

## *Newsletter for March April 2020*



I was bringing communion and ashes to some of our shut-ins on Ash Wednesday, and one commented that instead of giving up something for Lent, she thought she would do something instead. I gave her my whole hearted support. Many of us were taught that the only way to observe Lent is to deprive ourselves of something – often items like alcohol and chocolate. But I think a more appropriate question than “What should I give up?” is, “What would God have me do this Lent that would draw me deeper into God’s life and love?” That may mean giving up something in order to make room for something else. For instance, cutting back on television or time on the internet to make room for prayer. Or “Forty Days, Forty Items” – giving away or throwing out an object each day in lent - a practice with the desire and intention of living more simply and with more gratitude. Others may find it helpful to take on something – attend a study or take a daily quiet walk so you can be present in the moment to God and the creation. Do what is best for you, be creative, have fun! If something proves to be hard, instead of giving up, lean into it – what is this telling you? Talk to God about it. No matter what you decide to do (or not do) may you have a holy and meaningful Lent!

Peace and all good, Carolyn

### ***OUTREACH***

#### **Lancaster School Partnership**

During February, St. David’s supported Lancaster Elementary School in collecting “lightly used” shoes for people in need. A very large box was in the foyer and it was filled to overflowing! Thank you for your donations and helping the children learn the importance of assisting those in need in our community.

#### **Isaiah 58 Ministries**

The Distribution Center continues to be very busy both receiving and sorting donations, and assisting people coming in to find the clothing and household supplies they need. Isaiah 58 volunteers continue to work on Wednesdays renovating trailers so that they might get up to code and be used to house homeless families. Thank you all for your January donations in supporting our partnership with Isaiah 58. For those who might like to give on a regular basis, there are flyers entitle “Fund the Need” in the foyer that explain how to do so.

## ***Kitchen Use and Community Suppers***



**On Saturday March 21 we will host our Ham and Bean Supper.** Tickets are \$9, and there are some free tickets available to those who might like to come or need a good meal and find it a hardship to pay for it. See Carolyn about that. A sign up for food is in the foyer and soon there will be a sign-up sheet for assisting to help serve the meal. Right now the biggest need on the list is for apple pies! So if you can help, put your name on the list.

## ***CHRISTIAN EDUCATION***

### ***Youth Group***

At our February meeting, the kids made tacos for dinner. For the discussion, they were given play dough and asked to use the play dough to answer this sentence: God is like a (or the) \_\_\_\_\_. Most of them focused on God being the creator, making a plant earth out of the clay, animals, and one made a tropical island. One girl formed a heart and said God is love. Another made a key, stating, "God is the key to everything." Out of the mouths of children...! At the March meeting they will volunteer at the Isaiah 58 distribution center packing away winter clothing and bringing out items for warmer weather.



### **Adult Education**

The **Monday morning Bible study** is now taking an in-depth look at the Gospel of John. Anyone can join in at any time!

### **Lenten Series: Teach Us to Pray!**

On Thursdays at 7PM during Lent, a series of classes will be offered on the topic of prayer. It will be a chance to talk with others about our joys, frustrations, questions, and struggles with prayer; and it will also offer the opportunity to experiment with different ways to pray – meditation, using scripture, art, beads, journaling. Discover what works best for you. If you can't attend all of the sessions, no problem. You can plug in at any point.

## ***WORSHIP***

### **Holy Week Services**

*Palm Sunday, April 5:* At both the 8 and 10 am services, there will be a dramatic reading of the passion instead of the sermon. This is a very powerful and moving service to set the tone for Holy Week.

*Wednesday, April 8:* From 7 – 8:00 pm, Labyrinth. If there is interest, the candle lit labyrinth can be constructed in the sanctuary. Last year quite a few people walked the candle lit labyrinth in sanctuary while Tibetan bowls were played. A labyrinth is an ancient spiritual prayer tool enabling you to meditatively walk on a path leading you inward to your spiritual self and then outward. Ours is not as large as the famous one at Chartres Cathedral in France, but it is in its own way quite beautiful.

*Maundy Thursday, April 9:* There will be an Agape meal beginning at 6 PM followed by a simple Holy Eucharist at 7 PM. “Agape” is one of the Greek words for “love”. The early church frequently gathered together for a shared meal and conversation, sometimes referred to as an “Agape Meal”. Participants will bring food for a simple Mediterranean meal. After dinner, we will gather for a time of worship. Following the Eucharist, we will engage in the traditional stripping of the sanctuary of all ornamentation in preparation for Good Friday.

*Good Friday, April 10:* There will be a community observance of walking the Stations of the Cross through Salem, which will begin at St. Joseph Church at 9 am. At St. David’s at 7 pm, there will be a service on which we will reflect upon the feelings Jesus may have experienced as he faced death.

*Easter morning, April 12* – 8 am, and a festive 10 am service with special music by our choir. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

### ***FUN EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING***

#### **Mid-Winter Doldrums Pot Luck and Gift Swap**

Everyone had fun at our dinner and Yankee Swap! Tons of good food (as always) and this year almost every person swapped a gift! The hot items were a succulent plant and a gift package from Hickory Farms.

#### **2020 Crafter’s Fair**

The 2020 Craft Fair will be September 19 and 20. Our efforts to actively recruit crafters are paying off. So far we have received 10 applications and a few more are in the works. Craft fairs will pick up again during the spring, so again, stop in and invite crafters to apply to our fair and collect the business cards of those who might be good to invite.

### ***STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES AND PROPERTY***

**Finances** – George Ogin did a great job presenting our end of 2019 finances and explaining our 2020 budget. As usual, we have a very tight budget. The 2020 budget was approved with a \$1,115 deficit. Our treasurer, Deb Ogin, and the vestry will closely monitor it as the year goes on.

#### **Other Annual Meeting Happenings:**

People were thanked for their service to the church in so many ways. Irene Curtin was elected as Parish Clerk. Diane Kay was elected to the Vestry, and Maria Posey as a Delegate and Marlene Pelkey as Alternate. People were interested in adding some

possible additional community meals – a pancake breakfast and a chili cookoff late November or early December. Suggestions were solicited about the Dave Hall Fund out of which there was no consensus except to continue to use the funds to meet the needs of children. A new possibility of reaching out to children in area group homes came up a few days after the meeting, which the vestry will explore.

### **Property**

Most of the members of the property committee are in Florida for the winter, so there has been no meetings. However we have a new member – Richard Bouchard – who is not only interested but has already done some work. After it was discovered that the coffee maker in the upper hall was throwing off the thermostat, he moved it to the space in between the two closets. Welcome Richard and thank you!

### **Sustain Our Island Home**

Want to try to address climate change by reducing your carbon footprint? The Episcopal Church now has a tool to support anyone who wants to make more life-giving choices about how we inhabit the earth. The Carbon Tracker is a web based application that helps individuals, households, congregations, and even dioceses to measure your carbon footprint (through a 5-10 minute questionnaire) and take steps to shrink it and live a more sustainable life. You go to:

[www.sustainislandhome.org](http://www.sustainislandhome.org) to register. It offers choices in five main areas that range from easy to hard, and measures the carbon footprint saved (not just by you, but by our parish and our diocese!). There are also links for resources. Consider signing up and see what an impact we can make as a parish!

### **SCRIP – great way to give gifts, pay for purchases and help the church!**

Scrip is a program through which you can purchase gift cards for almost any chain store or restaurant you can think of, and a portion of your purchase will go automatically to St. David's. Order forms are in the foyer. Orders and checks can be dropped off in the wooden deposit box in the copy machine room. Gift cards can be used for gifts, but the program really pays off when people use them for their regular everyday purchases.



### **Some Lenten Resource information from the Diocese:**

- All are invited to join Bishop Rob for a Quiet Day during Lent on March 21, 2020 at St. Barnabas in Berlin. Check [here](#) for more information or to register.
- The women of the diocese are invited to join the VT/NH chapter of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross for a Lent Quiet Day - "Blown by the Spirit, Where are You Led?" at St. Andrew's in Hopkinton on

Saturday, March 21. Arrive at 9:30 am, program begins at 10:00 am and ends by 2:30 pm. Contact [Marti Hunt](#) for more information and to RSVP.

- The [Signs of Life](#) curriculum is offered by the Society for St. John the Evangelist and Virginia Theological Seminary. This free 5-week offering on Light, Water, Food, Shelter and Community encourages individuals and groups to explore the riches of our worship traditions, liturgy and sacraments, and the art and architecture of our worship spaces, revealing the full meaning of these signs, deepening our experience of Christian vocation and guiding us toward ongoing conversion. You can join Canon Tina Pickering in a small group that will meet via Zoom for five Mondays at 5:00 pm, starting March 2. Register for the Signs of Life Zoom group [here](#).
- [The Way of Love](#) is a way of life and a commitment to follow Jesus. It gives seven practices to order our days, inspire our ministry and deepen our faith. Lenten resources for "Living a Life Transformed by the Way of Love" can be found [here](#). Other Way of Love resources can be used in Lent too, such as listening to the [Way of Love podcast](#) or watching the [Traveling the Way of Love video series](#).
- Forward Movement offers [Choose Lent, Choose Jesus](#): three Lenten paths based on the Way of Love practices, including Pray, Go, and Worship. Not sure which path is best for you? Take this quiz: [How will you move forward this Lent?](#) Also, [Forward Day by Day](#) (app, daily email or booklet) offers daily scripture, a brief reflection, and morning, noon, and evening prayer.
- The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire is honored to have partnered with the [Black Heritage Trail of NH](#) to offer a collection of short readings on little known historic figures from NH's African American community for our 2019 Lenten Program. "How the Light Gets In" is a book of those readings. Contact the [Rev. Gail Avery](#) if you would like to obtain this daily devotional. A suggested donation of \$10 will be contributed to the Black Heritage Trail of NH.

### **Coronavirus**

The diocese just put out some reminders about reducing the risk of spreading infectious diseases:

- Wash hands frequently
- Stay home if not feeling well
- Consider and respect ways of exchanging the peace other than shaking hands
- They recommend that intinction (dipping bread into the wine) be avoided since people's hands often touch the edge of the rim. There appears to be little risk associated with drinking from the cup.
- Note: St. David's does have hand sanitizer bottles on the bookshelves near the entrance.

### **Keep up to date with news from the diocese!**

- E-mail news is mailed out at least once a month with news and events. To sign up for this service, send an email to [officeassistant@episcopal.org](mailto:officeassistant@episcopal.org) and they'll get you signed up.
- A reminder that a national Episcopal newspaper also comes out every other month and free copies are in the foyer. Feel free to pick one up.

***PRAYER LIST*** (please check and let the office know of deletions and additions)

Kim Verstraete, Diana Nelson, Cathy Passerello, Donna Conrad, Carol & Arlene Bassett, Jean Lynch, Carlene McKinnon, Elaine Schwager, Lynn Romano, Marsha Rothel, Vincent Gallucci, Katrina LeBel, Jim Saucier, David, Jeff, and Deb Clark, Morgan Decker, Norman & Mona Soucy, Rick McGibbon, Ed Brinkman, Angela Randall, Sean William, Haylee O'Toole, Beth Soule, Janice Josephine Carney, Kristina Morrison, Marilyn McIntrye, Evelyn Austin, Patrick Ryan, Jennifer Merrick, Joseph Grande, Guy Grande, Liz Naters-Gamarra, Tina Kenya, Sheila McLaughlin, Errol & Helen Duncan, Lynn Clarke, Alex and Rose Frazier, Geri O'Brian, Jessica Francis, Barbara McGovern, Elaine Clark, Calvin Smith, John Peterson, James & Patty Puckett, John Gay, Dot & Tom Johnson, Sue and Bob DeVine, Michael Worth, Micki LaBlanc, Anita Hill, Ana Diamantopoulos, Bill Hanlon, Windy Nelson, Jamie Brunco, Elaine & Chuck Stern, Rich DeVine, Kendra Kane, Anjelika, Dick and Diane Dean  
Please also remember our homebound members: Fred Miner, Arlene Law, Carol Jones, Doris Deputy, Rusty Simpson.

***OFFICERS***

Sr. Warden – Barbara Sager – 617-283-6571 – [Barbara.sager@comcast.net](mailto:Barbara.sager@comcast.net)  
Jr. Warden ~ Barbara Klenner – (978) 857-0379 ~ [pilot@comcast.net](mailto:pilot@comcast.net)  
Treasurer ~ Deb Ogin ~ (603) 560-0805 ~ [dogin@comcast.net](mailto:dogin@comcast.net)  
Clerk ~ Irene Curtin – (978) 686-6054 ~ [cpfamil@aol.com](mailto:cpfamil@aol.com)

***VESTRY***

Marilyn Gendeloff ~ (603) 458-2916  
Sharon Taylor~ (603) 521-2595  
Liz McGilvary – (603) 321-1886 – [lmcgilvary@gmail.com](mailto:lmcgilvary@gmail.com)  
Diane Kay – 603-898-4594 – [flipflop1107@gmail.com](mailto:flipflop1107@gmail.com)

***DELEGATES***

Barbara Scanlon (603) 401-0487  
Maria Posey (603) 275-2278

Marlene Pelkey ~ ((978) 686-6054  
(alternate)