



Rector's Corner February 2018

Lent, the 40 day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter, began as a period of preparation for "catechumens," those persons seeking baptism into Christ at the Great Vigil of Easter. Soon, long-term parishioners began wishing they could also receive the benefits of this group practice, and this season expanded into a time for all Christians.

The patterns of Lent root us in an essential aspect of following Jesus: what the Greek New Testament calls "Metanoia," which is often translated "repentance," but more literally means changing one's mind or turning oneself in a new direction. In this season, we simply recommit to the grace of God, which should be the spiritual rhythm of our lives: the continuous turning away from sin and towards Jesus which we promise in Baptism (BCP p. 302). We keep "changing our minds" most effectively by regular, small actions which form us as disciples and strengthen our trust in God. Lent is about our continuing turning to Christ.

In earlier times, Lent was a discipline taken on by the entirety of a community, supporting each other in living the season. One might think of this as a kind of spiritual teamwork, and like anything done as a team it bound people together and helped create community. In our world today, opportunities for real community are scarce. We hope to offer a more life-giving alternative this Lent at St. Michael's so that each of us will have the opportunity to experience something of the mutual support and shared structure on which vital Christian life depends.

During Lent, Mondays at 5:00 we will focus on scripture that direct our attention of Christ's love for us. Ash Wednesday at 11:30 am and 6:30 pm will begin our Lenten season, with Eucharist every Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

The Prayer Book tells us the way Christians observe Lent: "by self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and reading and meditating on God's Holy Word" (BCP p. 265). We will hear about several of the various core practices from the BCP and how they might be incorporated in our lives. I look forward to our time of fellowship and study this Lent.

Blessings,
Fr. Lee

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

CANCELLED: Due to ongoing work in the sanctuary, we will not be able to use the parish hall for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Thank you for your patience as work continues to get our sanctuary restored.

Lenten Bible Study with Fr. Lee

Please join me Monday evenings at 5:00 pm for a study of our readings for each week in Lent. This study will explore insights into our journey to the Cross, anticipating Easter Day. We will meet 5-6 pm beginning February 19 for 5 weeks. Sign up and bring your Bibles. I look forward our time together.

Fr. Lee

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES ~

Please plan to join us for one or both of our Ash Wednesday services on February 14th at 11:30am & 6:30pm.



LENTEN EVENING SERVICES:

We will have a Holy Communion Service at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings during Lent. If you can serve as an Acolyte or Lector for any of these services, contact Shannon in the office.

St. Michael's 10th Annual Oyster Roast Saturday, March 10, 2018 ~ 2-5pm

March 1st is the last day to purchase tickets for our oyster roast. It will be here before you know it.

Cost is \$40 Adults, \$10 Children ages 6-11.

See Marie Miller or Rick Parnell on Sundays to get your tickets or Shannon Swanson during business hours. The sign-up sheets are posted in the parish hall. There are many areas where you can volunteer. Flyers are available in the

Narthex for you to share with your family, friends, and neighbors. With help from our wonderful parishioners this will be another successful Oyster Roast.

SERVING SUNDAY

Celebrant: The Rev. Lee Dudley

Organist and Choirmaster: Nancy Owens

Altar Guild: Elaine Parnell

Altar Flower: Mark and Sheree Chapman

Eucharistic Minister: 8:30 Stephen Robinson 10:30 Bret Zaher

Lector: 8:30 Sarah Mikell 10:30 Pam Fowler

Acolyte: 8:30 Leisa Achterhoff 10:30 Emma Jane & Noah Zaher

Greeters: 8:30 Mark Browder

10:30 Mary Ellen Crouch & Kathy Zaleki

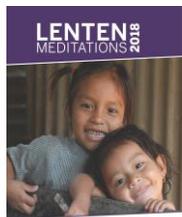
Nursery: Anita Valentin **Children's Church:** Cheryl Borowski

Coffee Hour: 8:30 & 10:30 No One

February Vestry Lock-Up: Sheree Chapman

SHINE SOUP KITCHEN: The SHINE Soup Kitchen Mission - *Serve the hungry by providing nutritious meals in a loving and welcoming environment.* Join us as we do just that on Monday, February 12. Please arrive between 4:30 and 5pm if you are helping. Contact Pam Giffin at 855-1138 if you have questions or need more information. SHINE is located in the Dream Center in downtown Easley.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT'S 2018 LENTEN MEDITATIONS OFFER A SPECIAL FOCUS ON CHILDREN:



The 2018 Lenten Meditations series focuses on the gifts of children in poignant and joyous recollections and reflections of educators, caregivers, parents and grandparents. Supporters are invited to [sign up](#) for daily email meditations. To learn more about ordering Lenten Meditations and other materials, please visit episcopalrelief.org/Lent.

ECM SURF AND TURF DATE CHANGE: The 5th Annual ECM Ladies Night Surf & Turf Feast will be held on Friday, February 23. Social hour will start at 6:00 PM with the meal at 7:00 PM. Cost is \$15 per couple for dues paid ECM members and \$25.00 per couple for non-members. Singles cost \$12.50 per person. The deadline to sign up is February 18. The sign-up sheet is posted on the parish hall bulletin board.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY DAY MARCH 24: We welcome all who would like to help in the cleaning of the Highway that St. M's has adopted on Saturday, March 24 at 9am. Adults only please as we are working along a busy highway. Remember your work gloves. If you plan on participating, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board so that John knows who to notify if the clean-up is postponed.

NEEDLEWORK MINISTRY: To all needle crafters and wannabe needle crafters, we will meet regularly at the church on the third Wednesday of each month beginning in February. Please plan to join us at 1:30 on February 21. Any questions contact, Betty Jo Shaw at 878-0231. Also, if anyone in the parish knows of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please let Betty Jo know.

ECW COOK BOOKS: St. Michael's ECW still has cook books to sell. We are reducing the price going forward to \$10. We will be selling them at the Oyster Roast and at the opening day of the Easley Farmers Market. We are also challenging each family to try to sell at least one more book. As part of this challenge, the family that sells the most books will win a \$50 gift card for the Olive Garden which also includes several other restaurants. See Betty Jo Shaw or Kim Burns on Sunday to get cook books or Shannon Swanson during business hours Monday thru Thursday.

CALENDAR

2/11	11:30	Finance Meeting
2/12	4:30	Shine Soup Kitchen
2/14	11:30	Ash Wednesday Midday Eucharist
2/14	6:30	Ash Wednesday Evening Eucharist
2/14	7:00	Choir Practice
2/15	6:00	Vestry Meeting
2/19	5:00	Lenten Bible Study with Fr. Lee
2/21	11:30	Midweek Eucharist
2/21	1:30	Needlework Ministry
2/21	6:30	Evening Lenten Service
2/23	6:00	ECM Ladies Night Surf and Turf Dinner
2/25	9:30	DOK Meeting
2/26	5:00	Lenten Bible Study with Fr. Lee
2/28	11:30	Midweek Eucharist
2/28	6:30	Evening Lenten Service
2/28	7:00	Choir Practice
3/5	5:00	Lenten Bible Study

Welcoming all to a relationship with God through Christ; serving in our community



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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