



Message For Lent From the Bishop

Clarence Jorden of the Koinonia Movement many years ago wrote this:

Jesus founded the most revolutionary movement in human history, a movement built on the unconditional love of God for the world, and the mandate to those who follow to live that love.

The season of Lent is upon us. It is a season of making a renewed commitment to participate and be a part of the movement of Jesus in this world. You can see some of that in the Gospel lesson for the first Sunday of Lent where Luke says that after the Baptism of Jesus he went into the wilderness, there to be tempted of Satan.

After the Baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of commitment to the Jesus Movement. It is to be washed, if you will, in the love and the reality of God, and to emerge from that great washing as one whose life is dedicated to living that love in the world.

In this season of Lent, we take some time to focus on what that means for our lives, whether it is as simple as giving up chocolate candy or as profound as taking on a commitment to serve the poor or to serve others in some new way. Whatever it is, let that something be something that helps you participate in the movement of God's love in this world following in the footsteps of Jesus.

And the truth is, the fact that Jesus was baptized and began that movement in the world and immediately found himself tempted by the devil is an ever-present reminder that this movement is not without struggle. It is not easy. The truth is, this movement is difficult. It's hard work. It's work of following Jesus to the cross. And it's work of following Jesus through the cross to the Resurrection. To new life. And new possibility. That is our calling. That is the work of the movement. To help this world move from what is often the nightmare of the world itself into the dream that God intends.

So I pray that this Lent, as they used to say many years ago, might be the first day of the rest of your life. It might be a new day for this world.

God love you. God bless you. Have a blessed Lent, a glorious Easter, and you keep the faith.

The Most Rev. Michael Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church



March Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

Mar. 9 Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 13 St. Paul's Breakfast Program 7:45 a.m.

Mar. 24 Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 25 Good Friday, 12:00 pm, 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 26 Great Vigil of Easter, 8:00 p.m.

Mar. 27 Easter Day, 7:45 a.m., 10:15 a.m.

Mar. 28 Caps & Laps 1 p.m.

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

This month's column is several shorter items.

1 Thank you to all those who have responded so generously to our call for financial assistance in keeping our Christian Formation Director. We are very hopeful that we will be able to extend Sue's position through the whole year. Ongoing regular giving and assistance with making our fund raisers a success will go a long way to meeting our goals.

2 If you haven't started your Lenten journey with Jesus to the Cross, it is not too late. There are still lots of opportunities to enrich your faith life: Morning Prayer at 9:00 am Monday through Friday in Moore Chapel; Evening Prayer in Moore Chapel at 7:00 pm Monday through Thursday; Stations of the Cross in the Church on Fridays at 7:00 pm; Healing Service, Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Chapel; and Bible Study at 11 am on Wednesday. Additionally, the "Grow Your Rule" program continues on Thursday evenings 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the Library and Sundays at 9:00 am in Moore Chapel. Alternatively, you could do it on your own at www.ssje.org/growrule.

3 Holy Week begins on March 19 at the 5 pm Eucharist and Sunday the 20 at 7:45 and 10:15 am with the Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday. Monday (3/21), Tuesday (3/22), and Wednesday (3/23) there will be a Eucharist in Moore Chapel at 7:00 pm. Thursday, March 24 we will have our usual Agape Meal (soups, cheeses, fruit, fruit juice, wine, and breads) at 6:30 pm followed by the Liturgy of Maundy Thursday at 7:30 pm, including the Washing of Feet and the Reserving of the Bread and Wine. Good Friday we will worship at across the street at Medford Methodist Church along with our Presbyterian Friends at 12 Noon. At 7:30 pm our youth will present Live Stations of the Passion followed the continuation of the Good Friday Liturgy with the Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross, and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. The Great Vigil of Easter (my favorite Service) is at 8:00 pm on Saturday, March 26. Easter Day celebrations at 7:45 and 10:15 am.

4 Since we are in a very contentious political season leading up to the major political parties nominations for President of our country I want to offer some words of caution. Caution in our conversations and social media postings. Unfortunately, living in a time of instant media coverage we all hear only bits and pieces of what the candidates says. Unless we are at the even live, we are receiving what the media has chosen to share. Our Lord calls on us to be loving, helping to build the Kingdom of God. May we think about what Jesus would do in responding to the needs of our neighbors and friends. Let us be gentle with those who disagree with us. And let us pray: Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States (or of this community) in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*In Christ,
Fr. Don*

KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani, Director of Christian Formation

There are two words that we use to describe how we bring up Christians in the faith. They are education and formation. My "title" as a member of St. Peter's staff is Director of Christian Formation. But what does it mean to engage in Christian formation rather than Christian education?

The term Christian formation is now used more frequently than Christian education. When we think of formation we may think of being formed in God's image, being formed in our early years by our parents and close family, and being formed by the church in both education (Sunday School) and liturgies where we learn about the Bible, Prayer Book, hymnal, sacraments, church year, ministry of the church and creed (what we believe about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit). The church is also a place where we practice that faith when we reach out into the community to be with others in the name of Christ. In other words, Christian formation is everything that influences our Christian growth at home and through the church.

David Anderson, one of the speakers at the 2015 Bishop's Spring Conference, has offered five principles for living and passing on faith and I want to give these to you to use with your children and with yourself.

1. Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships-often in our own homes.
2. The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.
3. Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church too.
4. Faith is caught more than it is taught.
5. If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults.

As you read these, notice the focus on community and the importance of the home. It is not an either/or relationship. Church and home have to work together to support each other. So take full advantage of what St. Peter's has to offer in our Christian formation ministry. We encourage you to use what is sent home to you through email, and what your child brings home, to incorporate into your family's faith formation. And remember that we are always here to help.



Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

Lenten season is upon us. A time for reflection about our lives and our relationship with God. Not an easy thing to think about. We're all so busy in our lives, dealing with day to day things that must be done. We have to feed our families and ourselves, we have to go to a job, we have to make sure we all have clean clothing, we have to take care of pets and on and on; lots of things that we're obligated to do. So how can we find time to do any reflection?

I don't have an answer for you; I'm working on an answer for myself. What works for me is this: I make myself a schedule for obligations and on that list is time put aside for reflection and prayer. Not easy to fit it in when I've other things that need doing. But I've found that if I do the prayer and thoughts early in the morning before the hours catch up with me, it actually gets done. If I try to wait until later in the day, I'm too tired and it becomes a chore instead of something that will make my life better.

There is still time in this Lenten season to begin to think about your life and relationships with God, with family, with friends, and with yourself. If you can do this, you will most certainly feel better in your day to day life, no matter how many obligations have to be attended to.

And finally: When you focus on the goodness in your life, you create more of it.

Oprah Winfrey

Dates to Remember

March 6, 3:00-5:00 pm: The Spirituality of Childhood presented by Dawn Stewart, Godly Play Trainer. This is open to teachers and the whole congregation.

Godly Play is the program that we use with 3-5 year olds in our Sunday School. We are very happy that Tina Sunlitis, one of our Godly Play teachers has participated in training to receive her Godly Play Teaching Certificate. On Sunday, March 6 from 3:00-5:00 pm we will welcome Dawn Stewart, Godly Play trainer, to St. Peter's. We will meet in the Chapel and after some light refreshments, will join with Tina to see and hear Dawn's presentation: The Spirituality of Childhood. This final piece will complete Tina's training and together we will all have the opportunity to contemplate this important part of every child's growth. Dawn will also be glad to take your questions following her presentation. Everyone is invited to join us.

March 18 (Friday), 7:00 pm: Stations of the Cross for Young People.

This simplified, hands-on Stations of the Cross will be followed by making a **Resurrection Garden** for use in your home during Holy Week and the Easter season. This isn't just for kids. Everyone is invited!

March 20: Palm Sunday

9:00 Sunday School

10:15 No Children's Chapel.

Palm Cross Workshop in Williams Hall after church. Learn how to make Palm Crosses for yourself and others.

March 27: Easter Day

No Sunday School or Chapel. Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:15 service.

We are in need of bags of small wrapped candies to fill goodie bags for the Easter Egg Hunt that takes place after the 10:15 service on Easter Sunday. Please place these in the basket in the Narthex by Sunday, March 20th. Thank you.

DEACON'S BENCH

By Deacon Helen Orlando

Now the Green Blade riseth...

Many years ago, while browsing through an old issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, I turned a page and came upon a photograph that, for me, powerfully symbolizes the meaning and hope of the Easter event. The photograph is of a forest totally destroyed by the ravages of wildfire. At first glance, one sees only the black and gray of a vast expanse of burnt ash and charcoal. But wait! A second look brings to view one very tiny, very bright green shoot pushing out from the burnt trunk of a tree. Here is a striking picture of life triumphantly pushing forth from death. Here is a striking picture of the Resurrection of our Lord.

The words of the Easter Hymn, *Now the Green Blade Riseth* (Hymnal 1982, #204), apply the truth of this picture to our own lives:

*Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

*In the grave they laid him, love whom men had slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again.
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

*Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain.
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

Both the magazine photograph and the words of this hymn witness to God's promise that evil and death do not and will not have the last word, either in a cosmic sense or in our own lives. While many of us may experience a time or times in our lives when we feel just as dark, burnt out, dead and bare as that forest, we must not lose hope. Hold on to the Good News that no matter what we suffer, the one who has already definitively triumphed over death can and will raise up our tired and suffering souls to new life, if we let him.

In the name of Christ Jesus, who died and rose again, a Blessed Easter to you all!

Valentine Basket

The following is the letter St. Peter's received from Weisman for the cards and basket of Valentine gifts we sent to them. A picture of the basket is attached. Kelly Wu put the basket together and delivered it to the hospital.

Dear Kelly,

We are incredibly grateful for your support of Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital. The heartwarming donation given to us from St. Peter's Episcopal Church will bring happiness to the children in our care. We are especially thrilled about the Valentine cards, which will be a joy to our patients of all ages. With support of concerned individuals like you and your organization, we will be able to spread cheer to all of our patients this week. Thank you for supporting Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital; your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Ally McLaughen, Recreation Assistant
Therapeutic Recreation/Child Life Department



There was a packed hall for the annual pancake supper. Many thanks to Alexis Gosewisch, Dave Smith, Laurel Smith, and everyone who helped make it such a success.



PARISH NEWS



On Sunday, February 21st, the youth group continued their “Destination Unknown” series and traveled to Bradley and Stow funeral home to learn about how to comfort those who are grieving. They had a tour of the facility and learned how funerals are planned and the many decisions families need to make when a loved one has passed away. Although it was not the cheeriest place to be, it was a wonderful life lesson for our youth and they had many good questions for Chelsea Fichmann, the funeral director who gave the tour.

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

None

WEDDINGS

None

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Frank Barnaby, February 9, 2016

This month’s issue of St. Peter’s Good News includes an envelope to enable you to make an offering in memory of loved ones and/or in thanksgiving for God’s gracious action in your life. Funds received will be used to beautify the church and chapel for the Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Day.

Please bring or mail your Flower Offering envelope to St. Peter’s by March 21 for the names of your loved ones to be published in the Easter bulletins.

SERRV Thank You



Dear Serrv Partner,

Thank you for hosting a Serrv Sale in your community in 2015! Your efforts helped spread the word about fair trade and benefited marginalized artisans and farmers who need our ongoing support. We thank you on their behalf. We value your participation and appreciate the time and energy you give to this program.

Some of the ways we were able to invest even more deeply in our global partnerships last year include: ongoing product design, financing and marketing support for impoverished artisans in 30 countries, relief funds for our Nepalese partners following the devastating earthquakes a donation for our partner Bombolulu Workshops in Kenya to begin rebuilding after a fire, funding to improve handcraft workshops and fair trade practices in the West Bank. And much more!

This direct, tangible, poverty-fighting work is not possible without you.

We look forward to your continued support in 2016!

Many thanks,

Serena Sato

Serena Sato
Marketing Director

A Note from Deacon Helen: "SERRV" is the fair-trade organization which provided the merchandise and guidance for last November's International Gift Market.

The 2016 Episcopal Primates' Meeting and Our Church by James K Beard

On January 16, Bishop Stokes sent a special e-mail to the Diocesan mailing list with shocking news: The Primates have voted to exclude the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, or ECUSA, from participating in governing decisions of the Anglican Communion for a period of three years; see the reference on page 10 for the Diocesan News post of this message.

This is not a new development. Since the consecration of Gene Robinson as Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire, ECUSA has struggled with disagreements and separations over this event. At a meeting at St. Peter's where parishioners met to discuss the consecration of Bishop Robinson in 2003, John Heintz, a mountainous figure at St. Peter's until he died about five years later, interrupted an increasingly acrimonious discussion and said that we all have our positions on this matter but we must not let it divide us. But it did, and some people left St. Peter's over this issue.

The AIDS epidemic and the role of the traditional family in equatorial African cultures drive a huge resentment of homosexuality. See the Wikipedia article on the 2014 Uganda Anti-Homosexuality Act (sometimes called the Kill the Gays Bill) for background and links to how deep and profound this problem is in much of equatorial Africa.

It appears that the decision of January's Primates' Meeting was the least destructive way forward that could be found.

I believe that our best way forward is to understand these people and the problems dealt with at the Primates' Meeting and forgive all that did the best that they could do at the time, and forgive them completely. In Luke 13 some Pharisees warned Jesus of his imminent arrest, and like Him we must continue the work of the Lord nonetheless. We, unlike Jesus, are not facing the "Jerusalem that kills the prophets and stones those that are sent to it" and we will continue as Christians and Episcopalians that do not try to tell others what to do, say, or think, and forgive those that do transgress, for we are not to judge but to do the work of the Lord.

**References on page 10*

Preparing for Easter

Lent is indeed a time for inner reflection, as well as a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Hence, the following to prepare you for Eastertide. -- A.D.S.

When we give out rewards,
I would prefer to be found
To have erred on the side of grace,
rather than judgment;
To have loved too much,
rather than to little;
To have forgiven the underserving,
rather than refused forgiveness to one who de-
served it;
To have fed a parasite,
rather than to have neglected one who was truly
hungry;
To have been taken advantage of,
rather than to have taken undue advantage;
To have believed too much in my brothers,
rather than to little;
To have been wrong on the side of too much trust,
rather than too much cynicism;
To have believed the best and been wrong,
rather than to have believed the worst and been
right.

(A.D.S. is The Rt. Reverend Alexander D. Stewart, about whom I can find no current information - Dcn Helen)



Easter Communion

We invite each of you to gather in worship at any of our Easter services (including the Easter Vigil), but realize that some of you may be unable to attend due to illness or infirmity. If this is the case for you or for someone you know, please contact Deacon Helen by leaving a message at the church office (609-654-2963) or by emailing her at dcnhelen@stpetersmedford.org. During Eastertide, St. Peter's clergy will be visiting and bringing Holy Communion to all of our known homebound and ill patients and will be happy to visit you or any other parishioner in need.



REFERENCES (from page 8)

Bishop Stokes' letter: <http://www.dioceseofnj.org/diocesan-news/2016/01/19/bishop-stokes-statement-in-response-to-the-primates-meeting-2016/>

Episcopal Church of the United States of America (ECUSA) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal_Church_%28United_States%29

Bishop Gene Robinson: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_Robinson

Uganda Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2014: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uganda_Anti-Homosexuality_Act,_2014

PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



Above: On 14 December, a crew of fourteen (some not pictured) served breakfast to 100 of our brothers and sisters at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden.

Below: Dave Lusk, Dalton Wu, Alec Rodden and Donovan Wu set tables, cracked eggs, served breakfast and cleaned

Photos courtesy of Dave Lusk



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

One Hartford Road, Medford, NJ 08055
The Rev. Donald J. Muller, D. Min., Rector
The Rev. Canon Ronald Albury, Associate Priest
The Rev. Helen M. Orlando, Deacon

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Saint Peter's Church is a blessed community of faith, grounded in the power of God's transforming love, where Jesus Christ welcomes all to abundant life. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we follow Him in prayer and praise, study and service.

April 2015

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Service Schedule

Saturday Eucharist..... 5 p.m.
Sunday Traditional Eucharist 7:45 a.m.
Family Eucharist..... 10:15 a.m.

Weekdays

Wednesday, Healing Eucharist..... 10 a.m.
Morning Prayer (Monday-Friday)..... 9 a.m.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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