

The monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Connecting us in community and in Christ

"Follow me and I will make you
fish for people." – Mark 1:17

March 2021

Some Lenten Thoughts

Sometimes the wisdom of our inherited Christian tradition is so obvious that we barely recognize it. For instance, take Lent. Forty days of preparation for Easter, a penitential season when we dedicate ourselves to spiritual discipline and formation, an annual call to repentance that also reminds us of the precious grace of God we know through our Lord Jesus. We are so accustomed to this annual season that we may miss its significance. We may automatically choose to give up some treasured practice or to take on a new spiritual one without reflecting much on the purpose or the gift of this annual opportunity. It may be helpful to view the season anew through the eyes of someone less accustomed to it.

Years ago, as I interacted with an ecumenical colleague, a Southern Baptist pastor whose church was around the corner from mine in Spotsylvania, Virginia, he commented that he was in the process of introducing Lent to his congregation. At first, I kind of chuckled. Having grown up in the Episcopal Church, it was hard for me to imagine the calendar without this regular round of fasting and prayer. It was equally difficult for me to imagine what it must be like waking up on Easter morning, putting on my Sunday best, and going to church to sing about Jesus' resurrection without first having been through the weeks of Lenten preparation or the crucible of holy week. What is Easter like if you don't keep Good Friday? It is still something that makes me wonder. I had great admiration for this pastor who was daring to introduce something that is not part of his tradition, something that his congregation would not have any frame of reference for, and something against which he would likely encounter push back. I thought it took guts.

He shared with me that it was requiring a great deal of explanation. He was indeed encountering push back. People in his parish questioned this practice which they did not find in their Bibles, Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness notwithstanding. Think about it for a moment. How would you make the case for Lent? How would you introduce the concept to someone who has no idea what Lent is all about? If you come from another tradition, perhaps you have experienced learning about Lent as an adult yourself. Perhaps it was a revelation that you particularly appreciated. Or perhaps it is still a foreign concept to you. If you are like me and are a bit desensitized to Lent, I recommend approaching it with a renewed sense of wonder and openness.

Receive the gift of Lent. Cherish this time to get your head and your heart straight with God. Enjoy the hymns in minor keys. Savor each invitation to repent. Allow the depth of God's love and the scope of Jesus' sacrifice to wash over you. Soak in the grace, and the mercy, and the forgiveness. Tolerate the discomfort, whether it is the discomfort of privation or the discomfort that comes from reflecting on one's own sinfulness. Most of all, claim your own purity, that righteousness that is not your own, but the bestowal of a loving savior. This Lent, seek innocence, not ignorance or naivety, not the lack of culpability, but the innocence of one who has been washed clean in the blood of the Lamb, the innocence that is pure gift.

TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



January 2021

	January	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2021 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 85,873	\$ 85,873	19%	\$ 460,288
Total Operating Income	\$ 88,684	\$ 88,684	18%	\$ 487,488
Total Operating Expense	\$ 44,968	\$ 44,968	9%	\$ 506,242
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 43,715	\$ 43,715		

*Includes pledges, plate offerings, and special holiday offerings.

VESTRY UPDATE, Kevin Lowe, Clerk of the Vestry



March 2021

The vestry met on Tuesday, February 9, remotely, using Zoom. The financial position of the parish remains solid into 2021 and the vestry is grateful for ongoing pledges and contributions. Following a recommendation from Finance Committee based on incoming and estimated pledges, however, vestry voted to adjust the budgeted pledge income for 2021 down slightly.

The February vestry meeting was the first meeting for the incoming class of newly elected vestry members: Barb Downs, Tom Hall, Paul Hochreiter, and Amy Pritchett. Much of the meeting was devoted to orientation and organizational matters, including the assignment of committee liaison positions. In addition, the officers of the vestry were appointed and elected: Scott Strouse was appointed Senior Warden; Michele Marini was elected Junior Warden; Julie Kwasnica was re-elected Treasurer; Mary Andrew was re-elected Financial Secretary; and Kevin Lowe was re-elected Clerk. In addition, Sarah Klinetob Lowe and Wendi Keeler were officially appointed to terms as Stewards of Parishioners' Ministry.

Vestry reviewed the recommendations made by the ad hoc Trinity House Committee which was formed a few months back. The committee was tasked with examining ministry potential for Trinity House, as well as determining what maintenance or renovation projects would need to be completed. An opportunity has arisen to rent Trinity House as a residence to three Penn State students (one of whom is a St. Andrew's parishioner), for one to three years. Some basic property maintenance projects will need to be done in order to bring the property up to rental code, and further energy efficiency upgrades can then be done while the students are living there. Taking this time to make property improvements using the rental income will, the subcommittee suggested, make Trinity House more appealing as a ministry asset in the future. Following lengthy discussion, vestry decided to adopt the committee's recommendations and pursue a rental agreement with the students.

Vestry meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and are always open to all parishioners. Please contact me (kevinlowe33@gmail.com) for the Zoom link prior to the meeting if you would like to attend. Approved vestry minutes are available on our website ("Clergy, Staff & Vestry" under the "About Us" tab).

Kevin M. Lowe
Clerk of the Vestry

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

J2A On-line Auction

April 12-18

Donations due Saturday, March 20



The J2A youth are optimistic that Covid will be over one day and they will be able to go on pilgrimage. For that, they will need some funds, so they are putting together an on-line auction April 12-18 and are asking the church to participate.

They invite St. Andrew's ministry groups and individuals to contribute goods and services that can be put in the auction. Some suggestions are:

- Services (lawn mowing, leaf raking deferred until needed, tutoring, etc.)
Lessons (tennis, art, music, yoga- deferred if necessary)
Baking & Cooking (cookies, cakes, pies, breads, meals for 2 or 4)
Themed baskets (local goods, tea basket, reading basket, chocolate basket, knitting basket, sewing basket, beach basket)
Gift certificates
Homemade items
Jewelry
Art
Time in a vacation house or cabin

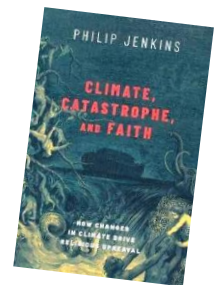
If you cannot offer a service but have a particular idea in mind of something you could use, let us know and we will do our best to get it included.

Please let us know what you will be donating and drop items off in the church office by Saturday March 20. Thank you so much!

Adult Forum

The adult forum schedule has not been finalized and is not currently available. Please continue to watch the weekly parish emails for announcements.

If you missed some or all of Philip Jenkins' three-part series on climate and faith last month, recordings of all three sessions are available on YouTube. See the description and links below.



CLIMATE, CATASTROPHE, AND FAITH

Climate is the missing dimension in understanding religion, past, present, and future. Repeatedly through history, the world has been subject to severe climate-driven shocks, which have resulted in famine, disease, violence, social upheaval, and mass migration. Commonly, such episodes have been understood in religious terms, through the language of apocalypse, millennium, and Judgment. In response, different societies have often responded through religious forms, for instance by spawning new religious movements and revivals, or persecuting and expelling religious minorities. Such eras have redrawn the world's religious maps and created the global concentrations of believers as we know them today. Philip Jenkins will tell the story of how climate change has reshaped faith and faiths, and what that portends for the near future.

- Feb 7: How climate change drives religious revolutions - available on YouTube
Feb 14: How climate change created evangelical religion - available on YouTube
Feb 28: How climate change will shape our religious futures - available on YouTube

Lent Blog:

Purple to Light: A Creative Chronicle of St. Andrew's Journey Through Lent



<https://purpletolight.weebly.com/>

The Adult Formation Committee has created a Lent blog as a space for us all to reflect on the past year and wonder about how God has been at work in our lives. Each Monday, a new prompt will be posted that will help us consider this question from a different angle. You are welcome to respond with writing or visual art of any kind. Email your response to youth@standrewsc.org and we will post it to the blog. Feel free to respond to any of the prompts that have been posted as the weeks continue!

Week 1. Remember where you were during last year's Lenten season. Reflect on what has changed, and what has stayed the same.

Week 2. In the last year, there have been many losses, great and small, from people we love, to planned events, and traditional gatherings to just simply being together. Where have you found God in the losses? What about when God seems totally absent? What do you do when you experience this?

Week 3. As Christians, we live our faith both inside and outside of the church building. How has your absence from the physical sanctuary of our church this year affected your relationship with God? How do you see or search for God in the wider world?

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Community Café has been operating in exceptional style thanks to our incredible volunteers and generous community support.

This year, we had to cancel our beloved Annual Trivia Night. Thanks to a generous offer from the State College Rotary Club and their President, Lew Lazero, we were able to make up the income by partnering with them in the Flight of Soup Fundraiser. The unofficial total profit is about \$3,500.00. Our cooks did a superb job creating gourmet soup which sold very well and received many compliments. Special thanks to all the cooks, especially Dave Will, Julie Kwasnica, Grace Pilato, Karen Earl, Eric Rosengrant, Scott Storll, Rob Mason, Rick Sargo, and Dave Kubarek and to the many volunteers who worked the day of the sale baking bread including, Amy Vashaw and Donna Trapp.



We also would like to thank Pam Ferguson and The Sunrise Rotary Club for their Valentine banner displayed downtown. It was a sweet surprise.



Remember, free takeaway meals are served from 5 -7 p.m. every Thursday from Canterbury Hall to anyone, regardless of means or circumstance. You can also pick up meals for those who are not present.

If you have any questions, please contact the office or Ron Rovanseck at 714-514-8875.



Wednesdays in Lent

5:15 p.m. on Zoom
7 p.m. on Zoom

Fridays during Lent

5:15 p.m. Facebook

February 24-March 24

Taize service (There will also be a service on 3/31.)
Lenten Program: Finding God in the Gospel of Mark
Altoona Convocation cooperative program

February 19-March 26

Stations of the Cross (virtual)

HOLY WEEK—details for Holy Week services have not been finalized yet. We include below the basic plan of services.

Palm Sunday, March 28

10 a.m.	Sydney Friedman Park and Facebook Live	Liturgy of the Palms and Procession to church steps
10:15 a.m.	Fraser Street, in front of church	Drive by pickup of palms (You can either take part in the procession from the park or stay in your car and pick up your palms in front of the church.)
10:30 a.m.	Facebook	Recorded Palm Sunday service with reading of the Passion according to Mark

Monday in Holy Week, March 29

7 p.m. on Zoom Corporate Reading of the Gospel of Mark

Maundy Thursday, April 1

7 p.m.	Facebook Live	Maundy Thursday Liturgy, with foot washing (Prepare to wash feet at home either on your own or with members of your household.) Communion will be consecrated for Good Friday and Easter.
8 p.m. – 12 a.m.	Church, Facebook Live, Zoom	In-person Sacred Watch of the Passion at the side altar.
12 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Facebook Live, Zoom	Sacred Watch continues (no in-person)

Good Friday, April 2

3 p.m.	Church	Stations of the Cross, outdoors
4 p.m.	Upper Trost Wing hallway	Distribution of take-home Communion for Good Friday and Easter Blessed palms will also be available.
7 p.m.	Facebook Live	Good Friday liturgy, with Communion from the reserved sacrament

Holy Saturday/Easter Eve, April 3

7 p.m. Facebook Live The Great Vigil of Easter – bring a bell!

Easter Day, April 4

10 a.m.	Facebook Live	Solemn High Mass of Easter Communion in your home
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WORSHIP

Taizé

Zoom link: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/94404012718?pwd=dXI2bnlPdHIUcFhJMnhwZUgzaTNtQT09>

Password: 035334

Wednesdays in Lent

(2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, and 3/31)

5:15 p.m. on Zoom

A service of music, prayer and reflection during Lent with modifications to accommodate the Zoom format.

Find a quiet spot in your home, light a candle, and join us.



EDUCATION, PREPARATION, MEDITATION

LENTEN PROGRAM

Meeting God in Mark

An Altoona Convocation cooperative program

Wednesdays in Lent, Feb. 24-Mar. 24

7 p.m. on Zoom

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85997108064?pwd=M050NGpXankwZDA1Skc5d0lITmROZz09>

Passcode: Lent

February 24: The Good News

March 3: Who was Mark?

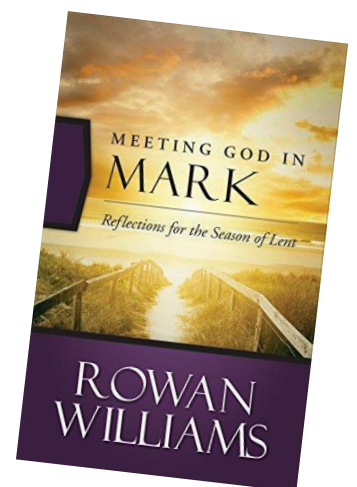
March 10: Secrets and Miracles

March 17: Speaking in Parables

March 24: A Lifelong Passion

Meeting God in Mark is five-week learning series based on Archbishop Rowan Williams' book by the same title. Throughout the series we will discover anew the Gospel of Mark as we explore in depth the history, theology, and vision of this text. If you are unable to obtain a copy of the book, please contact us and we can help.

Please plan to join us for this reflective look at the gospel of Mark. Then, on Monday of Holy Week, March 29, we will have a reading of the entire book of Mark's gospel on Zoom.



Corporate Reading of the Gospel of Mark

Monday, March 29

7 p.m. on Zoom

For an amazing presentation of a gospel reading, please join us on Monday night in Holy Week, March 29, 2021 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 will be read, out loud, from beginning to end, by many different voices. The gospels were originally stories that were shared orally. This is a very meaningful way to listen to the story of the Good News in its entirety.



The Gospel has been divided into 23 sections for readers, but there is unlimited space for listeners. You are welcome to come in or go out as you need.

To reserve a place as a reader, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/MarkGospel21> or contact Allison in the church office. For additional information please contact Michele Marini at 814-574-9639.

Maundy Thursday Sacred Watch of the Passion

Thursday, April 1, 8 p.m. – Midnight (in person, Facebook Live, Zoom)

Midnight - 8:30 a.m. (Facebook Live, Zoom)

Side Altar

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 Side Altar from the end of the Maundy Thursday Liturgy until 8:30 a.m. Friday morning. 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. During the time slots from 8 p.m. until midnight, you may choose to keep watch in person at the side altar, one person or family group at a time. Spaces that are not filled in person during this time and all time slots after midnight are available via Zoom. When you arrive either virtually or in person, you will find a prayer that you are asked to read at the beginning of your watch.



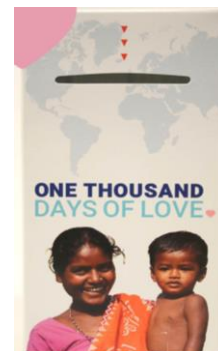
The entire watch will be broadcast on Facebook live and on Zoom simultaneously. There is no limit to the number of people who can be present at any time on either platform. You may come when you are able and stay as long as you wish.

Sign up at <http://bit.ly/SacredWatch2021>

Episcopal Relief and Development Hope Chests

If you pick up a bag of Lent Materials (see above,) a Hope Chest will be included. If you would like to pick up one separately, they will be available in the office.

During Lent, please consider how you might use these to collect money for Episcopal Relief and Development. We will gather the boxes after Easter and send a donation from our parish to ERD. To learn more about ERD, go to www.episcopalrelief.org.



Lenten Meditations 2021 Episcopal Relief and Development

AS LENT APPROACHES THIS YEAR,
WE LAMENT.

We lament all those whose lives were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also lament other losses that include jobs and livelihoods, the opportunity to travel, to visit loved ones, and the ability to worship together in our church buildings. Because of the magnitude of these collective losses, we decided to focus on lament as the theme for the 2021 Lenten Meditations.

The **Lenten Meditation** booklet is completely virtual this year as churches continue to gather virtually. You can view or download the booklet [here](#).

If you would like to subscribe to receive these meditations daily in your inbox, please [subscribe here](#).



IN THE DIOCESE

Discovery Day

An offering of the Stevenson School for Ministry
Saturday, March 6
10 a.m. – Noon on Zoom

How does God want you to serve?

Are you asking yourself that question during this year's Lent? Each of us is called to the one ministry of Jesus Christ. Through the Stevenson School for Ministry, our diocesan Commission on Ministry offers an important opportunity to understand the wide range of God's work and where you belong in it. Discovering the specific gifts and the specific ways to respond to God's call is the purpose of Discovery Day, Saturday March 6.

To register and to read more, go to:

<https://diocesecpa.org/commission-on-ministry-com/>





INTERFAITH HUMAN SERVICES (IHS) NEEDS YOUR FURNITURE DONATIONS

During the pandemic, shelters like Housing Transitions and Centre Safe have been trying to get people out of group living and into their own permanent homes as quickly as possible. This has created an increased need for used furniture and inventory and the IHS warehouse is running low. According to Furniture Coordinator, Harry, “donations are going out the door as soon as I get them.”

IHS is always a good place to call if you have gently used furniture or large electric appliances to donate. There is a special need at this time for beds, dressers, and sofas. Washers, dryers, and refrigerators are always needed. IHS DOES NOT accept: pianos or organs, baby cribs, large desks, large entertainment centers, or large file cabinets.

If you have furniture that you wish to donate, please call the IHS office at: 814-234-7731. Harry will follow up with you to arrange a pickup time. Pickup is free, but donations are always welcome.

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 MINISTRY

Sunday, March 14, 11:15 a.m.
Via Zoom



"Knitting Ministry will meet on Sunday, March 14, 11:15 - 12:15 via Zoom. Join us! Settle down with your needles and yarn in front of your computer camera and log on! We knit cozy, useful items for Knitting4Peace (News and patterns at <https://www.knitting4peace.org/>). If you would like to come, please email anne.hoag@gmail.com and she will send you a Zoom invitation link. Mark your calendars for the second Sunday of each month through June 2021.

For more information contact Anne Hoag, anne.hoag@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 30, 7 p.m.
On Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/ity-qpcw-jhk>

Last week, members of the St. Andrew’s Book Club met online and had a reflective, thought provoking discussion regarding Matt Haig’s *The Midnight Library*.

For the month of March, the Book Club will read Brit Bennett’s chart-topping novel, *The Vanishing Half*, a story that tracks the lives of twin African American twin sisters who, after witnessing the murder of their father, run away at age 16. One sister begins passing as white and the other sister remains true to her identity. *The Vanishing Half* explores the intricacies of identity, family, and race in a provocative, but compassionate way. Please join us online at to discuss *The Vanishing Half*.

** Please note that we are using Google Meet, and not Zoom anymore.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Amy Allison	10 Theresa Johnson-Pritchett	22 Vicky Ponish
2 Michele Hamilton	11 Jane Cawthern	23 Alexandra Couch
3 David Rovansek	12 Anne Thomas	23 Nancy Meyer
3 Michele Almeida	13 Joe DeLauter	24 Darlene Nordoff
5 Janet Packard	14 Patrick Osborne	26 Marlee Kwasnica
5 Eddie Jones	14 Kathy Dittmann	26 Chris Wunz
6 Flora Eggert	18 Beti Bell	26 Jerry Dittmann
7 Emily Paulsen	18 Karl Zimmerer	27 Lew Parry
7 Haley Couch	19 Nancy O'Connor	28 Betha Christopher
8 Liz Jenkins	19 Carolee Grillo	28 Mena Jones
9 John Harris	21 Sandy DeLauter	30 Julie Wunz
9 Pat Krall	21 Bob Jones	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a March birthday and don't see your name listed, we probably do not have that information in our records. Please contact the office – we may be missing other information, too.

Those For Whom We Pray

Teri, Dick, Molly, Don, Joan, Jane, Sandy, Beckett, Emmet, Denise, Kevin, Diane, Sara, Emily, David, Robbie, Vicki, Frank, Beth, Barbara, Stu, Anthony, Mavis, Michael, Anna, Maddy, Traci, Carol, Barbara, Vera, Ray, Daniel, Bob, Marie, William, Stephanie, Tom, Madeleine, Joe, Sonja, Karl, Lila, Abe, John, Sharon

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

Zach, Christie, Matt

The Faithful Departed

Sharon Rovansek's mother, Madeleine

Fred Reed

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