



THE THREE CROWNS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH OF THE EPIPHANY

February 12, 2018

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Life Among Believers



All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved. Acts 2:43-47 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

I don't often seek out this passage for inspiration. Up until recently whenever I read it, all I could envision in this description of our early Church is a vision of a hippie hideaway commune. I can see people hanging out with no plan, doing whatever they felt like, wasting time – did I say no plan? Where did they think they were going? How did this early Church ever become worldwide with this model? Where was the programming and meetings and structure? Where was the children's formation curriculum with craft included?

As I search for how to help rebuild our Church and struggle with how to share my faith with others in this secular world, I now read this passage with a new lens. What strikes me is that these early Christians didn't do much as a Church in the beginning except hang out, share belongings and stories, worship, and eat together. There was no curriculum with a craft, there were no classes! They were together building relationships around the good news of Jesus; they learned that they were loved, that they belonged to each other and took care of each other and when they messed up (which they did if you happen to keep reading into Acts and the Epistles), they were forgiven. They were committed to be in these relationships. Church grew from this beginning. The Holy Spirit was with them.

Building and remaining in community is hard work, harder today than 2000 years ago. People are busy and there are many things that compete with Sunday morning worship time, never mind with the time it takes to get to know people beyond saying "Hello" on Sunday and entering into deeper, committed friendships. Many of us work long hours, there are commitments to events, parties, and often by the weekend we are just tired – coming to church can be overwhelming. It is hard to build a deep community of followers of Jesus in this environment, but it is so needed. We all need a place to feel safe and vulnerable, where we are known and loved and where we can practice being

Christians. We need a community that will show up when we need help and will show up when we have something to celebrate, that will check in with us and that will hold us accountable.

So what should we do? How do commit to each other, to worship each Sunday and to serve each other? We need to hang out together, we need to hang out together long enough to disagree, be disappointed, and get angry with each other and know each other well enough to feel safe, to say sorry, and to forgive one another. This takes time and commitment.



As some of you know, I love talking about the Church by meditating on the parable of the True Vine. I enjoy any opportunity to pull out my vine and read this [Scripture passage](#). This past Sunday, I had this opportunity with a class of second graders who are participating in this year's Communion Enrichment class. In this parable Jesus says that he is the True Vine and we are the branches. Jesus says, "Abide in me and I in you and you will bear much fruit." I asked the children to look at the vine and in one word describe what it would be like to abide in the True Vine. "Peaceful, tangled, messy, wild" were some of the words they used. We noted that there is sap running throughout the vine and wondered what sap we needed in order to abide in the True Vine. Right away, they said, "Love". They got it. Then I got it. I am part of the Church because it is a place where I can learn and practice how to love and then go out into the world and spread this love. This is what it means to be the Body of Christ. I am thankful to these wise children and hopeful that they will keep their sense of wonder with them as they grow into adults and they continue to commit to being Church.

This is what it is all about, we are the Body of Christ on this earth, and the Holy Spirit is with us. Those early Christians were right.

The craft is optional. See you on Sunday.

Love,

Carolyn



PARISH LIFE
&
EVANGELISM

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, 13 February for 6:00-7:30pm in Hadley Hall



Everyone is invited for a pancake supper hosted by the Genesis middle school youth group. Also included in the evening is a pancake toss, games, and burying of the Alleluias. An introduction to this year's family Lenten Discipline will also be presented.



Have You Heard

We thank you, God, for ushering into your embrace Frank Moore, brother of Peggy Roll. May his soul now ring out in joy to you, the Living God, and the God of those who live.



WORSHIP
&
MUSIC



Ash Wednesday Worship

Holy Eucharist with Disposition of Ashes
14 February at 7:30am and 7:00pm



Music for Children

Elementary school age children are invited to join us in the Chapel after worship at 11:15 am on February 25th, March 4th, 11th, and 18th for a time of singing and music. We will learn a few basic music skills, how to use our best singing voices, and work on an anthem that we will sing on Palm Sunday. We will take a break after Easter and then regroup towards the end of April. Join us on April 22nd, 29th, May 6th, 13th, and 20th as we prepare to sing on Sunday June 3rd. Contact to [Craig Benner](#) for more information.



Welcoming Clergy during Holy Week and the Great 50 Days of Easter

The Reverend Miriam C. Gelfer, Associate Rector, will be on vacation the end of March and the beginning of April. We will miss Miriam and her wife, Lisa's joyous presence among us, but how great for them to have time to relax and travel in Italy!

Miriam's absence, even though it's only three weeks, occurs during Holy Week and the early part of the Great 50 Days of Easter. It's important to me, and I believe to many of us, for our liturgy and worship to reflect the breadth of our church, which includes the gifts of women as preachers, presiders, and leaders. During Holy Week and Easter, the Parish of the Epiphany will welcome two familiar clergy persons, and two who are new to us.



The Reverend Thea Keith-Lucas, is the chaplain at MIT. Along with her husband, Jake, and their children Renee and Dimitri, Thea is an active member of our congregation. Thea will preach at our celebration of Maundy Thursday, 29 March at 6:00pm. The Reverend Randall Chase, Jr., is returning to help us liturgically and pastorally. During my sabbatical Ran loved being here, and we loved having him! The drive from Barnstable isn't exactly around the corner, but his willingness to be with us is a blessing. In addition to Thea and



Ran we'll welcome two clergy women, the Reverends Ann Broomell and Nancy E. Gossling.



Some of you will remember Nancy because she served as a substitute preacher and presider a couple of years ago, Nancy lives in East Cambridge and most recently served as the acting dean of the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul; she'll be with us as an assisting priest on Easter Day.

The Reverend Ann Broomell, on the other hand, is new to us, and she'll be with us for a longer time, from 18 March until 15 April. Now retired, Ann has served as an intentional



Interim Rector in parishes throughout New England and in Maryland. She has also served in parishes as rector and cathedral dean and completed a chaplain residency program. A graduate of Episcopal Divinity School with a Master of Divinity degree, Ann earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Congregational Studies from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. She currently serves as a spiritual director and mentor with students through the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and sings with Polymnia, a local choral group.

Faithfully in Christ,

James Brew



FAITH
FORMATION

Lenten Adult Formation: The Acts of the Apostles

Sundays at 11:15am in Hadley Hall



What would it take to make you a great disciple?

We invite you to take a Lenten journey exploring discipleship through the eyes of the first Christian disciples. For five weeks, we embark on a pastoral study of the book of the Acts of the Apostles. This series has a two-fold purpose. First, the course intends to expand your knowledge of this unique book of Holy Scripture written by the Evangelist Luke. Second, this Lenten series will invite you to reflect on how you can deepen your Christian walk heeding Christ's call to discipleship. The class meets on 18 and 25 February, 4, 11, and 18 March.



Lenten Home Groups

These home groups meet over a simple supper and delve more deeply into the material offered on the Book of Acts that is discussed on Sunday mornings at the 11:15 Adult Formation class. Home groups meet on different nights starting at different times so there is sure to be a group that fits your schedule. See the sign-up sheet in Hadley Hall on Sundays and in the Parish Office during the week.



Online Lenten Group

As an integral part of our Parish's Lenten Series, Epiphany will offer its first Online Lenten Group. This offering is intended to be a supplement to the Sunday morning Adult Formation presentation, and an alternative to the Home Lenten Groups. A version of the information presented on Sunday morning (often with additional details, maps, links, etc.) will be available on the pages of the Online Lenten Group. There will be weekly questions, a forum for discussions, and an opportunity to provide feedback.

Everyone is welcome and invited to participate in this experimental Online Lenten Group. Information about how to register for the Group and participate will be emailed to you if you send your name and email address to the [Parish Office](#).



Telling Our Stories with Retired Bishop Porter Taylor

Saturday, 24 February from 9:00 am –12:30 pm



At its heart, evangelism is not about any newcomer committees or welcoming programs, although both of those are important. Evangelism is about sharing the Good News which always begins with us. People don't want to know about Church; they want to know about our faith — about what has happened in us and through us. They want to hear our story to see if it connects with theirs.

This workshop will equip you to articulate parts of your story and relate them to our story of faith. The format is presentation, individual reflection, small group storytelling, and plenary.

Porter Taylor is the retired Bishop of Western North Carolina. He currently is a Visiting Professor in Episcopal Studies at Wake Forest University Divinity School. He is the author of two books: *From Anger to Zion: An Alphabet of Faith* and *To Dream as God Dreams*.



Mandalas and the Heart of God

Thursdays, 22 February; 1, 8, 15 March from 2:00–3:30 pm



Create your own mandalas as you ponder your relationship with God this Lent. A mandala is a spiritual and ritual symbol in Hinduism and Buddhism representing the universe. Many people create mandalas as a contemplative practice to draw themselves closer to the heart of God. We will ponder scripture and explore a little sacred geometry. No math or art skills required. Bring your imagination. Contact [Sandra LaPerche](#) for more information.

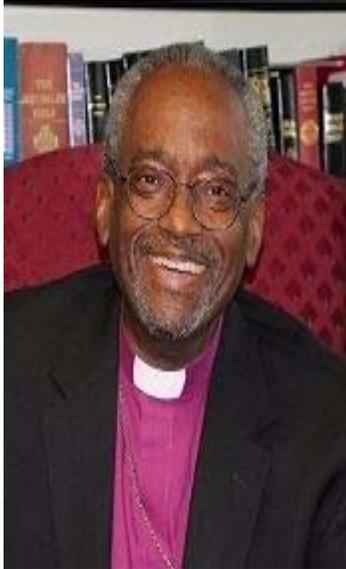


Keeping a Holy Lent: Devotional resources for 2018

Ash Wednesday invites us to the observance of a holy Lent--the season of penitence, reconciliation and renewal that leads to Easter. For those taking on a devotional practice during Lent, [click here](#) for some recommended resources suggested by the Diocese.



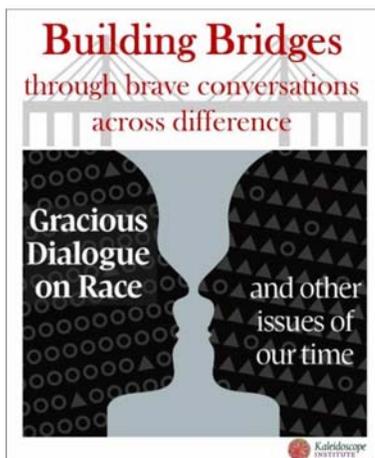
The *Good Book Club* for Lent and Easter



Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has invited Episcopalians to join the more than 25 partners presenting the *Good Book Club*, a church-wide program for reading the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles during the Lent and Easter seasons in 2018. The *Good Book Club* readings begin now and finish on Pentecost, May 20. Find resources at www.goodbookclub.org.



Diocese Spring Learning Event



Get a team together for *Brave Conversations*, this year's diocesan Spring Learning Event on Saturday, 3 March at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. The diocesan community is invited to come together with others to acquire and share techniques and inspiration for establishing the church as a gracious place for dialogue on challenging topics and expanding the possibilities for reconciliation and transformation. [Register here](#). Questions may be directed to the [Rev. Karen Montagno](#) at 617.482.4826, ext. 413.



This Week at Epiphany

Monday, 12 February	
6:00pm & 7:30pm	AA
Tuesday, 13 February	Shrove Tuesday
7:15am	Men's Group
1:00pm	Epiphany Visitors
5:45pm	Pray the Parish Prayer List
6:00pm	Pancake Supper
7:00pm	Mission and Outreach
Wednesday, 14 February	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
7:30am	Holy Eucharist
7:00pm	Holy Eucharist
Thursday, 15 February	
9:00am	Contemplative Prayer
9:30am	Thursday with the Gospels Bible Study
5:30pm	Junior Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm	Parish Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 16 February	
9:30am	Parent/Child Playgroup
Sunday, 18 February	
8:00am	Holy Eucharist
9:00am	The Word Today: Lectionary Discussion
10:00am	Holy Eucharist
11:15am	Adult Formation Class: Acts of the Apostles
12:15pm	Epiphany Elders Meeting

For more information

Our website can be [found here](#)

Information on our [Worship Services](#) can be found here

If you are [new to Epiphany](#), click here

Our complete [Parish calendar](#) can be found here

Sign-up for [on line pledge payments](#) here