

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

From Our Pastor and Fellow Parishioner

Dear Trinity Community,

Here is an article by the Rev. Peter Dewberry. Peter and his wife Sheila have been worshiping with us at Trinity for the past couple of years and he now serves on our vestry. Peter is a retired Baptist pastor who has started congregations both in South Africa and here in the United States. A few days ago, I saw his post on Facebook and asked him to share it with us here at Trinity. It is a great word of encouragement as we are rebuilding our parish again after our pandemic exile. We serve a BIG God who wants to work through our "small but mighty" congregation.

*To quote Charles Dickens, God has "Great Expectations" for us. God bless,
Father Tom*

*"Do not despise these small beginnings,
for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin. . ."*

Zechariah 4:10 (New Living Translation)

During the May meeting of the vestry, Father Tom mentioned how a small church can still have an impact for God as long as it remains true to its calling to proclaim the love of Christ to its community and the world. Father Tom told the story of an African American pastor at the first service of his newly-founded church in Bridgeport that was attended by a very small number of people. The pastor quoted the above verse to encourage his congregation not to look at numbers but to look to God.

The very next day a friend in South Africa posted a photo on Facebook of Goodwood Baptist Church (GBC) in Cape Town, South Africa. GBC was my first pastoral charge. The photo was taken 50 years ago at its "*small beginning*". The church began with a home Bible study and a Sunday evening service in a small Lutheran church, that only met on Sunday mornings. A short while after these small beginnings, we began Sunday morning worship in a space rented from

continued on page 2

SUNDAY READINGS

JUNE 6

1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20

Psalms 138

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

JUNE 13

1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

Psalms 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

JUNE 20

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49

Psalms 9:9-20

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

JUNE 27

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

FROM THE REV. PETER DEWBERRY continued from page 1

the local Seventh Day Adventist church (SDA). The photo was taken outside the SDA church. Sheila and I are on the left.



In those days we were a church *"on the move"*. We moved from the SDA church to the Lutheran church each Sunday. On Wednesdays we moved to different homes for Bible study and prayer. Like the pastor in Bridgeport, I sometimes quoted the Zechariah verse to our congregation. For context, the quote was spoken to encourage the Jews who had returned from Babylonian exile and were ridiculed for their efforts to build a temple.

During my 10 years at GBC, we built our first building which was multi-purpose and we also purchased an adjoining house for our Sunday school. After I left, the church sold its first property and purchased its current building from another denomination.

Moving forward to 2017, 45 years after the first photo was taken, Sheila and I were back in Cape Town. I took a photo of the Sunday morning service at GBC. The attendance each Sunday is somewhat over 200 and there is also an evening service which is not quite as full as the morning service. The church is also racially integrated and has



continued on page 3

quite a young demographic. Like churches everywhere they are struggling to deal with life in the pandemic.

Trinity is small in numbers, but rich in resources. We have a vibrant spiritual life and ministry. We are in a sense making a new beginning as we gradually come out of the pandemic. The second part of the verse from Zechariah is encouraging because it tells us that God “*delights to see the work begin*”.

*“Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name
goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness.”*

Psalm 115:1 (New Living Translation)

Imagined Conversation with the Prodigal Son's Older Brother

By Gordon Scruton

“I’d like to ask some very personal questions about your relationship with your father. I know they were strained when your younger brother returned home. I’d like to know what you’ve learned over the years since then.”

“I’m glad you’ve asked. I don’t get a chance to talk with many people about the amazing things that have happened to me since my brother returned home. I’ve got to begin the story by taking you back to the time before my brother left. Over the years, I got so focused on doing my job, fulfilling what was expected, keeping my hand on the plow, so to speak, that I really lost the sense of my father’s relationship with me. I trusted him, yet I didn’t trust him. We were close, but part of me was not close with him. We laughed together, I kept learning from him. He kept helping me. But part of me was distant from him.

I wouldn’t have recognized this dynamic of separation until I heard about the celebration of lavish love my father gave to welcome home my prodigal brother.

I worked so hard for my father every day, for years. Then my runaway brother gets showered with love and affirmation and celebration just for coming home. He stole money from my father and me and squandered it. and his absence forced me to work harder and longer. I was angry, resentful, outraged. There is nothing as destructive as self-righteous anger. It makes reconciliation and genuine love impossible.

Gradually my brother was reincorporated into our family, into the daily tasks. He apologized to me, genuinely, for the ways he hurt and abandoned me and our father. I didn’t receive his apology graciously. There were challenging days, volatile moments, but we lived our way into new stability, a decent working relationship because our father quietly and persistently brought us together every day.

continued on page 6



Harvesters, 1565, Peter Bruegel

Christmas Nativity Scene

Two parishioners have donated money to purchase lambs for our Christmas Nativity Scene. If you would like to make a contribution for the purchase of other figures, please let Warren Blessing know by emailing ctvalleywc@yahoo.com. Donations can be combined; you don’t have to contribute the total amount of a figure. Orders will be placed on or about July 1.



Tempest, 2021, Kathleen Peterson

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

Outreach and Mission

SOUTH PARK INN

We are happy to announce that Trinity's outreach program supporting South Park Inn is back in operation after its 18-month hiatus due to the pandemic. We are resuming our collection and delivery of needed items to South Park Inn which provides programs and services to those experiencing homelessness. Programs include:

- Weekly outreach to those living outside that provide essentials and permanent housing options
- Emergency shelter to 85 men, women & children working toward long term solutions
- A respite program for those in need of additional recuperation time from hospitalization
- Work with local, state and federal Veterans' Administration to identify and place homeless veterans with housing, benefits and supports
- Plimpton House, a long-term, supportive housing program for adults to manage their disabilities and higher-level needs.

For the immediate future, Trinity will have a drop off area in the garage for donations to South Park Inn that will be open Sunday mornings. **New, unused items needed at this time:**

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

Items for Homecoming Baskets which are presented to guests moving into their own homes. We ask that all items be new.

- Pots and pan sets
- Dishes
- Silverware
- Coffeemaker
- Cleaning cloths and sponges
- Laundry basket
- Manual can opener
- Cleaning supplies
- Pillows

Thank you for your generous support. Questions? Contact Joan or Greg Joseph at golfst4@aol.com or 860 666-4847.

Outreach and Mission

LUNCH IN THE PARK & CHURCH BY THE POND

Our next Lunch in the Park date is Saturday, July 3. We'll be preparing 50-75 bagged lunches for people who are hungry in Hartford. If you'd like to help out, contact Leslie Jones at lesliejonesie@gmail.com

Lunches are distributed in Bushnell Park every Saturday of the year regardless of weather immediately following an outdoor prayer service called Church by the Pond. On Saturday, June 12, they'll be celebrating their 10th anniversary with a special service at 2 pm. Father Tom has been a celebrant at Church by the Pond since its inception and you can find Trinity parishioners worshipping there on Saturday afternoons throughout the year. Everyone is invited to join the celebration.

COMMUNITY DINNERS WITH HANDS ON HARTFORD

Thanks to all who contributed to the dinner last month! In addition to delivering the dinner, Trinity also donated a check for \$100 and brought a bag full of food and household goods for the Hands on Hartford Food Bank.

We participate in Community Dinners every two months. If you would like to donate food or household items to Hands on Hartford's Food Bank, let Warren or Lynda Blessing know at ctvalleywc@yahoo.com Trinity parishioners also contribute to the Wethersfield Food Bank. For more information about that, contact Anne Tranberg at tranberg5@yahoo.com

Our next Community Dinner will be July 26. Hopefully we can begin serving dinners in person then or September.

WOMEN'S SEWING PROJECT IN KAFANCHAN DIOCESE



Many of us remember Bishop Markus and Nana Dogo's visit with us a few years ago and how she talked about a women's empowerment program where widows were given the chance to learn self-sustaining skills. Nana is in need of 27 more sewing

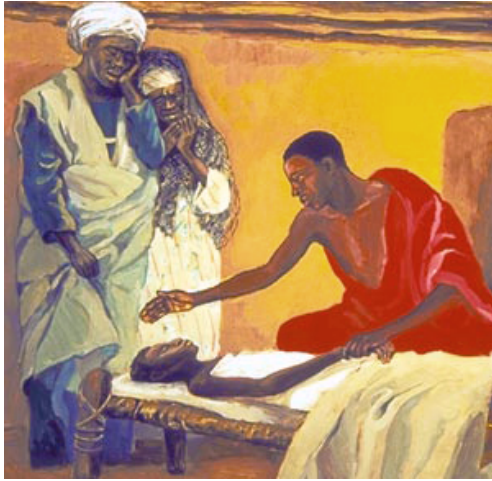
machines for this program and has recently reached out to us for help. The machines are pedal-powered and cost \$150 each. If you can help, please send a check for any amount with "Nana's sewing machines" in the memo line.



*Woman with an Issue of Blood, 1886,
James Tissot*

This Month's Book Club

The Evening Book Club will have its last meeting before summer break on Tuesday, June 8 at 5:30 pm. Our selection is *Have You Seen Luis Velez* by Catherine Ryan Hyde. It's a story of friendship, aging, loss and kindness. The story provides a richly delivered portrait of two kindred souls, years apart in age, but both struggling to make sense of this terrible but wonderful world. Contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com or 860-666-4847 for details.



*Healing of the Daughter of Jairus, 1973,
JESUS MAFA*

Save the Date

SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES

Wednesday, June 2, 7 pm

Retired bishop suffragan Jim Curry will join make a presentation about the work of Swords to Plowshares, a ministry of converting the metal of guns which have been turned in to police and converting them into gardening tools. You can get the [Zoom link here](#) on Wednesday evening.

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of April)

Total Pledge.	\$	43,765
Received	\$	44,707

Income/Expenses (end of April)

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 63,248	56,989
Expenses	\$ 48,363	56,989

IMAGINED CONVERSATION... continued from page 3

Oh, there were warm moments, even loving moments, but deep down I didn't feel loved and cherished by my father. I wasn't aware of this at the time. I simply accepted my self-righteous sense of denied entitlement as normal and lived with it.

I might have gone to my grave that way and felt I had a reasonably good life. But everything changed. With exuberant gratitude, I can tell you there is more to life than tense parent/child dynamics and sibling rivalry. There is life on the other side of self-righteousness. I can't explain it any other way than to say, there really is a God who loves us and longs for us to delight in his love for us.

Over a decade after my brother returned home, something began to change deep inside me. My self-righteous, self-isolating mind and heart got transformed by my two-year-old grandson. It was nothing direct or analytical. How can you not smile and melt with delight when you see your grandson light up with loving excitement when he sees you? His transparent joy in my presence moved me. I've never felt as completely loved and desired as I felt in his smile and embrace. . .

Then another surprise touched me. Late one afternoon, as I was walking home from the fields with my father, he asked me about my day. I told him enthusiastically about how deeply touched I was by my grandson's "total-being" love and excitement whenever he sees me.

My father. . . looked lovingly, deep into my eyes, my face, my soul and said, "My beloved son, every day of your life I have felt excited, bubbling over with love and delight in seeing you, just like your grandson does."

Tears welled up in my eyes. My shriveled core was instantly showered in rejuvenating love. "Really?" I asked, stunned by this unexpected revelation. As we continued our walk toward home, my father told me stories about his daily love and care for me throughout my lifetime, including that past week and that very day. Almost every day since, we've renewed those nourishing love conversations, he expressing his love for me and I my love for him.

Isn't it amazing? My little grandson's love opened me to recognize and receive my father's love.

Having been addicted to self-righteous distancing and entitlement for so many years, my thoughts and attitudes can still slip back into those old shriveling patterns. Yet, before long I'm drawn into the memory of my grandson's love which links with the awareness of my father's love and I'm eager for us to be together, play together in a circle dance of loving interaction. Then I am most fully alive."

As I was about to leave, the older man said, "I don't know if my story has been helpful to you. All I can say is, your Heavenly Father delights in seeing you every day. He always has his loving arms out, eager to embrace and bless you. There is nothing more life giving than mutual interacting love, playful talking and embracing, sharing together the on-going dance of life. Someday, in some surprising way, you'll be invited to wake up and discover this gift of deep loving intimacy with God. Don't miss the party."

Note: This story was edited. For a full transcript, email lesliejonesie@gmail.com

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 Buttaro; 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)



House Built on a Rock, 2018, Peter Koenig

A Little Help For Our Friend

In our Weekly Prayer List, we include Marc Yves Regis on Tuesdays. He's a friend of Trinity and runs a non-profit camp for Haitian kids in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. At the conclusion of each camp, the children receive bags filled with underwear and personal care items donated by churches throughout Connecticut.

He has reached out to us for donations of deodorant for the bags. Each of his camps serve about 200 children, 40 teen counselors and five kitchen staff. If you can help out, please email lesliejonesie@gmail.com or drop your donations of deodorant in a box in the garage on any Sunday in June.

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.