

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NEWS
LENT TO EASTER 2013

The Season of Lent

The Rev. Megan Nickles

Lent is a season of penitence and fasting in preparation for the Paschal feast, lasting forty days in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. Lent extends from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. 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).

If you need some help establishing a good Lenten discipline, check out

old.shipoffools.com/lent

for some creative ideas. **Day 1** provides links to a few good sites for daily worship at your computer, including

northumbriacommunity.org

which offers Morning, Midday, Evening and Compline prayers.

at their homepage, click on "Praying the Daily Office"

Other suggestions include **Don't Moan Day**: "Stop complaining for a whole day. Don't complain about the weather, the bus being late,

your boss, your lack of sleep, the coffee being lukewarm, the state of your daughter's bedroom, the government... you name it. Instead, smile, pray, or just change the topic." And **Kettle Prayers**: "Make something in your ordinary life a prayer time. Try saying the Lord's Prayer while the kettle boils. Or pray for someone while you're waiting at the photocopier, or when you're pulling weights at the gym. Try using prayers that are familiar to you, but in a place where you don't normally pray."

Special observations during Lent

At St. John's, the sanctuary will reflect Lent's call for simplicity. The chalice on the Altar will not be veiled, and the bread served at

Eucharist will be homemade.

Our observances in Holy Week begin Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*

novum, "new commandment," from **JOHN 13:34**. **Maundy Thursday** celebrations include hand washing, and commemorating the

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institution of the Eucharist by Jesus on the night he was betrayed with an Agape meal. Following this, the altar is stripped and all decorative furnishings are removed from the church. A sign-up sheet for meal provisions will be posted as Holy Week approaches.

Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil

A prayer vigil begins immediately after the supper, following Jesus plea to “stay here and keep watch with me.” You are encouraged to sign up for a time to be with Christ through the night. You may pray and sit with a partner; the outside doors will remain locked through the night so each person will allow the next one in at the appointed time. Meditative

music will be provided to help with your journey inward, if you choose. The vigil will continue through the night and morning until the Good Friday service at noon.

Good Friday is the solemn remembrance of Jesus’ death on the cross. The liturgy of this day is marked by austerity and silence, and includes a unique responsive prayer called the Bidding Prayer. **Holy Saturday** observes a simple Liturgy of the Word, with readings commemorating the burial of Christ.

Our principal service for **Easter Day** will include Baptism and the Eucharist. Easter Day is the annual feast of the resurrection, and the season continues for 50 days, or a week of weeks.

There will be discussion on how to reach the greater community so that what happens in local congregations and organizations can have an impact community wide. Churches have long sought to spread the “good news” to both their parishioners and the wider world. If you have something important to say, this workshop will give

you the tools to say it more effectively.

Cost for the workshop is \$25 per person at the Thomas the Apostle Center that includes lunch. To register please contact TAC at

thomap@tritel.net

or call them at 307-587-4400.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 12 marks the celebration known as Shrove Tuesday. At St. John’s we clean out the cupboards with a traditional pancakes-and-sausage dinner. We’ll begin serving at 5:30 but welcome help in the kitchen beginning at 5. Invite your friends; there’s no cost

but donations are accepted. Proceeds are forwarded to the Cathedral Home for Children in Laramie. If you can’t make it at 5, please come whenever you can. We stop serving at 7 and cleanup usually is finished by 7:30.

Wyoming Diocese Youth Event

Calling all young Episcopalians grades 6 through 12! There is a Diocesan youth event at St. James Episcopal Church in Riverton Feb. 22nd to Feb. 24th.

This is the first of four quarterly diocesan-wide youth events for 2013. The event will begin at 7 p.m. Friday night and will include fun activities, reflection, a

service project on Saturday, planning time for our next gathering, and worship with St. James on Sunday morning.

This event is built upon the framework of the popular Happenings program. Leaders for this first event are Trent Moore, St. John’s, Jackson; Syd Johnson, HR Camp Director; and Tristan English. The cost for the event is \$10.

Altar Guild:

February: Mary Dillivan and Dolores Woods
March: Carol Bendick, Deb Chidsey, and Jo DeWitt

News

Diana Anderson and Dolores Woods provided entertainment for the PVCC Birthday Party in January. Deb Chidsey and Jo DeWitt helped serve.

Thrift Shop Cleaning Days:

Mon., Feb. 25, 1 p.m.
Mon., Mar. 25, 1 p.m.

Getting out the Good News Workshop

Wondering how we can utilize the latest in websites, blogs, twitter, and other innovative technologies? “Getting out the Good News” is a half-day workshop offered March 9, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Thomas the Apostle Center. It is designed for church clergy and

vestry leaders as well as leaders in small community organizations that work closely with the churches. Leaders for this workshop will be Werner and Pam Noesner who both have extensive knowledge in making complex communications work for small organizations.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEBRUARY	MARCH		
14 Jo DeWitt	6 Hidee Urbach	16 Alma Seeley	26 Grant & Natalie
16 Justine Larsen	9 Sammy Haberstroh	16 Isabell Urbach	Dillivan
18 Walt Seeley	10 Scott Larsen	21 Charlotte Patrick	29 Carol Bendick
21 Jan Lenhard	11 Madelyn Morris	21 Danielle York	31 Jennifer Jensen
21 Laura Greathouse	15 Norm Meidinger	22 Cynthia Garhart	
		23 Ron Lytle	

February 13 Jim & Susan McEvoy
March 20 Jane Woods & Ray O’Brien
March 31 Bill & Laura Greathouse