



ST. MARY'S FISHERMAN

Casting our Nets for Christ

February/
March
2020

Priest's Message:

The February/March newsletter covers the later part of the season of Epiphany and the beginning of Lent. These are two very different seasons, with very different focuses or foci.

Epiphany is a season focused on light, God's light coming into the world for the benefit of everyone. Beginning with the attending Gentile kings at Jesus' birth to the baptism of Jesus by John, and finally we read about the transfiguration of our Lord Jesus on the mountaintop. All of these stories are examples of the light, new revelation, and understanding being shared with the world. Light, like the lit lamp, shows us the way, the pathway through our life as an aid to enlarging our relationship with God and one another. This is the same light that shines a light on our lives and the places in which we are called to turn away from sin, and turn once again toward God. It is the very light of Epiphany that leads us toward Ash Wednesday and Lent.

Ash Wednesday sets us on a path of humility, the humility to recognize the things within our lives in which we are called to turn away from and toward God. The church gives us a time to be silent and give God the opportunity to show us and guide us into new life, the new life we will celebrate at Easter.

If Jesus were here in this moment, I believe he would advise us not to be afraid as we enter this time of silence and self-evaluation, but to rejoice in the new life the changes we are called to will bring us. It will be a time of healing, a time of freedom from what weighs us down, a time of new life and rejoicing in all that that new life will mean. It will be a time of joy and peace like we have never known before. It is a time to turn to God and trust that God's call to you can be trusted to bring new life.

Last Sunday I worshiped at Grace Church and the guest preacher reminded me that in the sacraments, our baptism and in the Holy Eucharist, God is calling us to new life. God's DNA is to call us to God's self. In Lent, especially, God's desire is to be alone with us. We are to make time for God to show God's self to us. We are to take time to listen. Our lives become so cluttered and busy that we cannot hear God's call over the chaos and noise of our lives. And finally, God expects us to respond to his call, to say yes to God and to become the hero we are called to be with God's help.

I love to quote The Right Reverend Barbara Harris, the first black and female bishop in the Episcopal Church, when she said, "If you're baptized, act like it."

May the light of Epiphany blaze in your heart and mind and may Lent bring the change God calls you into that you may be blessed on Easter with a new and enlarged life in the coming year.

Observance of a Holy Lent



Ash Wednesday, Lent,
Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Easter

February 26th, Ash Wednesday; Lent:
February 26-April 4; Palm Sunday,
April 5th; Holy Week, April 5-11;
Easter, Sunday, April 12th.

Early Christians observed "a season of penitence and fasting" in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp.264-265). The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning "spring," the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly. In the western church, the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Today Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP, p. 265).



2020 Vestry Retreat. Pictured: (front row) Senior Warden Beverley Biddlecomb, and The Rev. Sandi Mizirl; (back row) Betty Gasper, Bud Bolger, Brian Wood, and Junior Warden Paul Sparks. Vestry members not pictured: Valli Mittner, and Senior Warden Mary Rowe.

Vestry Approves Community Rental of Parish Hall

The St. Mary's vestry has been discussing how to best use our space as an outreach to the community. The vestry recently approved renting the parish hall and kitchen for private events, such as bridal or baby showers, birthday and anniversary celebrations, or other special occasions.

Rental agreement forms will be available in the church office. Please remember this when you are planning a special occasion event and tell your neighbors too. Help spread the word.

Call the church office Monday or Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 804-453-6712 to check availability on the church calendar.

The deadline for the April/May edition of the Fisherman will be Friday, March 20th. Please submit your photos and articles to Paula in the church office at stmarysfleeton@gmail.com.



Connect with Shrine Mont Camps

Camp Registration Now Open

Registration for Shrine Mont Camps' Summer 2020 opened on January 7. Discounted Early Bird rates are available through the end of February. Register now to reserve your camper's spot. Dates, rates and camp descriptions can be found at www.shrinemontcamps.net.

February Movies

February 7 - Red Joan 2019 R

Judi Dench is a suburban widow concealing a double-life as a Soviet spy in this dramatic true-life tale of passion, courage, and betrayal. Also starring: Sophie Cookson, Stephen Campbell Moore -Amazon.com

February 14—Downton Abbey 2019 PG

The continuing story of the Crawley family, wealthy owners of a large estate in the English countryside in the early twentieth century. Starring: Michelle Dockery, Matthew Goode, Tuppence Middleton -imdb.com

February 21—Judy 2019 PG-13

Legendary performer Judy Garland (Renée Zellweger) arrives in London in the winter of 1968 to perform a series of sold-out concerts. Also starring: Jessie Buckley, Finn Wittrock -imdb.com

February 28—Playing with Fire 2019 PG

When firefighter Jake Carson (John Cena) and his team (Keegan-Michael Key & John Leguizamo) rescue three siblings in the path of a wildfire, they realize no amount of training could have prepared them for their most challenging job yet – babysitting. -Amazon.com

ECW News

On Thursday, December 12, 2019, eleven women of St. Mary's plus three other thrift shop volunteers participated in a festive Christmas tea party in the parish hall. We all enjoyed the savory and sweet treats we brought to share; but the highlight of the party, by far, was the random gift exchange featuring gifts purchased from the thrift shop. It was great fun – a lovely way to celebrate the season in warm fellowship!



Our total thrift shop earnings for 2019 were \$54,033, which enabled us to provide financial support to the church in the amount of \$32,000, contribute \$1,500 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, and donate \$9,075 to other charitable causes (including \$4,200 to the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic).

~ Joy Bolger

Birthdays and Anniversaries

February Birthdays:

9 Arnold Gasper
12 Tillie Rowe
13 Nathalie Biddlecomb
19 Emory Lewis
27 Davis Biddlecomb

March



Birthdays:

4 Augusta Bunting
11 John Booth
17 Mike Roberts
31 Jim Wiley

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



**Tuesday, February 25th
5pm-7pm**

\$10 per person
all you can eat

\$25 per family
all you can eat

The merry men of St. Mary's, Fleeton will be in the kitchen once again serving up light and fluffy pancakes, sausage, and spiced apples to the community. Meet friends of St. Mary's from the Reedville and Fleeton communities. Catch up and fill up!

"Special thanks to the merry men for the pancakes and sausage and to Beverly Biddlecomb for the spiced apples," said Rev. Sandi.

Brian Wood added, "All are welcomed to the St. Mary's Fleeton pancake supper; please bring along your family and friends to enjoy the yummy food and fun."

Inquirers' Class

Got questions about the Episcopal Church? Ask them at the St. Mary's Inquirer's class! If you are a member and have questions, come. If you are not a member but have questions, come. If you have an interest or might be thinking of joining St. Mary's, come. Everyone is invited and welcome.

The group will meet on the third Sunday of the month, following the 11:00am service and coffee hour, in the church library for about one hour for seven weeks beginning Sunday, February 16th. The Lenten program for 2020 will also include presentations and discussions about the Episcopal Church and the upcoming revision of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. The Lenten program will include soup and sandwich supper on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:30pm. The program will begin on Wednesday, March 4th for five weeks ending on Wednesday, April 1st.

The Inquirer's class will include the following topics:

- February 16th: Welcome to the Episcopal Church, its history and life of faith
- March 22nd: The Bible, its authority and interpretation in the Episcopal Church
- April 19th: Worship and the Seasons of the Year in the Episcopal Church
- May 17th: A Journey through the Book of Common Prayer, its history and aid in daily prayer
- June 21st: Church Music, 1982 Hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing, Wonder Love and Praise, Songs of Praise
- July 19th: Anglican Spirituality and Celtic Roots
- August 16th: Introduction to the Bishop's visit and confirmation, reception, affirmation
- September 20th: The Bishop's visit, St. Stephen's, Heathsville

Reading List not required but helpful in preparation for sessions and deepening your faith: (Copies can be found in the church library under "Inquirers' Class" heading.)

And God Spoke, Christopher Bryan

How the Bible Came to Be, John Barton

Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis

Journey to the Common Good, Walter Brueggeman

God of Dirt: Mary Oliver and the Other Book of God, Thomas W. Mann

The Hymnal 1982 Companion Hymns 1-384, Raymond F. Glover, editor

The Hymnal 1982 Companion Hymns 385-720, Raymond F. Glover, editor

Welcome to the Episcopal Church, Christopher L. Webber

Welcome to the Christian Faith, Christopher L. Webber

Welcome to the Life of Faith in the Episcopal Church, Megan Castellan

Welcome to the Bible, Vicki K. Black & Peter W. Wenner

Welcome to Church Music & The Hymnal 1982, Matthew Hoch

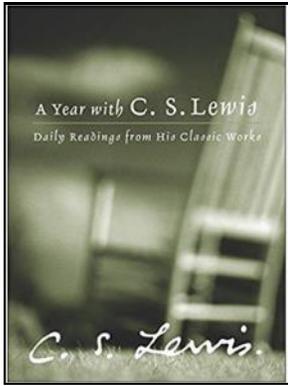
Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer, Vicki K. Black

Welcome to Sunday, Christopher L. Webber

Welcome to the Church Year, Vicki K. Black

Welcome to Anglican Spiritual Traditions, Vicki K. Black

Review and recommendation of



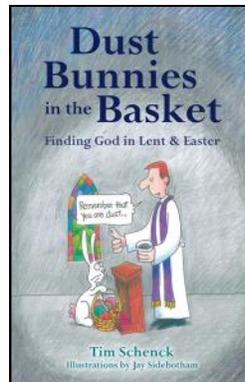
A Year with C.S. Lewis: Daily Readings from His Classic Works, Published by Harper Collins
C.S. Lewis was one of the most influential Christian writers of the twentieth century. He is best known for his books, *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Four Loves*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Last year I began my day with a short reading from *A Year with C.S. Lewis: Daily Reading from His Classic Works* and I would recommend it to anyone seeking to deepen their faith on the journey. It is both inspirational and challenging. Lewis writes in a way that resonates with our ordinary yet wonder-filled lives. I have placed my copy in the church library or you may purchase a copy from Barnes and Noble or Amazon, new and used cop-

ies available.

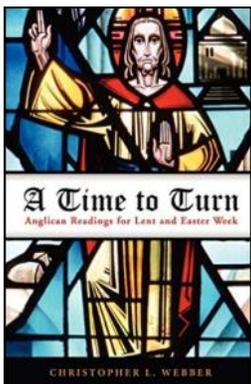
14 January: *Blurry Visions of God*

“When you come to knowing God, the initiative lies on His side. If He does not show Himself, nothing you can do will enable you to find Him. And, in fact, He shows much more of Himself to some people than to others – not because He has favorites, but because it is impossible for Him to show Himself to a man whose whole mind and character are in the wrong condition. Just as sunlight, though it has no favorites, cannot be reflected in a dusty mirror as clearly as in a clean one.”

Dust Bunnies in the Basket: finding God in Lent & Easter, by Tim Schenck & Illustrations by Jay Sidebotham
This is a lighthearted guide beginning with reflections on Ash Wednesday (you are dust and to dust you shall return) and dust bunnies. Schenck has even included some reflection questions for your consideration. To give you an idea and perk your interest, here are some of the short reflection titles: *Dust Bunnies*, *Death by Chocolate*, *Dirty Feet*, & *Hunting Season*. I have placed my copy in the church library but it is available through Forward Movement publishing for \$10.00.



A Time to Turn: Anglican Readings for Lent and



Easter Week, by Christopher L. Webber
During Lent we revisit the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection and revisit our own sinfulness and the need to repent. *A Time to Turn* provides reading for each day of Lent, Holy Week and the first week of Easter. It explores these seasons using the best sermons, books, poems, and hymns of Anglican writers throughout the centuries. Readings included from Christina Rossetti, John Donne, Philips Brooks, John Keble, Thomas Traherne, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and many others. It is an inspiring journey during a difficult season. I have placed my copy in the church library but it is available through Morehouse Publishing, \$14.95, and Amazon, both new and used cop-

I highly recommend you find something to guide you through Lent, Holy Week and Easter. It is good for your spiritual and physical well being.

- Rev. Sandi

Upcoming Events

Movie Committee

February 11th, 11 a.m.
March 10th, 11 a.m.

Vestry Meetings

February 12th, 6 p.m.
March 11th, 6 p.m.

Upcoming Celtic Services at Grace Church

February 16th, 5:30 p.m.
March 15th, 5:30 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 25th, 5-7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 26th, 7 p.m.



Prayers for the People

Sally White, David Haynie, Richard Clark, Ray Rogers, Jean Hudnall, Winifred Delano, Alene Robinson, Ada Williams, Lois Hett, Donald Freund, Sydney Dunn, Mike and Ellie Roberts, Paul Carey, Claire Michie, David Michie, Marsha Hast, Chas Rowe, Linda Booth, and Judy Jett.

St. Mary's: where the road begins...

St. Mary's Episcopal Church-Fleeton
 3020 Fleeton Road
 PO Box 278
 Reedville, VA 22539
 Phone: 804-453-6712
 Fax: 804-453-7146
 E-mail: stmarysfleeton@gmail.com
 Web: stmarysfleeton.org



St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Fleeton

3020 Fleeton Road, Reedville, Virginia 22539, 804-453-6712
stmarysfleeton@gmail.com stmarysfleeton.org



Priest-In-Charge:

Rev. Sandi Mizirl

Vestry:

Janet Lewis, Sr. Warden
 Paul Sparks, Jr. Warden
 Dawn Biddlecomb
 Bud Bolger
 Valli Mittner
 Mary Rowe
 Brian Wood

Treasurers:

Betty Gasper
 Judith DeGroot

Register:

Alice Sparks

Parish Administrator:

Paula Stallard

Minister of Music:

Carina Sprouse

Council Delegate:

Valli Mittner

ECW President:

Joy Bolger

Thrift Shop Manager:

Joy Bolger

St. Mary's Fleeton Episcopal Church is a community of faith and fellowship; an open and welcoming congregation that is nurturing and supporting of one another. We respect and embrace the various backgrounds and spiritual paths of our congregants and neighbors. We share our gifts and talents to minister to the needs of our surrounding community as a reflection of God's grace and unconditional love.