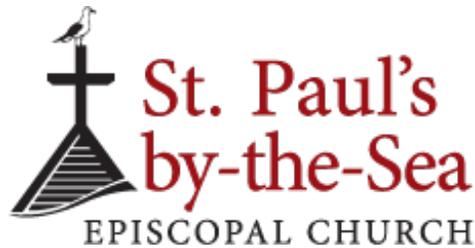


**Additional
Links:**

**SPBTS
Calendar
SPBTS Website
The Red Doors
Website**



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Annual Meeting
Special Recognition
Souper Bowl Sunday
Newsletter Item

**Upcoming
Events**

Sunday Holy Eucharist
8:00 a.m. and 10:00
a.m., Dewees Hall

**Mondays, Tuesdays,
Thursdays, Fridays and
Saturdays**
10:00 - Noon
Shepherd's Crook
205 S Baltimore Avenue

Monday, February 19
President's Day
Office Closed

**Friday - Saturday,
February 23-24**
Diocesan Convention
Hyatt Regency,
Cambridge

Thursday, March 1
Your Neighbor's Faith,
Judaism
Temple Bat Yam
Berlin

**Friday,
March 2, 7:30pm**
Purim
Temple Bat Yam
Berlin

**Shepherd's
Crook
Shopping
List**

The following items



Lent 2018 Rector's Reflection

Dear People of God:

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word... (BCP, 264-265)

When Episcopalians wonder what we as a communion believe, we turn to the Prayerbook and look at our prayers, readings, and liturgies. In the case of Ash Wednesday, we have an invitation to the observance of a holy Lent which does a good job in explaining the origin of the observance of Lent as well as concrete suggestions on how to keep a good and holy Lent.

We see that originally Lent was a time of preparation for the mysteries of the Easter Triduum (Mandy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil) by fasting and acts of penance. In addition, since Easter is all about Baptism, Lent became also a season of preparation for those who were to be baptized. Finally, since it was a time of fasting and acts of penance, those who had committed notorious sin (adultery or murder, for instance) would do public penance and prepare to be received back into communion at Easter. In this way, Lent became all about repentance, pardon, and forgiveness.

are always needed
and always
welcome:

Tuna - packed in
water - 5 oz. cans
Vienna Sausage
Canned spinach,
collards, pinto beans,
kidney beans
Fruit - cans or
plastic one-serve
containers of
pineapple, peaches,
pears, oranges
Soups - anything
Progresso, Tomato,
Chicken Noodle
Pasta Sauce (in non-
glass containers)
Pasta
Macaroni and Cheese
boxes

It would be well for us, therefore to take these days of Lent and reflect on our lives and actions. Where there is need of amendment of life, this is a time to develop those habits and practices which will lead us into the requisite changes we need. If there is need for asking another for forgiveness, Lent is a good time to mend a broken relationship and find healing between formerly estranged individuals. If necessary, I can offer the sacrament of reconciliation for the absolution of sins to those in need of it. The Anglican maxim is, "none must, all may, some should".

Finally, the admonition offers some concrete actions to put into practice in Lent, including prayer (this would be a good time to renew a devotion to morning and evening prayer in the front of the prayer book), fasting, and self denial. Anyone who would like advice or instruction, especially on praying the Daily Office, or Morning and Evening Prayer, feel free to ask me! Reading and meditating on God's Holy Word, or Scripture rounds out the suggested practices. I found an outstanding contemporary way of living out the days of Lent at this resource, which is from a Lutheran congregation in Denver Colorado: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/nadiabolzweber/2012/02/house-for-all-sinners-and-saints-40-ideas-for-keeping-a-holy-lent/>

There is so much good will in our congregation, the Annual Meeting was exceptionally positive. Our ministries are robust and growing, our congregation is at peace, we are anticipating with excitement the return into the sanctuary and celebrating the completion of the Fellowship Commons, we have acknowledged and recognized those who have worked so hard in the past year and years. We are in a very good space and I am most thankful to all. I genuinely love my job!

Bare Branches

by Mary Wright

Did you know that flowers are not used in the church during Lent and Advent. The branches are not deadwood. They are taken from live plants that just happen to be dormant at this time. Some might say that Lent can be compared to being dormant. We are taking stock of who we are and how we can come out of this season of reflection and self examination as better people.



Also, by using the bare stems as a visual image, we can only begin to try and imagine Christ Jesus being in the wilderness for those forty days.

We modern day Christians do have the advantage over the early followers of Christ, of knowing the promise of the resurrection

and of new life to come on Easter morning.

Perhaps we can lay bare our lives and take this time to strengthen our Christian devotion and responsibilities to blossom into the followers of Christ that he would want us to be.

Expressions in Water Color

Christy Powell, art teacher at Stephen Decatur High School, will offer adults an opportunity to discuss the scriptures of Lent as they become familiar with the properties and techniques of watercolor. Participants will then select a scripture and illustrate it in a watercolor painting. Wednesdays from 6-7 pm beginning March 7th. Participation is limited to 20. Please call the Atlantic United Methodist Church Office by February 26th to register - 410-280-7430. There may be a small charge for materials.

Your Neighbor's Faith

The CURE (Clergy United for Reconciliation and Equality) group has organized this four part study to be held on four consecutive Thursday evenings 7-8:30 pm during Lent.

March 1st - Judaism, at Temple Bat Yam, Berlin

March 8th - Catholicism, at Holy Savior, OC

March 15th - Protestantism, at Church of the Holy Spirit, OC

March 22nd - Islam, at the Islamic Center, West OC

If you have any questions, articles, or suggestions for this e-newsletter, please contact Jody Farley at spbtsnewsletter@gmail.com Thanks for reading!

