

The Sentinel



Priest's Ponderings

As we come to March, so we find many changes in our lives. The most significant, I hope, will be the beginning of Lent, which will occur on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Once again, we will be reminded that "dust we are and to dust we shall return" in the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Most people do not like to be reminded of their mortality. I suppose in hospice I became too comfortable facing death, and I believe I am ready to go when my time comes. However, statistics say that all of us still have many days ahead of us! Neither the Grim Reaper or the undertaker are on the way yet!

So as we progress through life, it serves us well to grow and mature. Hopefully, we become better people each day, season, and year. Some of our growth comes naturally, while other aspects of growth must be deliberate.

With Lent we seek a time of renewal and change. We take on disciplines that will mold us into being new and different. We pray that God will intervene in our lives for a Spring cleaning. With that deliberate effort, subtle changes will be occurring, whether we realize them or not. Come Easter we will be new people ---Resurrected and Renewed once again!

So let's seek to make the Lent of 2014 to be our Rebirth in 2014. Through prayer, fasting, self-denial, and other disciplines, let us offer ourselves to God. As I have said many times before: When it comes to God, be careful what you ask for, because you will get it, and it will be even better (and certainly more different) than you envisioned.

RSC+

Clean Up Day!

Lent is not only a time to clean up our acts, but also the church! The next Clean Up Day has been scheduled for March 29th with a backup date of April 5th, in case of rain. The time is 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. See Harry Spain for more information!

Saints of the Month - Perpetua and her Companions: Martyrs at Carthage, 202

Feast Day March 7 - Perpetua was a young wealthy widow and mother of an infant. She owned a number of slaves including a young pregnant slave called Felicitas. Other known slaves were Revocatus, Secundulus and Saturninus. They were all catechumens preparing for baptism. Perpetua opened her home in Carthage for Christian worship.

Early in the 3rd century Emperor Septimius Severus decreed that all persons should sacrifice to the divinity of the Emperor. It was impossible for Christians confessing faith in our Lord Jesus Christ to do this.

When the authorities discovered that Perpetua and her companions were professing the Christian faith they were arrested and thrown into prison where Felicitas gave birth.

At the public hearing before the Proconsul Perpetua refused the entreaties of her aged father saying, "I am a Christian." (Continued on page 2)

Contents

Calendar	1
Clean Up Day	1
Priest's Ponderings	1
Saints of the Month	1
Laity Rota	2
Member Celebrations	2
Member of the Month	2
Quote of the Month	2
Ash Wednesday Observance	3
From the Loft	3
Ministries	3
Shrove Tuesday	3
Vestry & Finance	3
Wednesday's Soup & Salad	3
Church Services	4
Contact Us	4
Diocese News	4
Stretch & Strength Class	4

Calendar

Wednesdays during Lent

Lenten Soup & Salad 5:30 pm

Tuesday, March 4th

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Dinner 5:30 pm

Wednesday, March 5th

Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 18th

Vestry meeting at 6:30 pm

Friday, March 21st

Deadline for articles for next month's Sentinel

Saturday, March 22nd

Youth Group at 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 29th

Clean Up Day 9:00 am

Birthdays

Janice Deweese.....	1st
Pam Gregg.....	1st
Mattie Sue Spain.....	5th
Leo Musarra, Jr.....	5th
Carter Emery.....	5th
Josh Smith.....	10th
Leo Musarra, Sr.....	11th
Jean Hawkins.....	14th
Victoria Womack.....	28th

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

Saints of the Month: *(continued from page 1)*

On March 7 they were all taken to the arena where they were mauled and savaged by a leopard, a boar, a bear and a savage cow. Perpetua cried to her companions, “Stand fast in the faith and love one another. And do not let what we suffer be a stumbling block to you.” Eventually all were put to death by a stroke of the sword through the neck

A contemporary record (possibly written by Tertullian) The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity records the experiences of Perpetua and her companions in prison and includes descriptions of Perpetua’s dreams and visions. This record is one of the most valuable documents of early Christianity.

Member of the Month: Sarah Mace

All my life I felt guilty for not serving God. Instead, I was having a great time dancing, even though the ability to dance was a gift from God.

I thought serving God had to be something IN the church, like being a priest or a nun or a deacon. To me, ‘service’ required sacrifice and suffering. Giving up

Mother Teresa was in New Orleans urging politicians to remember the poor, and an onlooker grabbed her, saying, “I’m coming with you to Calcutta.” Her response: “Stay where you are. Find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering and the lonely right there where you are. ... ”

Lay Assignments

March 2nd:

Eucharistic:	Jane Emery & Jim Cate
Lector:	Harry Spain
Crucifer:	Joel Sinha
Ushers:	Rick Webb & George Womack
Altar Guild:	Karen Cate & Joan Wells
Coffee:	Rick & Cindy Webb

March 9th:

Eucharistic:	George Mickle & Cindy Reese
Lector:	George Mickle
Crucifer:	Jonathan Dupuy
Ushers:	Larry Emery & Pete Mace
Altar Guild:	Mary Elizabeth Womack & Betty Odom
Coffee:	A Nice Volunteer ☺

March 16th:

Eucharistic:	Tony McFarland, O.C. Hays, & Sarah Mace
Lector:	Tony McFarland
Crucifer:	Joel Sinha
Ushers:	Donnie Denning & Mike Deweese
Altar Guild:	Sandra Womack & Janet Deweese
Coffee:	Tony McFarland

March 23rd:

Eucharistic:	Rick & Cindy Webb
Lector:	David Gaines
Crucifer:	Jonathan Dupuy
Ushers:	Rick Webb & George Womack
Altar Guild:	Cindi Spain & Judy Stewart
Coffee:	A Kind Soul ☺

March 30th

Eucharistic:	Jane Emery & Jim Cate
Lector:	Robert Mauk
Crucifer:	Jonathan Dupuy
Ushers:	Larry Emery & Joe Reese
Altar Guild:	Cindi Spain & Judy Stewart
Coffee:	A Good Person or Family ☺

proms and ball games in favor of performances and rehearsals was hardly sacrifice. Bleeding toes and sore muscles weren’t “suffering”. They were just part of the process. So I fretted that I still needed to find a way to serve God. Then one day I realized how my dancing was indeed service. All that is beauty and creativity is of God. Dancing is a way to testify to that beauty. To the extent that I could be a channel for these things I was His servant. (God said, “Duh! Why do you think I gave you the dancing?”) I can be pretty dense sometimes.

I have been an Episcopalian all my life...I just didn’t know it!

My grandfather rounded up all his children and grandchildren, took us to Christ Episcopal Church in downtown Dayton, Ohio, and had us all baptized. I was about 2 years old.

Every Sunday our parents dropped us 6 kids off at a Methodist Sunday school. They went to on downtown to Christ Church, returning later to retrieve us. I have no idea why they did this. Perhaps the Methodists had a better Sunday school?

I didn’t like Sunday school. I wanted to go to church! I was attending a Catholic school, so I gave the Methodist teachers a hard time, spouting Catholic doctrine. Finally they called my mother to come get me. Mom got on the phone and told me that my big brother was attending St. Andrew’s Episcopal two blocks away, and that I should walk up there and wait with him. When I walked into St. Andrew’s I immediately felt at home!

It was then that I learned that I had been an Episcopalian all along!

When I met my husband, Pete, 22 years ago, and learned that he is also an Episcopalian, I figured God had arranged things for us.

And now we both feel “at home” at St. James the Less.

And I have even been given the opportunity to serve IN the church as a Chalice Bearer!

One never knows what God has in store ☺

From The Loft

Another month? “Tempus fugit”! I am thinking of the term “March Madness”. What does it really mean? I don’t have the formal definition, but I will suggest some things that come to mind. There are several changes. We don’t often enjoy change. What changes are coming up immediately?

The time changes; Lent begins; the season changes; the weather is unstable – cold, warm, rain, snow etc.; the trees and flowers are beginning to bloom; Easter is late this year; the business world is preparing for quarter end – did we make the quota? Students are ready for Spring break.

However, life goes on. In the midst of this madness, we have church and our time of worship with God. Let us find comfort and rest as we sing the hymns, pray, worship and hear His word. “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice”. If you have a favorite hymn, let me know.

As for change, the choir is beginning practice on Lent & Easter Music. As always, our thanks and appreciation to the choir for their participation and support.

In His Service,
Genevieve Lish, Organist/Choir Director

Shrove Tuesday

Our Shrove Tuesday event will be Pancakes and Sausage on March 4th from 5:30-7:30 pm. Dari Shadwick & Sandra Womack will be the pancake chefs. Rick Webb and Mike Mauk will be frying up the sausage. Thanks to these fine folks for coordinating this blessed event!

Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday observance of the Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 5th. Bring the whole family.....and anyone else needing to embark on a deeper spiritual journey during Lent!

Wednesday Soup & Salad

Our Lenten series, “Gospel Medicine,” with a soup and salad dinner begins Wednesday, March 12th from 5:30 pm to 6:50 pm. Dinner is from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm, and discussion follows. The book for this year’s study was written by Barbara Brown Taylor, a wise and learned priest from southern Georgia. She has been deemed “a contemporary C.S. Lewis,” and her insights into salvation should be quite meaningful. A sign-up sheet for hosts is on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Vestry Notes from February

- Heard that security sensors had been installed on the new A/C and all plumbing repairs had been completed
- Scheduled a Clean Up Day for March 29th
- Inspected new carpeting around the altar
- Heard that the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be March 4th
- Heard details about our Lenten Soup & Salad program
- Made plans for a neighborhood canvass of door posts on April 2nd and April 5th
- Appointed Joan Wells to choose new doormats for the front entrance
- Was reminded of pictures to be taken at Easter

Financial Update	
January 2014	
Income	\$12,189
Expenses	(8,692)
Quarterly Expense Accrual	(2,227)
Net	\$1,270

For more information, see Jim Cate, Treasurer.

Ministries

Room in the Inn

The current donation through mid-March for Room in the Inn is large bags of cough drops, hand warmers and long underwear: XL to 3XL. Drop off is outside of Father Courtney’s office. Kudos to all for their faithfulness and generosity!

Youth Ministry

Teenagers and middle schoolers will join Father Courtney & Lacey Lyons for dinner and discussion on March 22nd at 6:30 pm at the Olive Garden in Rivergate. We shall discuss the beauty of discipline in our Lenten observances.

Elementary schoolers join us each Sunday at 10:30 am. Our little ones continue to study prayer as they learn our *Lord’s Prayer*. We will also learn stories of Jesus’ journey to Easter and lessons of the early church.

Community Grief Group

Grief Group meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm during Lent. Flyers are available in the front hallway if you know of anyone who could benefit from learning more of the group process.

Taekwondo Theme

Self-Control - To control not only ones body in its physical motions, but also a mental attitude so that one is open to learning and able to achieve goals. By recognizing the things that can change to avoid problems and failure or merely to improve technique, one can then learn to control our free will into deliberate positive actions. With self-control comes the rewards positive growth and consciousness of our actions.

Contact Us

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Madison TN 37075

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Priest-in-Charge: Father Robin Courtney

Church Schedule*Sunday*

Holy Eucharist – 8:00 AM

Adult Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Choral Holy Eucharist – 10:30 AM

Elementary Education – 10:30 AM

Wednesday

Soup, Salad & Discussion – 5:30 PM

Grief Group – 7:00 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

Stretch & Strength Class

The Stretch and Strength Class has accomplished its mission! Everyone is limber now. Our thanks to Sarah Mace for accomplishing a wonderful miracle and offering her gifts! Perhaps she will have an encore in the future!

News from the Diocese of Tennessee

The Speaker's Series of St. George's Church, Nashville will host famous Nashville journalist John Seigenthaler, on Thursday, February 20 beginning with lunch at 11:30 am. His topic will be "Highs and Lows of the Last 50 Years in Nashville." John has been both witness and participant in the life of Nashville in his roles at the Tennessean newspaper, USA Today, First Amendment Center, and WDCN-TV. All are welcome; please make reservations for lunch by Monday, February 17 or call 615-385-2150 ext 262.

"Following the saints... a pilgrimage in the wake of St. Paul and St. Nicholas" in modern-day Turkey, sponsored through St. Paul's Church, Franklin, and led by the Rev. Bob and Susan Cowperthwaite will begin with a seven-night yacht cruise starting September 25 through October 8, 2014. The focus of the cruise will be the coastline of ancient Lycia, the western part of the Turkish coast. Travelers will be accompanied by a local Turkish guide and a British archaeologist who will bring attention to classical and Christian sites and monument along the shoreline. After the cruise, the group will fly to Istanbul where they will lodge four nights to explore the remarkable sights there. Should you have interest in participating in this pilgrimage to Turkey, contact Fr. Bob Cowperthwaite at bob@stpaulsfranklin.com for more details.


