

# The Beacon

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MARCH 2019



## *From the Rector's Desk*

I know it's hard to believe, but Ash Wednesday (March 6) is nearly upon us. The night before, of course, we will enjoy our traditional and delicious Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper served by members of our wonderful choir. After supper, we will say farewell to the word "Alleluia" until Easter, and then burn the palms from last year's Palm Sunday in order to make ashes for next day's Ash Wednesday services. I invite you to prepare for the holy season of Lent by attending one of St. Thomas's Ash Wednesday services for prayer, scripture readings, the Litany of Penitence, the imposition of ashes, and Eucharist. Our services are at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

During this Lenten season, I encourage you to explore ways in which your relationship with God may grow and deepen. For some, that might include the traditional Lenten disciplines of fasting and daily scripture reading. "Giving up" something for Lent and/or "taking on" something for Lent helps us to exercise our spirits, just as going to the gym or daily walking exercises our bodies. Spiritual health is just as important as physical health.

Throughout Lent we will have special services and programs. Beginning Wednesday, March 13, we will offer the short service of Compline from the Book of Common Prayer every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the church. Beginning Sunday, March 10th, I will be offering a Lenten series on prayer during coffee hour after the 10:00 service.

Here are some additional suggestions for deepening your spiritual life during Lent so that you may become closer to God:

1) **Have Coffee with God:** Set aside ten or fifteen minutes each day to "have coffee" with God--in other words, to talk to God about the anxieties or temptations or other aspects of your life that might be impeding your relationship with God. After you have "vented" to God, sit in silence for a few

minutes and listen to what word God might have for you. Then ask God to help you be aware of God's presence as you go about your day.

2) Go on-line and subscribe to the series "**It's time to...Stop, Pray, Work, Play & Love**" ([ssje.org/time/](http://ssje.org/time/)). This Lenten series, by the Brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, is a six-week journey focusing on how we can recapture time as God's gift to us (rather than as a curse as we sometimes view time) and discover how to experience the joy of the present moment.

3) Participate in **Lent Madness**. Lent Madness began in 2010. Modeled on basketball's "March Madness," Lent Madness is a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of Saints. The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. To participate, go to [www.lentmadness.org/](http://www.lentmadness.org/).

6) **Building Faith** has numerous resources for spiritual growth, including excellent ones for families, children, and teens: <https://www.buildfaith.org/lent/>.

7) If you are book person rather than an on-line person, **Redemptorist Press** is a wonderful resource for books and other publications to enhance your spiritual life: <http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/>.

May the blessings of God surround you and uphold you during this holy season.

Peace and many blessings,

*Ann* +

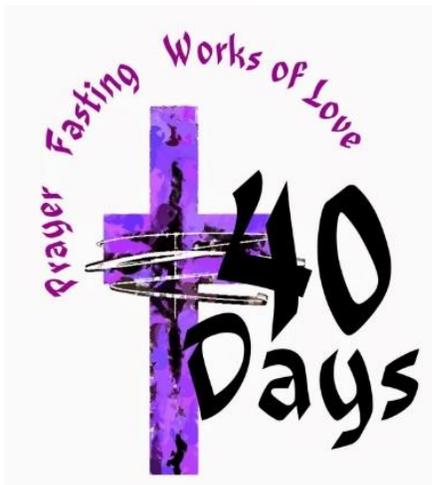


## *Endowment Fund Reports Year End Results*



### *Lenten Series: The Practice of Prayer*

During the season of Lent, Rev. Ann will be offering a five-part discussion series on the essentials of prayer. We will discuss many of the common questions of the spiritual life, such as "How do we learn to listen to God in our prayer? How do we develop a life of prayer in the midst of busy, active lives?" We will explore practical descriptions of a number of ways Christians have prayed through the centuries, from using the Jesus Prayer or rosary to praying with the stories of scripture and prayer book liturgies. We will also examine basic matters of Christian practice, such as making a confession, intercession, going on retreat, simplifying our lives, using a journal to pray, finding a spiritual director, and praying through times of desolation when God does not seem to be listening. The series will take place on Sundays after the 10:00 service, beginning March 10.



While 2018 was a pretty sorry year for stocks, thanks to a highly diversified portfolio your Fund's loss for the year was limited to 4.45%. While that's nothing to break out the champagne over, consider that the widely acclaimed Standard & Poor's 500 Index took a 4.75% hit.

As of January 1, 2019 your Fund's assets totaled \$137,181.91. Once we reach \$250,000 we can begin making grants to projects consistent with St. Thomas' mission.

At the Board's January meeting these officers were selected: Duncan Murray - Chair, Beverly Jackson - Secretary, Laurinda Andrist - Treasurer. Please contact them, or Board members Dick Braun, Rev. Ann Gaillard, Barbara Hemphill or Erika Hente with any question you have.

Throughout 2019 we'll be reminding ourselves and you that, through planned giving to the Fund, we can extend our support of the Christian values we cherish for years beyond our brief time on God's Earth.

- Duncan Murray, Chair



## *Invitational Sunday*

Parish members enjoyed sharing our faith community with visitors on February 24. The addition of our young acolytes for the 10:00 am service processional and recessional enhanced the celebration.



Bill Janes, crucifer; torch bearers Tilda Rhode and Christopher Hente; Mason Duer, second crucifer



Congregants made a joyful noise as choir director Keri Davis provided musical accompaniment on the organ. It was an opportunity to proclaim “Alleluia” before Lent begins on March 6.

## *A New Season at the GrassRoots Garden*

We have closed out February and welcomed March with an unexpected wintery blast of snow and freezing temperatures.



But spring will eventually arrive, and the GrassRoots garden will return to full activity as community volunteers and master gardeners attend to spring planting. Look forward to the grounds of St. Thomas becoming a bright beacon with the annual daffodil blooms that grace Coburg Road.



For more information about the garden and volunteer opportunities contact Merry Bradley, GrassRoots Garden Coordinator, [merrybradley@yahoo.com](mailto:merrybradley@yahoo.com).

*And remember...*



## *The Origin of St. Patrick's Day*



In addition to Lent, the arrival of Spring and the beginning of Daylight Savings Time, March features the celebration of this popular cultural holiday. St. Patrick's Day, though it has become an opportunity for lively parades, the wearing of green and imbibing in beer or Guinness, is a day derived from some interesting history.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, recognized by both Catholics and Protestants as the bishop who brought Christianity to Ireland. Catholics view him as a *saintly heavenly figure*, while Protestants consider him a *biblical shepherd of the flock*. However, Christian worship had reached pagan Ireland about 400 AD, long before St. Patrick arrived. Monasteries were built for monks who wanted permanent communion with God.

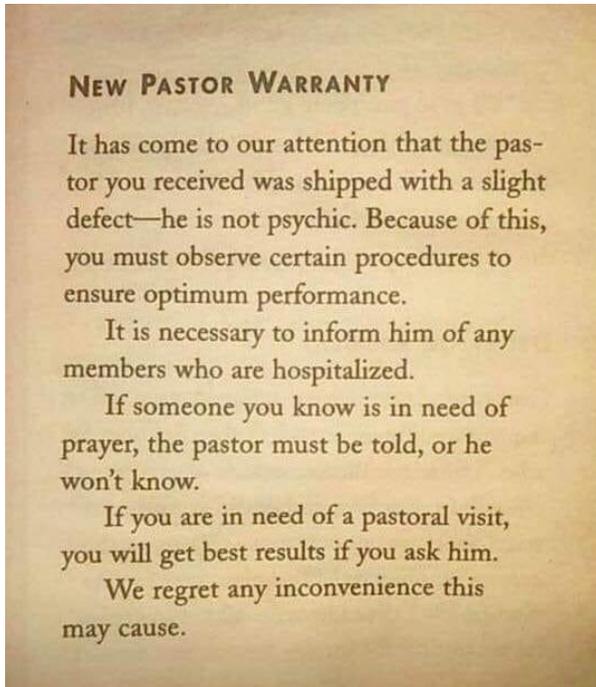
Romans occupied the British Isles in the fourth century where the parents of Maewyn Succat were part of the Roman settlement. There is discrepancy as to whether they were Roman aristocrats or indigenous Celts. At the age of 16 Maewyn was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland where he was sold into slavery and for six years was a shepherd. When he escaped, he returned to his family in Britain, but a vision called him back to Ireland to convert the people to Christianity. Maewyn took the name Patrick when he became a priest. He used clever diplomacy to attract followers by combining

elements of druid ritual with Christian practices. For example, he combined the Feast of all Saints by celebrating it on November 1, the same day as the great Celtic harvest festival. He preserved the social structure of Ireland by converting the people tribe by tribe. He abandoned the Roman system of dioceses and bishops, and encouraged the monasteries preferred by the Irish people because of the family of monks being more accepted in a tribal society. Patrick used the shamrock, the national flower and emblem of Ireland, as a metaphor for the Trinity when introducing Christianity to Ireland.

As for the fact that Ireland has no snakes, legend claims that St. Patrick banished the snakes to the sea after they attacked him during a forty-day fast. St. Patrick died on March 17, 457 in Saul. His only known relic is the iron bell he used to announce his approach as he traveled from village to village.



*And now this:*



Just change the gender specific pronoun but do heed the message.

### *St. Thomas Crafters*

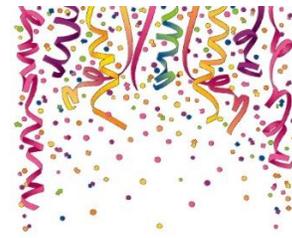


If you are a quilter, knitter, cross-stitcher or needle artist of any sort, consider joining the St. Thomas crafters in the library from 2 to 4 pm on the third Saturday of the month. Mary Adams is offering basic knitting lessons, too. The cheerful and engaging fellowship sure to enhance our creativity.

### *A Special Request*

Several of our parishioners are severely allergic to perfume. Please avoid wearing perfume in church so that everyone can worship without having to worry about potential breathing difficulties. Thank you for being considerate of others! Rev. Ann

## *Celebrating Parishioners*



### *March Birthdays*

- 12 Karl Hente
- 15 Barbara Hemphill
- 16 Debbie Pezzoni
- 30 Bob Loomis

### *March Anniversaries*

- 6 Larry and Judy Wilson
- 20 Sue and Paul Colvin

### *Important Calendar Reminders*

- March 2&3 – Youth Retreat*  
*Good Samaritan, Corvallis*
- March 3 – Worship Committee Meeting*  
Following the 10:00 am service
- March 5 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper*  
5:30 pm
- March 6 – Ash Wednesday*  
Services: 8 am and 7 pm
- March 9 – CCC Conference 9am to 4pm*
- March 10 – Daylight Savings Time begins*
- March 10 – Lenten Prayer Class, 11:30 am*  
Continues every Sunday in Lent
- March 13 – Lenten Compline, 5:30 pm*  
and March 20 and 27
- March 16 – Crafters Group, 2:00 pm*
- March 22 – Diocesan Council 10am – 2pm*

Committee reports and articles for the Beacon are welcome. Please submit to Cindy Jensen at [LAJotKDK@aol.com](mailto:LAJotKDK@aol.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.