

The Sentinel

February 2016

Priest's Ponderings

With February we enter the season of Lent: A time of penitence, fasting, denial of self, and spiritual renewal. If we do things right, we will be different people come Easter Day. It is truly spiritual boot camp preparing us for active duty in the most special of forces as a soldier in the army of God.

It is interesting that the church seems to shy away from the concept of spiritual warfare. The hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers," is deemed militant and unfriendly these days, not revealing a theology of grace. You may be surprised to learn that another hymn, "Lift High the Cross," was specifically composed to replace "Onward Christian Soldiers" in order to present a sense of triumphant, though not at the cost of our being at war with the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Yet if we are to be honest with ourselves, we are involved in a daily struggle as we live out our faith. Temptations to fracture our relationships with one another and God abound. We are continually assaulted by forces that wish us harm. Just turn on the television news, and you can see the forces of evil at work at home and abroad.

Spiritual warfare. Dealing with a crafty enemy. Battles bringing defeat and victories. We are naïve if we deny such is a tremendous part of our spiritual life.

The Good News? We know the outcome of this war. God will prevail. He always does, and he always will. He joins us in the trenches to guide us, strengthen us, and provide us the tools for the fight. He knows the enemy and how to help us prevail.

Onward, Christian Soldiers while Lifting High the Cross. Thanks be to God that one day, The Strife Will Be Over, and the Battle Done. The victory of Christ will be won. In the meantime, get ready for a fight.

RSC+



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Calendar

Saturday, February 6th
Youth Group at 5:30 pm

Tuesday, February 9th
Shrove Tuesday Dinner at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, February 10th
Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 16th
Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 17th
Confession at 5:30 pm
Eucharist & Meditation at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, February 24th
Confession at 5:30 pm
Eucharist & Meditation at 6:00 pm

Friday, February 26th
Sentinel Article Deadline

Happy Birthday!!

Matthew McFarland	2/6
Bryan Russell	2/15
Mike Schoenenberger	2/15
O.C. Hays	2/18
George Womack	2/19
Tonya Jones	2/19

Let us know if we missed one! We do not know unless you tell us ☺

Quote of the Month:

Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment
John Rohn

Lay Assignments for February**February 7th**

Eucharistic: Jane Emery & David Gaines
Lector: Harry Spain
Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy
Ushers: Rick Webb & George Womack
Altar Guild: Karen Cate & Joan Wells
Coffee Hour: The Spains

February 14th

Eucharistic Ministers: George Mickle & Cindy Reese
Lector: George Mickle
Crucifer: Last Minute Volunteer
Ushers: Pete Mace & Joe Reese
Altar Guild: Mary Elizabeth Womack & Betty Odom
Coffee Hour: Joan Wells

February 21st

Eucharistic: Tony McFarland & David Gaines
Lector: Tony McFarland
Crucifer: Michael Schoenenberger
Ushers: Donnie Denning & Mike Deweese
Altar Guild: Sandra Womack & Janet Deweese
Coffee Hour: The McFarlands

February 28th

Eucharistic: Rick & Cindy Webb
Lector: David Gaines
Crucifer: Erick Cate
Ushers: Larry Emery & George Womack
Altar Guild: Cindi Spain & Judy Stewart
Coffee Hour: Vestry Monthly Birthday Party

The Saint of the Month**Frederick Douglass****Circa 1818-1895****Abolitionist, Suffragist, Editor, Orator, Author, Statesman and Reformer**
Feast Day February 28

Frederick Douglass is one of the most prominent figures in African American and United States history. He was a firm believer in the equality of all people, whether black, female, Native American or recent immigrant. He was fond of saying, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."

Born a slave in Talbot County, Maryland, he was separated from his mother when he was an infant. She died when he was about seven years old, and then he lived with his maternal grandmother Betty Bailey. When he was twelve, his owner's wife started to teach him the alphabet, which was against the law. He learned to read from the white children in the area, and from observing the writings of the men with whom he worked. As he learned and began to read the newspapers, political materials and books, he was exposed to thoughts which led him to condemn the institution of slavery. He was hired out to a number of owners before he escaped north to freedom in September 1838. He joined various organizations in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and regularly attended abolitionist meetings.

His best-known work is his first autobiography *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, published in 1845. It received generally positive reviews and it became an immediate best seller. He published three versions of his autobiography during his life time: *My Bondage and My Freedom*, 1855, and *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* which he revised in 1892.

Recipe of the Month: Southern Tea Cakes

2 1/2 cups plain flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
Sift together.

1 1/4 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 1/2 sticks of butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
Beat sugar, eggs, butter and vanilla with mixer until smooth

Add sugar mixture to flour mixture and mix with spoon and then add 3 tablespoons milk. Mix with pastry blender.

Then flour rolling pin and board and lightly flour hands to mix and knead for a minute or two.

Turn from bowl onto floured board and roll to about 1/2 inch thick. Cut with a cookie or biscuit cutter and place on cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for about 10 minutes then add a minute if necessary. This should get you about 30-36 tea cakes ---- Bruce Dobbs

From the Loft

Our Organist Search Committee of David Gaines, Jane Emery, and George Mickle continues to scour Middle Tennessee for a new Music Director. We currently have 3 applicants under consideration and awaiting new prospects from our ad in the American Guild of Organists' newsletter. In February and March we will be well served by Allison Williams, who was our guest organist last September. She will see us through Lent and Easter Day, and we are blessed with her return. Plans for the new organ will commence once we have a permanent musician in place. Keep singing faithfully – God will bless our efforts!

Vestry News

In January the Vestry:

- Elected Officers of David Gaines as Sr. Warden; Harry Spain as Junior Warden; Joe Reese as Outreach Chair, Dari Womack as Communications Chair; Ken Saefkow to Christian Ed Superintendent, Louise Jones as Tom Joy Outreach Coordinator; and Jane Emery as Secretary.
- Heard that the Long Range Planning Committee will begin its work after Easter
- Learned that the organ refit was cancelled. Consideration of a new instrument is feasible.
- Heard that Tom Joy needs tissue for the classrooms, so we will collect them in January.
- Approved a \$100 expenditure for the Tom Joy Art Show.
- Assigned Ken Saefkow the task of finding new chairs for the Elementary Sunday School Class.
- Discussed the Organist Search Process

Parish Financial Highlights

2015

Income: \$ 145,398
 Expenses: \$138,522
 Balance: \$6,875

For more information, see Jim Cate, Treasurer.

Tom Joy Request

For the month of February, we will be assisting the art teachers at Tom Joy in preparation for the Mayor's Art Show. The Vestry has approved funds to assist in this project. Our thanks to Louise Jones for keeping our Outreach Joy going!

Lenten Observance

Our Lenten fast commences on Ash Wednesday, February 10th with Imposition of Ashes and a Eucharist service at 7:00 pm. Our Shrove Tuesday Feast is February 9th from 6 pm – 7:30 pm in the parish hall with a surprise theme as the Vestry hosts the event this season!

A new feature of Lent this year in place of our traditional book study will be on Wednesdays. Commencing February 17th from 5:30 pm to 5:50 pm Confession time with a priest in the church will be offered followed by a Eucharist with special meditation at 6:00 pm. It is never too late to repent!

Outreach News

Our monthly collection for Room in the Inn in February is Chapstick, men's lotion, and foot powder. Drop off is beside the one legged piano bench at the rear of the nave.

Youth Ministry

We have two programs for the youth of the parish.

Teenagers and middle schoolers join Father Courtney, Lacey Lyons, and Joel Sinha for dinner and discussion on the first Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm at the church. In February we shall discuss temptation and the spiritual life. How do we deal with these forces?

Elementary Sunday School

JESUS CALLS HELPERS

Matthew 4:19—

"Come, follow me," he said.

Feb 7—Jesus Calls the Fishermen

(Matthew 4:18-22)

Feb 14—Jesus Calls Levi

(Luke 5:27-32)

Feb 21—Go Two by Two

(Mark 6:7-13)

Feb 28—Women Follow Jesus

(Luke 8:1-3)

Taekwondo News

Don't be afraid to imagine things you can't do today. In Taekwondo we frequently find people doing things we consider impossible, like breaking concrete blocks or many pieces of wood with a single strike. Remember - they began as white belts, too! Taekwondo is a sport for all people, even those with handicaps. These people are successful despite their handicaps because they can imagine their own success.

Contact Us

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Weekly Schedule

Saturday

Priest's Office Hours
2:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Sunday

Holy Eucharist – 8:00 AM
Adult Sunday School – 9:30 AM
Choral Holy Eucharist – 10:30 AM
Sunday School (ages 5-12) – 10:30 AM

Wednesday

Confession – 5:30 PM (Lent)
Eucharist – 6:00 PM (Lent)
Choir Practice – 7:00 PM

Monday & Thursday

Community Taekwondo – 5:00 PM

**St. James the Less
Episcopal Church**

411 West Due West Avenue
Madison, TN 37115

From the Bishop's Address to the Diocesan Convention:

As we speak this word, let's remember the truths of Christian proclamation. Let us confound and convict ungodliness, surely, but without forgetting to strengthen and comfort the weak. Let our words reflect our assurance and be rooted in serenity rather than reactivity. Let us "speak good things wisely", as Augustine reminded us, even if we are called to "endure bad things bravely". Above all, let us keep our eyes focused on the work that we are called to do as we go forth from into the world, because it is out there and not in the comfort of the Sanctuary that we will do the chief work of the Gospel that lies before us.


