

TRINITY TIMES

JANUARY 2019

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd.
Lakeville, CT 06039
Telephone: 860.435.2627
www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
Office Hours:
Wed.– Sat.
9 am –noon

The Reverend Heidi Truax
Rector

The Rev. John F. Carter
Missioner

Carol M. Taylor
Senior Warden

Pari Forood
Junior Warden

Allen Berrien
Clerk

Bev Becker
Treasurer

Martha Nesbitt
Assistant Treasurer

Christine Gevert
Organist/Choir Director

Terri Brennan
Youth Ministry

Geoff Brown
Verger

Melissa Adam, *Bookkeeper*
Jeff Silvernale, *Grounds*
Esperanza Nuñez, *Sexton*
Alexis Dorf, *Trinity Times*

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK:

**“Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.” – Hymn 117 and 118 written by Reginald Heber in 1811**



Reginald Heber was a young rector in an Anglican parish in Hodnet, England when he decided to write this hymn, among others, for his congregation to sing. Church singing consisted primarily of singing psalms at that time, and he felt that it would involve more people and be more enjoyable if the words were poetic and easy to sing. The hymn became very popular, but criticism arose too. Some critics said that the words seem to imply that we are to worship the star itself. Several books of popular hymns published in the 1800s did not include it. Another problem with the hymn originally was that Heber paired his words with a familiar Scottish tune called *Wandering Willie* which had a dance quality to it. It was something sung in pubs at the time and so thought to be unsuitable for singing in church.¹

But I bet his parishioners loved singing it. I found a version of *Wandering Willie* on YouTube and actually it seems like a perfectly good tune for the hymn! Clearly, “Brightest and best” has had sufficient staying power that it now is in our Hymnal 1982 with not one, but two

different tunes (neither of which is the offending Wandering Willie.)



So, what is it about the story of wise men from afar traveling from the East and following a star that engages our

imaginations so that we picture those Magi arriving at the stable under a star and find the baby Jesus? The night sky holds such mystery and promise for us.

When we look up at the stars we now imagine the New Horizons NASA spacecraft making contact with an icy binary chunk of stuff called Ultima Thule, 4 billion miles from the sun. Our knowledge of space, although still very limited, is so far ahead of what was known at the time of the birth of Jesus. We know how far away some stars are and what sort of matter they may contain. We still find such beauty in the night sky. Was it the same stars that we see now that the Magi and the Holy Family saw 2000 years ago?

Of course, we don't believe that a star itself will dispel our darkness. And Reginald Heber didn't think it was the star that had the power. It is God who created the stars, illumines the path in front of us, and guides our feet when we follow God's will to the best of our ability. Because of our own experiences of light shining in the darkness in our lives, we have faith that Christ will continue to do so in surprising and sometimes and unexpected ways.

Help us, Lord Christ, to keep our minds and hearts open to the new things that will be revealed to us in this new year. Amen.

Pastor Heidi Truax

¹Raymond F. Glover, ed., *The Hymnal 1982 Companion*, Church Hymnal Corporation, 1994, pg. 117.

THANKS TO ALL!



Photo: E. Jenks

"Putting on" Christmas each year is a challenge! It seems as if every single ministry and committee in the congregation starts its involvement the first Sunday of Advent.

Our community tree on Route 112 is strung with miles (well, maybe not miles...) of bright lights, welcoming all who pass by. Brass gets a polishing, the Advent Wreath is placed near the lectern, the choir tunes up, the young people hear about the Pageant plans, the Verger lines up readers, Ministers of Communion, ushers and intercessors, flowers get ordered for the sanctuary (and batteries get checked for the window candles!) And of course, Pastor Heidi has to plan for a number of sermons.

Then, as soon as Christmas services are past, it is time for Pastor Heidi to take a break—and that means Lessons and Carols on the Sunday following Christmas. Thanks to Susanna Schindler for being our worship leader that morning, to the choir for turning out yet again that week, and to those who volunteered to read our seven lessons.

Now it is on to the Season of Epiphany, as we, like the Magi, seek the Light that has come into the darkness of the world.

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 20



It's that time of the year....to hear about what we accomplished in 2018, what our hopes are for 2019, to elect officers and a new Vestry class....and to share a potluck lunch!

As always, Pastor Heidi promises the meeting will be short and sweet. Committee heads will submit their reports, the budget approved by the Vestry will be presented for comments and questions, and any other new business will be addressed.

Do you have burning desire to take up a particular issue? Please tell Pastor Heidi well ahead of the meeting so she can schedule you in.

Pot luck is...pot luck! Bring a casserole, a salad, sides, desserts...whatever you think is right for a midday meal in mid January (probably not an iced soup...)

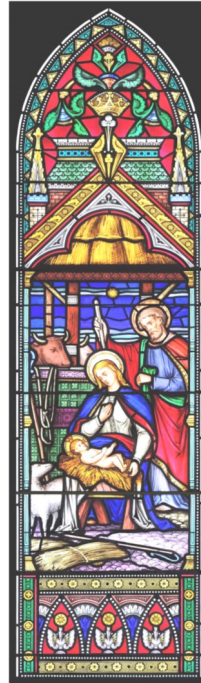
If the weather is inclement, we will meet Jan. 27.

**HOPE IS A WORD
WITH THE SLEEVES
ROLLED UP.**

David Orr

RESTORING OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

We see them every week, but most of us are unaware of the bowing of the glass, areas of rot, and the marginal situation of our stained glass windows. Time for a trip to the restorer's facilities!



A committee headed by Susanna Schindler (she of Trinity coffee fame), with assistance from Pastor Heidi and Senior Warden Carol Taylor, met with representatives of three different restoration companies and recommended Stained Glass Resources of Hampden, MA to the Vestry. Stained Glass Resources has worked at St. Michael's in Litchfield to restore as well as install new windows, and comes highly recommended.

The plan is for the work to be done in three phases: the window behind the altar, the South Window, and finally the side windows. The total cost will be in the vicinity of \$120,000. The windows will be removed from the church, taken to the factory in MA for cleaning, repair and restoration and then reinstalled.

The restoration of the Trinity stained glass offers a wonderful opportunity to remember family and friends in a memorial gift that will last for a very long time. We are preparing, as well, grant applications to support this work.

For further information, speak to Susanna, who will gladly tell you all she knows!

SOMETIMES LESS IS MORE!



Knowing how much our congregation looks forward to the Fall financial stewardship program, this year we decided to try the KISS method—keep it simple, stewardship (chair!)

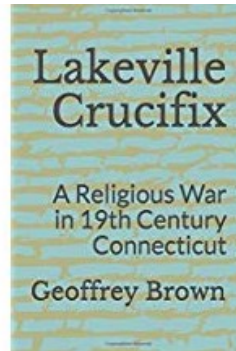
The Trinity Players offered their first (and only) presentation of “The Stewardship Committee Meets at 3:00” one Sunday morning, and pledge cards were distributed immediately afterwards to attendees.

Those unlucky (?) enough to have missed the skit, received a card simply inviting them to participate in the 2019 financial support of Trinity’s mission - *Companionship along the Way*— and a pledge card.

Perhaps because parishioners are happy with this low key approach, response was prompt and generous. As of Jan. 1, total pledging is in the vicinity of \$150,000, well over the Vestry’s set goal.

Thanks to everyone who has returned a pledge card! You have made our work easy this year! And if your pledge card is still stuck to the front of the refrigerator under a recipe you are planning to try this winter, please drag it out, fill it out and send it out to Trinity! Every pledge helps us increase our vocation as the Body of Christ in this area.

BOOK GROUP



Did you know that Geoff Brown, - yes, our very own *Geoff Brown*—has written a book? Did you know that there was a religious war in Lakeville, CT (of all places!!) in the 19th century?

Naturally, we will be discussing *Lakeville Crucifix: A Religious War in 19th century Connecticut* on **Tuesday, Jan. 29th at 7 PM** in Walker Hall. And naturally, Geoff will be our guest for the evening , discussing how he came across this interesting bit of history and how he came to research and write the book.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

NORTHWEST REGION NEWS

The Vestries of the Northwest Region of the ECCT will meet together on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Camp Washington for a retreat led by Missioner Eliza Marth. They will focus on the Spirituality of Vestry membership and then break into smaller affinity groups following lunch.

There is much for our parishes to learn from one another, and this meeting offers such an opportunity.