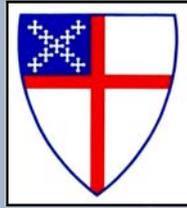


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
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Issue No. 2

From the Pastor



Did you know that the word “*lent*” is Teutonic in origin and originally simply meant the “*spring season.*” Although the early church had a variety of fasting periods of various length, the concept of the “Lenten period” as we know it did not appear until sometime in the late 4th Century. The “40 days” of Lent should strike most biblical readers with parallels found in the 40 days of wilderness fasting by key figures like Moses, Elijah, and Jesus [*Ex. 24 & 34, 1 Kings 19, & Matt 4*].

Our Book of Common Prayer says that the Season of Lent had its origins in the “preparation of candidates for Easter baptism,” but that it has also come to be a season of repentance and renewal for the entire congregation. Lent begins with “*Ash Wednesday*” and the *Litany of Penitence*, which sets the penitential focus for the season. However, the season is more than one of penitence; it is also one of renewal and refreshment in our commitment to Christ and his Church.

There are three areas that we routinely address in our Lenten journeys.

The first area is *Prayer*. One definition of prayer is: “*lifting ourselves to the presence of God.*” Lent is an excellent time to read the Bible and to sit quietly and pray, which is why we will focus on the learning about the great personal prayer disciplines of: *Lectio Divina*, Centering Prayer, Breath Prayer, and using the Anglican Rosary, in our Wednesday Evening Lenten Program.

The second area is *Almsgiving*. Did you know the word “alms” comes from the Greek word meaning “mercy” or “compassion?” Almsgiving is a special kind of giving. It is the “widow’s mite” kind of generosity. Almsgiving means *sacrificial* giving, consuming less in order to share more with those in need.

The third area is *Fasting*. While fasting traditionally refers to eating less, it is just as important for us to think about fasting from the things in our life and culture. Try to simplify your life; watch less TV; take a break from Social Media; drive less, stress less; and focus on God. Remember, a **Christian “fast” is always centered on God and our dependence upon God’s help.**

Pastor Lin +

For All the Saints...

March has many memorable “saints of the church,” however, since Lent takes precedence, we often hear little about them during the Season of Lent.

John and Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791, 1788 ~ March 3

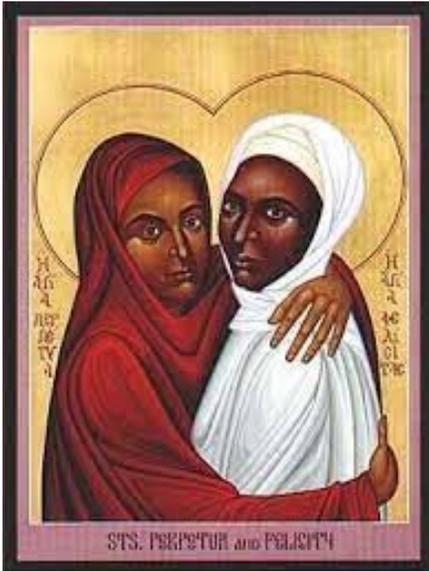
It often surprises people in the Episcopal Church (as well as most Methodists) that we celebrate John and Charles Wesley as Saints of the Church on March 3rd. However, most people do not remember that both John and Charles Wesley lived and died as faithful Anglican priests. Moreover, they had no desire or intention to establish a separate denomination. John and Charles were the 15th and 18th children of 19 born to their mother, Susanna. Their father, Samuel Wesley, was an Anglican priest as well. John and Charles were educated at Christ Church, Oxford where they founded a group that pledged strict adherence to the worship and discipline of the Book of Common Prayer. The group was given the name “Methodists,” because of the method and severity of their disciplined life. In 1735, John and Charles traveled to colonial Georgia as Anglican missionaries, John as a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) and Charles as secretary to James Oglethorpe, the Governor. Like all Anglican priests in the English Colonies, they each routinely “rode a circuit” of numerous local churches to conduct services of Holy Communion. However, both priests were too prudish and severely Anglican to suit the brawling colonists and they returned to England shortly thereafter.



In a fierce storm at sea that arose during the crossing, John was particularly taken by the immense steadiness and faith of fellow Moravian Missionaries and he would later have an intense divine experience following choral evensong at St. Botolph Chapel in Aldersgate, London. As a result, John felt a distinct calling to carry the Word of God to the working poor and those often abandoned and neglected by the larger Church. John and Charles thus set out to convert and educate the poor and, in the process, began an evangelical movement within the 18th C. Anglican Church. Their powerful, emotional sermons; their use of the laity in Bible studies and worship; their phenomenal hymnody (Charles wrote over 6,000 hymns!); and their work of reform in the treatment of the underprivileged, wrongly imprisoned, and of the sick and the orphaned were hallmarks of their passion for the gospel. The later schism of the “Methodists” from the Church of England occurred long after the death of the two brothers, although John’s uncanonical ordinations of “elders” for the American colonies, which was bitterly opposed by Charles, doubtless set the basis for that later split.

Perpetua and her Companions, Martyrs of Carthage, 202: March 7

Vibia Perpetua was a young widow and mother of noble birth, who along with several other candidates for Christian baptism [*catechumens*], were imprisoned for being Christians in 202 A.D. Emperor Septimius Severus had forbidden all imperial subjects from becoming Christians and had further decreed that all persons would sacrifice to the divinity of the emperor. Perpetua and her companions in Carthage, North



Africa, refused and were arrested. After their arrest, and before they were led away to prison, the five catechumens were baptized.

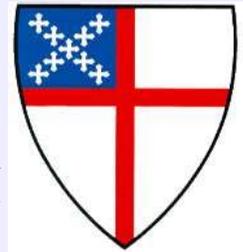
A few days later Perpetua’s aged father, a pagan, hearing a rumor that the trial of the imprisoned Christians would soon take place, visited the dark, overcrowded dungeon and begged Perpetua to recant and not to put this disgrace on her name; but Perpetua remained steadfast to her faith. The following day, the Proconsul also tried to dissuade Perpetua, but she refused and replied simply, “I am a Christian.”

On March 7, 202, Perpetua and her two young fellow Carthaginian Companions: Saturninus and Secundulus and Perpetua’s two slaves Felicitas and Revocatus, were sent to the arena to be scourged and mangled by a leopard, boar, bear, and wild bull. The trampled, mauled, and gored martyrs were eventually put to death by a sword stroke through the throat. Before her death, Perpetua encouraged her companions and fellow Christians as she

MORE, “101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian”—

Reason # 2: “From smells and bells to speaking in tongues—we have it all.” *Sheena A. Lawrence, Diocese of Atlanta*

Reason # 74: “Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep,’ but he didn’t specify that they be fed a narrow and rigid diet. Our Episcopal/Anglican approach to the sacrament of Penance is a good example: ‘All may, some should, none must.’” *Dean George L. W. Werner, Diocese of Pittsburgh*



In the month of February, Community Missions donated \$150.00 to the Love Outreach Food Pantry. Because of the rising cost of food and supply chain issues, we decided a monetary contribution might be more beneficial in helping the Food Pantry fill specific needs. OES requested our assistance with providing the children with snacks and clothing. We purchased 223 individual snack items and 38 pairs of underwear and pants.

Snacks and clothing are ongoing needs at OES. In addition, we have just been notified of the following current needs at OCHS: soap or body wash for both boys & girls, toothpaste & toothbrushes, jackets and sweatpants.

Community Missions is requesting donations from our parishioners of soap, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Donations may be left in the church office. We will pick up and deliver hygiene items to the HS. We are also requesting monetary donations to our Outreach In/Out Fund - line item 202.20.00.

We are most appreciative of your continued support for our Community Mission programs

Gratefully,
Betsy, Ellen & Jennifer



Welcome to the Season of Lent!

Lent is a time for us to think about what we want out of life and how we might live into our baptismal promises. We will **begin** our Lenten Journey with the **solemn service of ASH WEDNESDAY** and the **“Imposition of Ashes” at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 2nd.**

Unlike previous years, due to COVID, we will **not** have our traditional “Shrove Tuesday” Pancake Supper the night before nor will we hold our traditional Ash Wednesday Soup Supper following the service. However, we will slowly begin our post-COVID recovery as **we conduct Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday night of Lent [March 9 - April 6]** followed by our

Wednesday evening Lenten Program: “The Great Personal Prayer Disciplines.”

As a COVID precaution, we will NOT have a “potluck” during our Wednesday evening program, however, like our “*Movie Nite,*” you are welcome to bring your own supper/snacks or not as you may choose.

As a Lenten Spiritual discipline, we will also conduct **“The Way of the Cross” [aka: Stations of the Cross] on Thursdays of Lent at 5:30 p.m. [March 10-April 7]** and the opportunity for the Sacrament of (private) **Confession** [aka *Reconciliation of the Penitent*] is always available by appointment with the Rector.



Holy Week Schedule

We plan to return to our traditional Holy Week activities of: **Evening Prayer at 6pm Mon, Tues, Wed, April 11-13; Maundy Thursday** services at **6pm, April 14** (followed by **“*Watch in the Garden*” from 7pm - 7am in the Chapel**); **Celtic Stations of the Cross at noon** on **Good Friday**, April 15 followed by the **Solemn Good Friday Liturgy at 6pm on April 15.**

Easter Lilies



The Church will order Lilies for Easter, to decorate the nave and to support our local businesses.

Lilies may be purchased in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one (\$18.00 each).

Orders are due March 31, 2022.

Order form will be available in the bulletin and from the office.

NOW SHOWING



With 7 Academy Award nominations, *Belfast* is a semi-autobiographical film which chronicles the life of a working class family and their young son's childhood during the tumult of the late 1960s in the Northern Ireland capital and is based on writer/director Kenneth Branagh's childhood. This film stars Jude Hill, Lewis McAskie, Judi Dench and Caitriona Balfe, and has won the Best Film, Best Screenplay, Best Supporting Actress (Judi Dench), and Best Director at the AACTA International Awards (2022). ~ *IMDB*

Friday, March 25th at 7pm in Robertson Hall

~ cost of admission is one non-perishable food item ~

Lenteen Cartoon





March 2022 St. Thomas Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>During the Season of Lent, we will have Evening Prayer followed by a study of the Great Personal Prayer Disciplines on Wednesdays, beginning at 5:30 pm.</p>		1	2 Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm	3 Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm	4	5
6 <i>The First Sunday in Lent</i>	7	8	9 Evening prayer and Lenten study 5:30 pm	10 Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm	11	12
13 <i>The Second Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	14	15	16 Evening prayer and Lenten study 5:30 pm	17 Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm	18	19
20 <i>The Third Sunday in Lent</i>	21	22	23 Evening prayer and Lenten study 5:30 pm	24 Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm Vestry meeting follows	25 <i>Movie night Belfast 7 pm in Parish Hall</i>	26
27 <i>The Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	28	29	30 Evening prayer and Lenten study 5:30 pm	31 <i>Deadline to submit Easter Lily orders to the church office</i>		



~Anniversaries~

Suzanne & Pen Bresee
Tina & Larry Rosine

~Birthdays~

03/03 Chris Dulin
03/04 Richard Floyd
03/08 Karin Merrill
03/09 Mary Brook Miller
03/10 Tina Rosine
03/10 Ann Marie Wood
03/11 Lynne Baines
03/11 Will Brockman
03/17 Jonathan Yowell
03/20 Barry Barr
03/20 Harriet Moore
03/24 Shepherd Barfield
03/25 Carroll Johnson
03/28 Gillian Likins
03/31 Diane Acree

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be
gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give*

Want to add something to The Builder? Contact
Ann Wood at annwood304@gmail.com by
March 22, 2022 with your information!

Food Pantry

Special request for February is **canned fruit, canned meat, and canned vegetables**. All food items and cash gifts are always welcome and appreciated. You can drop off donations at the Love Outreach Food Pantry each Tuesday from 9:00-10:30 and on Wednesday from 8:30-12:00. Their mailing address is: Love Outreach Food Pantry, Inc., P.O. Box 788, Orange, 22960. You may also bring any donations to the church to be delivered.



Prayer List

We pray especially for our church's leadership:

Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury Michael, Presiding Bishop Susan, Jennifer, & Porter, bishops for this diocese

Our country: President Joe, Vice President Kamala, & Governor Glenn

For the men and women in our armed forces serving our nation around the world.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

For: Terrell, Margaret, Harriet, Barbara, Ellen, Liz, Susie, William, Susan, Earlene, Tracy Casey, Allen, and Mary.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for those who fear tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, that they may find wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all you precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace. Amen.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
119 Caroline Street
Orange, VA 22960

March 2022

