

# The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Nurtured by Worship

Fed by Fellowship

Strengthened for Service

## MARCH HERALD

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## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 +



## Ash Wednesday Services

**March 1, 2017**  
**12 noon**  
**or 7:30 p.m.**

**Join us as we begin  
the journey  
through the  
season of Lent  
with the imposition  
of ashes.**

## 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!



# Life Together

Pictured here are Scott Cunningham, Jean Scherfcunningham and Rob Kavash, the dream team who came in to the church on their day off (President's Day) to finish the paint job they had started earlier in the weekend. Please admire their work in the chapel. The once-peeling paint has been scraped, the walls primed and new paint now covers the many spots where the walls were bare. Additionally, Scott will be working on painting the interior frames of the stained glass windows.

## 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.

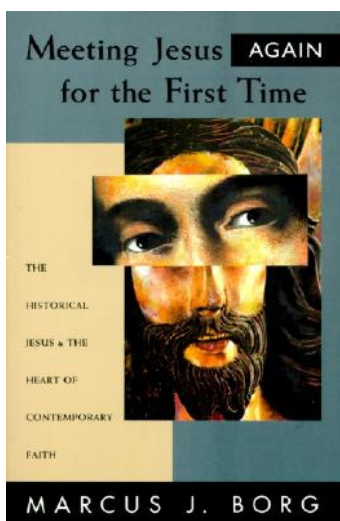
Our small outreach group would like to invite you to support this effort. Detailed information will be printed in the weekly church leaflet and items will be collected in labeled bins in the narthex. If this project is something the congregation embraces, there is the possibility of continuing it into 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 after-life—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.



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

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.

## FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL BIRTHDAYS


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



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!

# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MARCH IS LAYETTE MONTH			<b>1</b>  9 AM Welcoming the Stranger 12 noon Imposition of Ashes 7:00 NA Mtg 7:30 Imposition of Ashes	2	3	4
<b>5</b> 8 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist	<b>6</b> 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	7	<b>8</b> 9 AM Welcoming the Stranger 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 NA Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	9	10	11
<b>12</b> 8 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist	<b>13</b> 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	14	<b>15</b> 9 AM Welcoming the Stranger 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 NA Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	16	17	18
<b>19</b> 8 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist 11:15 Birthday Party	<b>20</b> 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	21	<b>22</b> 9 AM Welcoming the Stranger 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 NA Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	23	24	25
<b>26</b> 8 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist	<b>27</b> 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	28	<b>29</b> 9 AM Welcoming the Stranger 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 NA Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	<b>30</b> 7:00 PM HDC	31	



## LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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.

Church of the Advent  
12 Byberry Road,  
Hatboro, PA 19040

**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**

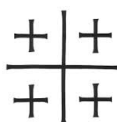
are available Sundays after both services  
for those able to stay and enjoy this fellowship.

**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**