

# The Trinity Light

Number 11, for The Second Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2019,

An official weekly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, Wetumpka, Alabama

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*Our Mission: Trust in the Lord and Do Good.*

*Our Vision: become a parish that Trusts in the Lord and Does Good  
by coming together in Public Worship, Fellowship, and Reaching out to all.*



## Rector's Ramblin's

### What do I Tell My Friends about Lent?



We are surrounded by a vast number of folks whose churches do not celebrate or teach about Lent. I'm often asked, "What is Lent?" If you are too, maybe this will help.

What's this Lent thing, anyway?

Some people say Lent is a time when we get ready for Easter and that's somewhat true. Remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism praying and getting ready for his ministry? Well, we use the 40 days before Easter in somewhat the same way – kinda like a spiritual spring cleaning. We try to identify and clean-out our spiritual clutter and dirt to help us draw nearer to God. We do lots of things to help us honestly evaluate and examine our selves and our sins, repent, and ask for forgiveness, and grow, spiritually.

What does the Bible say about Lent?

Of course, the Bible doesn't mention Lent specifically. The word comes from the Anglo-saxon word for "Spring" or lengthening of the days. But it has Biblical roots. Immediately after his baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness to pray and fast. Moses and Elijah did too. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century when people were only baptized at Easter, this idea of a 40 day fasting and prayer time in preparation for Baptism was adopted. As the centuries went by, Lent became a time for everyone to get more serious about their spiritual discipline and work a little harder at turning from the world toward God.

Y'all "give-up" stuff for Lent. What do you give up and why? We "give-up" things in lent for two reasons. First, giving up something I want, is simply an act of self-discipline, an

act of denying myself, a small way to "take up the cross" and "die" to a little bit of my self. Secondly, I try to "give up" something that will remind me to pray, study, reflect, or to seek God more actively. In addition, I try to always give up something that will allow me to "take on" something I need to do. For example: I may give up lunch and use the time to read the Bible; and, then, whenever I feel hungry in the afternoon, use that hunger pain to remind me to offer a prayer – maybe for my spiritual hunger and for those in the world who are hungry.

Shouldn't we pray, study, search for God all the time?

Well, of course we should – the question is, "Do we?" It's easy to let our spiritual disciplines lapse. We use Lent as a time to be especially conscious of our spiritual needs, to refresh or renew our commitment to regular prayer and other ways to grow spiritually, and to learn new ways to nurture our relationship with God. Someone once said that Lent was like "Spring training for salvation."

Why do you punish yourself in Lent?

Books and movies have created the idea that penance is punishment or a way to "discharge" the debts of our sins. Nothing could be further from the truth. Penance is tied to repentance. To "repent" means, literally, to "turn around," to leave the old ways for a new way of life. But, we all know that breaking old habits is difficult. So, once we "repent" of our sins, we take on penance as a way to reinforce our repentance, to help us adopt the habits of new life without that sin -- not punishment or payback, but a way to practice our changed behavior.

# This Week at Trinity

## Mar. 17: The Second Sunday in Lent

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

8:40 a.m. - Breakfast

9:15 a.m. - Choir Practice

9:20 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

11:30 a.m. - Meet & Greet

4:00 p.m. - EYC, Carter House

5:00 p.m. - Lenten Preaching: The Rev. Jamie Osborne

Mar. 18: 6:30 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 13

Mar. 19: 9:00 a.m. - Coffee Drinkers Bible Study, Library

11:30 a.m. - Tuesdays at Kelly, Dunn Hall

6:00 p.m. - Pack 50 Scouts

Mar. 20: 12:10 p.m. - Holy Eucharist, Chapel

6:00 p.m. - Vestry Meeting, Dunn Hall/Chapel

Mar. 21: 4:00 p.m. - Music Teacher, Library

6:00 p.m. - JCC, Dunn Hall

6:00 p.m. - Mens Group, Carter House

## Mar. 24: The Third Sunday in Lent

# Sunday Ministers

Lent II Mar. 17, 2019  
 LEM: 8:00 a.m. . . . . . Tim Bailey  
 10:30 a.m. . . . . . Charlotte Lackey  
 Acolytes: Jack Pinckard, Rutledge Rogers

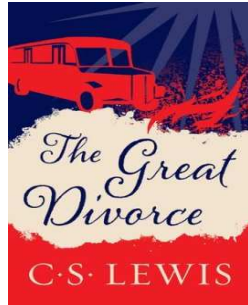
Lector: . . . . . Charlotte Henderson  
 Epistoler: . . . . . Phyllis Kennedy  
 Intercessor: . . . . . Suellen Young  
 Altar Guild: . . . . . J. Hooks / C. Wright  
 Flower Guild: . . . . . LENT  
 Vestry: . . . . . Tim Bailey  
 Greeters: . . . . . S. Hallmark / B. Roberts  
 Flowers. . . . . LENT, no flowers  
 Meet and Greet. . . . . Gary and Carol Wright  
 WTC. . . . . Emily Phyfer  
 Teaching K-2<sup>nd</sup> . . . . . Tonia Ayers  
 Teaching 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. . . . . Hope Mucklow

Lent III Mar. 24, 2019  
 LEM: 8:00 a.m. . . . . . Tonia Ayers  
 10:30 a.m. . . . . . C. Hammondsroy  
 Acolytes: Hannah Beumer, Holly Hammonds, Madison Hammonds

Lector: . . . . . Andy Hayes  
 Epistoler: . . . . . Becky Wilkinson  
 Intercessor: . . . . . Harriet Landrum  
 Altar Guild: . . . . . S. Hayes/B. Wilkinson  
 Flower Guild: . . . . . LENT  
 Vestry: . . . . . Richard Pinckard  
 Greeters: . . . . . Gary & Carol Wright  
 Flowers. . . . . LENT  
 Meet and Greet. . . . . Tom & Sandy Hollon  
 WTC. . . . . Emily Phyfer  
 Teaching K-2<sup>nd</sup> . . . . . Tonia Ayers  
 Teaching 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. . . . . Sue Beumer

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School class will finish up "The Great Divorce" this Sunday with a spirited discussion about heaven and hell. We will begin reading "Breakfast with Buddha" on March 24, beginning with the first 5 chapters (27 pages only). If you have Kindle Unlimited, you can download the book for free. Otherwise, it is available at all the usual places.



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## TO PONDER

What if this Lent we didn't approach the practices of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting with an eye to what we can do to transform ourselves, but rather with an eye to what God wants to do in order to transform us?

Too often we approach Lent as though it were a series of New Year's resolutions: to give up a particular bad habit, or share more with the poor, or be more faithful to prayer. But Lent is not about self-improvement. Lent is a time of conversion in which God is in charge of our conversion. Not us.

Lent is not a project of self-improvement. Rather, it's a time of allowing God to transform us. Lent is a time of intentional cooperation with God's graces, where God leads and we follow, like a good dance partner. We can choose to follow or not, but God is always in the lead.

What might this look like in practice? The answer will be individual for each one of us, and so a Lent of following God's lead must be grounded in prayer. We can listen for the voice of God and let ourselves be surprised by what the call in Lent might be.

From dotMagis, IgnatianSpirituality.com

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

We give thanks for the life and ministry of Avis Finch, Mike Bannon, Jasper Roberts who celebrate their birthdays this week;

and

We pray for those who have requested our prayers:

Immediate Concerns:

Scott Whetstone, Terri Hamm, Robert Luckie, Sarah Brown.

Shut-Ins: Avis Finch and Mary Smith

Continuing Concerns:

Jackie Harper, Crawford Kennedy, Kelley Wright, Linda Summey, Voncille Lankford, Howard & Glenda Rice, Ellen Williams, Dot Franklin, Billy Lacy, Amelia Lovell, Greg Jones, Louise Lambert, Rilla Keith, Ed Chalker, Johan Beumer, Karen Brooks, Sylvia McConnell, Jasper Roberts, J.T. Peters, Harriet Landrum, Ray Howell, Jean Webb, Christine Cole.

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## LENTEN PREACHING SERIES



**This Week, the Word is: PRAY  
and the preacher is  
The Rev. Jamie Osborne, Asst.  
Rector, St. John's, Montgomery.**

**Join us in the chapel at 5:00  
for Compline and Preaching,  
followed by supper in Dunn Hall.**

**This Week's Cook is Erin Rogers.**



## WEEKLY PLEDGE OFFERING

Budgeted Weekly Pledge Income.	\$	3,500
Contributed Sunday, March 10 ...	\$	2,035
Budgeted Year to Date . . . . .	\$	35,000
Contributed Year to Date. . . . .	\$	36,765
Over/(under) Budget. . . . .	\$	1,765

A copy of the most recent Financial report is posted on the Kitchen Hall bulletin board. Contact any Vestry member or the Treasurer, Mike Bannon if you have questions.

## PHOTO DIRECTORY

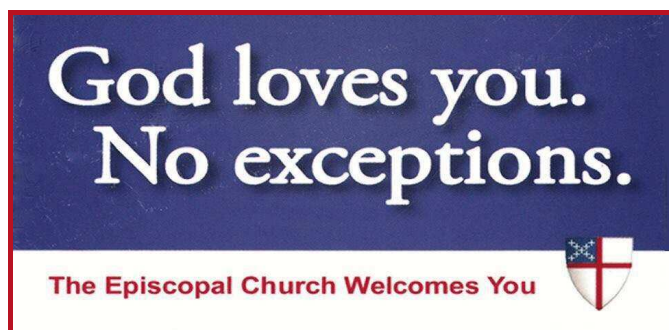
LifeTouch photographers will be here on May 9 and 10 from 2:00 - 9:00 and on May 11 from 10:00 to 5:00 to take pictures for our NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY.

Please note these dates and be thinking about when you and your family will have their pictures made. We'd really like to get everyone's picture in the Directory.

If you have your picture made, you'll get a copy of the directory, a free 8 x 10 of your choice, and the opportunity to purchase whatever other pictures you'd like to have.

The church will get an electronic copy of the directory and 5 percent of whatever profit LifeTouch makes.

We will begin signing up for specific appointments in April.



## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

*I thank you lord, for knowing me better than I know myself; for letting me, know myself better than others know me. Make me, I pray, better than others know me. Make me, I pray, better than they suppose; and forgive me for what they do not know.*

from a Muslim prayer quoted in *The Children's Book of Poems, Prayers and Mediations* compiled by Liz Attenborough, and found in "Spirituality and Health," Fall 1999, p. 23.

