Rector Reflections

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,

to the observance of a holy Lent. BCP pg 265.

In the Anglican tradition of Christianity (that is our heritage as Episcopalians), a priest was referred to a curate and their role defined as “the cure of souls.” It was the role of the local priest to tend to the soul needs of the parish and assist the community and individuals in recovering the wounds to the soul. Those wounds are understood to be everything from the tragic losses that can happen in individual lives, to events that affect the spirit of the whole town. It is out of that background that each Ash Wednesday the priest reads from our Book of Common Prayer, “I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent.”

How to do that? How do we go about ‘observing a holy Lent?’ Sometimes we give up special treats during Lent—a practice of discipline that prepares us for greater sacrifices that following Jesus sometimes required. Sometimes we take up a special activity—a reminder that to take up the Way of Jesus is an intentional, conscious choice made in trust and hope in God. In the earliest days of the Church, in Lent adults considering the Christian Way devoted time to study and prayer. In those days, choosing Christianity was counter-cultural and risky. The Church wanted candidates for baptism to be sure about their choice before making a commitment to following Jesus.

When was the last time you took special time to consider your life as a Christian? Could it be that this year, Lent could be a time to do the holy work of deepening your understanding of the meaning of being Christian in the 21st century? May I invite you to keep a holy Lent this year?

Inside this issue of the Herald you will find many opportunities to deepen your understanding of Christianity and challenge your soul to growth and deepening. I hope that you will find something that will help you to keep a holy Lent this year.

Lynn +
Vestry Changes

According to Canon Law of the Episcopal Church, sound stewardship of the parish’s property and resources is the key area of vestry responsibility. As the legal representatives and agents of a parish, the vestry functions much like the board of any nonprofit organization, with legal responsibility for finances and management of property and human resources and the oversight of the ‘big picture’ of mission. Traditionally, parishes the size of Advent have operated with a larger vestry whose members took on additional roles such as property management, financial record keeping and running the Church School.

For over a year the vestry has discussed if our vestry is right-sized for the current needs of our parish. With many volunteers stretched thin for time and energy, we wonder if our traditional size of 12 members is the best way for us to use the valuable time resources of our leaders.

Might it make more sense, we have wondered, to have a smaller vestry and use the time of parish leaders in more efficient ways? Do we need 12 people to attend vestry meetings monthly to carry out vestry responsibilities, when 9 would do? Might the time of those other 3 be better spent engaging or organizing the many volunteer-dependent ministries of the church?

Finally, with an assumption that it is the vestry’s job to get things done around the parish, others are discouraged from taking leadership roles. For the success of our mission, the labor of many is needed.

Based on this discussion, the vestry has made the decision to reduce the size of the vestry to 9 members beginning with the 2017 vestry elections. A nominating committee has been formed and they hope to offer a slate of at least 5 candidates for the 2-3 positions that will be open.

How many positions open will depend on how many of the 4 members at the end of their term elect to serve a second term.

The names and biographies of those nominated to vestry this year will be available no later than April 7th, both online in the ‘members’ section of our website and on posters in the narthex. Notices will also be included in Sunday bulletins.

Montgomery Deanery Skating Event
Sunday, March 5th from 2:40-4:40 p.m.
Hatfield Ice Arena, 350 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA

Cost: $7.00 admission & $3.00 skate rental.
Our Advent kids will attend for free as long as you are signed up on the bulletin board outside of Lynn’s office.
No charge if you are only going to watch!
Outreach Opportunity

A small outreach group composed of vestry members began its work by providing feedback about improvements to our Advent website. The group then looked at the local community and found a need for children’s clothing at Crooked Billet Elementary School. Children occasionally need tops, pants, underwear, etc. that are supplied by the nurse’s office.

Our small outreach group would like to invite you to support this effort. Detailed information will be printed in the weekly church leaflet and items will be collected in labeled bins in the narthex. If this project is something the congregation embraces, there is the possibility of continuing it into the next school year with seasonal donations. If you have any questions, see Deb Stoddart, Janet Gilman, John Caughie, Jean Bernosky or Sherry Eichert.
KEEPING A HOLY LENT AT CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Healthy Body Healthy Soul: Quiet prayer, often called contemplative prayer, is an ancient practice of the Church. It is not a prayer that is about talking to God. Rather, it is an offering of time and attention that is simply meant to make space in our hearts and lives for the presence of God. By quieting mind and body, the soul is freed to simply rest in God.

Our own Trish Troilo, a certified yoga instructor, is leading a weekly 30 minute group titled “Breathing Through Lent,” designed to experience how our bodies can support us the practice of prayer.

Sundays at 9:15 and 11:30 in the Chapel.

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: is the book we will read this year during Lent. This book by Marcus Borg takes a look at what we know about the historical Jesus, and how that can enhance our 21st century Christian Faith. Copies of the book are available in the narthex for purchase at a price of $10.00. A limited number of copies are available for check out from the library in the narthex.

Discussion groups will be on:

Sundays, beginning at 11:45 in the Parish Hall.

Tuesdays, beginning at 6:30 in the Parish Hall.

Books in our Narthex Library:

Accidental Saints, by Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, is a collection of funny, touching and sometimes raucous essays that talk about how other people intersect our lives in holy ways.

Between the World and Me, by journalist Ta-Nahisi Coates is a letter to his son about growing up male and black in the United States.

Good Goats: Healing our Image of God by Dennis, Sheila and Matthew Linn looks at how our image of God can be skewed by things we learned or happened to us in childhood, and offers transformative alternatives based on Christian teaching.

Half Truths by Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton is about phrases we hear (like ‘God helps those who help themselves,’ or ‘God never gives us more than we can handle,’) that we think are Biblical, but really aren’t.

Love Wins, by Rob Bell, addresses one of the most controversial issues of faith—hell and the afterlife—arguing, would a loving God send people to eternal torment forever?

Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith, by Anne Lamott is a collection of essays about recovery from addiction, relationships and modern life that are often very funny, and always touch at the heart of faith.
Take this Bread, by Sara Miles follows the journey of a woman who grew up in a secular Jewish home, walked by an Episcopal church one Sunday and found God in the Eucharist. The community she found at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church in San Francisco inspired her to start a food bank that is a unique combination of food, fellowship and faith.

Understanding Difficult Scripture in a Healing Way, by Matthew, Sheila and Dennis Linn looks at some of the passage of the Bible that have been used harmfully and offers interpretations that come closer to their original meaning.

Daily Devotional Resources:

In the Narthex

Lenten Meditation, from Episcopal Relief and Development, features brief writings that reflect on what it means to live faithfully in community. What can we do in partnership that we cannot do alone?

There are also a variety of devotional booklets from other sources.

Online

A calendar of ideas of keeping Lent with children is available in the Children and Youth Area.

Journey to the Cross is an online devotional featuring gentle background music, a brief written reflection and a prayer. It is available at http://d365.org/ and takes about 5 minutes to complete, depending on how long you linger to ponder the words.

Almost Daily EMos are meditations on the Daily Office readings and you can sign up for a subscription to be delivered to your inbox at: http://www.geraniumfarm.org/home.cfm

Daily Meditations from Richard Rohr are mailed to your inbox from The Center for Action and Contemplation when you sign up at: https://cac.org/sign-up/.

As usual, Pray as You Go is an excellent resource for a 10-12 minute audio mediation that includes music and questions for pondering about the scripture reading of the day. Pray as you go is also available as an app for your phone or tablet. http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/home/

Something New at Church of the Advent

In the year 325 AD, the Roman Emperor Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. That made it possible for Christians to gather and worship more publicly and one of the ways they did that was to, on Good Friday, pilgrimage through the city of Jerusalem, visiting sites along the way that were significant to the last day of Jesus’ life.

The annual event soon became a significant part of worship during Holy Week. As pilgrims from beyond Jerusalem visited to participate, they took back the news that the pilgrimage was significant to their prayer during Holy Week, and in churches and cathedrals all over the Roman Empire, the Way of the Cross, sometimes called “stations of the cross,” was born.

During Lent this year, an updated version of Stations of the Cross will be available in our chapel. Using the traditional 14 stations, the Way of the Cross continues as we journey with Jesus who suffers today in the struggles of people in Africa, Asia and the Americas, whose lives are illustrated in photos and narrative.

The Stations will be open when the chapel is open and the flag is out, on Tuesdays until 8 pm and on Good Friday from 11 am to 7 pm.
Layette Month

It comes once a year during the month of March. The Episcopal Church Women sponsor “Layette Month.” We will be collecting new baby clothing and other baby items for our friends at St. Timothy's Mission in Kentucky.

St. Timothy's is located in an economically depressed area of Kentucky and are always deeply appreciative of the items we send. A crib will be located in the narthex where you can leave your donations. Items up to 4T are needed. Questions can be directed to Henrietta Kiel.

Thanks to all who contributed to Blanket Month. Administered through Church World Service, these funds will provide disaster survivors with blankets and more. Food, shelter and water as well as tools and training for long-term recovery are also provided. We do not yet know the total of how much we raised but will let you know as soon as there is a total which will be forwarded to Church World Service.

Many thanks from the Seamen's Church Institute!

Four and a half lawn bags filled with winter clothing were delivered to the Seamen’s offices on February 6th. Additionally, several grocery bags filled to the brim with 2017 calendars were delivered. The gentleman receiving the items expressed his profuse gratitude to the Church of the Advent. All will be used by the seafarers.

Food Pantry Volunteers: The food pantry could use drivers for Tuesday and Wednesday pick up at the Davisville Road Wawa. This can be done either around 10AM or 2PM at your convenience. It involves packing the product in the insulated bags that we provide, delivering it to the pantry and helping put it in the freezer.

Also needed is a volunteer to pick up product on Fridays from the Ben Wilson Senior Center in Warminster. This position involves picking up excess bread and pastry from the center, usually around noon time, and delivering it to St. John’s. Since the pantry is not open on Fridays, the product gets placed in the freezer. Volunteers for this task are assigned a specific month and given at least one month or more of rest before their turn comes around again.

If you can help with any of these positions or you have questions about them please contact either Alan Eickhoff 215-675-1298 or the St. John’s Church office 215-675-2031.
Don’t forget to sign up for your name to be included on the cake. Birthdays are celebrated on the third Sunday of each month.

2/3 Alexis Rose McConomy
2/5 Chris Walton
2/8 Rob Brigham
2/8 Carol Dippel
2/12 Fred Luff
2/14 Thomas Leahy, Jr.
2/14 Ken Longman
2/14 John Caughie
2/15 Lauren New
2/16 Teri O'Shea
2/17 Madeline Miller
2/18 Linda Nicholson
2/22 John Dippre
2/23 Kevin Irvine
2/24 Paul Werner
2/27 Alex Berman
2/29 Arline Reinoehl
3/2 Emily Irvine
3/5 Samuel Leo
3/6 Crystal Finn
3/8 Louise Webster
3/11 Abigail Kress
3/11 Mary Longman
3/13 Lauren Kline
3/15 Janet Gerhardt
3/19 Rosemary Hughes
3/23 Patrick M. White
3/24 Jason Pastore
3/25 Karl New
3/25 Laura Lee Rodemich
3/26 Laura Johnston
3/27 Liam Stoddart
3/29 Kurt Zintner
3/29 Eileen Johnston
4/1 Maureen Roberts
4/2 Regina Hockman
4/2 Andrew Kline
4/3 Marianne Leahy
4/4 Nancy Gleich
4/4 Barbara Winner
4/5 Laura Kalnajs
4/8 Suzanne Palmer
4/10 Elise Wood
4/11 Henrietta Kiel
4/13 Kirsten Leo
4/14 Kayla Devon
4/14 Makenzie Leo
4/15 Dennis Cunningham
4/15 Margie Fuggiti
4/17 Jaime Pastore
4/17 Anthony J. Castagna, III
4/21 Rob Kavash
4/26 Bonnie Callaghan
4/27 Kathleen Caughie
4/27 Lynn Sinclair
4/27 David Rogers
4/30 Grayce McBride

Due to Easter, the April celebration of birthdays will be celebrated on April 23rd. Please make sure to sign your name on the list in the hallway near Lynn’s office to be included on the cake!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARCH IS LAYETTE MONTH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 AM Welcoming the Stranger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12 noon Imposition of Ashes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 NA Mtg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 Imposition of Ashes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 AM Eucharist</td>
<td>7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>19 AM Welcoming the Stranger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 AM Eucharist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 AM Eucharist &amp; Bible Study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 NA Mtg in Parish Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 AM Eucharist</td>
<td>7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 AM Welcoming the Stranger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 AM Eucharist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 AM Eucharist &amp; Bible Study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 NA Mtg in Parish Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 AM Eucharist</td>
<td>7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 AM Welcoming the Stranger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 AM Eucharist</td>
<td>11:15 Birthday Party</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 AM Eucharist &amp; Bible Study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 NA Mtg in Parish Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 AM Eucharist</td>
<td>7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 AM Welcoming the Stranger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 AM Eucharist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 AM Eucharist &amp; Bible Study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 NA Mtg in Parish Hall</td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please pray for those on our long-term prayer list.
If you have placed someone on this list who is no
longer in need of prayer, please let Karen know by
phone 215-675-5737.

Gail Ballerstedt
Julie Boyd
Pat Buziak
Lexi Cable
Adrienne Disley
Carla Donato
Heather Janzen
Bob Juskelis
Janette Kauffman
Matthew Knoebel
Jim Lamb
Norma Lane
Lynn Laurelli
Natalie Leckerman
Amanda Leigh
Grayce McBride
Nancy & Bill Meehl
Bruno Mercuri
Babe Miller
Nancy Muncer
Carol Nicolais
Sergio Ortiz-Cataldi
Steve Rothman
Sabrina
Ken Sanders
Christin Sawhney
Barbara Ann Schulte
Karen Shallcross
Vera Shembel
Lynn Sinclair
Deborah Stacey
Noah Thome
Catherine Wehmeyer
Isabel Zimmerman

ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE
Stephen Stillman

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Palm Sunday: April 9 at 8 am & 10 am
Maundy Thursday: April 13 at 7:30 pm
Good Friday: April 14 12:00 noon
Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15  at 7:30 pm
Easter Day, April 16 at 8 am and 10 am
Easter egg hunt will occur after the 10 am service on the lawn.
Sundays
8 o’clock Spoken Eucharist
10 o’clock Rite II Eucharist with music

Wednesday
Rite II spoken Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
followed by Bible Study

Christian Education
begins on October 4th

Godly Play
For children ages 3 through 2nd grade.
Conducted on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month
Meets downstairs in the Godly Play worship space.

Children are welcome at worship
Age-appropriate materials are supplied in the narthex.

Visitors are welcome at Church of the Advent
for all worship services. God’s Table is open to all baptized
Christians who believe in the presence of Christ
in the bread and wine.

Coffee and conversation
are available Sundays after both services
for those able to stay and enjoy this fellowship.

Our building is handicapped accessible
with a ramp at Rorer Avenue entrance and a
handicapped accessible rest room.

Mission Statement of the Congregation
We celebrate God’s love in Christ. We live faithfully in the Episcopalian tradition
of shared worship, fellowship, and service. We proclaim God’s reconciling love
in our community and the world.

March 2017