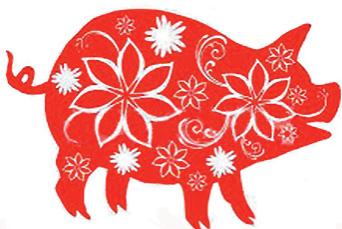


Trinity TRUMPET

✝ The Church of the Holy Trinity ✝ Issue 1 / February / 2019 ✝

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The Chinese Lunar calendar began February 5. This year is the year of the pig, which symbolizes generosity and love.

A DATE TO REMEMBER:

FEBRUARY 10
after the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist
**Anti-Racism Forum at
the Church of the Holy Trinity**



SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:00 am.....Holy Eucharist
9:00 am..... Bible Study
10:15 am.....Holy Eucharist
*Third Sunday of the month—
Contemporary Family Service
with the Praise Band*
10:30 am.....Sunday School

THURSDAYS: (in the Chapel)
12:15 pm.....Holy Eucharist

Trinity TRUMPET

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Storm Cancellation Information

During the week, the church follows the City of Middletown's Board of Education delay and/or cancellation policy. For a 90 minute delay, the church offices will open 90 minutes late (10:30 a.m.). For a school cancellation, the church offices will be closed. For an early dismissal, the church offices may close early.

Please listen to WLIS/WMRD 1150 AM, WTIC 1080 AM, watch WFSB-TV Channel 3, NBC Channel 30, News 8 or check NBC 30's website at nbc30.com. to determine if the church is open or closed during the week, evenings or weekends if there is inclement weather.

Birthdays in February



- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Dortha Willetts |
| 3 | Cade Buckheit |
| 9 | Winnie Knapp |
| 12 | Jayden Klaus |
| 13 | Jack Spaeth |
| 15 | Arabella Ives |
| 19 | Patricia Elmore |
| 21 | Lawrence Ward |
| 22 | Dana Campbell |
| | Noah Felton-Reid |
| | Joyce Hurlburt |
| 23 | Derek Wilson |
| 29 | Phyllis Tobits |

Happy Anniversary

Bill & Sharon Sheedy

**All articles, etc. for the
March issue of the Trumpet
must be received by Feb. 22.**

Interim Priest in Charge Report 2019

Epiphany 3C, 2019
Church of the Holy Trinity – Annual Meeting Sunday

TODAY marks the fourth Annual Meeting since this parish entered an interim phase when your longtime priest The Rev. Maggie Minnick retired. I have been with you as your Interim Priest in Charge for almost five years now, and I will continue to be with you until you call your next Rector. It is a good time for us to take stock, and the lectionary is helping us out by giving us a reading from Nehemiah.

The intertwined books of Ezra and Nehemiah are certainly not the best known part of Hebrew Scriptures. They tell the story of how Jerusalem came to be rebuilt following the exile of the majority of its inhabitants when Persia had conquered the land. By the time some of the exiles were allowed to return, generations had passed. Those who returned were the children and grandchildren and even great grandchildren of those who had last seen Jerusalem, their homeland. They had heard stories about Jerusalem as their ancestors remembered it: a large beautiful walled city with the Temple and palaces of the Roman Governors. But what they found when they arrived was quite different from that old memory. Jerusalem's walls had been torn down. The Temple was obliterated. Vineyards and agricultural fields had been destroyed. Jerusalem was a mere shadow of its former self. There was a lot of work to be done, and the starting point was pretty discouraging.

Ezra and Nehemiah were the priestly and governmental leaders for this rebuilding project. The very first thing they did was to rebuild the walls of the city, along with its gates. In other words, they started with the infrastructure projects, and worked to create a safe space. Then they turned to rebuilding their relationship with God, and their culture as God's people. It is probable that without having done the physical spade work first, the second goal would never have been achievable.

Today's passage tells of the transition from the initial building phase to the all-important goal of spiritual rebirth. Everybody came and stood in one of the newly recreated public squares, while Ezra the priest brought out the scroll of the Hebrew Scriptures and read to them for the entire morning. (And you thought that Baptist services were the longest ones!) The people stood for the reading of Scripture, just as we stand for

(continued on page 4)

the reading of the Gospel, and face the reader out of respect for the Word of the Lord. At the end of each section the crowd answered “Amen, Amen!” giving their agreement to what they had heard—just as we say the great Amen at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

It was difficult for the people to hear the story of Scripture: the history of God’s interactions with them since the beginning of time. When they heard it, they wept. Perhaps their tears were tears of weariness at the realization of all that God expected of them. Perhaps they were tears of bitterness because of the realization of what they had missed in not having heard this story for so many generations. We do not know exactly why they cried, but we do know that their leaders interpreted the reaction as one of mourning. They said, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.... Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine.”

This story seems to me to be a bit like yours here at Holy Trinity during the interim period. We have spent the last four plus years putting our house in order. Financial disarray has been replaced with order and transparency. Your expanded building and grounds committee led by Andre Bishop and Andy Milliken has fortunately had no walls to rebuild, but has indeed worked hard to keep the property in good repair and safety. A new era of collaboration and cooperation among the various groups within the parish has replaced a time of dueling checkbooks. And there has been much healing over previously contentious projects. We have been doing what Ezra and Nehemiah did: we have first attended to the infrastructure issues.

And now it is time to turn our focus to our spiritual rebirth as the people of God. According to the ECCT calendar, we are right on schedule! Bishop Douglas in his address to our annual Convention last fall spoke plainly about the state of the whole church. Across all denominations Christian churches are in decline. The majority of Connecticut parishes now have part time clergy leadership, or virtually no clergy leadership at all—relying on supply priests. Attendance is declining everywhere. Finances are tight. Aging buildings—however beautiful—are becoming a liability. Our entire society is becoming more secular every day, less and less rooted in religious practice. In many ways we are coming to resemble those exiles of old who upon their return to Jerusalem had to begin again from scratch to rebuild their relationship with God.

Bishop Douglas then said something rather surprising. How would we cope with these difficult times? Ours are not problems which will be solved through strategic plan-

(continued on next page)

ning, he said. These are spiritual problems which require a spiritual response. He then outlined some basic Christian spiritual disciplines which he feels are called for in every parish decision: listening, discerning, trying on, reflecting, and deciding. Each of these steps falls back on ancient Christian practices which have for centuries helped us to grow in right relationship with God and our neighbor.

Listening involves dwelling in the word, Bible Study, finding our story in sacred story, paying attention to what God is already doing in us and in our neighborhood. Discerning happens as we ponder how God might be calling us to take action on the basis of the stories we have heard from God and from one another. Trying on means being willing to experiment with new ways of joining in God's Mission, trusting that God uses our failures as well as our successes. Reflecting means wondering together what God is up to in our lives and in the world. In deciding, we adopt new ways of being the Body of Christ as we listen, discern, try on, and reflect.

When Ezra and Nehemiah wanted to begin to rebuild the community of God's people, the first thing they did was to get together to read Scripture with interpretation. In other words, they dwelt in the word, sharing their insights of what Scripture was saying to them in their situation. And then they began to discern how God might be calling them to take action. They instructed the people to rejoice, and to send portions of their feast "to those for whom nothing is prepared." The joyful festival of their holy day was not for them alone, but was also for those for whom nothing had been prepared: the surprise guests, the outcasts, the strangers, the foreigners, the poor who otherwise had no food to eat. They were willing to try that on. And they reflected upon the fact that "the joy of the LORD" was their strength in all of their endeavors.

We have rebuilt the infrastructure. Now it is time for us to unleash the spiritual practices which will guide us to the next thing which God has in mind for this branch of the Body of Christ at 381 Main Street.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana +". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Dana L Campbell,
Interim PIC



A LETTER FROM OUR BISHOPS

Dear Companions in Christ:

AT our 2018 Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) clergy and lay delegates passed the resolution, “Affirming Racial Justice, Healing and Reconciliation.” This resolution was informed by the concerted efforts of the Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation Ministry Network and the work undertaken by our ECCT Leadership Gathering (Mission Council, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, and Donations & Bequests) in response to the 2017 Annual Convention resolution, “Affirming Racial Reconciliation.”

Our recent Convention’s action was comprehensive and called for specific actions and we commend the 2018 resolution to you in its entirety. To begin with, the resolution launched a Season of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to last a minimum of two years. The goals of the Season are to: introduce foundational concepts, language, and tools to help encourage and enable congregations to begin opening hearts and minds; acknowledge the reality of white supremacy and bias against people of color; and awaken Episcopalians in Connecticut to the need for concerted action to address the ongoing injustice of the racial divide. We recognize this is work many of us have already engaged in various ways for a long time. We also recognize that while the resolution invites us into this work for a minimum of two years, we will be committed to this work for the rest of our lives.

The resolution sets aside the second Sunday in February 2019 as a Day of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation in ECCT during which parishes are asked to begin a conversation about the sin of racism in our lives and in the world. We ask that you take seriously the call of Convention for this second Sunday in February. Resources to assist your parish with this Day of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation, as well as the Season of the same, can be found on the website of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, [here](#). As more resources are added, these will be announced in the weekly eNewsletters from ECCT.

(continued on next page)

Member of the Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation Ministry Network are available to work with you and your parish in our call to undo the racism in our lives, and in our church, and in our world. Contact either Suzy Burke or the Rev. Rowena Kemp to begin this conversation.

We encourage all clergy and lay leaders in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to begin to plan how you will live into the actions of our Convention resolution in 2019 and beyond. In our ministries, we seek to build up the one body and make space for these holy conversations. This is a season of growth and transformation for all of us. We are committed to making progress toward racial healing, justice, and reconciliation across ECCT over the next few years. We look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Faithfully, The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas
 Bishop Diocesan

 The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens
 Bishop Suffragan

Anti-Racism Forum at the Church of the Holy Trinity

**Sunday, February 10th, One service only at 9:00 a.m.,
followed by the Forum in the Chapel. *Childcare will be provided.***

Last year, the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut approved a resolution setting aside the second Sunday in February (**Feb. 10** this year) as a **Day of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation**, "during which parishes are asked to begin a conversation about the sin of racism in our lives and in the world by hosting a forum on racial healing, justice, and reconciliation." In response to the resolution, we'll watch a brief video of Dr. Catherine Meeks, the Founding Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta, Georgia and author of *Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America*. This is a recording of her presentation to the Joint Session of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies that occurred on at the 2018 General Convention in Austin, Texas. This will be followed a discussion of the same questions last year's Convention deputies used to reflect on what Jesus is calling us toward personally, and how our churches and institutions might respond to this call collectively.



Joining Jesus in the New Missional Age

Gather with parishes from across ECCT and learn first-hand about the five “Spiritual Practices for a New Missional Age.” Join the Rev. Tim Ho-dapp, Canon for Mission Collaboration at The Commons on **Saturday, February 23** from **8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** with Al Roxburgh, theologian and facilitator from The Missional Network, for a day in exploration of ancient Christian practices and how they can transform our lives, parishes, and neighborhoods.

Registration is required and will be limited by parish to a Rector or Priest in Charge, and three to five parishioners. Please let Dana know if you are interested in attending, and sign up online at Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spiritual-practices-for-a-new-missional-age-tickets-54994145971>

Youth Group

Youth Group Overnight Lock-in on **Friday, February 8th**. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. for games, dinner, and activities. We will sleep overnight in the Youth Room; then breakfast the next day, ice skating and lunch in Newington. We will return to

the church for pick up at 4:00 p.m. Cost to attend is \$25 per teen, to cover the cost of skating and food. Financial aid is available. Permission slips need to be signed by parents. Teens ages 13-19 are welcome to attend!

Lenten Quiet Time

Next month brings us to the season of Lent, whether we are ready or not. Our daily activities need to be done and our lives must go on as scheduled. It is my hope that we can set aside a few moments each day to just be quiet and listen for that still small voice within. The world outside is a noisy one and is constantly luring us into its noisy web. And even in our homes we are not immune.



As in previous Lents some of us have welcomed a time, however brief, to simply be alone and quiet. I would be happy to provide that time to anyone interested. In the past, Saturday mornings at Holy Trinity have not been suitable for many. An alternative I would like to make is this. . .

Meeting after the 8 o'clock Eucharist for quiet prayer and reflection at least three or four Sundays in Lent. I'm sure we can find a quiet corner. Dana agrees and is looking into this. Let me know if you are interested and what you think.

—Thank you, Brother Thomas
(tagoddard115@comcast.net)

(Are we ready for change? The following excerpt from the ECCT website provides food for thought.)

Pace of change quickening for parishes in ECCT

By Karin Hamilton

Faithful Futures: New/old model

IN early November, the bishops and canons of ECCT held one of their monthly “Faithful Futures” gatherings for parishes. These are held on the first Thursday of each month at The Commons in Meriden usually from 6:30 – 9 p.m. Topics for these monthly gatherings vary over the course of a year and are often invitation-only to multiple parishes facing a similar situation. The group format helps parishes realize they’re not alone; often results in learning from each other’s experiences; and avoids months and months of waiting for a visit from a single canon or bishop.

The November 2, 2018 session was on “Clergy Transitions. The invitation to attend went to parishes currently without clergy leadership and that are looking to fill positions that will be less than full time – often half- or quarter-time. Currently there are 26 parishes in ECCT in such circumstances. Representatives from 15 parishes attended; they varied in size, location, resources, and other variables

Bishop Suffragan Laura J. Ahrens then addressed the challenges of change, including fear of the unknown. She talked about the expectations we have of the 20th century church, its priest and administrators, and asked the participants to consider what was really needed in the 21st century church. An illustration she offered hit home for many: She confessed that she still has her Brownie uniform, left over from her days as a Girl Scout in the Brownie program in early elementary school. It’s really cute and she has some wonderful memories, she told the group, but it’s too small and doesn’t fit anymore – just like the old model of the church may have wonderful memories for some, but it’s too small and doesn’t fit, either.

Even as the bishops invited the group to “try on” the idea of sharing clergy, and let go of the Brownie uniform, they acknowledged that depending on the arrangement with other parishes, they may not have a priest with them on a Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist. The 1979 Book of Common Prayer states that celebration of the Holy Eucharist should be the “principal” service each week. This was a change from earlier editions that provided for Morning Prayer as a normative option. Participants asked about “Deacons’ Masses,” which are not allowed in ECCT and are contrary to a deacon’s vocation, and one raised a question about re-imagining the role of Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

FEBRUARY 2019

KEY: AF = Adult Forum, BS = Bible Study, CC = Confirmation Class, CH = Chapel, CR = Century Room, CMR = Community Room, HE = Holy Eucharist, LIB = Library, LCC = Lighthouse Church, OE/A = Overeaters Anonymous, PB = Praise Band, PCO = Pastoral Care Office (next to CMR), PH = Parish Hall, SS = Sunday School, WSG=Women's Support Group

1 - Friday

9:00 a.m. – noon Jane Nichols/PCO
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
12:00–5:00 p.m. Carl Loges/ PCO
6:00 p.m. NA/PH

2 – Saturday

6:00 p.m. NA/PH

3 – Sunday – Epiphany 4

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9-10 a.m. Choir Practice/BSMT
9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study/CH
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist & SS
1:00 p.m. LCC/CH & SANC
6:00 p.m. NA/PH

4 - Monday

9:00 a.m. – noon Jane Nichols/PCO
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
12:00 –5:00 p.m. Carl Loges/ PCO
6:00 p.m. OEA/ CMR
7:00 p.m. NA/PH
7:00 p.m. Buddhist/LIB

5 – Tuesday

5:30 p.m. First Tuesday Supper & Game Night/CMR
7:00 p.m. LCC/CH

6 - Wednesday

9-11:00 a.m. Clothing Closet/BSMT
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
6:15 p.m. Choir Practice/BSMT
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi /PH

7- Thursday

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. House of Talents/CMR
12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist
3-4 p.m. Prayer Group/LIB
5:00 p.m. NA/CR
7:00 p.m. LCC Worship Prac./CH
7:00 p.m. Praise Band/SANC

8 - Friday

9:00 a.m. – noon Jane Nichols/PCO
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
12:00 –5:00 p.m. Carl Loges/ PCO
7:00 p.m. NA Reg. Sub./CR
**6:30 p.m. p.m. Youth Group/3rd Floor
Overnight Lock-In**

9 - Saturday

9:00 a.m. LCC Ladies BS/LIB
**Youth Group continues with Ice Skating and lunch
4:30 p.m. Pick up**
6:00 p.m. NA/PH

10 - Sunday – Epiphany 5

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by
Racial Justice Forum in Chapel
9-10 a.m. Choir Practice/BSMT
1:00 p.m. LCC/CH & SANC
6:00 p.m. NA/PH

11 - Monday

9:00 a.m. – noon Jane Nichols/PCO
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
12:00 –5:00 p.m. Carl Loges/ PCO
6:00 p.m. OEA/ CMR
7:00 p.m. NA/PH
7:00 p.m. Buddhist/LIB

12 - Tuesday

6:00 p.m. NA Conv./CR
7:00 p.m. LCC/CH

13 - Wednesday

9-11:00 a.m. Clothing Closet/BSMT
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
6:15 p.m. Choir Practice/BSMT
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi /PH

14 - Thursday - St. Valentine's Day

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. House of Talents/CMR
12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist
3-4 p.m. Prayer Group/LIB
5:00 p.m. NA/CR
6:00 p.m. NA WSR/PH
7:00 p.m. LCC Worship Prac./CH
7:00 p.m. Praise Band/SANC

15 - Friday

9:00 a.m. – noon Jane Nichols/PCO
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
12:00 –5:00 p.m. Carl Loges/ PCO
5:00 p.m. NA Ad-Hoc/CR
6:00 p.m. NA/PH

16 - Saturday

6:00 p.m. NA/PH

(February Calendar continued on next page)

FEBRUARY 2019 - *continued*

17 - Sunday – Epiphany 6 - Youth Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9-10 a.m. Choir Practice/BSMT
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
1:00 p.m. LCC/CH & SANC
5:00 p.m. NA Exec/CR
6:00 p.m. NA/PH

18 - Monday

(President's Day - Office closed)
9:00 a.m. – noon Jane Nichols/PCO
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
12:00 –5:00 p.m. Carl Loges/ PCO
6:00 p.m. OEA/ CMR
7:00 p.m. NA/PH
7:00 p.m. Buddhist/LIB

19 - Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting/CMR
7:00 p.m. LCC/CH

20 - Wednesday

9-11:00 a.m. Clothing Closet/BSMT
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
6:00 p.m. NA H&I/CR
6:15 p.m. Choir Practice/BSMT
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi /PH

21 - Thursday

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. House of Talents/CMR
12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist/CH
3-4 p.m. Prayer Group/LIB
5:00 p.m. NA/CR
6:00 p.m. NA ARTS/PH
7:00 p.m. LCC Worship Prac./CH
7:00 p.m. Praise Band/SANC

22 - Friday

9:00 a.m. – noon Jane Nichols/PCO
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
12:00 –5:00 p.m. Carl Loges/ PCO
6:00 p.m. NA/PH

23 - Saturday

6:00 p.m. NA/PH

24 - Sunday – Epiphany 7

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9-10 a.m. Choir Practice/BSMT
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
1:00 p.m. LCC/CH & SANC
5:00 p.m. NA PR/CR
6:00 p.m. NA/PH

25 - Monday

9:00 a.m. - noon Jane Nichols/PCO
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
12:00 –5:00 p.m. Carl Loges/ PCO
6:00 p.m. OEA/ CMR
7:00 p.m. Buddhist/LIB

26 - Tuesday

7:00 p.m. LCC/CH

27 - Wednesday

9-11:00 a.m. Clothing Closet/BSMT
10:00 a.m. NA/PH
6:15 p.m. Choir Practice/BSMT
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi /PH

28 - Thursday

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. House of Talents/CMR
12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist
3-4 p.m. Prayer Group/LIB
5:00 p.m. NA/CR
7:00 p.m. LCC Worship Prac./CH



February Trivia:

The word February has been derived from the word 'februa', which translates to purification and cleansing, adapted from the Roman 'Festival of Purification', and muses pre-Spring rituals. 'Februo' literally means 'I purify by sacrifice.'

February is the American Heart Month, wherein awareness of heart diseases is raised, prevention measures are taken, and those suffering are treated.

This entire month has been dedicated to chocolate and celebrated as the National Chocolate Lovers Month!

Trinity TRUMPET

The Church of the Holy Trinity
381 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457



SUNDAY:

8:00 am.....Holy Eucharist
9:00 am.....Bible Study
10:15 am.....Holy Eucharist
10:30 am.....Sunday School

THURSDAY: (in the Chapel)

12:15 pm.....Holy Eucharist