

# THE MONTHLY MESSENGER

## MARCH 2018

### SPRING BREAK SCHEDULE CHANGES

#### Adult Ed

No classes March 4  
or 11

#### Children & Youth

No class March 4  
only

#### Taizé

No service March 7

#### Lenten Supper and Program

No program  
March 7

Other services  
including Morning  
Prayer, Stations of  
the Cross and  
Wednesday 12:15  
Eucharist will take  
place as usual.



**Daylight  
Savings Time  
begins  
Sunday,  
March 11 –**

Don't forget to  
set your clocks  
ahead Saturday

### Come Walk the Way with Jesus

So, Lent is well under way. You have likely chosen your Lenten discipline by now, be it a type of fast or abstinence, or the taking on of a new or more rigorous practice of prayer, study, service, or charitable giving. As March marches on we will approach Holy Week. Holy week is the last week of Lent and contains several special days of devotion that prepare us to celebrate Easter. In my mind, it is grievous to go from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday without participating in some way in the special services of Holy Week. Simply to go from the Sunday of the Passion to the Sunday of the Resurrection is to miss a powerful opportunity to be shaped by these special liturgies and to be prepared spiritually for the highest, holiest day of the Christian year. This year all the Holy Week services will be at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday draws us into the last supper of our Lord with his disciples where he gives them the new commandment to love one another as he loved them. Also commemorated is the establishment of the sacrament of Holy Communion, the communal meal by which we remember the Lord's death until his coming again and through which we receive spiritual nourishment from his presence that sustains us to eternal life. Also at the Maundy Thursday service we reenact how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples modeling for them the true nature of leadership in the kingdom of God. Finally, this liturgy ends with the dramatic stripping of the altar. Calling to mind the stripping of Jesus at his trial and preparing the worship space and our hearts for the starkness of Good Friday, this act always creates an ache in me that is only relieved by our joyous celebration on Sunday. The evening ends with a vigil keeping watch with the Christ's presence in the garden.

Good Friday places us squarely into the passion of Jesus. We do not wallow in the cross. We do not get stuck in the suffering of Jesus. We are resurrection people. Therefore, we are always looking to the resurrection. However, we look to the resurrection from the perspective of the cross. In this liturgy, we are invited into a deep contemplation on the event of the cross—the sacrifice of the cross, the suffering of the cross, the self-emptying of the cross, the triumph of the cross. To kneel and pray at the foot of the cross is our greatest privilege and our greatest challenge. That is exactly what we do in the Good Friday service.

Holy Saturday, the day on which Jesus rested in the tomb having completed his work, we do not keep the special liturgy for this day, however, Saturday evening we celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter. The Vigil is the first service of Easter. We begin in darkness. Then there is light. A new fire is kindled and quickly spreads through the congregation. The Light of Christ is born into the church and hailed as the bright morning star, harbinger of dawn. We tell the long history of salvation. We recommit ourselves to our baptismal covenant. Finally, we shout the Easter acclamation and ring bells to celebrate the Lord's resurrection. The Easter Vigil moves us from darkness to light, from sadness to joy, from despair to hope. It is my favorite service of the year. Then Sunday morning it's all Easter.

If you choose not to walk with Christ through the events of the last week of his life, if you choose simply to show up on Easter morning, you have deprived yourself of some of the most beautiful and excruciating moments in the liturgical year. Participating in the fullness of these services lays a foundation for the joy of Easter. If we behold the empty tomb and remember not the cross, we risk a shallow, triumphalist kind of faith and our Easter celebration is somehow muted. Come join us for the Holy Week services. Come be transformed by the experience.

- Fr. Jeff

## VESTRY UPDATE, JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2018



The first vestry meeting of 2018 was held Monday, January 15. This meeting was also the last meeting for those vestry members whose terms were completed. Many thanks to Linda Mace, Senior Warden, Sharon, Rovansek, Junior Warden, Sandy Schwartz, and Medora Ebersole for their dedicated service on the vestry. The Finance Committee reported that the financial year ended with a positive balance, and the vestry voted to set aside surplus funds as a carry-forward for operating expenses in 2018.

In other business, the vestry voted to accept revisions to the parish bylaws that essentially bring them into agreement with the canons of both the national church and the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. The previous bylaws were not updated for over fifteen years, and they were woefully out of step with the diocese and the national church. If you are interested, a copy of the parish bylaws may be obtained from Allison Shea in the office.

The February vestry meeting was held on Tuesday, February 13. Along with the seating of newly elected vestry members, Greg Loviscky, Kevin Lowe, Kathryn Yahner, and Christina Ford, the vestry elected and confirmed vestry and parish officers. The positions filled include the following:

**Senior (Rector's) Warden** – The Senior or Rector's Warden is a member of vestry appointed by the rector to act as the primary liaison between the parish and the rector.

**Junior (People's) Warden** – The Junior or People's Warden is a member of vestry elected by the vestry to serve as Junior Warden. The Junior Warden is often given the task of overseeing the upkeep of parish buildings and grounds.

**Clerk of the Vestry** – The Clerk of the Vestry is elected by the vestry to serve as the secretary during vestry meetings. The Clerk of the Vestry records and distributes minutes of the vestry meetings and provides support to the rector and the vestry as needed. The Clerk is not necessarily a voting member of the vestry.

**Treasurer** – At St. Andrew's, the Treasurer of the parish is a paid staff position responsible for paying bills and overseeing all outgoing funds from the parish. According to the parish bylaws, the position of Treasurer is confirmed each year by vote of the vestry.

**Financial Secretary** – At St. Andrew's, the Financial Secretary is a paid staff position responsible for overseeing all parish income, recording and making deposits of pledges, plate offerings, bequests, etc. Like the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary is confirmed each year by vote of the vestry.

The officers for 2018 are:

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*Senior Warden – Ted Christopher*  
*Junior Warden – Beth Jones*  
*Clerk of the Vestry – Rick Hoover*  
*Treasurer – Sue Stephenson*  
*Financial Secretary – Mary Andrew*

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In addition to having responsibility for conducting business of the parish, each member of the vestry serves as a liaison between the vestry and one or more parish committees, e.g. Property, Adult Formation, Finance, Outreach, Parish Life, etc. During the February vestry meeting, the first meeting of the 2018 vestry, committee liaison assignments were decided.

Your vestry is enthusiastically looking forward to serving the parish in the coming year. Your support of the parish is extremely important to the fulfillment of the many active ministries at St. Andrew's. The vestry urges everyone to regularly meet their pledge commitments. Remember that in addition to placement in the weekly collection plates, pledge payments may be sent directly to the Financial Secretary care of the church office. St. Andrew's ministries continue to serve even when members of the parish are on vacation. Your regular support is essential.

Rick Hoover, Clerk of the Vestry

## FROM THE TREASURER

### JANUARY 2018

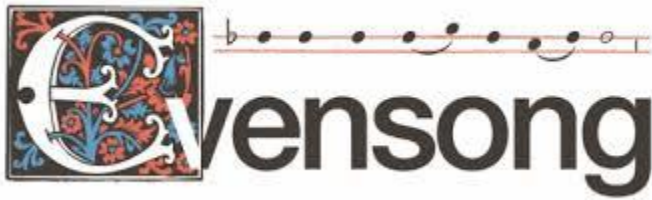
JANUARY		Total for 2018	% of Budget	2018 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 102,245	\$ 102,245	26%	\$ 446,295
Total Monthly Income	\$ 105,808	\$ 105,808	20%	\$ 517,626
Monthly Expense	\$ 49,121	\$ 49,121	9.5%	\$ 480,995
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 56,687	\$ 56,687		\$(36,631)

\*Includes pledges, plate offerings, and identified plate offering, plus special holiday offerings.

We are starting out the year with strong contributed support. This is typical since some parishioners pay half or all their annual pledges in January. Also included in the Contributions line is \$50,250 which are the Advance Pledges, paid in 2017 for the current year. That was added to January income, and then transferred to savings for future use. The expenses were slightly higher than usual, the average is 8.3% of the yearly total for one month, including higher utility bills and other December expenses coming due in January. Looking ahead to February, contributions have dropped significantly such that total contributed support is \$23,832. This means that we will already be dipping into the surplus to cover expenses more than we should be doing. The budget for this year projects that our expenses could be about \$36,600 more than we have coming in pledges. Please remember to do your part to keep the operations of the church running smoothly.

The complete financial report is available in the office.

Sue Stephenson



## **Evensong**

Sunday, March 4

5:00 p.m., Church

On Sunday, March 4, at 5 PM, the Adult Choir will offer the service of choral evensong according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. This book is still the official prayer book of the Church of England. Music in the service will feature a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Alec Wyton, the anthem BEHOLD, O GOD OUR DEFENDER by Noel Rawsthorne and Preces and Responses by Richard Shepherd. There will be organ music by Martilyn Biery and Johann Pachelbel. The rector, the Rev. Jeffrey Packard, will be the officiant.

Prior to the Reformation, prayer in the early evening or late afternoon was known as the office of Vespers, one of the eight Canonical Hours of the divine office of the Western church. However, in 1549, a prayer book known as the Book of Common Prayer was adopted in the context of the English Reformation. Bishop Thomas Cranmer established the office of Evensong using elements taken from both Vespers and Compline, generally to be conducted in the English language, as was the case with the entire liturgy.

After a series of slight modifications, the office of Evensong took its modern form in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England, a form that is followed very closely throughout the whole of the Anglican and Episcopal Church throughout the world.

Evensong, like all forms of liturgical worship, has elements of drama and ritual that nourish the spiritual life of all of us. It is based entirely on elements of Holy Scripture and it is scripted according to a long history, originating in Judaic and early Christian evening worship. Evensong is traditionally mostly sung by a choir, with the full congregation participating throughout in thoughtful prayer, allowing the music to soothe us and to draw us closer to the presence of God. The congregation also joins in the spoken parts of the liturgy: the reciting of the Confession and the Creed, as well as singing the hymns.

Please join us for this service. A reception will follow in Room 325



## FOUR WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

February 21 and 28, March 14 and 21

**TAIZÉ in the Nave \***

5:15 to 6:00 p.m.

**SUPPER in Canterbury Hall**

6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

A soup and salad meal catered by Elaine Meder/Webster's Books

**LENTEN PROGRAMS \***

6:45 to 8:00 p.m.

**Adult Program** in Canterbury Hall – “Becoming the Beloved Community: the Elimination of Racism” led by Kevin Barron and Marion Schwartz

**Children & Teens Program** in Room 336 – “Practicing Love”

## FRIDAYS IN LENT

February 16 and 23 and March 2, 9, 16 and 23

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS in the Church** 5:15 p.m.

## MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY IN LENT

**MORNING PRAYER in the Church** 8:30 a.m.

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### Palm Sunday Peace Walk

March 25, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m..

Starting at UBBC, 411 S. Burrowes Street



In its third year, this participatory one-mile walk focuses on bringing together our diverse community to notice and acknowledge the many ways people are working for peace. St. Andrew's will participate as stop on the walk (our front steps) and Kevin Barron will be our speaker on the topic of racism.

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

## CORPORATE READING OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

**Tuesday, March 27** (*see details below*)

7:00 p.m.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 29

**Holy Eucharist** with Foot Washing  
Ritual and Stripping of the Altar \*

7:00 p.m.

**Watch of the Passion**

8:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

## GOOD FRIDAY, March 30

**Ecumenical Service at UBBC**

12:00 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross**

3:00 p.m.

**Liturgy of Good Friday \***

7:00 p.m.

**Movie:** *The Passion of the Christ*

8:00 p.m.

## EASTER EVE, March 31

**The Great Vigil of Easter \***

7:00 p.m.

Reception following

## Easter Day, April 1

**Festive Eucharist** for Easter  
with Adult Choir and Musicians

8:00 a.m.

**Family Eucharist** for Easter, Youth Choir,  
and Egg Hunt following (nursery available)

9:30 a.m.

**Festive Eucharist for Easter** with  
Adult Choir and Musicians

11:15 a.m.

*\* Childcare available upon request only.*

# LENT 2018

## Adult Lenten Program

Wednesdays in Lent, 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.  
Canterbury Hall

### Becoming the Beloved Community: **Serving Christ in All Persons**

In week two of our four-week Lenten study led by Kevin Barron and Marion Schwartz, we will examine racism as a corporate rather than an individual sin, our segregated sanctuaries, and historic and institutional power structures. We will continue to reflect upon how racism has distorted our relationship with God and each other and how we can begin to eradicate this sin. We will discern what racism has wrought within our churches, how race matters, and how we strive to serve Christ in all persons.



## Corporate Reading of the Gospel According to Mark

Monday, March 26, 7:00 p.m., Church



For an amazing presentation of a gospel reading, please join us in the Sanctuary on Monday night in Holy Week, March 26, 2018 at 7 p.m. for a continuous reading of the Gospel According to Mark. Father Jeff will make some brief remarks about Mark's Gospel, and then the Gospel according to Mark will be read, out loud, from beginning to end. The reading has been divided into 23 sections, so we need many readers to participate. The gospels were originally stories that were shared orally, and this is one very meaningful way to listen to the story of the Good News, in its entirety. To reserve a place as a reader, please sign up [here](#) or contact Allison in the church office to sign-up for a reading. For additional information please contact Michele Marini at 814-574-9639.

## Maundy Thursday Watch of the Passion

Thursday, March 29, 8:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Altar of Repose

In the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus found the disciples sleeping, he said to Peter, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?"

In response, we will keep watch at the Altar of Repose (the Side Altar) from the end of the Maundy Thursday Liturgy until 12:00 a.m. This time is to be used in prayer and meditation in the sacramental presence of our Lord. The time is divided into thirty-minute segments. More than one person may keep watch at the same time.

If you would like to participate, please sign up online [here](#); in person, on the signup sheet in the Narthex Sunday morning; or by phone, by calling the church office.

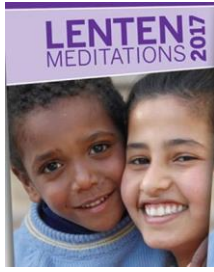


## Easter Flower Sponsorship

Deadline for forms: Monday, March 26



If you would like to make a donation for palms and Easter flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving, please print and complete [this form](#) and return it to the church office with your payment no later than Monday, March 26. Forms will also be available Sunday mornings beginning March 3. Checks should be made payable to **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church** with **Easter Flowers** on the memo line. Your contribution will be acknowledged in the Easter bulletins.



## Lenten Meditation Booklets

Booklets are now available in the narthex, the church office, and in Canterbury Hall. Please take one if you are interested.



## Hope Chests

Are you filling your Hope Chest?

Money and/or checks written to *St. Andrew's* with the notation *ERD donation* will be happily received on either Palm Sunday, Easter Day, or the following Sunday. The funds will support ERD's mission to assist young families with Early Childhood Development with focus on nutrition and medicinal needs to build the foundation for a family's lifelong health. Hope Chests are still available.



## Easter Egg Candy Donations

Journey Youth will be stuffing Easter eggs on Palm Sunday, March 25, for the Easter Day egg hunt. Donations of bags of candy are greatly appreciated. Bring your candy donations to the church office or Education Office, room 130. Thank you.

# ADULT EDUCATION

There will be **no** Adult Education or nursery care offered on March 4 or March 11 due to Spring Break.

Sunday, March 18

## *Not in My Day! Dance, Race, and Moral Panic in American Social Dance*

Social dance is a place for people to meet, flirt, and learn social norms. Since the beginning of European settlement in North America and accelerating in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, old fogies have criticized the youth of their day for their inappropriateness on the dance floor. As a particular feature in American life, these concerns often contained a fear of racial mixing and class instability. We'll take a look at some of the dances that caused hand-wringing in the 1800s, tsk-tsking in the 1930s, and general tut-tutting all the way to the turn of the millennium. Youth are especially invited to attend and will not be asked to demonstrate.



*Caitlin Osborne has taught dance and dance history at Penn State University, Altoona campus, since 2005. She brings her studies in anthropology (BA, Williams College) and history (MA, University of Massachusetts) to bear on the exploration of gender, culture, and race in dance. She has attended St. Andrew's since 2001.*



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**No Church School, Children's Chapel, or Journey Youth classes on Sunday, March 4, due to Spring Break. Enjoy worship with your families and God be with you as you travel.**

### Church School

#### Godly Play ~ 9:15 AM ~ Room 336

For February, thank you to Paul Humphreys, who presented the story *Jesus and the Children*; to Marisa Ferger, who presented *Jesus and Zacchaeus*; to Tina and Jenna Ruberto, who introduced *the season of Lent*; and to Marisa Ferger, who introduced *The Parable of the Good Shepherd*. There will be no Godly Play class on Sunday, March 4, due to the beginning of Spring Break. Class will resume with *The Parable of the Sower* on Sunday, March 11, and the *Parable of the Mustard Seed* on March 18. *Jesus the King* will be the story for Palm Sunday. Questions about Godly Play? Just ask Darlene Nordoff.

#### 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class ~ 9:15 AM ~ Room 131

In February, the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class, *Prayer and Action*, *The Lord is Everlasting*, *Epiphanies*, and *Elijah and Elisha* were the last lectionary-based lessons for Epiphany. On February 18, *Temptation and Prayer* and *God's Promises are Eternal* were the themes that introduced the season of Lent. The class met with Head Usher Doug Mace and Usher Rich Marini on February 25 to learn about the ministry of ushering and safety at St. Andrew's. Thank you to Doug Mace and Rich Marini for informing our energetic 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade class.

#### Children's Chapel ~ 10:30 AM ~ Room 338

*Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit* and *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* were two of the songs the children learned in Children's Chapel in February. Chapel began with song and prayer. Following the lectionary readings for the day, children heard Old and New Testament readings. On February 25, costumes helped create the characters of Abraham and Sarah and one of the children provided God's voice! At times the children created artwork to post in the classroom or to take home. A snack was available for those children who needed a nutritional boost before joining their parents in church at the Peace.



### Journey Program



#### Journey Jr. Adventurers (Grades 7, 8, & 9)

Fundraiser. Thank you to all who supported the Journey Super Bowl Sunday Chili Fundraiser, especially our co-chairs Marisa Ferger and Lori & Kevin McGarry. Approximately \$760 will go towards the Journey Jr. Urban/Spiritual Adventure in May. Stay tuned for the date of an all parish Bunco Family Night fundraiser!

Activities. On February 4, youth met for a make-your-own mini-sub dinner and then brainstormed ideas for their class banner. They decided upon three possibilities and then reviewed the ideas and selected one idea during their next

class. Unfortunately, due to several conflicts, the World Awareness Dinner scheduled for February 25 had to be postponed. Look for an upcoming email regarding date choices. Movie? March 11 or March 18? Darlene will be sending a poll to see who can attend the upcoming movie *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Class. Youth have been talking about Faith, Trust and Doubt during their classes in February. Thank you to Fr Jeff and Deacon Joe for coming to class on February 25 to lead a discussion about The Nicene Creed and The Apostles' Creed. A yummy warm breakfast was enjoyed by all!

### **Journey High School (Grades 10, 11 & 12)**

CPA Diocesan Happening #11. Congratulations to Abbey Humphreys and Tuna Safak, who were St. Andrew's Happening celebrities February 16-18 at Camp Mt. Luther. Thank you to Ryan Couch, Anna Kwasnica, Leah Patzkowsky, Zach Paulsen, and Kelley Paulsen for providing leadership during Happening. Alex Couch, Hayley Couch, and Eric Zimmerer served on the Celebration Team, praying and working behind the scenes.

Class Opportunities. Journey High School were invited to two opportunities presented during the Adult Education Hour in February:



(a) A Vision for Campus Ministry presented by Lutheran Chaplain Alicia Anderson. Alicia answered questions, and shared her work, experiences, and her perception of the faith needs of students today; and (b) A presentation by Pam Ferguson and Dale Gericke about Fr Gregory Boyle, the founder of Homeboy Industries, which provides hope, training, and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated men and women allowing them to redirect their lives and become contributing members of the community.

## **March Activities for Journey Jr. Adventurers and Journey High School**

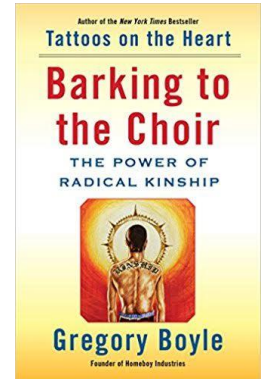
Sunday, March 11 (alternate March 18)	Movie <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> . Look for an email with details.
Sunday, March 25 – Palm Sunday	Lunch and service to the church: stuffing Easter eggs for Easter Day Egg Hunt and polishing the pews!
Sunday, March 25 – Palm Sunday	Multi-Parish Peace Walk begins at 3 PM at UBBC. The walk proceeds to several churches for brief talks.
Good Friday, March 30	Stations of the Cross for Families – 3 PM. Please contact Darlene if you can help and participate.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Compassionate Life

Thursday, March 1 and 15  
9:30 a.m. ~ Room 325

The women of Compassionate Life will continue their discussion about the new book *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Gregory Boyle, an American Jesuit priest and the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang-intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world. In February, we discussed chapter three, “And Awe Came Upon Everyone,” and chapter four, “Now. Here This”. Thank you to Kathy Hickner for leading the discussion on February 15. Join us as we discuss chapter five, “Sell Your Cleverness,” on March 1 and chapter six, “The Good Journey,” on March 15. We look forward to praying, sharing, connecting, and drinking coffee/tea with you. Contact Darlene Nordoff for more information.



### St. John's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Saturday, March 17, 4 – 7 p.m., St. John's Fellowship Hall

Come one, come all to St. John's annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Extravaganza on March 15. Deacon Alex again will bring to Bellefonte countless pounds of Brooklyn's best corned beef for a meal that no one should miss. In addition to being our biggest food fundraiser of the year, everyone loves the fun and fellowship that the occasion provides. Please be sure to be present to support the church and to have a great meal (eat in or carry out) on Saturday, March 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall, and bring a carful of friends!

## OUTREACH

### OUT OF THE COLD – An Opportunity to Put Your Faith Into Action

Monday, March 26 – Sunday, April 8

15 churches in the State College area host about 20 homeless guests for a period of 2 weeks each from mid-October until early May. Our two weeks at St. Andrew's begin March 26.

#### OPPORTUNITIES to help:

Serving breakfast (6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.)

Serving a light dinner (8:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.)

Checking guests in (8:45 p.m. - 10 p.m.)

Sleeping over to chaperone (9 p.m. - 7:15 a.m.) 4 people needed each night

Laundry “party” - 1 each week, at the laundromat on Nittany Ave.

Day and 2 hour time slot determined by the volunteer's availability

Quarters and soap provided by OOTC

Helping to unload the truck of cots and blankets - March 26, 8 a.m. at St. Andrews

Helping to load the truck to take cots and blankets to next host church - April 9, 7 a.m.

#### TRAINING (required) for hosts and overnight chaperones:

Wednesday, March 14, 6 - 6:45 p.m., Room 131

Saturday, March 17, 11 a.m.- noon, Room 131

To sign up, use [this link](#) OR we will have pencil and paper signups on Sundays in the hallway outside the nursery.

Questions? Call or email Madeline Johnson 234-6093 or [mad1240@comcast.net](mailto:mad1240@comcast.net)





## DELTA PROGRAM BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, March 21, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Canterbury Hall

The Delta Program's annual spring Red Cross Blood drive will be held at St. Andrew's in Canterbury Hall. If you are eligible and interested in donating, please visit the Red Cross website [here](#), and type "deltaprogram" in the blue "Find a Blood Drive" box at the top right. There are 47 donation openings and with our help, the Delta Program hopes to fill them all!

If you have any questions, please contact staff coordinator, Deb Steinberg, ([djs20@scasd.org](mailto:djs20@scasd.org)), or student coordinator (Erin Cover ([emc24@scasd.org](mailto:emc24@scasd.org))) with any questions.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

## COMMUNITY CAFÉ

If you have participated in the Café's Trivia Competition either of the past two years, you will likely remember a competitive group with a broad knowledge of trivia and a clever, quirky name - The Port Matilda Yacht Club. In addition to these fine qualities, it turns out that the PMYC is very generous.

Following this year's trivia event, organizers Sharon and Ron Rovansek received the following note with a \$500 donation. What a great group of guys – we cannot thank you heartily enough.

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*"The Port Matilda Yacht Club has some direct affiliation with the Danville German Society. Based on the good time that was had and good people that were met at the trivia night, Community Cafe was chosen as a beneficiary of the Elk Toss fundraiser."*

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Yes, the Elk Toss fundraiser. The first German settlers in Pennsylvania were intrigued by the mighty North American Elk (Wapiti) and created various contests and games associated with them. Most of these games were highly dangerous (i.e. elk tickling) and, therefore, did not stand the test of time. One of the games, however, did flourish and is still practiced today. This game, as you may have guessed, is Elk Tossing. Not surprisingly, the sport has been steadily gaining popularity since the reintroduction of Elk in Pennsylvania.

If you would like to learn more about this event or the Danville German Society, [click here](#), but don't say we didn't warn you! Who wants to return their favor, and toss elk next year?

As always, if you would like to learn more about the Café or to volunteer, please contact Ron Rovansek at [rrovansek@pacewater.com](mailto:rrovansek@pacewater.com). The Café is open for business from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every Thursday. **DISCLAIMER:** If you have ever seen an elk, you know that "tossing" an elk is quite difficult. An adult male elk can weigh 800 lb. We do not "toss" elk without proper safety harnesses and have never even touched an elk without these devices. We do not wish to harm the magnificent elk or ourselves in any way. Please do not attempt to toss an elk at home.



## GROUPS, MINISTRIES, & COMMITTEES

*This is not a comprehensive listing; regularly scheduled meetings and events are included only if they submitted an item for publication. For complete and updated listings, please check your Sunday bulletin or weekly email.*

### KNITTING GROUP

Sunday, March 11, 11:45 a.m., Room 325



If you knit, crochet or would like to learn, you are welcome! We work on preparing hats, scarves, baby blankets and those adorable Peace Pals

from [www.knitting4peace.org](http://www.knitting4peace.org), a wonderful organization that distributes useful handknits in the developing world. Bring a project to work on and a snack or treat to share. Even if you can't attend the meetings but would like to participate, you may knit/crochet at home and bring finished work to the Parish Office. For more information, contact Anne Hoag at [anne.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com). Future meetings: April 8 and May 13, always in Room 325.

### GEN XY GROUP

Thursday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

400 Oakhurst Lane

The St. Andrew's Gen-X/Y Group (young adults roughly ages 25-45, but all are welcome!) will meet on this month for a potluck dinner. We will gather at the home of Kevin Lowe and Sarah Klinetob.

Children are invited too! Please bring a dish to pass if you can. Questions? Please contact Kevin at [kevinlowe33@gmail.com](mailto:kevinlowe33@gmail.com).

### FRIDAY FILMS

Saturday, March 16, 7 p.m., Canterbury Hall



What are parents to do when their kid turns his back on the privilege, wealth and opportunities they have worked hard to provide?

Francesco, son of a wealthy textile merchant, returns from war a very changed man. He is tormented nightly by visions of his past when he was a

spoiled, boisterous, arrogant youth, and instead finds God in poverty, chastity and obedience.

However, to the consternation of his parents, he spends most of his time surrounded by nature, flowers, trees, animals and poetry as he becomes more and more reluctant to resume his prior lifestyle. This Zefferelli film tells the tale of a wild youth who brought the world of pomp and power to its knees.

A discussion will follow the film for those who wish to stay. The film is free and all are welcome to attend!

### PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Saturday, March 17, 12:00 p.m.

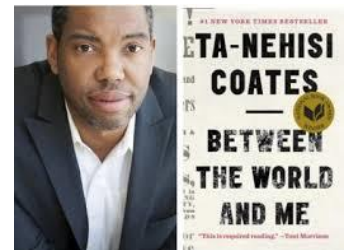
Room 119 Trost Wing

The meeting will begin with a light lunch at noon and we will begin sewing shortly after that. We have distributed 3 prayer quilts since the start of 2018, and so we will be working to build our stash back up by finishing 2 or 3 prayer quilts, and working on a couple baptismal quilts. All are welcome. For more information please call Michele at [814-574-9639](tel:814-574-9639).

### BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, March 20, 7p.m., Room 324

The Saint Andrew's Book Group has chosen *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates as its book to read for March. This memoir by a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* is written as a series of letters from Coates to his teenaged son about the experience of growing up Black in American society. A National Book Award winner, it was hailed by Toni Morrison as "required reading" on race in America. All parishioners are invited to read the book and join the conversation.



**(Please note: the March meeting has been moved up one week to avoid conflicts with Holy Week activities.)**





## Listening through Lectio

Christina Ford

In the past, the “Lessons from Lectio” messenger articles focused on what the group had learned from the Lectio process. Upon further reflection, we felt that this way of reporting wasn’t really true to the spirit of Lectio. Lectio Divina is a process of listening. It is a slow, contemplative reading of the Bible, that invites us to enter deeper and deeper into God’s word. In the spirit of deep listening, we would like to share our experience with Lectio in a slightly different way, focusing more on the process and less on the outcome. In our Lectio process, the passage is read 4 times. Our practice is to sit with one of the Lectionary readings for the day. After each reading there is time for silent contemplation and a space to share the fruits of our reflection. In February we sat with the Gospel reading (Mark 1:9-15), where Jesus is baptized, recognized as God’s Son, and is then immediately driven out into the wilderness.

After each the first two readings we are asked to share a word, phrase, or image that stood out from the passage. We first listen to the reading with new ears, as if it were the first time we had ever heard the passage. The phrases that stood out were “the time is fulfilled”, “tempted by Satan”, “*immediately* drove him into the wilderness”, “into the wilderness”, and “the spirit descended like a dove”. We then listen to the reading again, bringing with us the voices of the gathered community, and noticing whether and how our attention shifts in response to the new voices. The phrases that stood out were, “angels waited on him”, “immediately”, “believe”, “into the wilderness”, “he saw”, and “with you I am well pleased.

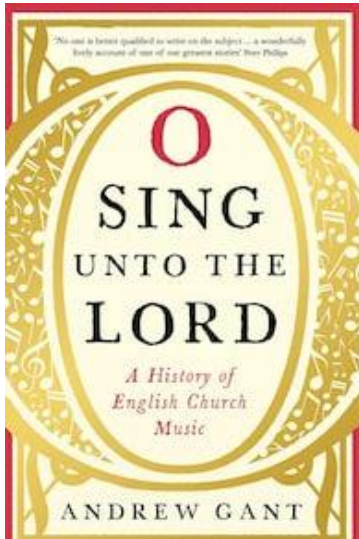
In the second two readings we are invited to allow the Bible passage to speak into our lives. First by noticing if the passage brings to mind a particular life situation and then by entering into a conversation with God and listening for an invitation. The theme of the presence of God appeared multiple times during the reflection. Jesus has said that the Kingdom of God is near, and each of us has had experiences where God felt near. At the same time, we have all experienced wilderness times where Jesus can be difficult to perceive. And while we recognize that these dark nights can be the source of many spiritual fruits, they are still lonely and scary and confusing. It can be difficult to act as if God is at work in our lives when don’t feel connected to that presence and we would like it better if we were able to feel that presence all the time.

During Lectio, there is often a group synchronicity and shared understanding in addition to a personal meaning that is unique to each individual present. For each of us, there was an invitation connected to making the presence of God more tangible. When we are experiencing a wilderness moment, we can use Jesus as our model, knowing that he was tempted just as we are, and holding fast to the belief that Jesus is with us even when we cannot feel it. When friends or loved ones are experiencing wilderness moment, we may be called to be present for them during their low points. Sometimes we may be inspired to proclaim the good news that Kingdom of God is near, and other times we may need a gentle reminder to sit in the presence of Jesus and allow ourselves to love and be loved by him.

For many of us, our time together with the passage is only a beginning, and we continue to sit with what we have heard during the days and weeks to come. For me (Christina), I am sitting with a renewed sense of the importance of the ministry of presence. We thank you allowing us to share our experience with you, and hope that these reflections may bear fruit in your contemplation as well.

## The Church Library

Sharon Rovansek



You may not be fully aware of its presence, but upstairs in the Parish Life Center in Room 324 is a room filled with over a thousand biographies, reference materials, and historical works, all related to the Episcopal Church and other religions around the world. The Church Library has long been a labor of love for many people, especially Natalie Urban and Shirley Leopold who have spent long hours cleaning, dusting and organizing. If you look at the spines, you will see neat labels in clear handwriting thanks to Shirley having the special cataloguing gene that does not come naturally to all librarians.

The library has an annual budget of \$50.00, not much per se, but it is something to consider new material, and this year, we have purchased a new book: *O Sing unto the Lord* by Andrew Gant. This work offers a fascinating history of English church music, from the Latin chant of late antiquity to the great proliferation of styles seen in contemporary repertoires. Expansive and sure to appeal to all music lovers, *O Sing unto the Lord* is the biography of a tradition, a book about people, and a celebration of one of the most important sides to our cultural heritage. Thanks to Eugene Shaw-Coyler for the recommendation, and we hope all enjoy our new addition.

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