

SAINT PETER'S-IN-THE-MOUNTAINS

February News

STILL GOING ON A Bible Study via Zoom is ongoing each Sunday at Noon. We are discussing the Gospel assigned by the lectionary for the coming week. On Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. there is a Zoom Children's Story Time. You are invited and encouraged to participate!

THE SEASON OF LENT GROWS NEAR A Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday has been the custom at Saint Peter's for more than 25 years, with an Imposition of Ashes service the following evening on Ash Wednesday. Neither of these events will likely take place in quite the same way as they have in the past; however, the Imposition of Ashes will occur in some format. More information will be sent as we get closer to the day.

FORWARD DAY BY DAY booklets (February, March, April) are available on the podium as you enter the church.

WHAT ABOUT CHURCH? At this point it is not happening in person due to the continued spread of the virus and the guideline from the Virginia Department of Health limiting gatherings of more than ten people.

We have tried a variety of ways to live stream our Sunday morning worship service to no avail. We simply don't have and cannot get (at this time) a stable enough internet connection to via any platform like Zoom. The download and upload speeds are simply not reliable enough for high quality audio and video transmission.

We have also tried videotaping the service. This can be done, but the problem comes when you have to upload the video into a format that can be made available to the congregation. Uploading a 45 minute service takes 2-3 hours to convert and upload.

We have been sending a service of Morning Prayer via email which includes links to the hymns and a sermon in hopes that people will worship in their home at 10:00 a.m. knowing that other folks from Saint Peter's are doing likewise.

We are continuing to stay abreast with the latest data coming from the Governor's Office, the CDC, the Virginia Department of Health, and the diocese. The bishop announced last week that he will not be doing service in any locale where there have been any new cases in the week before the scheduled service.

We will eventually return to in-person worship services. It has taken much longer than any of us could have imagined, and certainly would have wanted. It has frankly been unthinkable. Unfortunately this is one of those times unlike anything we have experienced in our lifetime when **public health** is more important than what I want and what you want.

A FEW CHANGES It has been a long time in the making, but when you return to Saint Peter's you will notice some changes. The sacristy has been completely redone; along with the acolyte closet, and the bathrooms. We have also added a door on the kitchen cupboard and the cubbyhole shelving in the parish hall. If you venture down to the basement, you will notice that the floor along perimeter of the south and east walls has had some work. A portion of the concrete floor was removed to add drainage pipe in an effort end the water and moisture issues following heavy rains. The walls and the floor in the basement are currently being repainted.

NEW CLEANING PERSON Audrey Yoder notified us around Christmas that she will no longer be able to clean at Saint Peter's. The Vestry has hired Jennifer Boyd, who also works as the caretaker at Phoebe Needles. Jennifer lives close by in Ferrum.

OF INTEREST?? The link below is an interview with Michael Curry (on his new book, *Love is the Way: Holding Onto Hope in Troubling Times*) by Judy Woodruff which aired on PBS television January 3rd, 2021. It is just seven minutes long!
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/following-the-way-of-love-through-divisions-upheaval-and-uncertainty?fbclid=IwAR19fnuT-ihPoux-XC5uPDQdfUzzBN6UKZwhbpgYPLj12uFGeGQG-qV7LDI>

His book is available on Amazon in print or for Kindle at:

<https://www.amazon.com/Love-Way-Holding-Troubling-Times/dp/0525543031>

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT Congregations are invited to observe Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday on the first Sunday in Lent or another convenient Sunday. This year Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday officially falls on February 21st, 2021.

[At the 2009 General Convention, Lent was officially designated as a time to encourage dioceses, congregations, and individuals to remember and support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief & Development.](#) We invite all Episcopalians to join together on Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday, and throughout the Lenten season, to pray for those living in need.

Please also consider dedicating a special offering on Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday — in support of [ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE](#), to ensure that children are able to grow, learn and thrive over their entire lives. Download [“How to Observe Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday in support of ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE.”](#)

We pray especially for those on the Saint Peter's Prayer List:

Clara Jane Rubarth	Bob Holden	Nancy Bradley
Helen Campbell	Steve Whitley	Hildegard Whitley
Dana Ellis	Sam Vanderbilt	Hazel Pendleton
Billy Dehart	Adam Johnson	Joe Puzycki
Michael Riley	Brian Bernard	Betty Hood
Judy Capollupo	Dylan Stanley	Tom Newcombe
Ronnie Smith	Sam Campbell	Carol Osborne
Brad Bernard	Lauren Stanley	Jane Pohlad
John Malukei	Jamie Stanley	Glenda Pendleton
Linda Green	Sandy Grice	Christina Roudabush
Linda Sigmon	Cindy Swinehart	Linda Thomas
Eli Sydow		

We pray for John our priest, Mark our Bishop, and Michael our Presiding Bishop. May their ministries be guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

We pray also for all those who were killed this week as a result of war and terrorism, and for families whose lives are being torn apart. Almighty God whose will it is to hold both heaven and earth in the peace of your kingdom: Give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our neighborhoods, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.

2021 VESTRY MEMBERS

Nancy Bradley, Treasurer
Danny Custer, Junior Warden
Katherine Grimes
Charlotte Hubbard, Vestry Clerk
Patrick Nix, Senior Warden
Shannon Simms

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Travis Pendleton
2 Patricia Rushmore
9 Deb Durant
12 Grace Campbell
(If your birthday is missing, please let us know!)

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome. This is believed to have taken place in Roman occupied Jerusalem.

The Christian churches that observe Lent in the 21st century (and not all do significantly) use it as a time for prayer and penance. Only a small number of people today fast for the whole of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is more common these days for believers to surrender a particular vice such as favorite foods or smoking. Whatever the sacrifice it is a reflection of Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline.

Why 40 days? Forty is a significant number in Jewish-Christian scripture: In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain. The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God. Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry. Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent.

Why is it called Lent? Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer. The Color Purple is the symbolic color used in some churches throughout Lent, for drapes and altar frontals. Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the color associated with royalty, and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty.

East and West Both the eastern and western churches observe Lent but they count the 40 days differently. The western church excludes Sundays (which is celebrated as the day of Christ's resurrection) whereas the eastern church includes them. The churches also start Lent on different days. Western churches start Lent on the 7th Wednesday before Easter Day (called Ash Wednesday). Eastern churches start Lent on the Monday of the 7th week before Easter and end it on the Friday 9 days before Easter. Eastern churches call this period the 'Great Lent'. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week.

The next program of the **CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING** will be presented via ZOOM Meeting on Tuesday, February 9, at 10:00 a.m. The program will be **"The Power of Your Influence" with Anthony Swann**. You are welcome and invited to tune:

To join the Zoom Meeting click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3888855255?pwd=YWUxZ3lHSXR3SkRwditUTzVxU0RvQT09>

Meeting ID: 388 885 5255#

Password: 803568

Join us by phone - landline or cell phone

Call: 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 388 885 5255#

Password: 803568