



M A R C H 2 0 2 0

The Call



May the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight oh Lord our

A Monthly Newsletter

March 2020

Worship

Shared Meal
Eucharist

Formation

New Adult
Offering

Outreach

School Supply
Drive

Parish

Transitions
Chili Cook Off
Parish Retreat
Thirstday Thursday
WINE
Bookclub
New Building
Day Light
Savings
Pages 4-9

Stewardship

B&G Workday
Pledge Update

Page 3

Page 3

Page 2

Pages 10-11



What does it mean to observe a holy Lent at a bus stop? What constitutes communal worship? If it's not in a church, does it count? Are we watering down the commitment? Are liturgical seasons meaningful in the second decade of the 21st century or is the Church hanging on to tired customs obstinately oblivious that the world has moved on?

I'm writing this before the final service of Ash Wednesday. This morning, Valerie Colbert, our intern to the Diaconate and I went to the Huntersville Park and Ride to pray over folk and mark their foreheads with ashes. Some participants were bus riders,

four were our members who would not make the later services. A few more people not connected with St. Mark's knew it was our tradition to show up between 7:00 and 9:00 and came to receive an early start to the season. This is the seventh year we've offered Ashes to Go! Our first year, people were reluctant to make eye contact. Now they smile, nod their head, say good morning. Several ask questions. This year a new element was added. A businessman took pictures of us with his phone. I wonder where it will be posted and more interesting, how it will be captioned.

I have colleagues who argue, **Ashes to Go** is bad church practice. It isn't a real service. It isn't done in the context of a stable community. I've had my own reservations but here's what I've noticed over the years. Some people have a deep or nagging desire to connect with this time of self-examination and call to do better, be better with the help of the God they love. They are relieved they can make a good start on the designated day because a way is made to meet them where they are. They are sincere. They are thankful.

For folk not interested in prayers or ashes for the season, they are somehow surprised and obviously relieved when they see faithful folk dressed in religious garb in the public square being easy and respectful. They appreciate that we smile or nod back. We make no sudden moves on them. We don't thrust a pamphlet into their hands. We are approachable but not intrusive. Through the years I've hoped but haven't known for sure if we'd be effective Christian witnesses by just being present. We are.

Standing where we did, we could see commuters running late, running to catch the bus before it pulled off. It was easy to ask the driver to hold up. The breathless were grateful. Their day began easier than it could have because Christian folk did a kind thing.

Ashes to Go isn't beautiful liturgy but it is humbling witness. It seems a good start way to a season of realignment with one who came for the whole world.

Blessings, dear ones on your own journey of realignment this Lent,

Sarah+



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

RMS

Many thanks to all who donated to our mid-year school supply drive for Ranson Middle School.

Your generosity helped us restock the school supply closet at RMS to ensure that the teachers and scholars finish the year strong.

Liz Gail

M A R C H 2 0 2 0



This verse comes from the Psalm appointed for Ash Wednesday and is a prayer that captures the intention of keeping a Holy Lent. To help us with that intention, the church offers these helps:

Sunday Mornings 9:30 Adult Formation

We join the national church's initiative of reconciliation with a video and discussion series: *Make me an Instrument: A Guide to Civil Discourse*. The five Sundays of Lent we will pray the prayer of St. Francis, watch a series of short videos and practice skills for listening to diverse and sometimes opposing opinions, responding with respect while honoring our own convictions

Tuesday Evenings 6:30 Family Dinners

We gather in Founders Hall for a simple meal, conversation, reflection on Peter Wallace's meditations, *Getting to Know Jesus (Again)* all in context of a modern Eucharist in the round. The time is designated for ninety minutes for all ages and households. Rides are available.

Private Reflections Getting to Know Jesus (Again)

Copies of Peter Wallace's 40 day Meditations are available for purchase in Founders Hall. Read them day by day or by the week through the season of Lent



M A R C H 2 0 2 0



Birthdays

Steph Ryan Herrin - 3/2
Riley Milholland - 3/3
Vincent Boyle - 3/6
Alan Kathman - 3/7
Mallory Savage - 3/11
Greg Weeks - 3/15
Robert James - 3/17
Jordana Gheraibeh - 3/21
Elizabeth Wilson - 3/25
James Woolley - 3/25
Aiden Hollar - 3/27
Chris Kendrick - 3/27
Hannah Savage - 3/27
Don Siegel - 3/28
Jim Wilson - 3/30

Anniversaries

Philip & Melanie Blythe - 3/5
Michael & Elizabeth Havens - 3/5
Rev. Ty & Debra Smithdeal - 3/18
Richard & Mary Beth Masline - 3/19

Prayers for continued healing:

Willard & Barb Osburn
Saunders & Billy Black Martha Ann Springer
Phyllis Barnwell
Elena Michel and her family
Richard & Mary Beth Masline
Bob Chandler
Sue Bartlett
Tony Herrin

New Members:

David Bozzi

Panera Bread Pick-Up

**Scott Hundertmark - 3/6
Brent & Amy Sparks - 3/13
Mark & Lacy Hamilton - 3/20
Ian & Liesel Doolittle - 3/27**

M A R C H 2 0 2 0





AND THE WINNER IS....

(Recipe Graciously Shared by Kelly Pope)

SLOW COOKER CRACK CHICKEN CHILI INGREDIENTS:

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 (11 or 15-oz) can corn, drained
- 1 (15-oz) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (10-oz) can diced tomatoes and green chilies, undrained
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup cooked, chopped bacon
- 1 (1-oz) packet Hidden Valley Ranch Original seasoning & salad dressing mix
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 (8-oz) package cream cheese
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 2-3 Jalapenos, seeded & diced

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place chicken at bottom of slow cooker.
2. Add corn, black beans, diced tomatoes and green chilies, chicken broth, cumin, chili powder, onion powder ranch seasoning and bacon. Stir together. Place cream cheese on top of chicken.
3. Cover with lid and cook on LOW for 6-8 hours.
4. Remove chicken from slow cooker and shred with 2 forks. Return to slow cooker. Slowly stir cheddar cheese into chili.

M A R C H 2 0 2 0



PARISH RETREAT @ CAMP CANAAN
MAY 8-10, 2020
100 acre Island on the Catawba River in
Rock Hill, South Carolina

Reserve Your Spot

March 1st and 15th and 29th

Come for the weekend

Come for 1 night

or Come for the day

Reservations will be taken by
Sarah Milholland after both services



"Thirstday", Thursday

Join the men of the church for

A testosterone friendly answer to WINE

March 12th at 6:30 pm

Boardwalk Billy's 9005 JM Keynes Dr. Charlotte

For additional information please contact

David Fahey 704-562-7587.

No RSVP required by texts welcome



WINE

Women in Need of Entertainment

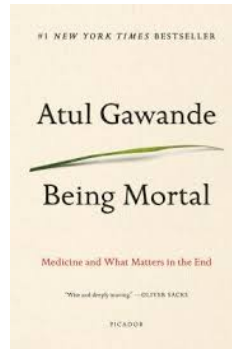
March 16th @ 6:30pm
at the home of

Laura Fahey
4715 Crownvista Dr.
Charlotte, NC

Bring a a bottle of WINE or a dish to share.
If you don't have time for either, just bring yourself.

This will be a St. Patrick's Day themed WINE.
In addition we will be celebrating the upcoming arrival of Baby Pope. If you wish to participate in a shower welcoming Kelly and Sean's new baby they are registered at babylist.com

Please contact Allison Rhinehardt allibrett@gmail.com or Dawn Middleton dawnmittleton@bellsouth.net with any questions



St. Mark's Muses Book Club

We will meet on
Thursday March 19th
at 10am at St. Mark's

We will discuss
Being Mortal
by Atul Gawande

Please join us even if you haven't read the book.
New book club selections will be given out at this time.

For additional information please contact Genny Hinkle at gnvvhinkle@yahoo.com or call 704 595 7957

New Building Update



In mid December we began the application process with Mecklenburg County for our Building Permit.

In mid January our application was reviewed and several questions were raised, only one with particular significance. With due diligence of our architect this issue was resolved with little impact in our original planning. Other minor issues were handled by our Civil Engineer.

We are re-submitting our application next week and I hope for final permit approval within 30 days. We will finalize our construction schedule after permit approval. Groundbreaking should begin 30 days after construction planning.

We are also planning on Founders Hall renovation this summer -- so lots of construction is planned for our summer and fall.



FRIENDLY REMINDER

March 8th is

Daylight Savings.

Don't forget to turn your clocks
forward an hour



SAVE THE DATE

**Buildings and Grounds Spring Clean up Day
is around the corner.**

Sunday March 29th

8am - 12:30pm

Come worship than work or work then worship

We will be spreading pine straw, mulch, planting flowers & so much more.

B&G has walked the grounds and created a
task list.

However if you see anything around the campus that needs attention please email

Mandy Self-Sparrow at

mandyselfsparrow@gmail.com

**A quick note from the Jr. Warden regarding
Buildings and Grounds:**



Following the Workday

Fellowship is hosting

Hot Dog Sunday

Lunch will be served at noon.



**Stay to eat and enjoy fellowship once the work is done or
come back for lunch if were an early riser**

We have several men of the church who are quick to respond when we need help around the church and we are very thankful for their dedication and hard work! They are the ones that make things happen without others even knowing something was needed. I want to make sure everyone gets a chance to help if they want to help!

If any men, women or youth have special skills/ talents that you want to share with the church, please let us know! Painting, carpentry, organizing, A/V, share your secret talents with us!

Thank you

Mandy Self-Sparrow mandyselfsparrow@gmail.com

Jr. Warden



First Fruits

We are approaching the end of the first quarter of 2020
To date we have received **93 pledge cards** with a total of **\$339,320.00 pledged**.

If you have not turned in a pledge card there is still time.

No matter the amount on the card It helps the church office plan for the year.

If you need a pledge card you can pick one up in Founders Hall.

They are located in the bins outside of the church office.

Please return any pledge cards to the offering plate or the church office.

Many thanks

Libby James

Stewardship Chair

M A R C H 2 0 2 0



St. Mark's Episcopal
Church
8600 Mt. Holly
Huntersville Rd.
Huntersville, NC 28078
www.stmarksnc.com