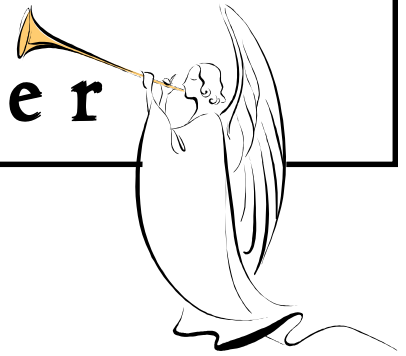


March - April 2011

# The Messenger



## Taking on and giving up...

It's a popular theme in Lent, the idea of assuming a particular discipline during the forty days of preparation that lie before us as we ready ourselves for the most important week of our lives as followers of Jesus, the Christ of God. In a couple of weeks, I will stand with you all before God as we remember our mortal, sinful nature on Ash Wednesday; that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Still, this is not a season for sorrow, for guilt or for self-recrimination. Not at all. Since the early days of the Church, the people of God learned that leaping into Holy Week, that powerful interval between our Lord's entrance in Jerusalem on what we would come to call "Palm Sunday" and his death on a Roman cross and interment in a tomb that was not his own, requires some time before hand to prepare our hearts, our minds, our bodies and our souls to be ready for the journey.

Forty days: as the daylight hours lengthen and as plants begin to flourish and bloom again after a winter's long dormancy, the Church takes those few days to remember and do such things that get us into the "right space" with God. Traditionally, Lent was a time of penitence and fasting. It was a time of formation and education. Sinners who sought restoration to the body of the Church took this time to strive for balance, recovery and reconciliation. Baptismal candidates would study, pray and work toward that moment in the Easter Vigil when they would be immersed in the waters of Baptism in Christ, die to sin and rise to new life—even as Jesus himself was raised-on Easter morning.

Our prayer book adjures us "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) What does that mean to us today? It means time, time given over to God when so much of our time is committed to other pursuits. It means answering the challenge to give a little more time over to considering God's great love for us, to give us his only Son that we might *really* know life.

So, in a season of preparation....prepare: make a plan to set aside some time for you and God to be together. Take up daily prayer (a guide is published elsewhere in this Messenger); resolve to eat mindfully; fast (again, guidelines elsewhere...); read scripture; make time to spend more time in service to others in the name of Christ.

There are so many opportunities for a fruitful Lenten journey before us here at St. Peter's. My counsel is to choose a focus point (prayer, study, service, self-discipline) and work on making that effort an offering to God. What matters is not so much what we choose to do, but the spirit in which our offering is tendered to God and to the service of others. 40 days, just a few days more than a month, and just a few moments from each day...a small return gift to God, who gives us so much in this life of challenges and grace!

Fr. Marshall

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## *A Guide to Daily Prayer:*

With a little practice and some willingness to explore our Book of Common Prayer, you can soon be navigating the Daily Office like a pro! First, some guidelines:

- Prayer is prayer...like the athletic shoe ad says, "Just do it." Just taking the time to spend time with God, to talk to God, to offer up a simple task at work or home to God is prayer.
- The BCP (Book of Common Prayer), is meant to be a resource for *anyone*. That means you!
- The Daily Office, Rite I (traditional language) or Rite II, is a collection of services that can be offered either in community or alone. Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline are all liturgies that you can say quietly to yourself or share with a neighbor, friend or fellow church member.

That said, how might one begin to navigate all the many options the BCP has to offer? First, take up your prayer book and turn to page 75. The offices all begin the same way, with a bit of scripture. There are some that are for any time. Others for a particular season, all are appropriate. Wander around, try them on for size...and then turn to page 79 for the Confession.

What better way to start a service than to clear out the cobwebs, the stuff we carry with us that distract us from authentic connection to our Creator? When we repent of those things we have done and left undone, and then remember that we are forgiven, the proverbial pump is primed. We are ready to begin, first with psalms (sacred songs in scripture) and then with lessons from the daily office lectionary. You can find the list of the day's lessons and psalter in the back of the BCP (Lent, Year One, begins on page 952). The numbers following the day of the week are the psalms designated for the day. The little symbol separating them indicates that the first collection are for the morning, then second for the evening.

In between the lessons, after the Psalms, you can offer canticles ("short songs") of praise. A guideline for suggested canticles for morning and evening prayer can be found on pages 144 and 145, BCP.

Once you have offered responses to the readings, then follows an affirmation of faith (the Apostle's Creed), and then the prayers, beginning with the Our Father. In morning and evening prayer, after the Our Father come the "suffrages." These are call-and-response requests of God to make the day, or the evening, holy and good, and for us to be blessed with God's grace. After, come Collects, ancient prayers collected with particular intent (i.e., for *Peace*; for *Renewal of Life*; etc.). Finally, some quiet time for you to remember those around us in need of prayer, to give thanks, to seek God's counsel and care. Finally, we come to the offering of a General Thanksgiving (one of the great prayers of Anglicanism), and then a benediction.

Noonday and Compline prayers are simple, more direct. You can work your way through them without too much fuss, and are great ways to mark the peak and close of the day.

In all, know that time with God in prayer is *your* time with God. It can be whatever you and God wish it to be. What matters is that you do in fact take that time. May God guide you in your prayers, and know that your church staff prays for you each day at 9 AM in the office. Feel free to join in!

## *Fasting:*

Our Lenten devotions include and invitation to "self-denial." What does that mean? For many it means taking on the discipline of fasting. Our Church identifies two days of obligation in that regard: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but many extend that call to every Friday in Lent. Some even commit to spending the full 40 days of Lent (excepting Sundays, which are termed "Little Easters" when we remember Christ's day of resurrection) in a fast and set aside something. It could be food, or a habit (good or bad, usually "bad"). It means turning away from bounty and willingly embracing "less."

What an odd concept in an age of plenty? Perhaps not: Fasting is an ancient practice that is getting much more attention of late, both in secular and sacred context. To fast is to set aside. For some that is food, a meal or two. Really, it can be a willing intention to abstain from anything, or act, with the intention of being mindfully detached from it in an attempt to see, pray, feel more clearly how too often we let our appetites get out in front of our health, and our healthy relationships to God, to creation and to each other.

Some suggestions if you intend to fast during this Lenten season:

- Be mindful of your health. Don't not eat if eating is required for your good health! Diabetics need to maintain control over their blood sugar. Some people need to eat because of medications they take. Young people who are still growing should maintain enough calories daily to sustain that growth. NEVER sacrifice your health for the sake of a fast.
- Fasting can be as simple or as complex as you wish. You may decide to give up dessert in the evening, or that second cup of coffee in the morning. You may resolve to give up eating processed food, or explore vegetarianism. You may decide to set aside a day and abstain from eating. Whatever you choose to do, plan first...and then reflect on what you will need to be both a productive member of society *and* a good neighbor. Frankly, fasting can make even the holiest in our midst a bit cranky!
- As important as it is to fast, it is also important to break your fast mindfully. When breaking fast, do it with care, with prayer and with an awareness that you are choosing to return to your pre-fast practice.

In all things, know that you are surrounded by the prayers and support of your fellow Christians. Fasting is a way to celebrate being people with bodies, appetites and to be mindful of being incarnate (literally, "in the flesh").

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## ***(FUN) DRAISING COMMITTEE NEWS***

### **Gift Card Program – SCRIPZONE.COM**

Now you are able to purchase your gift cards such as grocery, gas, department store, etc. online with St. Peter's receiving a percentage of the purchase price. Go to St. Peter's home page <http://www.stpetersspotswood.org/> and on the left hand side click on the instruction link, or go directly to [Scripzone.com](http://Scripzone.com).

**SHOP RITE CARDS** are available before and after each Service in \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00 increments. St. Peter's makes a 5% profit on these cards, and you don't have to spend any extra money. Just take these cards to the checkout to pay for your normal groceries.

Also, please keep bringing in your **USED INK CARTRIDGES**.

### ***PENNIES FOR THE PARISH***

This campaign is also ongoing. The jar is placed in the bell tower for this purpose. Just throw your pennies in (we also accept larger coins ☺). In 2010 this jar collected over \$300.00. Lets aim for \$400.00 this year.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIPS - First one will be in late April, and the second in October. Watch for more news.
- TRICKY TRAY - May 7<sup>th</sup> - more information elsewhere in this Messenger.
- SOMERSET PATRIOTS VOUCHERS - Will again be available this year at \$8.00 each for upper box seats to be exchanged at any home game. You are saving \$1.00 off the box office price.
- SOMERSET PATRIOTS BASEBALL PICNIC - is scheduled for August 20 with unlimited food, great seats, and fireworks. This is a great family outing and is 75% cheaper than going to a Mets or Yankees game.
- ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH SHIRTS OR SPOTSWOOD SHIRTS are still available.

For more information about any of these events, contact Eric Pertschuk ([epertschuk@gmail.com](mailto:epertschuk@gmail.com)), Mary Ann Grennen ([annie18mar@gmail.com](mailto:annie18mar@gmail.com)), Diane Chiarella, Martine Ezzo-Baker, Janine Giske, or Rosette Andrews.

## Special Services Schedule

ASH WEDNESDAY - March 9th  
9 am, 12 pm & 7 pm

### HOLY WEEK

Monday & Tuesday, April 18th & 19th  
7 pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 20th  
7 pm Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday, April 21st  
7 pm Agape Meal & Maundy Thursday Liturgy  
Garden Watch Begins

Good Friday, April 22nd  
8 am Morning Prayer in the Church  
Church will remain open for Meditation  
12 pm & 7 pm Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 23rd  
8 am Holy Saturday Liturgy  
7: 30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

EASTER, April 24th  
8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist

## Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 23 at 1 p.m.  
If you would like to donate wrapped candy, please leave in the parish hall marked Easter Egg Hunt by Friday, April 22nd. We have plenty of plastic eggs to fill. If you have any questions, please call Chris Kazar, 732-446-7754.

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 23rd to prepare the church for Easter services.

## Easter Flowers

Please have your Easter Flower envelopes in by Sunday, April 10th to ensure that the names are included in the Easter Bulletin. Those received after that date will be listed the Sunday after Easter. There are flower envelopes in the bell tower.



## Good Friday Offering

Since 1922, Episcopalians have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the Good Friday Offering. Through the work of the Episcopal dioceses in the Middle East, Christians maintain a peacemaking and stabilizing presence in the region, serving their neighbors regardless of faith background.

## PALM CROSSES



Anyone interested in learning how to make palm crosses and help me make them for the parish, please meet me Saturday April 16th at 10AM in the parish hall. I'll be thankful for the help.

Robin McKay

From the desk of

## Laura Bonamici, Senior Warden

I'm excited that this messenger letter is about goals. I love goals; they're like dreams with a plan. It feels to me like that our focus over the past few years has been working off a checklist of things to do to get a new rector. And now that Fr. Marshall is here and settled in, we can look to the future, to listen to what the Spirit is calling us to do, to spend our energy on setting goals to achieve our dreams.



Setting goals was the theme of our Vestry retreat in February. In one of our exercises, we made two lists, one called SONGs (simple obtainable notable goals) and one called BHAGs (big hairy audacious goals). It was a fun exercise, especially when we let our BHAGs go crazy, but it also allowed us to open our minds to consider all possibilities and not be held back by self-imposed limits. The Vestry will share those goals with you in the future.

In the meantime, I would love to hear what are your SONGs and BHAGs? Let's write them down and see how we can make them happen!

## Thrift Shop Revitalization

On TV! St Peter's Thrift Shop (including reference to many of our outreach programs) was featured on 10 minute segment of "This week in East Brunswick" recently, which can still be viewed by computer. [www.EBTV3.org](http://www.EBTV3.org), Video on Demand (left column), "This week in East Brunswick" (right column), Episode = 2/10/11. Our segment is shown in the opening and for the last 10 minutes (16-26 minutes on slide timer below screen).



Rag Bag Sunday was a huge success. 4000+ lbs were picked up by our vendor. Thanks to TSR chairman, Liz Fagan for braving the frigid temperatures on collection day and Bob Ferguson who assisted in the truck loading.



Prep Room Clean up. Thank you to Rosette & Robert Andrews, the Fagan's (+Liz's mom), the Ferguson's, John Grennen, Robyn McKay, Heather Matisolf, Fran Schwarzenberg, Barbara Tonkin, Manager: Sue Wilgus, SPYO members: Taylor Ferguson, Kevin Grennen and Lauren Martin + 4H volunteers and Spotswood Youth Group leader. The room looks organized and great!

Donations are always needed. Please separate saleable items (clean, unstained, unripped) from unsaleable items (mark unsaleable as RAGS). Also need clean small appliances, bikes, dishes, clean cookware, clean unstained linens (queen size especially).



Volunteers are always needed to work on our sales floor and to sort donations. Contact [stpetersspotswood@comcast.net](mailto:stpetersspotswood@comcast.net) Give us an hour or two and you will experience how volunteering can make a difference in our shop and your life!

Collectible doll donation. We have been blessed to be the recipient of a large donation of porcelain-featured collectible dolls and plates. If you're a collector, stop in and see what you can get for a bargain.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are having a great Sunday School year. We had our Epiphany pageant on January 5th with adults and children participating! Our Second Grade class is working very hard with their studies to prepare for their First Communion on May 22, 2011. We had a Valentine's Day coffee hour hosted by our 3rd and 4th grade class. The children came in on a Saturday to decorate the Parish Hall and they put out quite a spread for coffee hour on Sunday! We are very blessed to have a very active Sunday School, wonderful teachers and very supportive parents here at St. Peter's. We are looking for anyone interested in teaching for the 2011-2012 Sunday School year. Working with the children is such a joy! Please contact me if this is something you would be interested in. Come join us!

## Embracing an Adult Faith

An Inquirers' Series for adults of all ages, beginning Lent of 2011. Running for five weeks, classes begin March 16<sup>th</sup>; we will meet after the Wednesday Night Community Supper (7:00-8:30 PM) in the upstairs conference room of the Rectory. This series is presented by Marcus Borg, renowned teacher and religious writer/thinker whose ability to make "God-talk" accessible to all has helped many come to a deeper knowledge, and awareness, of God at work in their lives. This is also a great opportunity to begin to discern a call to deeper connection to the Episcopal Church. If you are new to the faith, desire to confirm/renew your Baptismal Covenant, or perhaps wish to be received into the Church from another denomination, then this program is for you! There are 14 spots available for this first class. Each participant will have access to a workbook (all materials needed for the class are at hand!), available for a \$12.50 donation. IF you are interested in this program and/or desire to sign up, please speak to Father Marshall. Spots are limited! Join now! ☺

# The Sweetest Trip on Earth

Does this sound good to you? Then plan on attending St. Peter's first annual Tricky Tray Event on May 7, 2011 and you just might be the winner of The Sweetest Trip on Earth.

This Grand Prize Package includes a 3 night, 4 day stay for a family of 4 at the Hershey Lodge or Hershey Hotel in Hershey, PA. The Package also includes 4 passes to Hershey Park Theme Park, admission to Hershey Gardens, Hershey Museum and Zoo America. You will also receive a \$300 gift card that can be used for any Hershey service, food or gift at the hotel or inside Hershey Park. The Grand Prize Package is valued at a little over \$1,600.00.

Other baskets being raffled include Major and Minor League Baseball tickets and merchandise, NFL Football items, Boys and Girls Disney Baskets, Cookware, Tail Gate Basket, Auto Detailing Package, Christmas Baskets, Various local restaurant and store Gift Cards/Certificates and much much more!!!

I also want to remind you that we are collecting donations for the Tricky Tray on an on-going basis. Donations can be dropped off at the rectory. Donations can be as small as a candle or as large as a flat screen tv; no donation is too large or too small. **Any donation that you can make is greatly appreciated** and will help us to make this event a great success. Of course, we would like to be able to offer a variety of different types of prizes in our baskets. Some ideas are as follows: Gift Cards (any denomination, any store, restaurant or gas station), Small Electronics (radio, ipod, cd player, electric toothbrush, electric razor...), Small Kitchen Appliances (toaster, toaster oven, crock pot, coffee maker...), Giftware (candle sticks, candy dishes, vases...), Games (board games and/or any Wii, PlayStation, PSP, DS game or game console), items for the Garden or Garage (gardening tools, weed wacker, tool box, tool set...) or, simply **ANYTHING** that you can donate - everything will go to use and nothing will go to waste. Donations **must be new items** and in original packaging, if possible. Any cash donations will be used to purchase additional items for our baskets. You can arrange a cash donation by contacting Janine Giske (732-422-0971) or Eric Pertschuk (732-690-8058).

If you can't make a donation, don't worry we can still use your help. An email blast will be going out soon for volunteers to help "man" the event. We will be in need of people to set up and break down, sell tickets, run prizes and more. Watch your email for the sign up sheet.

If you have any questions or need someone to pick up a donation from you, please contact Janine Giske [jdg1244@verizon.net](mailto:jdg1244@verizon.net) 732-422-0971, Eric Pertschuk [epertschuk@gmail.com](mailto:epertschuk@gmail.com) 732-690-8058 or Mary Ann Grennen [annie18mar@gmail.com](mailto:annie18mar@gmail.com) 732-766-4137.

With everyone's help our Tricky Tray will be a great success and the first of many to follow.

## Parish Telephone Directories

There will be copies of the 2011 Telephone Directory in the Bell Tower of the church. Directories are for the sole use of St. Peter's Church and it's membership.



## Facebook Link

You may join the unofficial Facebook page for St. Peter's at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=197912542736>

## PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

The phone number for pastoral emergencies is listed on the front of the Sunday bulletin, on the new phone directory cover, the website, <http://www.stpetersspotswood.org>, the front of this Messenger, and can now be found on the church voicemail by pressing 3.

## March Birthdays

March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wil Rosario
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stella Jones
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Twomey
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Charles Borawski Michael Maniscalki
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Kirk Bonamici
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Kelly Faust Scott Hamilton Kenneth Sumski
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Porcelli
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Biroc Catherine Biroc Joseph Laryea Vincent Perrini
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Danielle Quigley
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Gertrude Ivins
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Catie Miller
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Russell Fagan Shilo Acquista Matthew Martindell
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Maelisa Donaldson Igor Faynberg Alyssa Martindell Courtney Meade Samantha Meade
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Kristyn Compitello Christina Evans Daniel Gale
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Matthew Compitello Ralph Donnamaria Linda Kafafian Michael McCarthy
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Craig Fonseca
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Voza-Kulpa Kathy Foley Dorothy Kalber
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Marilyn Hamilton Jaimie Poko
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	David Kafafian
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Danielle Tonkin Matthew Young
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Brady
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Tina Porcelli Nelson Powell
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Judy Babeu Renee Holtz



## April Birthdays

April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jacquelyn Benhardt Brandon Goglia Linda Weinheimer
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Quaglietta George Theil
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Patricia Dey Ron Paprota Elaine Paul Matthew Schwarz Laura Weiss
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Sosnowski Jr.
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Anthony Borneo Eric Pertschuk
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Paul
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Baker
April 12	Tyler Pepe
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Adrian Goglia Eric Palisay
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew Bettin Mary Ann Popleik Connor Soles
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Goglia John Grennen
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Charles Aquadro Lillian Comer Sandy Donaldson Robin McKay
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Glenn Kalber Sr
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ken Adams
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Amy Loughran Richard Patufka Jr.
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Reese San Agustin
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lauren Dvorak
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Janette Borawski
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Caruso Jeffrey Corcoran
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Corbett
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Fatum III Debra Jerscheid Hannah Pulaski

## April Anniversaries

April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Raymond Sanders & Pamela Mason
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Peter & Anne Zinchuk
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Eric & Nancy Pertschuk
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Charles & Diana Oldag
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Michael & Janice Miller
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Bob & Eleanor Stocker

## March Anniversaries

March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Robert & Lynn Wyckoff
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Robert & Sandy Donaldson
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Thomas & Martine Baker
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Craig & Linda Kafafian



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