

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The

EPISTLE

FEBRUARY 2016



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Vestry Members:

Nancy Adams
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Amanda Evans
Karen Garrison
Rick Harris
Sandy House
Kay Saderholm
Nancy Tompkins
Liz Whitman

Treasurer Marilyn Kirchner
Assistant Treasurer

Terri Ghee

Clerk of the Vestry
Kay Mackey

Music Director
Marilyn Kirchner

Organist
Alice Cann

Epistle
Kay Mackey

Dear Saint Paul's Parish Family:

Peace to each of you! February is upon us and the Lenten season is almost here! What does Lent mean to us as Christians living in the Episcopal tradition?

Episcopalchurch.org says this about Lent: Early Christians observed "a season of penitence and fasting" in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265). The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning "spring," the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly. In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Today Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP, p. 265).

Additionally, simpleliving.startlogic.com offers many suggestions to folks looking for ways to observe a holy Lent: Both *disciple* and *discipline* mean *to follow*. Throughout much of the history of the Christian church, Lent has represented a time of self-denial and examination, a time to ponder what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness preparing for his ministry. Disciples of Jesus follow his example, his life of discipline. Too often discipline has been overly-linked with punishment. However, a healthy discipline can give our lives shape, structure and boundaries, rather than chaos and stress. See page 2





Sunday Services

*Holy
Eucharist
8AM-Rite I
10AM-Rite II
With music*

*9:45AM– Sunday
School
Join us for fellow-
ship and refresh-
ments following
the 10 AM service*

*Wednesday
9:15AM Morning
Prayer*

*Friday
6PM Evening
Prayer*

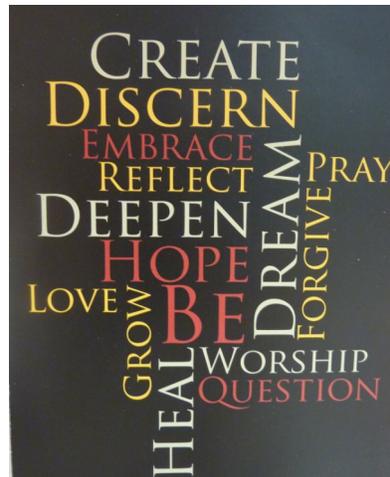
Living more simply is not easy. It takes discipline. After the 40 days of Lent we hope we have simplified our lives a bit more and are ready to continue those disciplines year-round.

A few offerings from the website as we begin Lent together:

- 1 † Ash Wednesday. The ashes on our foreheads remind us of our mortality. We can't take our possessions, power or prestige with us to the grave... or to heaven. Let's focus this Lent on eliminating the distractions of "stuff." This will free us to revel in the meaning given to our lives by our relationships with people and with God.
- 2 † Read Matthew 6:19-21. Imagine how much time, energy and money is used maintaining "stuff" that is "corroded by rust and moths." If that's overwhelming, focus on just one room, like your kitchen or garage. Is food spoiling in your refrigerator, tools rusting on your workbench?
- 3 † Act on yesterday's imaginings. Vow to set one item aside each day. At the end of each week offer them all to an individual or a group that could really use them. Try NOT to replace them with something else.
- 4 † Spend at least 10 minutes reflecting and praying about what you were able or not able to do this week to simplify your life.

Through the seasons of the church year, God offers us new and exciting ways to live our lives with awareness and intentionality. God's grace is always available to us as we give each day our best shot of living lives as disciples of Jesus. Let us rejoice as we continue our journey through life— together!

In peace,
Mother Megan

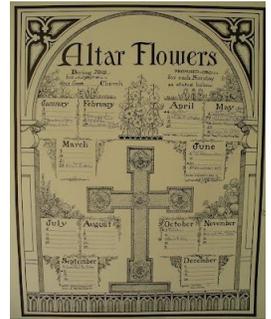


An Expression of Thankfulness to the people of St. Paul's.

Thank you to everyone who steps forward to offer what they can within their ability. To those who lead the children, provide music, decorate for the holidays, provide service as liturgical ministers (ushers, altar guild, lectors, acolytes, crucifers, lay readers, eucharistic ministers), hospitality, clean up, work crews, thrift shop volunteers, chairpersons and others who help out with fundraisers. We also thank those who quietly pray for, visit, send cards or call those who are unable to come to church. Most importantly we are blessed that we come together in prayer and fellowship. Thanks be to God.



PLEASE REMEMBER— The flower chart for 2016 is posted in the vestibule of the church. If a date is taken that you would like, check with that person to see if they wish to share the cost of the flowers for that particular Sunday. Please let Mother Megan or one of the Eucharistic ministers know if you wish to take the flowers after the 10am service.



WINTER BLUES DINNER— Saturday February 20th . Presented by Barb Rawls and her team. 6pm Social hour with hors d' oeuvres and cocktails, followed by a Beef Stroganoff dinner at 7pm. This is not a fundraiser but a time for members of St.Paul's family to get together over a meal.

A sign up sheet is in the parish hall.



**St. Paul's Episcopal
Church is a Christian
family of caring
people who strive to
support and nurture
each other and
their community
through faith and the
grace of God.**

FEBRUARY 2016 BIRTHDAYS

6. Laurie Colgan, Pat Malin
12. Mark Schneider
14. Judy Buechele
17. Heather Adams
20. Rachael Hixon
21. Amanda Evans
22. Barbara Bedder
24. Mary Ottaway Dejong, Sally Ottaway
Glick, Christopher Dyson
26. Skylar Macak, Payton Tyler White
27. Mary Ann Page, Derek Tompkins
28. Christine Englehardt, Linda Hixon



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

6. Gerald and Esther Ottaway

FEBRUARY 2016 CALENDAR

February 7th: ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION of new vestry members following the 10am service. Please note there will only be ONE service, at 10am. Potluck sign up sheets are posted in the church vestibule and parish hall (Bring a favorite dish you wish to share.)

The Season of Lent



*Remember man thou art dust
and to dust thou shalt return*

February 10th is ASH WEDNESDAY– Holy Eucharist services at NOON and 7PM. Additionally ashes will also be distributed in the church at 9:15am at Morning Prayer.

February 20th-Saturday– WINTER BLUES DINNER– The meal will be Beef Stroganoff. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails 6pm, dinner 7pm. Cost \$25.00 per person. Sign-up sheet in parish hall.

Sundays: Prayer, study and fellowship in Sepe room ,start time approximate- 11:30am. Bring your coffee and snack.

Tuesdays– Bible Study- 12:30-2:30pm—It is OK to come late and leave early to fit your schedule

Wednesdays– Morning Prayer– 9:15am

Fridays– Evening Prayer- 6-7pm

NOTE: Mother Megan is planning special Lenten programs for both Bible Study and Evening Prayer.



Ponderings from the pew– The Annual Meeting

I speak to the people of St. Paul's as clerk of the vestry. I am not an elected member and do not vote but I have the privilege to watch this dedicated group of people along with our priest and Wardens diligently and prayerfully conduct the business of the church. I am always amazed and appreciative each month at how much is accomplished here at St. Paul's. That is why I encourage everyone who is able, to attend our Annual meeting on February 7th. You will be given a handout that summarizes not only the parish business over the past year but affirms the parish mission. It is also important that you participate in the election of new leaders who will direct the mission of St. Paul's Church in 2016. The following is an excerpt from the message written by Father Bob when he was an interim pastor here in 2015. "Your participation at the annual meeting will show your support for the parish, its leaders and Christ." We are so fortunate to have Mother Megan to lead us forward in our mission. She asks for our prayers as this will be her first Annual meeting.

If you have looked at the sign up list of foods being offered for the pot luck luncheon you can hardly resist coming to the meeting on February 7th. Here at St. Paul's we nourish the body and the soul.

SEE YOU SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7th !!!!

.....Kay Mackey



PLANNING FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Please mark your calendars- Our Annual St. Patrick's Day dinner is being planned for Saturday, March 12, 2016, from 4:30-7pm. Chef Bill Kirchner will oversee the preparation of Corned beef, cabbage, carrots, and boiled potatoes. Homemade Irish soda bread will be served along with ice cream and cookies. We will provide a sign up sheet as this event will need lots of volunteers.

Barb Rawls will chair the Silent Auction for this event. We would appreciate any contribution you could obtain from a business you support.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive all the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts.....BCP pg.264

