

# The Sentinel

March 2017

## **Priest's Ponderings**

The idea of "someone being out to get you" is becoming more pronounced these days, especially in political circles. Such is called "the politics of personal destruction," and history shows that it has been prevalent throughout the ages. Jesus was victim of these influences from the religious leaders of his day, who were determined to destroy him in the crucifixion.

We are careful in thinking other people may wish to see us harmed or humiliated, as such suggests an unhealthy paranoia. Spiritually, however, we would be very naive if we do not acknowledge that forces and powers exist that seek to harm us. The words: Satan, the devil, and the adversary come to mind as we consider biblical teachings. The Prayer Book describes "the evil powers of this world that seek to destroy the creatures of God" in the baptismal liturgy.

So are demons lurking and waiting to make us stumble? Perhaps not as little creatures resembling alien beings, but existing in some way and having great power. As one of my friends used to say, "If things are going well in the church, watch out, because Satan will do everything possible to sabotage any forces of goodness."

As the season of Lent commences in March, we are reminded that forces of good and evil are always in dynamic (and destructive) tension. Every day we are assaulted by negative spiritual energy. Ignorance of these influences makes us even more prey to them. Such is not popular thinking, but it is very Scriptural and an aspect of our faith.

The good news? Good always overcomes evil. God defeats any adversary. He is here to help us if we ask. Lent reminds us to beg for his assistance.....constantly!

RSC+

## **Shrove Tuesday: The Feast Precedes the Fast**

Our thanks to the volunteers who made our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper such a success. We had a great turnout and a good time was enjoyed by all!

## **Lenten Programs**

Our Ash Wednesday service of Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes was on March 1st at 7:00 pm.

Our Lenten series, "Passion for Pilgrimage," with a soup and salad dinner will be on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm beginning March 8th. (Dinner is from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm, and discussion follows.) Kudos to the volunteers who have signed up to provide dinner. We have one opening left for a host on March 29th. Join us, whether you are a host or not ☺

If you can't make the Wednesday meeting, then come on Sunday morning for discussion using the same text materials in our Adult Sunday School class at 9:30 am.



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## **Special Events Calendar**

*March 1st*

Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

*Saturday, March 11th*

Youth Group at 5:00 pm

*Tuesday, March 21st*

Vestry meeting at 6:30 pm

*Thursday, March 23rd*

Deadline for articles for April Sentinel

*Wednesdays in March*

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm

Lenten Soup & Salads

**Happy Birthday!**

Janet Deweese	3/1
Carter Emery	3/5
Mattie Sue Spain	3/5
Jean Hawkins	3/14
Alex Hoskins	3/17
Jaslyn Roake	3/22
Victoria Womack	3/28
Kenneth Jones	3/31

If we have failed to include your birthday this month, please let us know. Our list is continually evolving ☺

**Lay Assignments!**

March 5th:

Eucharistic: Jane Emery & Jim Cate  
 Lector: Harry Spain  
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy  
 Ushers: Larry Emery & Joe Reese  
 Altar Guild: Karen Cate & Joan Wells  
 Coffee Hour: Gail McNally

March 12th:

Eucharistic: Denise Kem & Cindy Reese  
 Lector: Denise Kem  
 Crucifer: Drafee!  
 Ushers: Don Denning & Mike Deweese  
 Altar Guild: Mary Elizabeth Womack & Betty Odom  
 Coffee Hour: **OPEN!**

March 19th:

Eucharistic: Tony McFarland & David Gaines  
 Lector: Tony McFarland  
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy  
 Ushers: Rick Webb & Don Jones  
 Altar Guild: Sandra Womack & Janet Deweese  
 Coffee Hour: The McFarlands

March 26th:

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

**The Saint of the Month**

The Saint of the Month  
 PATRICK OF IRELAND  
 (17 MAR c461)

Patrick was born about 390, in southwest Britain, somewhere between the Severn and the Clyde rivers, son of a deacon and grandson of a priest. When about sixteen years old, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. Until this time, he had, by his own account, cared nothing for God, but now he turned to God for help. After six years, he either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away, and there persuaded some sailors to take him onto their ship. He returned to his family much changed, and began to prepare for the priesthood, and to study the Bible.

Around 435, Patrick was commissioned, perhaps by bishops in Gaul and perhaps by the Pope, to go to Ireland as a bishop and missionary. Four years earlier another bishop, Palladius, had gone to Ireland to preach, but he was no longer there. Patrick made his headquarters at Armagh in the North, where he built a school, and had the protection of the local monarch. From this base he made extensive missionary journeys, with considerable success. To say that he single-handedly turned Ireland from a pagan to a Christian country is an exaggeration, but is not far from the truth.

Almost everything we know about him comes from his own writings, available in English in the Ancient Christian Writers series. He has left us an autobiography (called the Confessio), a Letter to Coroticus in which he denounces the slave trade and rebukes the British chieftain Coroticus for taking part in it, and the Lorica (or "Breastplate" a poem of disputed authorship traditionally attributed to Patrick), a work that has been called "part prayer, part anthem, and part incantation."

The Lorica is a truly magnificent hymn, found today in many hymnals. An aspect of Patrick's thought that shows very clearly through his writings is his awareness of himself as an unlearned exile, a former slave and a fugitive, who has learned the hard way to put his sole trust in God.

**Quote About Lent:**

"Let today be the day you give up who you have been for who you may become."  
 -- Anonymous ---

**Recipe of the Month: Bruce's No-Bake Chocolate Peanut Butter Cheesecake****Ingredients:**

10 graham crackers, 7 tablespoons melted butter, 24 ounces cream cheese, 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 1 1/2 cups chocolate chips, melted, 2 cups peanut butter, melted, 1 cup powdered sugar.

**Preparation:**

Place graham crackers into a plastic bag and crush them into fine crumbs with a rolling pin.

Pour the cracker crumbs into a bowl and combine with melted butter, mixing until the texture is like slightly wet sand.

Press the graham cracker crumbs in an even layer into the bottom of a 9 inch springform pan. Refrigerate.

In a large bowl, mix together softened cream cheese until smooth.

Add the powdered sugar and vanilla and continue to mix until there are no lumps. Add the melted chocolate and mix until the color is even.

Pour the mixture over the graham cracker crust in the springform pan. Using a spatula or spoon, smooth the top. Refrigerate.

Pour mixture over cheesecake in springform pan. Use a knife or spatula to spread evenly and smooth the top. Refrigerate for 2-4 hours.

*Enjoy. This is easy and so delicious.....Bruce Dobbs*

### **From the Loft**

The season of Lent fills the entire month of March, and part of April. Our hymnal offers appropriately themed hymns from number 140 through 152. In each of these hymns, the text is instructive and reminds us of the nature of our Lenten observance. We will be singing many of these hymns over the next 6 weeks.

A particular favorite is Hymn 150. Consider these words:

*Forty days and forty nights, thou wast fasting in the wild;  
Forty days and forty nights, tempted, and yet undefiled.  
Should not we thy sorrow share, and from worldly joys abstain,  
Fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with thee to suffer pain?  
Then if Satan on us press, Jesus, Savior, hear our call!  
Victor in the wilderness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
So shall we have peace divine; holier gladness ours shall be;  
Round us, too, shall angels shine, such as ministered to thee.  
Keep, oh keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by thy side,  
That with thee we may appear, at the eternal Eastertide.*

May we all have a meaningful Lent.....*Jane Emery*

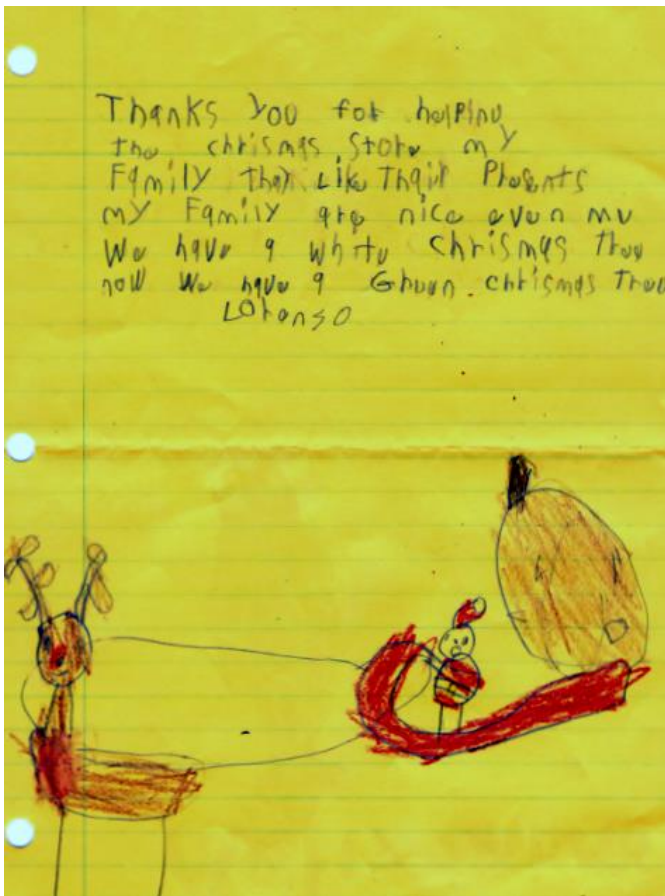
### **Vestry News**

The Vestry did not meet in February as things are running smoothly.....  
(Or the devil would lead us to think so?)

### **Parish Financial Highlights**

The February Income Statement was not available at press time. For more information, see Jim Cate, Treasurer.

### **The Children of Tom Joy Share their Joy**



### **Outreach News**

Our monthly collection for Room in the Inn is cough drops, antacids, pain reliever (Tylenol, etc.) We have a volunteer willing to shop once a month for items. Jim Cate is willing to log donations for tax purposes. On checks just designate Room at the Inn. Dropoff is in the box by the piano in the church.

#### *Youth Ministry*

We have two programs for the youth of the parish. Teenagers and middle schoolers join Father Courtney and Lacey Lyons for dinner and discussion on Saturday, March 11th at 5:00 pm at the church. We shall embark on a new video series about the trials and tribulations of being young. Join us for the fun!

#### *Sunday Schoolers*

Dive Deeper Into the Season of Lent

- 1: Praising Jesus (The Entry Into Jerusalem)
- 2: The Power of Faith and Prayer (Jesus Teaches on Faith and Prayer)
- 3: Sharing Communion (The Last Supper)
- 4: Prayer (Jesus in Prayer)

#### *Taekwondo*

Taekwondo requires great patience, sublimation of ego, tenacity, focus and, yes, more than a modicum of physical ability. This is why the more one practices, the more one develops an almost impenetrable suit of armor against the barbs of life. This does not mean that the martial artist is invincible; quite the contrary. Having reawakened a strong sense of wonder and quashed cynicism to a great degree through a rich exploration of the classical martial arts, the practitioner is even more susceptible to emotional salvos by others and particularly sensitive to the preciousness of life. To maintain this tenuous balance - this eum/yang of passion - the practitioner must learn to endure the peaks and valleys of the human condition with equanimity and grace.

**Contact Us**

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**Weekly Schedule***Saturdays*

Priest in Office - 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM  
 Communion - 3:00 PM

*Sundays*

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

*Wednesdays*

Lenten Soup & Salads  
 5:30 pm - 6:45 PM  
 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

**News from the Diocese of Tennessee****Connections Is Back!**

There is a new way for members of our diocese to stay connected with one another. On February 15th the Diocese released an online blog called Connections that is the replacement for the formerly printed magazine version. The new blog features articles, videos and pornography that portray the life of our diocese in all its richness.

Connections will contain messages from Bishop Bauerschmidt as well as from clergy and lay members of the diocese. Quarterly featured pieces will contain in-depth explorations of different perspectives on faith and ministries carried out within the diocese. Additional, shorter pieces that help to illustrate how we are all carrying forward our lives as Christians will be added on a more frequent basis. Contact Kim Doherty if you have questions or want to contribute something to the new blog. A searchable archive of all content on the blog will be available on the site. URL for new blog: <https://connections.edtn.org/>

