



## Celebrating 117 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – March 2019

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### *The Vicar's Vision*

Dear friends,

Are you tending your soul? Or better yet, are you letting God tend your soul? We tend our physical bodies (some of us are more faithful at this than others). We certainly pay attention to our work schedules and all the tasks at hand that must get done. We pay attention to the sports schedules and the meeting schedules. Maybe we are even attentive to family time with an occasional dinner meal together, trips to see the kids and grandkids, or plans to get away.

Tending our souls somehow always finds its way to the bottom of the to-do list. Just imagine if you let God regularly tend your soul. I can, with great confidence, assure you that when your soul is at peace, when you take the time to be present before God, when you spend time in fellowship with other seekers, the rest of your life, that can feel incomplete or overly busy or lacking, will come alive.

The season of Lent can be an intentional time for Soul tending. It is our custom and tradition in the Episcopal Church to read the story of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness on the first Sunday of Lent.

This wilderness experience for Jesus is found in 3 of the 4 Gospels. So what is going on in Luke? Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit. He is back from his baptism in the Jordan River where God has spoken to him and said you are

my Son, my beloved. He is led by the spirit in (not into) the wilderness. He was tempted by the devil for 40 days and of note, he did not eat for these 40 days. It appears from the passage that it was only after the 40 days, when Jesus is truly famished, that the devil speaks to him. What is your wilderness? What is that place of trials, of trouble, of temptation and testing? Is it at your work with a colleague, is it feeling alone, is it the world and how scary it feels these days, or is it just the unknown?

They say that our spiritual depth and understanding of God's grace and mercy is often deepened when we face our wilderness, though none of us will consciously choose paths of difficulty and trouble.

I am reminded that it was in the wilderness that prophets and leaders like Moses and Elijah were prepared for their leadership and faith. In fact, the people of Israel were made and formed into God's people in a 40 year-long journey in the wilderness.

Lent is 40 days with Biblical history and purpose. This Lent choose to walk in the wilderness parts of your life and seek God's wisdom and grace.

Shalom,  
The Rev. Anne West+



## ECW NEWS AND NOTES

### March

The ECW met on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. Rhonda Oliver, from Feeding Greene, was our guest speaker.

Rhonda shared with us the history of Feeding Greene which started out as a food pantry run by the WMU (Women's Missionary Union) of Stanardsville Baptist Church in 1995. In the beginning they served about 15 families; that number has grown to where they typically serve as many as 60 families during the two days they are open each week. In addition to having families come to their building, they also deliver to approximately 30 families in outlying areas of Greene who have no means of transportation. But with all this there are still a lot of families who are in desperate need of food assistance and don't even know that Feeding Greene exists. They work closely with Blue Ridge Area Food Bank which sends two trucks of food every week and they are also associated with the USDA food program. Rhonda mentioned that there are many organizations including Grace Church that donate money and food on a regular basis. Rhonda noted that they are always in need of volunteers and she passed out several brochures and flyers with lots of useful information.

We presented Rhonda with a \$100 check from the money that was collected from "Souper Bowl Sunday".

The Diocesan ECW Lenten Quiet Day will be held on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond. Retired Bishop David Jones will lead the retreat. The flyer is on the bulletin board.

Snack for YDC in March is scheduled for Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup>. Heather Myers and Mike Alley appreciate all the wonderful snacks that we have provided.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeannie Palin

## GET TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS

A Vestry Outreach Event

On Saturday, March 23, 2019 you are invited to join the Outreach Committee at the Bailey Court apartments across the street. There are opportunities to help with Love Laundry and/or visit with residents.

Consider one or more of these options:

### **Friday:**

**10:00 am:** Set up Community Room.

### **Saturday:**

**9:00 am to 4:00 pm:** Do Love Laundry in one of the two laundry rooms.

### **Saturday Community Room Schedule:**

**9:00 to 10:00 am:** Enjoy conversations in the Community Room (Consider bringing a snack to share.)

**10:00 to 11:00 am:** Board Game time with children (Consider bringing your favorite game.)

**11:00 to 12:00 noon:** Smart Cooking Demonstration by Faye Anderson, VA Cooperative Extension Agent.

**12:00 noon to 1:00 pm:** Tasting party and Q&A time with Faye.

**1:00 to 2:00 pm:** Enjoy apples and Clementines with neighbors.

**2:00 to 3:00 pm:** Visit shut-ins in their apartments.

**3:00 to 4:00 pm:** Clean-up Community Room and return tables and chairs to church.

Contact Bert or Barbara Nye to volunteer: (434) 985-2402 or [breimernye@gmail.com](mailto:breimernye@gmail.com)

Proverbs 14:31 "... whoever is kind to the needy honors God."



## Wednesdays during Lent

**5:30 PM** We will begin with a simple soup and bread supper.

There is a sign-up sheet for food on the bulletin board in the hallway.

**6:15 PM** *What matters in our life of Faith?*

### Week 1 March 13 : End of Life Matters

It may seem backwards to start this Lenten series with matters concerning the end of life, but what does it mean for us to think of death as part of life? And we will ask that BIG question, “Are your affairs in order?”

### Week 2 March 20 : History Matters

The Episcopal Church has a rich history that has much to say about the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We will take a glimpse of this history together and walk to where we stand today.

### Week 3 March 27 : Serving Others Matters

Clearly this community understands the command to ‘love thy neighbor.’ Where is Jesus speaking to us from scripture in this journey of service?

### Week 4 April 3 : Prayers Matter

Our Book of Common Prayer is a gem. Tonight, we will let it shine as we look at all the glorious prayers that are included and other things you may not even realize are part of the Book.



### Week 5 April 10 : Music Matters

Every piece of music starts with a story. Some of these stories are fascinating and worth sharing. We will end the evening with a good old fashion sing-along.

## Lenten, Holy Week and Easter Services

- **Ash Wednesday – March 6 at 7:00 PM**  
*Imposition of Ashes* with Holy Eucharist and music.
  
- Lenten Liturgies
  - ✓ **First Sunday in Lent - March 10 at 9:30 AM**  
We will pray the *Great Litany*.
  - ✓ **Second Sunday in Lent - March 17 at 9:30 AM**  
We will use the *Penitential Order*.
  
- Holy Week
  - ✓ **Palm Sunday – April 14 at 9:30 AM**  
*Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Gospel,* and Holy Eucharist
  
  - ✓ **Maundy Thursday – April 18 at 7:00 PM**  
*A Christian Seder* followed by *The Proper Liturgy for Stripping the Altar*
  
  - ✓ **Good Friday – April 19**
    - **12 noon** - Stanardsville United Methodist and Grace Church join together to walk the *Stations of the Cross* through the Town of Stanardsville; beginning at SUMC and ending at Grace.
    - **7:00 PM** – Solemn Good Friday Liturgy.
  
  - ✓ **Holy Saturday – April 20 (time to be determined)**  
Prayers followed by *Holy Cleaning* at Church
  
  - ✓ **Easter Sunday – April 21 at 9:30 AM**  
Festive Holy Eucharist, Rite II followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the front yard.

# Lent and Holy Week 2019

✚ Come join us at the *Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper* on Tuesday, **March 5<sup>th</sup>**, from **6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**. That's when we get to enjoy the "culinary talents" of the men of Grace Church and share a meal and conversation with neighbors! The supper is free and open to all members of the community.

## ✚ Opportunities for your Lent

- Join in the *Lent Madness*. You can track the Saintry stand-off on the chart in the hallway. Feel free to take a booklet which gives some wonderful insight to the 32 saints trying to win the Golden Halo! Follow the madness at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org)
- There are numerous on-line offerings for daily meditations and devotions. I offer one of these for your journey. [www.ssje.org/time](http://www.ssje.org/time)
- **16 Easter Lilies and 4 hyacinths** have been ordered to decorate our altar during the Easter services. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Sanctuary information table for those interested in purchasing a plant, which may be given in Thanksgiving or to honor the memory of loved ones.



## HOPE FOR HAITI

Our *Lenten Hope Chest* offering for 2019 is designated to honor and support the *Episcopal Church in Haiti* and the ongoing work to share the gospel message and to raise the country out of its history of struggle and poverty. A collection jar and Lenten calendar will be available to help educate all of us on Haiti.



## Thanks to ECW

Hi Jeannie,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak at your meeting this past Saturday! It was so wonderful to see such a good group of ladies interested in and being a part of the many good things going on in this community!!

I know from past outreaches your church has been a part of, that you all especially have a heart for the families in and around Ford Avenue. I have come to know many of those families through the years and also have an interest in reaching out to those families. When we have an excess of food that we need to move quickly, Ford Avenue is usually the first place we go to. The families are always so welcoming and appreciative.

Please feel free to contact me at any time and/or with any ideas that you may have to better serve the nutritional needs of families in Greene County!! I'm always looking for ways for Feeding Greene to partner with others to better serve our families!!

God Bless,

Rhonda Oliver



Lent blows in like a strong March wind, just when I need it the most. Lent blusters its way into my life, interrupting a long, wet After-the-Epiphany season during which my soul grew a little flabby and my heart a little faint. Lent comes late this year, but it comes decisively.

Maybe, like me, you indulged during the cold and dark of winter in temptations you might easily resist when it's light and warm and dry. Maybe it was eating too many holiday sweets, binging on TV, buying stuff online that you don't really need, bickering mindlessly with loved ones, skipping the gym, neglecting the volunteer work that gives life. The earth lies fallow in winter, and we human beings need some fallow time, too, but that need can tempt us into habits that break relationship with God, with other people and with our deepest selves. And so Lent comes offering us a chance to recall what's really important, to reconnect with God and others, and to recalibrate habits for the sake of health - our own, our community's and our world's.

This Lent, I invite you to join me in practicing a Lenten discipline in one or more of the three focus areas I described during the Recall and Reconnect Listening Tour.

**1. Telling our Story.** Some say you should never talk about politics or religion in "polite company." Jesus said something different. He told us boldly to proclaim the love, the healing and the goodness we have known in relationship with God. [StorySharing materials](#) on The Episcopal Church website invite us to share our stories with simple prompts like: When have you felt God really alive in your church? Describe that moment.

Or, share a story about how you made use of your sufferings, difficulties, or hardships in order to help someone else facing similar troubles.

Explore these and other questions alone in journaling or in small groups, so that you may become more and more comfortable in telling your story to others. The [StorySharing Guidebook](#) tells you more.

**2. Building Community.** We Christians proclaim that all of humanity is created by God and that all are in the image of God. By the power of the love of God, made known to us in Christ Jesus, there are no "others" in the human family; there are only

brothers and sisters. Yet we separate ourselves from one another based on race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, language, culture, political affiliation, religion and other factors. [Sacred Ground](#) is a new film-based dialogue series from The Episcopal Church that explores race and faith and invites us into the hard and holy work of overcoming our divisions for the healing of communities. I commend this program to you.

**3. Honoring God's Creation.** We human beings were created by God with a unique role as stewards of God's creation. Yet our lifestyles often leave us disconnected from the power, the wonder and the beauty of God's creation -- to the harm of the earth and ultimately to our own harm. As people of faith, we can act in concrete ways for the healing of our planet. The Presiding Bishop and the Task Force on the Care of Creation will soon post a Pledge for the Care of Creation and invite people across the Church to reflect with it throughout Lent. Those who feel so called may then sign on during Easter Week. The goal is to have 1,000 people sign the pledge by the first Sunday after Easter, and to partner for the sake of lasting change in our church, our communities and God's good earth. We will send a link to this Pledge as soon as it is made available.

Lent blows in like a strong March wind, just when we need it the most.

May God bless you with the all the hope and courage you need to live a full, transforming and holy Lent for the sake of your own soul, for the sake of community and for the sake of God's creation.

Your sister in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff  
Bishop Suffragan and  
Ecclesiastical Authority  
Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

**† Birthdays, Baptisms, &  
Anniversaries †  
March 2019**

*Let us give thanks and praise to God for these special days in the life of our parish family members and friends.*

**Birthdays**

01 Ron Morris

04 Heather Meslar  
Ann Dye

11 Suzanne Haney

13 Nina Wright

15 Eloise Virginia Pattison

16 Bobby Winslow

22 Jeannie Palin

23 Cathy Lagana



**Anniversaries**

17 Bob & Kathryn Thomas

20 Ryan & Katie Miller



**Baptisms**

02 Berowne Paradis

22 Alexandra McElroy

24 Ann McDaniel

27 Garnett Mingledorff



## Lay Participation Schedule for March 2019

	<b>3/3 Last Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>3/10 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>3/17 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>3/24 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>3/31 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>
<u>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</u>	Exodus 34:29-35	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Exodus 3:1-15	Joshua 5:9-12
<u>Psalm</u>	99	91:1-2, 9-16	27	63:1-8	32
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</u>	2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2	Romans 10:8b-13	Philippians 3:17 – 4:1	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	2 Corinthians 5:16-21
<u>Gospel</u>	Luke 9:28-43a	Luke 4:1-13	Luke 13:31-35	Luke 13:1-9	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<u>LEM</u>	Jean Byerly	Minna Doyle	Mary Hogge	Cathy Lagana	Ron Morris
<u>Lector</u>	Phil Palin	Mary Hogge	Betty Moreland	Ron Morris	Adelaide Myers
<u>Intercessor</u>	Roy Dye	Ann Mingledorff	Jenny Morris	Jeannie Palin	Betty Moreland
<u>Usher</u>	Roy Dye	Scott Mingledorff	Bill Schmidt	Lou Hatter	Mary Hogge
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	Robbins	Meslar	Byerly, Koontz, Peck	Hatter	Newman
<u>Vestry Person</u>	Meslar	Meslar	Meslar	Meslar	Meslar
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Cathy Lagana Linda Robbins	Cathy Lagana Linda Robbins	Cathy Lagana Linda Robbins	Cathy Lagana Linda Robbins	Cathy Lagana Linda Robbins

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**Coffee hour in the Parish Hall follows the service**

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