

ALL SAINTS' BULLETIN
The Monthly Newsletter of All Saints'
March, 2018
228-9242
www.allsaintsthomasville.org

Dear Friends,

Next week marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of preparation for the Easter season when Christians are called to deepen their spiritual lives through the practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. The belief is that our consistent, deliberate participation in these practices - like exercise we do for our physical health – improves our spiritual well-being by stripping away all that is unnecessary and becoming mindful of how God is working in our lives. I encourage each of you to challenge yourself this year and go beyond the usual practice of 'giving up' something. Lent is a great time to take stock of your spiritual life and to grow in it.

Here is a list of 10 things you might try. I am not suggesting you do all of them but consider which one(s) you might benefit from.

1. Make a commitment to read and reflect on the scriptures set for the day before you come to church. Go to www.lectionarypage.net and you will be able to click on the day. That will bring you to the eucharistic lectionary. Usually if we are having communion, we choose the Epistle and the Gospel and if we are having Morning Prayer, we choose the Old Testament reading and the Epistle, though Fr. Will and I have been known to change to the Gospel instead! In any case read all three readings and you will have covered all possibilities. The collect for the day is also there.

2. Try a new spiritual practice. I suggest attending weekday Morning or Evening Prayer or the Wednesday Eucharist (see the church calendar), reading the Lent Book (*Cross Shattered Christ*, by Stanley Hauerwas, available at The Bookshelf), setting aside an hour for silent meditation once during the week, taking a walk downtown once a week and selecting three passers-by to hold in your heart asking God to bless them, perform a random act of kindness once a day for a week.

3. Think about what you usually spend your money on. Do you buy too many clothes, spend too much when you eat out? Pick one kind of expenditure that you will 'fast' from during Lent and give the money to a local charity. Alternatively put the money in your pocket and give it to someone begging without judging whether they will misuse it.
4. If you don't have a cross in your apartment or house buy one and keep it in your bedroom.
5. Download the free app. *Sacred Space*. When you first sit down to your computer try a 10-minute, guided prayer. *Sacred Space* is based upon the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius.
6. Read the entire Gospel of Mark in one sitting. It is the shortest of the Gospels and the cross plays an even more prominent role than in the other Gospels. A number of people in my EfM class commented upon how meaningful it was to read a Gospel right through rather than just hear snippets on Sunday.
7. Turn off your car radio for your commute. The silence may be jarring at first, but you may find you will concentrate more and be more observant of your surroundings and your thoughts. Be deliberately mindful and ready to confess sins, give thanks, intercede.
8. Make a commitment to fast from insensitive, judgmental, cruel comments about others. If things you read or watch on television prompt critical unkind thoughts in you, fast from watching what you have been watching.
9. As part of your Lenten almsgiving, make a point of learning more about a particular social issue (immigration, human trafficking, racism, the environment, public education, child poverty, animal cruelty). Research a charity which does particularly good work to ameliorate or educate about the issue you have chosen and give some money to that charity.
10. Commit to make your rector really happy by coming to church every Sunday in Lent. Remember, if you cannot make it in the morning, we have an evening service at 5pm and there is always plenty of room!

Every Blessing upon your Lent.

Paul+

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to make you aware of an opportunity for fellowship and devotion during Lent. The parish will be reading together a work by theologian Stanley Hauerwas, emeritus professor of Duke University, entitled "Cross-Shattered Christ: Meditations on the Seven Last Words." As the title suggests, the book is a series of meditations on the seven "words" (or utterances) that the Lord spoke from the cross, as recounted in the Gospels.

I have read this book before and can attest that it will challenge and deepen your understanding of our faith. As Hauerwas himself states in the introduction: "...I found the writing of these meditations hard and difficult. I hope that those who read them will find reading them hard and difficult. I hope that the hardness and difficulty... comes from how painful it is for us to acknowledge the reality of the Father's sacrifice of the Son on the cross."

It is appropriate that we should read this book together during Lent, as a way to prepare to greet the Lord's resurrection at Easter, for standing in between us and Easter are the mysteries of Holy Week, the mysteries of the Lord's suffering and death, and "Cross-Shattered Christ" is an moving exploration of the meaning of these mysteries.

We will plan to meet at the church on Thursdays during Lent, beginning March 14 and concluding April 11. Evening Prayer will be read in the chapel at 5:30, and we will plan to begin our time together at 6:00 and conclude by 7:30. Light collation will be provided.

As a fitting conclusion to our discussion, on Good Friday (April 19), at 7:30 pm, we will have the opportunity to hear a seldom-performed musical meditation on the same subject by Joseph Haydn: The Seven Last Words of our Saviour on the Cross, Haydn's Opus 51, for string quartet. This will be an especially rare opportunity to hear this work in a devotional setting like the one for which Haydn originally composed the piece in 1786. (We plan to have an appropriately penitential soup supper before the concert, at 6:30 pm.)

Stay tuned for more details about our Good Friday concert. And in the meantime, plan to participate in our weekly discussion of the Hauerwas book, which is available at The Bookshelf downtown, or (of course) on Amazon.

Pax,
Will +

ST. DAVID'S AND ADULT CHOIR NEWS

March 3rd Service: St. David's Choir and the Adult Choir combined.

April 28th Service - St. David's Choir

May 12th Service - St. David's Choir

ECW BOOK CLUB

A very special thank you to Jack Coppadge, who did a terrific job leading the book club members in a discussion on "The Kingdom of the Blind". This is the 14th and latest crime thriller by Louise Penny that featured Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. Several members had read all 13 preceding novels involving this character, but all found it a "page-turner".

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday March 13th at 11:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Maureen Monsalvatge will lead the discussion on "Tending Roses". This is another Lisa Wingate novel requested after the popularity of another Wingate novel, "The Prayer Box". Many life-lessons are passed on between grandmother and granddaughter as both face life changing challenges.

Please plan on joining us for a lively discussion and don't forget to bring a brown bag lunch. We'll supply the drinks and dessert.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

The Lenten season is upon us. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, and for five weeks thereafter, our liturgical color is purple, which is symbolic of penitence. There will be no flowers on the altar during this time, with the exception of violets on Mothering Sunday, which is the fourth Sunday in Lent.

ALL SAINTS' AUCTION AND DINNER

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time to help with the All Saints' Auction. It is so wonderful to see so many people using their talents to contribute to the success of this event. I appreciate not only the time and effort put forth by parishioners, but also all the fabulous items donated for both the silent and live auction.

HELP FILL EASTER EGGS FOR THE ANNUAL EGG HUNT!

Please contact Libby (lbrackenallsaintschurch@gmail.com) if you are interested in stuffing Easter eggs for All Saints' annual Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Any and all helpers are needed!! You can take a bag of 50 - 100 eggs to stuff with prizes, stickers, or candy then return them to church the Sunday before Easter. Bags filled with empty eggs will be available to pick up and stuff on Sunday, March 31 and need to be returned on April 14.

ATTENTION VESTRY

The Vestry will have its regular monthly meeting in the Parish Hall Library at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 17.

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BAZAAR

All Saints' Episcopal Church will have a Spring Bazaar: Date to be determined. It will include clothes, toys, kitchen and household goods, furniture, linens, rugs, paintings, etc. As you spring clean, please drop off donated items to the Parish Hall. This is another way our church provides funding for many community outreach projects. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help make this event a success. Volunteer days for clean up and organizing items in Linda Gail's will be every Tuesday and Wednesday starting March 6th from 9-11. We will need many hands on deck the week of the sale and on the day of the bazaar. Please email to let us know when you can help (lbrackenallsaintschurch@gmail.com).

Holy Week 2019 Schedule of Services

Palm Sunday – April 14

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion &

Reading of the Passion

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday – April 18

6:00 p.m. Commemoration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper

Stripping of the Altar and

Procession to the Altar of Repose

Good Friday – April 19

Noon – Joint Service at St. Thomas

7:30 p.m. Christ's Last Words from the Cross

(Joseph Haydn)

Holy Saturday – April 20

8:00 p.m. Holy Communion &

the Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday – April 21

9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

(No Evening Service)

