

The Trinity Light

Number 9, for the First Sunday in Lent, March 1, 2020

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.*



Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Supper





Jackie Harper

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of **Jackie Harper**, a long time member of Trinity Episcopal Church. Visitation will be at Gasset Funeral Home on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Funeral at Trinity on Sunday, March

1, beginning at 2:00 with interment at Pine View following the service.

What About Lent?

During the Pancake Supper, a visitor asked a question I've often been asked by non-Episcopalians: "What is this Lent? Can I do it, too?"

The answer, of course, is that anyone can observe Lent, but knowing what Lent is and how to observe Lent would probably help the observance.

Lent is a period of 40 days before Easter, (not counting the Sundays as they are "in" Lent, not "of" Lent so, and don't count as one of the 40 days) Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and ends at Sundown on Holy Saturday (the Saturday before Easter). There are six Sundays in Lent, last of which is Palm Sunday.

Lent had its origins in Baptism and Penance. Even though Jesus went out into the wilderness/desert to fast and pray retreat for 40 days, he did not invent Lent, although this part of the Bible account did make a big impression on the Christians of the 2nd Century, as did Moses' and Elijah's 40 day fasts.

In the 1st - 3rd Centuries, some form of fasting was usually undertaken by those getting ready to be baptized at the Easter Vigil on the Saturday evening before Easter. However, not until 325 a.d., did a 40 day period of fasting become standard, and even then, it might have been 36 days in one place, 40 in another, omitting Sundays in one place, not in another.

However, Lent was always a time of special discipline and spiritual growth for those who would be baptized at Easter.

As infant baptism became the norm, Lent became more and more a time of fasting for all members of the Church as well as a time for public penance. One meal a day was allowed, taken at evening. No meat, fish, eggs or cheese were eaten. As the centuries passed, the fast became less strict, and by the 20th century, except in convents and monasteries, people only fasted on Fridays, and gave up something during Lent.

In the early church, once baptized, a person was supposed to stay sinless. There was only one way to remove the "stain of sin" for a baptized person – excommunication. That's why so many people waited until their deathbed to be baptized.

Soon, the church realized that some provision had to be made for those baptized Christians who had sinned, but then repented and wanted to return to the church. This gave rise to Rites of Public Penance. The excommunicated penitent would perform acts of penance which might include wearing sackcloth and ashes, fasting and prayer, dismissal from public services, laying on of hands. After a suitable period of penance, the penitent was readmitted to communion, usually at Easter.

Gradually, this public penitence became more and more associated with Lent. Ashes and penitential psalms were added to the rite of expulsion (excommunication) and the day became known as Ash Wednesday. The Lenten services contained prayers, readings, and a time to scrutinize the lives of those who claimed repentance.

Our Prayer Book states that Ash Wednesday and Lent are observed by "special acts of discipline and self-denial." (p. 17). It doesn't say anything about fasting, or giving up, etc. However, most of us have been taught to "give something up" for lent or to do something during lent to "prepare" ourselves for Easter.

What can we do? Yes, we can give up something we enjoy. At the same time, it is good to "take on" something: additional study, prayers, donating money you would have spent on whatever you gave up, to a good cause. There are any number of "take on" activities, just like there are many things to "give up."

Giving up or taking lenten disciplines act as a means to remind us that Lent is a time for repentance and penance. "Repentance, – literally to "turn around," – calls us to change our way of life so we can leave the old life behind for a new life in Christ. Penance is not punishment, but are acts designed to reinforce the Repentance."

Lenten disciplines are designed to move us toward God, so the best things to give up or take on are things which help move us closer to God.

It really doesn't help to overload ourselves with Lenten discipline. It is far better to pick one thing to do, and do it throughout lent, than set up a four-page schedule of lenten events, and stop after two days.

As we live in the ever increasing pace of our society, assaulted by constant music, electronic beeps, buzzes and other sounds, even machinery sounds, we should remember that Lent is also a time when we can learn how to withdraw from the noise, making time for quiet, reflective moments, moments when God can speak to us.

Lenten Preaching

To help in our Lenten preparation, Trinity will offer a Lenten Preaching Series. It will begin at 6:00 on Wednesday, March 4, and continue every Wednesday in Lent, including Holy Week. The evening will begin with soup or light supper followed by Night Prayers from the New Zealand Prayer Book and preaching by that night's guest preacher. Preachers and dates are:

- Mar. 04 - The Rev. David Peeples, Priest in Charge, All Saints, Montgomery
- Mar. 11 - The Rev. Pam Long, Deacon in Charge, Todos Sancto, Montgomery
- Mar. 18 -
- Mar. 25 - The Rev. Rob Iller, Rector, St. James, Alexander City
- Apr. 01 - The Rev. Mark Likos, Rector, Trinity, Clanton
- Apr. 08 - The Rev. Candice Frazier, Rector, Ascension, Montgomery

Soup Makers, Unite

We will need soup or light supper for our Lenten Preaching Series on March 11, March 18, March 25, and April 8. Most times in the past we've had 8 - 15 people for supper. If you are willing to provide supper for this series, please let Bob⁺ know.

Please Remember in Prayer

Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of:

Barbara Davis, Dahdee Bullen and Ashley Baker who celebrate their birthdays next week;

Those who have requested our prayers:

Immediate Concerns:

Bob Henderson, Voncille Lankford, Ebba Dunn, Blake Parham, Steve Gula, Mathew Connor, Connie Mann, Billy Lacy, Ben Mullins.

Shut-Ins:

Mary Smith

Continuing Concerns:

Greg Jones, Louise Lambert, Rilla Keith, Jean Webb, Massey Gentry, Bonnie Wright, Linda Summey, Crawford Kennedy, Linda Hobson, Gwin Burkett, Harriet Landrum, Ellen Williams, Harriet Waltman.

"Plarn" Party

Elizabeth Recchio will be hosting a "Plarn" making party after church on March 15th, during Meet & Greet and until 1:15pm. All interested in learning can come during this time. We have quite a few bags turned in for this project

but please bring plastic bags, scissors or rotary cutter and a plastic mat to cut on. For more information please contact Elizabeth at stukinal@elmore.rr.com.

Hospitality Team

What is a "Hospitality Team member?" It is a member of the church who is responsible for meeting visitors and new people on the day that they sign up for. Please try to sign up for on Sunday each quarter.

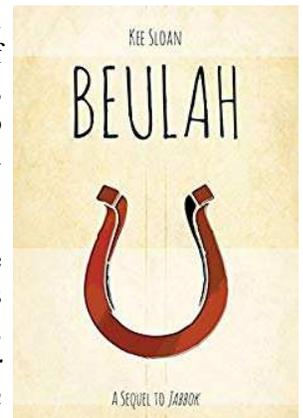
Each member of the HP Team will be assigned a Sunday. We ask that all begin their ministry by praying something like: "let your visitors be open to our church and our church to show hospitality to them and to meet them where they are in their spiritual journey."

If you meet them before church then invite them to sit with you. If you meet them after church then hand them a new members packet and a current monthly calendar (which will be in the back of the church) Ask what interest the visitors have and try to direct them to one of our church groups. Answer any questions they have and encourage them to attend meet and greet. Let Father Bob know the names of the visitors.

Adult Class

The Adult Sunday School Class will continue it's study of Bishop Sloan's second book, "Beulah" It is a sequel to "Jabbok" which was discussed last year.

We are having a great time reading and talking about this book. As one reviewer said, *This is a must read for everyone. I immersed myself in the book this week unable to put it down. Read it, reflect on your own life, how do you treat others, who makes you feel uncomfortable. They are your sister and brother.* The book is much like a series of short stories, so don't worry if you have missed a class. Chapter 10-11 this week; book available on Amazon.



To Ponder

Episcopal Parochial Reports show that there are as many Episcopal Parishes with 10 or less members as there are those with more than 240 members.



This Week at Trinity

Mar 1: The First Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 a.m. - Breakfast, Dunn Hall
- 9:15 a.m. - Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
- 11:30 a.m. - Meet & Greet, Dunn Hall
- 4:00 p.m. - EYC, Carter House

Mar 3: 6:00 p.m. - Scouts

Mar 4: 10:00 a.m. - The Gathering Place, Trinity/Dunn Hall
6:00 p.m. - Loaves & Fishes, Dunn Hall
6:30 p.m. - Lenten Preaching, Nave

Mar 5: 4:00 p.m. - Music Teacher, Library
6:00 p.m. - Scout Parents, Dunn Hall
6:00 p.m. - Dr. King Crater Tour, Trinity Hall

Mar 6-7 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Crater Tours

Mar 8: The Second Sunday in Lent - Normal Sunday Schedule
Discretionary Fund Sunday

Sunday Ministers

Lent I

Mar.1, 2020

LEM: 8:00 a.m. — Susan Powers
10:30 a.m. — Tonia Ayers
Acolytes - Hannah Beumer, Watson Perdue
Lector — Rhonda Baughman
Epistoler — Charlotte Lackey
Intercessor — No Intercessor with Litany
Altar Guild — Carol Wright / Beverly Roberts
Flower Guild — Belyn Richardson
Vestry of the Week — Calvin Chappelle
Greeters — Dennis & Dawn Kizziah
Flowers — LENT
Meet and Greet — Terri Hamm
WTC — Mary Hanby
Teaching K-2nd — Elizabeth Recchio
Breakfast Team 1: Matt Rogers

Lent II

Mar.8, 2020

LEM: 8:00 a.m. — Anne Jones
10:30 a.m. — Charlotte Lackey
Acolytes - Richie Bailey, Anna Bailey
Lector — Beverly Roberts
Epistoler — Sue Beumer
Intercessor — Jack McDaniel
Altar Guild — Susan Hayes / Anna Chappelle
Flower Guild — Erin Rogers
Vestry of the Week — Kathy Atchison
Greeters — Sandy Hallmark / Beverly Roberts
Flowers — LENT
Meet and Greet —
WTC — Mary Hanby
Teaching K-2nd — Rhonda Baughman
Breakfast Team 2: Tim Bailey

The Gathering Place



The Gathering Place has been a happy and happening place since the beginning of 2020. We've had a variety of activities, speakers and musical guests over the past six weeks. We've studied the Constitution (and taken a test!), we've learned about orchids, have been updated on the flu and coronavirus (stay away from Corona beer), and have been informed about why the Tulatoma snail is important to this area (bet there's info you're not aware of). The next few weeks will include a number of interesting speakers: a beekeeper, a museum curate, a bonsai expert, a butterfly garden expert, and Erma Bombeck ... yes, Erma Bombeck!

We've also enjoyed the musical talents of Jonathan Yarboro, Joe Hare and the Band, Andy Hayes, Gardner Perdue, Gary Wright and a brass combo who traveled all the way from Eclectic! All of these very fine musicians have booked additional performances at The Gathering Place!

Interspersed amongst all the activity and entertainment is fun, laughter, and companionship as well as food, wonderful food!! Come and give us a taste on Wednesdays between 10:00 and 2:00. You'll leave with a smile and a full stomach.

Weekly Pledge Offering

Budgeted Weekly Pledge Income.	\$ 3,222
Received Sunday, February 23..	\$ 1,565
Budgeted Year-to-Date Pledge Income.	\$ 25,776
Received Year to Date.	\$ 25,140
Over/(under) Budget.	\$ 636

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 any questions.



Ebba and Ebba?

Liturgical Changes for Lent

Following the Joy and excitement of Christmas and the unhurried Peace of Epiphany, the mood of our lives alters drastically in Lent as quiet reflection, thorough self-examination and assessment leading to repentance, confession and forgiveness become the norm. Even though the Sundays in Lent remain feast days, our liturgy will reflect the Lenten themes and mood with these changes.

- ⌘ All Alleluias will be omitted in Hymns and Liturgy, including those after the fraction
- ⌘ Except for the First Sunday in Lent, when we will sing the Great Litany in procession, the choir and ministers will process in silence, the people standing.
- ⌘ We will use Rite I throughout Lent. Remember that in Rite I, the responses change in several places:
 - Before the Gospel: "**Glorify be to thee, O Lord**"
 - After the Gospel: "**Praise be to thee, O Christ**" (BCP p. 326) .
 - At the Peace: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
"And **with thy spirit**. (BCP p. 332)
 - At the *Sursum Corda*: "The Lord be with you"
"**And with thy spirit.**"

“Lift up your hearts.”

“We lift them up **unto** the Lord.”

“Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.”

“**It is meet and right so to do**” (BCP p. 333)

- At the *Sanctus*:: “Holy, Holy, Holy, (**pause here**) Lord . . . “

- ✘ The *Agnus Dei* (*O Lamb of God*, BCP p. 337), will replace the *Gloria*.
- ✘ The Lessons will end with "Here ends the Reading" and **silence** will be observed after each reading as a period for reflection and meditation.
- ✘ The psalm will not be sung. It will be said antiphonally by whole verse: the Epistle side lead by the Lector saying the first verse; the Gospel side lead by the Celebrant saying the second half, and so on.
- ✘ A period of silence will be kept after the invitation to confession and before the Confession.
- ✘ In place of the *Doxology* (*Praise God from whom all Blessings flow . . .*) we will sing the Rite I *All things come of thee, O Lord . . .*
- ✘ In place of the final blessing, after the Prayer of Thanksgiving and before the recessional, a Solemn Prayer will be said, introduced with the words, *Let us bow down before the Lord*.
- ✘ As a sign of our austerity, the simplicity of the time, and our renunciation of overt celebration, there will be no flowers on the altar during Lent.

Remember, these are not cosmetic changes made for the sake of change, but are intended as aids to our celebration, keeping the season of Lent, and to help in our preparation for Easter.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?
In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com 



Prayer of the Week

Lord, enlighten what's dark in me, Strengthen what's weak in me, Mend what's broken in me, Bind what's bruised in me, Heal what's sick in me, and lastly, Revive whatever peace and love that has died in me. Amen.