS

The process of discerning who God is calling to be our next bishop diocesan begins with each of us. Our bishop will be part of our community, and their role grows out of the distinctive qualities which make up the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

The Discernment Subcommittee will be holding [sixteen listening sessions via Zoom from August 30-September 23](#). These sessions are designed to encourage us to share from our own unique context and experiences. We will gather together to pray, share, and discern together our current strengths and areas of growth as ECCT, as well as where we sense God inviting us next. These holy conversations will then form the backbone of our Bishop Profile, which will be developed in partnership with the Profile Subcommittee.

The Discernment Subcommittee is committed to ensuring these Listening Sessions are safe spaces where you will feel free to share openly about your experiences in ECCT, the wider Episcopal Church, and our world. Any information from these sessions utilized in the final Profile or other BTC communications will remain anonymous.

### TRANSITION WEBSITE

[Click here](#) to learn about the transition process and timeline, explore the role of bishops in The Episcopal Church, register for upcoming events and listening sessions, and more.

# Lectio Divina — Praying the Scriptures

By Rebecca Scruton

There are many ways of praying, many books written on the topic of prayer and many experiences of praying.

As I move into a new season I was considering, “What’s next?” and last Monday the 16th, the appointed Morning Prayer Psalm, Psalm 106:1-18, caught my attention and offered a framework for discovering answers to my question.

I read verses 14 and 15, “A craving seized them in the wilderness, and they put God to the test in the desert. He gave them what they asked, but sent leanness into their soul.”

These two verses have been in my heart and mind since then. Some of us have felt that this past year and a half has been a metaphorical desert. I’m sure many of us had ‘cravings’ during that time and continue to have ‘cravings’ moving forward.

I was grabbed by the line, *but sent leanness into their soul*.

The questions for prayer for me are: For what do I crave? For whom do I crave? In what way do I seek God’s presence and will in my daily expressions of “need”? Am I willing to let go of “my way” and “my desires” in order to live the life that God has for me...life abundant. Or, am I “right”: do I see, feel that my way is the only way to be fulfilled?

Given my daily, moment-by-moment desires, will God give me what I ask and send leanness into my soul or will I desire what God desires?

These are some of the questions that arise within me as I read this passage. I have been praying with these awarenesses ever since. Praying the Scriptures. Lectio Divina. What questions or responses arise within you as you read these verses?

As you are living into this next season of your life, how do you find yourself responding to these verses? What is God’s invitation to you?

I encourage you to share with another your ‘epiphanies’ from this brief reading. Both of you will be blessed.

## Season of Creation

The Season of Creation, September 1 through October 4, is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing and restoring our relationship to God, one another, and all of creation. During this time, our Sunday altar flowers will reflect gifts of the earth as found in A Song of Creation.

September 5 — Sun

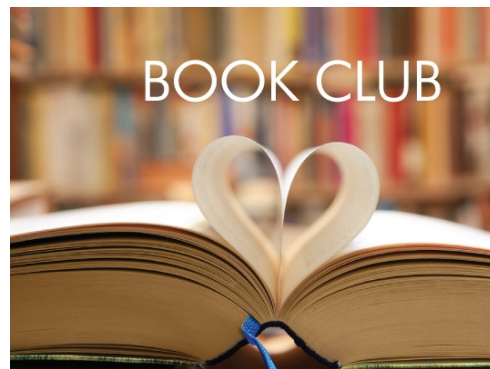
September 12 — Moon and Stars of the Skies

September 19 — Fire and Heat

September 26 — O Mountains and Hills

October 3 — O Springs of Water, Seas and Streams

If you’d like to make a donation toward altar flowers, please send a check to the office with “flower fund” noted on the memo line.



## BOOK CLUB

### This Month’s Book Club

The Evening Book Club will hold its annual planning meeting on Tuesday September 14 at 5:45. Bring your calendar and suggested titles. Contact Joan Joseph for details at 860-666-4847 or [golfst4@aol.com](mailto:golfst4@aol.com)

### Business Report

*Pledge Status (end of July)*

Total Pledge	\$ 76,589
Received	\$ 83,377

*Income/Expenses (end of July)*

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 94,249	\$ 99,730
Expenses	\$ 79,075	\$ 99,730





## Parish Leadership

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### 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

## Love God Love Your Neighbor Change the World

### *Love in the Time of Covid*

*By Father Tom and the Wardens*

As many of you know, we have entered another phase of increased Covid cases, this time with the Delta variant. Though we have been through a couple of these waves before, this one seems to be different mostly because of the apparent increased transmissibility of the variant not just among unvaccinated but breakthroughs among the vaccinated as well.

Wethersfield is one of the towns in the CT Health Department's Red Zone. The Wethersfield Town Manager has issued a mask mandate for all indoor venues open to the public in Wethersfield, effective Saturday, August 28. This includes, but is not limited to, businesses, restaurants, town buildings, and meeting spaces that are indoors. It applies regardless of vaccination status and it applies to Trinity Parish. The goal of this mandate is to keep residents and visitors healthy, while striving to keep the economy moving forward.

Considering the most vulnerable among us and with a desire to provide as safe an environment as possible for all who attend Trinity, **everyone (vaccinated or not) must wear a mask while inside Trinity during services.** If someone forgets a mask, one will be made available at church.

Since the Covid viruses are airborne, at this time we will return to **no indoor singing, even when masked.** We encourage you to reference the hymns so that you can read/pray/ponder the words. Again, please no singing.

We know that many of us are frustrated (for many reasons) that we have to make these changes. We seek your patience and understanding in the time to come as we wait to see what happens. Let us continue to pray together for our church, community, nation and the world as we move forward. Remembering especially those who are sick (or may become sick), have died, caregivers or been otherwise directly affected by all these events.

We will continue to evaluate conditions regarding mask recommendations and respond accordingly in the best interest of the parish community. Thank you for your attention and patience in the time to come.

## Mission & Outreach

SOUTH PARK INN — We continue to collect items for South Park Inn. Drop off your donations in the garage on Sunday mornings. New items in need include:

- Laundry detergent
- Pine-Sol
- New towels and face cloths
- New twin size sheets
- New men's boxers — M-XXL
- New women's briefs — M-XXL
- #10 cans of fruit
- #10 cans of vegetables

New items for Homecoming Baskets presented to guests moving into their own homes include:

- Pot and pan sets
- Dishes
- Silverware
- Coffeemakers
- Cleaning cloths and sponges
- Laundry baskets
- Manual can openers
- Cleaning supplies
- Pillows

Thank you for your generous support. Questions? Contact Joan or Greg Joseph at [golfst4@aol.com](mailto:golfst4@aol.com) or 860-666-4847.

CHURCH BY THE POND & LUNCH IN THE PARK — Our next Lunch in the Park date is Saturday, October 2. We'll be preparing and serving bagged lunches for people who are hungry in Hartford. If you'd like to help out, contact Leslie Jones at [lesliejonesie@gmail.com](mailto:lesliejonesie@gmail.com)

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

### Howling Hound Dogs Concert



Join us for a fun night of music with a purpose.

The Howling Hound Dogs is a three-man washboard band that plays a variety of music, including Christian spirituals. One of their members is a long-time supporter of Kateri Medical Services. The band members asked if they could do a benefit concert to help with the clinics. We invite you to bring your family and friends along for a light-hearted night of food, fun and fellowship. Details in the October Belfry. For more information about the band, go to [howlinghounddogs.com](http://howlinghounddogs.com)



YOU HAVE THREE CHANCES  
TO REMEMBER

### UNDIE SUNDAY!

SEPTEMBER 12, 19 & 26

We'll be collecting new underwear for our friends at South Park Inn. Drop-off baskets will be in the back of the church and in the garage.

Women's briefs – M to XXL

Women's bras – larger sizes

Men's boxers – M to XXL

Men's t-shirts – M-XXL

Nothing Says You Care Like Underwear!

### CT Food Bank Foodshare Walk Against Hunger

The first ever statewide Walk Against Hunger is just around the corner on Saturday, September 18. Thanks to the Hartford Yard Goats, the walk will return to Dunkin' Donuts Park. Last year's walk raised over \$300,000 to benefit the work that Foodshare and their community partners do year-round to help serve the estimated 545,000 people who are food insecure in the state of Connecticut. The Walk Against Hunger is a fun-filled event with live entertainment and giveaways, hosted by local media personalities Renee DiNino and Scot Haney. For more information and to register [click here](#).



Richard Rohr  
Center for Action and Contemplation

## Weekly Discussion Group Resumes September 4

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After an August break, the **Richard Rohr Weekly Discussion Group** will be starting again on Saturday, September 4. We will continue to meet by Zoom, 8-9/9:30 on Saturday mornings. We have no set agendas, but simply engage in a wide-ranging spiritual discussion built on our readings of the daily meditations from Rohr's Center for Action and Contemplation. It is free to sign up for the [CAC Daily Meditations](#). Although Rohr is a Franciscan priest, the meditations often come from other theologians, and even from Episcopalians on occasion! For a link to our Saturday zoom gathering, please email Garth Myers at [garth.myers@trincoll.edu](mailto:garth.myers@trincoll.edu) or [garthandrewmyers@gmail.com](mailto:garthandrewmyers@gmail.com). We are a small group in number, but mighty in spirit and welcoming love.

## Lift Up Your Voice

### *A workshop for those called to speak or read in church*

Saturday, October 9  
9 am - 5 pm  
Christ Church Cathedral

If you're a lay preacher or a lector who reads scripture in your parish, or if you feel drawn to improving your ability to "lift your voice" by public speaking in church, you may wish to join a daylong workshop at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford.

Ron Marasco, PhD, actor, author, speech coach and parishioner of St. Andrews in Kent — along with a panel of ECCT friends devoted to the art of preaching — will lead an exploration of best practices and professional trade secrets for reading to a congregation, reaching an audience effectively, and sharing the good news through public speaking.

Please note that masking and social distancing is required for this event. You can find out more and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lift-up-your-voice-a-workshop-for-those-called-to-speak-or-read-in-church-tickets-164849492269>

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## Int'l Missions in the Time of COVID: What We Have Learned

### *A virtual workshop featuring Father Tom Furrer*

Tuesday, September 14  
7 pm - 8:30 pm

Members of the diocesan's Companions in Mission Ministry Network will share their adaptations during the pandemic and host a Q & A session for attendees.

Father Tom's talk will be "Health Care Ministry for the Rural and Urban Poor in Nigeria". Other speakers include Elaine Chagnon on "Building and Renovating Schools in Nigeria: Reconciliation through Education" and Everett Post on "Microenterprise Ministry in the Worldwide Anglican Communion".

You can get more information and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intl-missions-in-the-time-of-covid-what-we-have-learned-tickets-159624959551>



## Updated Weekly Prayer List

***May your kingdom come and your will be done***

**Monday:** The Brown family (Susanna, Mike, Avery Catherine); Kathy Cole; Roger Dickinson; Tom & Maryjane Furrer; Jimmy & Kristine Gonzalez; the Diaz-Lopez family (Josue, Kayla, Josue Jr.); Carol Jones; Nancy Knapp (Chloe & Tate); Rose & Ray Riley; Ginny & Mike Rowland; Ginger Smith; Mel & J.R. Stanko; the Steidel family (Ellie, Amy, Alexandria); Clark & Joyce Tomlinson; Anne Tranberg; Leslie Watson

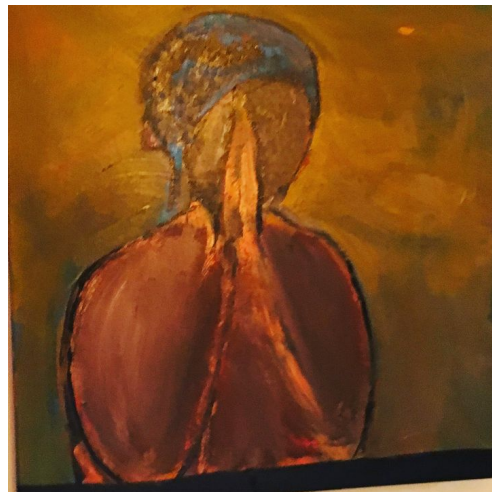
**Tuesday:** Tim Boardman, Dan Carcaud, Arnold & Barbara Cosgrove, Bruce Duncan, Arline Hallisey, Joan & Greg Joseph, Martha Koehler, Jane-Helen Ross, Linda Rubera, Sue Smith, J.P. Thomas & Mauricio Garcia, Nick Tracano, Joan True, Hugues Valcourt & Margarita Velez, Mary Lou Wall, Susan & David Whitehouse, Marc Yves Regis

**Wednesday:** David Anderson, Sarah Blessing, Audrey Booker, Denise Carson, Vicki Crafa, Lorraine Ficara, Connie & Raymond Harasymiw, Bruce Henley, Leslie Jones, Dorothy & Lauren LaBelle, Michael & Cheryl Lewis, Paul & Keri Milne, Joan O'Brien, Denise & Carl Paternostro, Jan Rouse

**Thursday:** Warren & Lynda Blessing; Sarah Butters; Mark & Cheryl Chadsey; Ashley Marek; the Desrochers family (Helen, Ben, Molly, Hannah, Andrew); Marilyn Ford; Corinne Helfant; the Karpf family (Jessie, Tom, Bernadette); Billye & Jack Logan; Taylor Measel; Judith & Charles Melchreit; Allison Read, James Ebert & Jamie; Barbara & Ed Rowley; the Tumnesheit family (Heidi, Hubertus, Olivia, Philip, Clara, Jacob); Heidi Viola and Brianna Narducci; Darren Yovan and family

**Friday:** William & Marion Boornazian; Lorraine Brodeur; David & Mary Chellstorp; Shirley Davies; Sue DeCesare; Peter & Sheila Dewberry; Marilyn Galek; Rob & Nan Heath; Michael Kucka; Geraldeen Lohman; the Myers family (Garth, Melanie Hepburn, Atlee, Phebe); Anne Pimm; Robert & Arney Pulford; Rebecca & Gordon Scruton; the Watson family (Kirk, Tracey, Hayes); John & Diane Zarillo

**Saturday:** Sal & Mimi Basile; Donna Brown; Darryl Burke; Nancy & Paul Buttarro; Ray & Denise Colburn; Theo Fitzgerald; the Gebhardt family (Patrick, Jennifer, Hannah, Lily); Rob Jensen & Mitch Grayson; Tina LaMorte & Peter Spangenberg; Paula & Arthur Massa; Barbara Napolitano; Carl Rafala & Sue Krupenevich-Rafala; Judith Shaw; the Stavola family (Jerry, Ann Marie, Elizabeth, Catherine, Pete); Linda & Tom Traue; the Xavier Family (Brooke, Fred, Lulu, Za)



*Imigrant, Josemir Sousa*

### Trinity Prayer Team

Our prayer team accepts requests from parishioners who wish to have prayers for a person in immediate need because of illness or impending surgery. The communication and all details are confidential to the team.

Members of the team will pray for that person daily for two weeks from the time received. If there is further need for prayers, the parishioner who originally put in the request will need to get in touch again to ask for another two weeks.

Calls should be made to Janice Rouse at 860-529-5139 (leave a message) or email [dickandjan@cox.net](mailto:dickandjan@cox.net)

Team members include Janice Rouse (convener), Rebecca Scruton, Sue Smith, Mimi Basile, Sue Krupenevich-Rafala, Cheryl Chadsey, Tina LaMorte and Nancy Buttarro.

## 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](mailto:lesliejonesie@gmail.com)

## 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.*