

## *From your Rector:*

This year Easter is on April 1<sup>st</sup> (April Fool's Day) and Ash Wednesday was on February 14<sup>th</sup> (Valentine's Day). This interesting combination has not happened in more than 50 years. A lot of people do not realize that the date for these two holy days changes every year. Initially the date of Easter coincided with the date of Passover. However, the date of Passover can be tricky. It is based on the lunar calendar, but not entirely. Christians decided to determine the date of Easter on the lunar calendar alone, which does not always coincide with the Jewish calendar. Easter is the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after March 21. To find Ash Wednesday, you start with the date of Easter Sunday and go back six weeks (which leads to the first Sunday of Lent), and then back up four more days.

These shifting dates can create some bizarre scenarios. This year Ash Wednesday fell on Valentine's Day. (When I was single, I would have loved that coincidence as is it would have given me religious reasons to be bitter!) Our church staff tried to think of ways to connect these two days, but it was tricky! Valentine's Day is supposed to be a joyful day full of affection and indulgence. Ash Wednesday is about mortality, penitence and self-reflection.

What no one realized was that this particular Ash Wednesday would prove to be more morbid than our worst nightmares. On this Ash Wednesday, a 19 year old entered a high school and killed 17 people. I confess that I have not read many of the articles, and I have avoided seeing pictures or listening to interviews. Yet it is hard to escape a tragedy of this magnitude. I came across a picture of two women sobbing as they waited outside the school to see if their children were among the children wounded or dead. What caught my attention about this particular picture was that one of the women wore a large heart necklace around her neck and a black cross on her forehead.

I imagined her putting that necklace on as she got ready for church or wherever she was going first. I imagined her going to church and hearing the priest tell her, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." I imagined her getting that phone call---that phone call that every parent fears---and then looking in the rearview mirror and seeing that cross smudged on her forehead. I wonder if she will ever be able to attend another Ash Wednesday service.

I wonder if she will ever hear those words ("You are dust and to dust you shall return") and not remember that day in 2018, when Ash Wednesday fell on Valentine's Day, a day meant for whole, beating hearts, not shattered and silent hearts.

Of all the strange combinations, one could never have predicted one so full of horror and pain. I can make no sense of this tragedy. It was not God's will. It was the will of someone full of pain and evil. Yet, as Christians, we can never let evil triumph. I read one article I found helpful.

I would like to end with a portion of that article. Lent is for starting over, but some things cannot be redone. We cannot wake the dead, but perhaps we can step onto the road of repentance by actively seeking God's mercy. If we pray to be instruments of God's peace, maybe we can start by not letting our surviving children down. The cross of ashes on the front page cries out for us to trudge the road to Lenten forgiveness with faith, with purpose, with persistence of heart, with trust in the God who loves us hugely in spite of our sins.

*Faithfully,*

*Samantha*





The new Academy of Music at St John's has three professional music teachers offering private music lessons in guitar, voice, piano and violin. Currently we are offering lessons to 5 retired veterans and would love to add more students to our schedule. The Academy is meeting on the second floor of the white building (Hoffman house) beside the church where we have a beautiful studio for music. The St. John's Academy of Music is a partnership project of our music ministry and the Academy of Music located in Norfolk. I encourage you to explore this opportunity to nurture your musical ability with individual and group music instruction. Contact music director Deborah Carr at [music@stjohnshampton.org](mailto:music@stjohnshampton.org) for additional information and sign up to learn. Scholarships are available to those students who need help with funding. Come on out and join the tunes!!!

### **Habitat For Humanity & St. John's UPDATE: [Hampton Faith Build](#)**

- St. John's Episcopal Church has agreed to partner with Habitat to build a house here in Hampton for a family.
- The house is designated to be on 213 Union Street which is not too far from the church.
- The church has committed to providing half the cost needed to build the house - \$37,500.
- The church has also committed to having volunteers who are skilled, unskilled or in other capacities work to help build this house.
- Plans are in process preparing the site, stay tuned for details on how you can help and volunteer.
- Please pray for this project, the family and all those who serve.

### *Christian Formation*

Our **H.E.Y.** leaders are busy planning your next meeting for Sunday, March 18th. Look for details in the coming weekly bulletins.

**YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS:** The class will need to meet more often in order to cover all of the confirmation material. Please plan to meet Sunday, March 11th, 25th at 9:15 am in the Bell Tower. Please contact Shannon Olson, email [jjawolson@aol.com](mailto:jjawolson@aol.com)



### *Daylight Savings Time*

*Daylight Savings Time begins at 2am, Sunday, March 11th.*

*Move your clocks ahead an hour.*

## Night's Welcome Update

Night's Welcome had a very welcoming presence for the guests of H.E.L.P. the week of February 3rd through 10<sup>th</sup>. Each night brought a different number of guests ranging from 47 to as many as 61. They were met nightly by volunteers of St. John's, whose job it was to welcome them, and sign them in. After getting situated at tables, dinner was served. Around 8 o'clock, mats & linens were passed out. We were fortunate to have a television setup so they could watch TV until lights out at 10pm. Mats were put away in the morning after a wakeup call at 6am. Breakfast was served at 6:15am while they watched the morning news. They departed at 7am.

The guests were very gracious, always asking if they could do something to help us whether it be washing dishes, cleaning tables, or picking up salt and pepper shakers. They never failed to say thank you, how good the meals were, and how much they appreciated what the volunteers did for them. These people are down on their luck. Many work daily and some are going to school. Several had job interviews during the week and received job offers before the week was out. Listening to their stories was enlightening.

Many of St. John's volunteers were seasoned people who have been helping for years with this program. I had some new volunteers who were astounded about the guests and their stories. Their idea of "who is the homeless are" has certainly changed.

**Thanks to everyone** who gave of their time to make our "Night's Welcome Week" a successful endeavor for our outreach in the community. The guests always look forward to coming to our church as they find us very hospitable, warm and welcoming.



Bettyrene Pope, Coordinator

### 126th Annual Council: Bishop Hollerith announces retirement

The 126th Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia convened in Williamsburg last week, February 16th and 17th. Much work was accomplished by Council, but the big news was Bishop Hollerith's announcement during his Address to Council, that he will retire at the end of this year.

"Quite honestly, this has not been an easy decision. In fact, it's one with which I have really struggled over the past few months," the Bishop said. "But after 35 years of ordained ministry, I have given what I can give. I would never claim that my work is done in Southern Virginia. One's work in ministry is never 'done,' never completed because there is always more that one can do for the Lord in any place. But, there does come a time when you realize that you've used all of your skill set and that a different skill set with fresh eyes and fresh energy behind it might be more appropriate for leading the community forward."

You can read Bishop Hollerith's address by going to the Annual Council page on the Diocesan website:

[www.diosova.org/annual\\_council](http://www.diosova.org/annual_council)





# THE GOOD BOOK CLUB

LENT-EASTER 2018

[WWW.GOODBOOKCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.GOODBOOKCLUB.ORG)

Sunday Meeting	Focus Passage	Weekly Discussion Segment
February 11, 2018	Introduction	<b>BEGIN READING LUKE/ACTS</b>
February 18, 2018	LUKE 1:46-56	1 Lent-week 1 discussion
February 25, 2018	LUKE 4:16-30	2 Lent-week 2 discussion
March 4, 2018	LUKE 10:25-37	3 Lent-week 3 discussion
March 11, 2018	LUKE 12:22-34	4 Lent-week 4 discussion
March 18, 2018	LUKE 16:19-31/24:13-35	5 Lent-week 5 discussion
March 25, 2018	<b><i>NOT MEETING!!</i></b>	<b>Palm Sunday: Passion Sunday</b>
April 1, 2018	<b><i>NOT MEETING!!</i></b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
April 8, 2018	ACTS 1:1-11	2 Easter-week 6 discussion? (Bishop)
April 15, 2018	ACTS 6:1-7	3 Easter-week 6/7 discussion
April 22, 2018	ACTS 9:1-22	4 Easter-week 7/8 discussion
April 29, 2018	ACTS 11:1-18	5 Easter-week 8/9 discussion
May 6, 2018	ACTS 15: 1-31	6 Easter-week 9/10 discussion
May 13, 2018	ACTS 16:16-40/28:23-31	7 Easter-week 10/11 discussion
May 20, 2018	<b>WRAP UP WEEK</b>	<b>Feast of Pentecost -wk. 11/wrap up</b>
May 20, 2018	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>REVIEW AND FOLLOW UP</b>

We are just beginning Luke, please join us! In an effort to continue to seek new ways to provide formational opportunities that offer both flexibility and structure, we are beginning The Good Book Club. The Good Book Club is a joint venture between Forward Movement, Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry, and more than twenty-five organizations from around the Episcopal Church. It “has been convened to encourage each of us to engage the Bible—the living and loving Word of God—on a daily basis.” We have just begun and the schedule presumes weekly meetings with breaks during Holy Week and Easter Week. **9:15 in the parish hall. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## *New St. John's Vestry Members*



Stephen Rous

Ruth Simmons

Lloyd Thomas

## Upcoming Events at St. John's 2018



**Taize:** You'll be glad you gave yourself this monthly 30-minute Taize Service peace and meditation at 4pm on **March 19th** in the church. Join us for this time away from the frenzy of life to refresh your mind and relax your body.

### Lenten Program

On Sunday, **March 4th** at the **10:30am** service, the 1st-5th grade children who went through the recent First Communion Class will come up and receive the Eucharist together and there will be a Children's Sermon. We'll have cake following the service, so please join in this exciting day for them!



On March 25th at the 8am and 10:30am services, we will follow the traditional liturgy of the palms with our outdoor procession around the church to begin the services. The services will begin in the parish hall and will conclude with the Passion narrative read by individuals and the congregation as we carry the cross out to the cemetery and leave in silence. This is a fitting way for us to enter into Holy Week.

**Palm Sunday Choral Concert** The choirs of St Johns' Episcopal and Hampton Baptist Churches will join forces this year for our annual Lenten Choral Concert. The program will be held at St John's on Sunday afternoon March 25th (Palm Sunday) at 4:00pm in our sanctuary and will feature the Requiem by John Rutter. The concert will be sung with choirs, soloists, organ and chamber orchestras accompaniment. All are welcome.

### Lent Worship Services

Our **Maundy Thursday** service on **March 29th** at 7pm, will include optional foot washing and conclude with the stripping of the altar. We will leave in silence with the sanctuary bare, reminding ourselves of the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and his disciples. After telling them of his impending death the disciples and Jesus left the Upper Room to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane.

### Walk with the Cross

We enter the bare sanctuary on **Good Friday, March 30th, at noon.** The service will follow the Prayer Book liturgy with psalms, readings, prayers and a meditation. At 5pm, St. John's will be joining nine other local churches to journey around downtown Hampton carrying a cross similar to the one Jesus was crucified on. We will share carrying of the heavy cross with our fellow believers as we move to different church stations sharing scripture and song. Join us to walk with the cross.

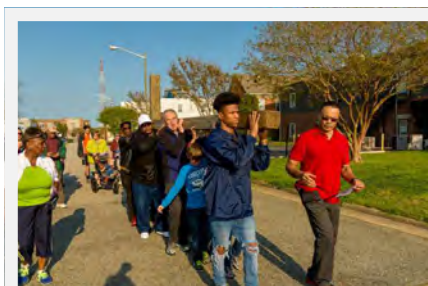


Photo from 2017's Walk with the Cross

## Upcoming Events at St. John's 2018



Our Easter Services of Resurrection will be offered on **April 1st** at **9am** and **11am** with full choir and brass. A children's sermon will be included at the 9am worship with the annual Easter egg hunt following in the cemetery. All children fifth grade and younger are welcome to participate. Have your children bring a basket to collect the eggs!



**and Bishop's Visit** : The Bishop only visits every two years and on Sunday, **April 8th**, it will be St. John's turn. He will join us at the **10:30am** service and confirm youth and adults in our parish. There will be a reception following the service. Plan to join us for this special Sunday worship!



**Renovation**: Do not worry if you see scaffolding! The parish hall will be undergoing some much needed repairs. The entire roof will be replaced and the outside will be painted. The expectation is that the renovation will take 3 months. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Harper or Whiting Chisman Jr. .

**St. Anne's Guild** members and friends filled 70 Valentine goody bags for the boys at Boys Home. Bags were decorated, filled, cards enclosed, and delivered to the Director for delivery to the boys. Videos showed their campus life as well as personal reflections from several 2017 graduates.

June Wolff will be our hostess for our March 6 meeting at her home (10:30). All are welcome to join us. Please call Janice Markham or Barbara Sinclair if you'd like to visit with us. Thank you June and Jan!

Barbara Williams  
757-722-0338  
[bsinclair3@cox.net](mailto:bsinclair3@cox.net)  
or  
Janice Markham  
757-851-0177  
[jmarkham74@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarkham74@yahoo.com)



# One Bread, One Body

*What the Church Offers the World*

Lenten Series 2018

St. Cyprians, Emmanuel, St. John's & St. Mark's  
Episcopal Churches

The Church faces many challenges in our world today. At one time, people had to come to church to hear a sermon, listen to wonderful music, or learn about the Bible and their faith. Now, all of that can be accessed on the internet. It is no wonder that people are choosing to stay at home on Sunday morning. The Church offers something that cannot be accessed online. Community. We will use these four weeks in Lent to talk about different perspectives on our faith community. This is especially appropriate given that all four Episcopal Churches in Hampton are participating!

Wednesdays: 6:00-7:45 PM

6:00 Dinner of soup and salad

6:30 Program

7:15 Worship

March 7<sup>th</sup> -- St. Mark's--- The Rev. Warren Hicks

**The Uniqueness of the Episcopal liturgy and how it cultivates community**

March 14<sup>th</sup> — Emmanuel—The Rev. Rhonda Wheeler

**Value of Fellowship**

March 21<sup>st</sup> — St. Cyprians--The Rev. Dr. Ronald Ramsey

**Intentional Fellowship**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
2605 Cunningham Drive  
Hampton, VA 23666

St. Cyprian's Episcopal  
Church  
1242 W. Queen Street  
Hampton, VA 23669  
757-723-8253

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
179 East Mercury Blvd  
Hampton, VA  
757- 723-8144

## March Birthdays

1	Marge Mace
1	Ruth Purinton
2	Scott Curtis
4	Warren Coleman
6	Byron Gibson
9	Judy Steffens
13	Jane Price
13	Bill Hudgins
13	Nancy Lewis
14	Claudia Melgaard
15	Elizabeth Zimmerman
15	Missy Austin
15	Hugh Harrell
18	Dennis Long
19	Frank Edgar Sr.
20	Michelle Fuller
20	Harper Lewis
19	Matthew Fuller
26	Ruth Simmons
27	Kay Olson
27	James Mason
28	Will Andrews
29	Emily Battin
31	Donald Heath

## March Anniversaries

16	Jamie & Kim Shoemaker
31	Don & Connie Heath

*Please contact the office  
if we have missed your  
birthday or anniversary:  
757-722-2567  
office@stjohnshampton.org*



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
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## St. John's Staff

**The Rev. Samantha Vincent- Alexander, Rector**

sjrector@stjohnshampton.org

**The Rev. Mark Riley, Assistant Rector**

mark@stjohnshampton.org

**Deborah Carr, Organist and Music Director**

music@stjohnshampton.org

**Jane Price, Lay Pastoral Associate**

janeprice30@aol.com

**Shannon Olson, Christian Formation Coordinator**

jjawsolson@aol.com

**Jenn Devlin, Parish Administrator**

office@stjohnshampton.org

**Darlene Jackson, Communications Assistant**

communications@stjohnshampton.org

**Calvin Slade, Sexton**

## Vestry

Bill Brown (2018)  
Whiting Chisman, Jr. (2019)  
Patrick Dennehey (2019)  
Duncan Garnett (2018)  
Bob Harper (2019)  
Rosemary Hobart (2018)  
Lloyd Thomas (2020)  
Stephen Rous (2020)  
Ruth Simmons (2020)

## Office Hours

Monday through Friday

9am-4pm

*In case of Pastoral Emergency,*

*please call 757-504-3504.*

## Sunday Worship

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:15am Christian Formation

10:30am Holy Eucharist

Nursery Provided  
for Christian Formation  
and for the 10:30am service.