

From your Assistant Rector...



It should be about midway through Lent when you read this article. So, how is your personal journey going this Lent? I was led to ask out of my own journey during Lent, and felt compelled to “check-in”. As one of your ministers who is “to love and serve the people among whom you work” (BCP, p.531), please know I am here to help and support you in your journey closer to God.

This Lent also reminded me that many Protestant churches are made up of people from an amalgam of Christian backgrounds, and by getting to know each other we deepen our collective faith. This blend of Christian culture makes me think of it like adding instruments to an orchestra to create a richer, fuller sound. However, faith like music can become a cacophony of noise unless there is some mutual understanding and trust. In music, it takes sheet music, lead musicians, and a conductor to turn sounds into symphonies. Likewise, our formation requires more than just the words of Holy Scripture and our Book of Common Prayer; we need those who come alongside us to help guide us in our shared journey to deepen our faith and grow closer to God. Lent is a fitting time to consider that diversity because of the dynamic way Lent has been celebrated over the last 2 millennia.

Early Christians observed "a season of penitence and fasting" (BCP, p.265) in preparation for the Paschal feast or Easter (Paschal is from the Hebrew word “Pesah” meaning Passover). Our season of Lent (from an Old English word *Lencten* meaning "spring") has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. Over time, the period of days over which the forty fasting days occurred varied along with what was considered “fasting”.

In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays (the days to fast remains dynamic). The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Today Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited "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, p. 265)

By “observing a holy Lent” we practice and seek habits that lead us closer to God. Jeremiah tells us: “When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord” (29:13-4 NRSV). As we seek God, God seeks us and the distance between us is shortened. Lent is a time to close the gap on our end, knowing God is waiting to do the same.

I encourage you to follow the good examples of those who have gone before us, learn from those ahead of us, and walk alongside others who share our journey. In doing that we strengthen our own faith and are better prepared to help and support those who come after us learn about God’s love. In the corporate observance of Lent, we share our journey and help build up the whole body of believers. The whole body is like
“a full, faith filled orchestra performing a beautiful symphony”, and as Luke 15:7 notes: “I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents...” (continue to page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Just imagine the heavenly chorus as we seek to grow closer to God this Lent and continue to share our journey in the seasons to come!

Grace and Peace, Mark

Sacred Spaces for Hard Conversations-*Lenten Series 2019*

The climate in our nation is toxic. People no longer know how to have a civil conversation about difficult issues. The church often avoids these topics because we do not want to offend anyone. Yet perhaps, church is the best place to have such hard conversations. We are all together because we love God and we love one another. If that is our core identity, then we can have these conversations without hurting one another. Lent is a time of self-reflection and penitence. It's not supposed to be easy. Please join us as we embark on interesting and perhaps difficult topics.

April 3rd -- Emmanuel—The Rev. Rhonda Wheeler

Public Policy—Although we attempt to keep politics separate from our church programs, sermons, etc, I wonder how much of Jesus' way this practice reflects. After all, Jesus was quite involved in "politics," in the "powers that be" when it came to the treatment of the "least of these." So, how much should the Church, our faith families, get involved in public policies like immigration reform and gun control, particularly when churches have been targets of shooters and safe havens for those fleeing the horrible conditions of their countries? For whom do we stand and speak up? At what point do we speak up?

April 10th — St. Mark's--- The Rev. Warren Hicks

Theology—What do we talk about when we talk about God?



Wednesdays: 6:00-7:45pm

6:00pm Dinner of soup and salad

6:30pm Program

7:15pm Worship

H O L Y W E E K

Palm Sunday Worship: On April 14th 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 service. This year, the service will begin in the parish hall. The service will conclude with the Passion narrative read by individuals and congregation as we carry the cross out to the cemetery and leave in silence.

Tenebrae Service: The word Tenebrae means “darkness” in Latin and the approaching darkness of last three days of Holy Week. The service points to three things: First, the psalms and readings tell of the darkness that presses upon us all from living in a broken world. Second, we hear Lamentations and remember the heaviness of any misfortunes from the past year. Third, we’ll hear readings of the new dawn, in which God will reign victorious over darkness and death: “The sunrise from on high will dawn upon us!” reminding us that sin and death **do not** have the final word. Join us on Wednesday, April 17th at 7pm.

Maundy Thursday Worship: Our Maundy Thursday service on April 18th at 7pm, will include foot washing and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. This year, special prelude music will be offered by a quartet of trombones. The somber notes of Lenten chorales on these low brass instruments will set the tone for our holy service. The service will conclude with the stripping of the altar and all leaving in silence.

Good Friday Worship: On Friday, April 19th at 12pm, our Good Friday service will follow the Prayer Book liturgy with psalms, readings, prayers and suffrages.

Good Friday Walk with the Cross: St. John’s will be joining nine other local churches to journey around downtown Hampton. We will move to different stations and share scripture and song. We begin at 5pm at First Baptist and conclude at St. John’s.



Our Easter Services of Resurrection will be offered at 9am and 11am with full choir and brass.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will follow the 9am service in the cemetery. All children 5th grade and younger are invited to participate. Have your children bring a basket and gather at the steps of the parish hall following the service.



EASTER ALTAR DECORATIONS:



If you would like to make a donation for altar decorations, fill out the form below. You may return the form and your check to the Parish office or place in offering plate. The list of memorials and honorariums will be published in the Easter bulletins and the May Epistle.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for Easter Altar Decorations

I wish to give this in Memory of /Honor of (Specify dedication type):

Signed: _____ Phone: _____



THE LAST SEVEN WORDS OF CHRIST by THEODORE DUBOIS

ROY BELFIELD JR. , CONDUCTOR/ DEBORAH CARR, ORGANIST

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019 AT 7:30PM

HAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

40 KINGS WAY HAMPTON, VA 23669

Featuring: The Choirs of St. John's Episcopal Church and Hampton Baptist Church



St. Anne's Guild Ladies preparing their traditional Valentine goody bags for Boys Home.



St. Anne's Guild makes sure every student at Boys Home has a Valentine.



Shrove Tuesday- Pancake Supper



Shrove Tuesday- Follies



Shrove Tuesday- Follies

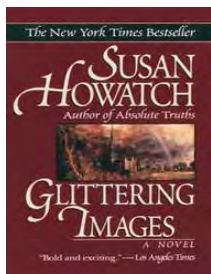


Shrove Tuesday- Pancake Supper

St. Anne's Guild will meet Tuesday, April 2nd at 10:30am for a tour of the historic Magnolia House Inn. The inn has been described as a "Jewel of Comfort & Hospitality." The Inn is located at 232 S. Armistead Ave. All welcome. Contact Janice Markham (851-0177) or Barbara Sinclair (722-0338)



Altar Guild is looking for someone that can sew. We are in need of new covers for all the crosses on the altar and chapel. Please contact Lynn Kirkland if you can help us out at kirkland3@aol.com.



BOOK CLUB - We continue to meet Monday evenings at 5:30pm on the stage in the parish hall for discussion, refreshments, and fellowship. We are beginning "Glittering Images" by Susan Howatch. Please read through section XII, page 225 for Monday, April 1st. Books are available at the meeting and in the Christian Formation office. For more information contact Shannon Olson formation@stjohnshampton.org



New Vestry Member: Whiting Chisman Jr. has resigned from the vestry leaving one year on his unexpired term. According to the by-laws, the vestry can vote to appoint someone to fulfill the term. The vestry has appointed Bettyrene Pope to serve this year. We are thankful for Whiting's two years of service on vestry and decades of service to the church and community!



EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE
of Southern Virginia

Prayer for the Bishop Search

Almighty and most gracious God, source of all wisdom and guidance, send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we seek and discern a shepherd for the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Inspire us with hope, hearts to love you and a desire to serve one another. Grant us grace to entrust you with the future of your Church and all things. We ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

April Birthdays

- 1 H. Shaw
- 3 John Olson
- 4 Anne Andrews
- 5 Dan Clark
- 6 Nia Harrison
- 7 Andy Andrews
- 7 Julia Templeman
- 8 Walt Serwatka
- 8 Joshua Alexander
- 10 Parkie Rice
- 11 Bill Forinash
- 11 Sylvia Edgar
- 14 Margaret McFarland
- 14 Sara Kirkland
- 16 Maude Judkins
- 18 Sam Templeman
- 18 Thomas Templeman
- 21 Jay Hogg
- 22 Betty Boykin
- 23 Terrey McKinney
- 23 Jerry Bouchard
- 25 John Newby
- 26 Yasmine Harrison
- 27 Jeff Templeman
- 27 Kevin Eley
- 29 Natalie Chiasson
- 29 Catherine Burgdorf
- 29 Fred Bockoven
- 30 James McNider
- 30 Val Bowman

April Anniversaries

- 5 Vestal & Nancy Lewis
- 18 Ron & Charlotte Weber
- 18 Russell & Sandra Smith
- 19 Jim & Ann Tormey
- 19 Dan & Betsy Clark
- 22 David & Val Bowen
- 23 Joe & Mary Virginia Strup
- 29 Scott & Linda Curtis

Please contact the office if we have missed your birthday or anniversary:

757-722-2567

office@stjohnshampton.org



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St. John's Staff

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The Rev. Mark Riley, Assistant Rector

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Deborah Carr, Organist and Music Director

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Jane Price, Lay Pastoral Associate

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Shannon Olson, Christian Formation Coordinator

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Jenn Devlin, Parish Administrator

office@stjohnshampton.org

Darlene Jackson, Communications Assistant

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Vestry

Greg Brauer (2021)

Patrick Dennehey (2019)

Charlie Edmonson (2021)

Bob Harper, Sr. Warden (2019)

Emily Klotz (2021)

Denine Miller (2021)

Bettyrene Pope, Jr. Warden, (2020)

Stephen Rouse (2020)

Ruth Simmons (2020)

Darius Rowe (Youth Representative)

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.