



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
February 14, 2018



New & Notable

Thoughts from Lori



And so, Lent begins. It seems early this year, but actually, it's not. Maybe my perception that it's early is because a lot has been going on since the holidays and the first of the year. In any case, today is Ash Wednesday and so, Lent begins. If you attend one of our services today, you will hear an invitation "to the observance of a holy Lent..." This invitation continues by naming the hallmarks of a holy Lent: self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial, and reading and meditating on scripture.

As for self-examination and repentance, the Litany of Penitence in the Ash Wednesday service is a good place to begin. [See page 267 in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP).] I also refer you to The Reconciliation of a Penitent in the BCP, pages 447 - 452. While The Episcopal Church does not require individual Confession, it is available. The old adage is "None must, all may, and some should." (I am available to hear Confessions by appointment. Simply call to arrange a time.)

As for fasting and self-denial, remember the imperative from today's gospel reading from Matthew (see Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21); that if we do these things publically, we gain no benefit. For instance, if you are giving up something for Lent - say, alcohol or desserts - and when having dinner with friends announce that you've given up wine (or chocolate or whatever) for Lent - then you have lost the benefit of the fast by seeming to brag about your piety. Do these things "in secret," as Matthew says.

As for scripture, we are going to be reading Genesis during Lent and Luke during Eastertide. We'll begin this Sunday at Coffee & Conversation. Meanwhile, I encourage you to prepare for the Easter feast by keeping Lent. It may be an ancient practice, but it's one that holds great promise for enriching our spiritual lives.

Faithfully,

Loritt

UPDATE ON OUR WATER SITUATION

Our new well is now fully functional and the water has passed the county water safety testing. TBTG! We're back to using our coffee mugs and plates - and dishwasher! - instead of disposables. The cost of the new well was \$9000. We're grateful to Marty Persons (a former parishioner) who made a generous contribution to the cost of the well. If you, too, would like to contribute, simply mark your checks "Well." In advance, thank you!

WINDOW TREATMENTS IN THE PARISH HALL

Many of the blinds in the parish hall are dysfunctional, to say nothing of unsightly. Bill and I donated new blinds for one window. There are seven more. You can help beautify this space by donating \$50 (per window). We'll buy and install the new blinds for you. [Note: this will make the parish hall more attractive not only for us, but for potential rental.] Thanks! lml+

Not quite new but still notable....



Ducks in a Row Planning Workshop Saturday, March 17th 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

This workshop isn't just for those of us who are older; who, as the saying goes, have fewer days ahead of us than days behind us. It's for singles and couples, and for parents and grandparents. We'll talk about things like:

- What are the norms for Episcopal funeral services?
- Who is a funeral for?
- What does your family need to know?
- What are some of the legal issues my family will have to face and what can I do to simplify those issues?

I promise you that this won't be grim or maudlin. We request a \$5 donation to cover the cost of materials, including a notebook, refreshments, and honorariums for one or more of our guest speakers. **In order for the event to be held, a minimum of eight (8) couples and/or individuals will be required.** The sign-up sheet is on a clip board on the narthex table. [Note: so far, four (4) are signed up. If you've been intending to attend, now is the time to sign-up.]

Consider this workshop both the fulfillment of our Christian responsibility and a prayer as found in The Great Litany (BCP, p. 149):
[Spare us, Good Lord] From...dying suddenly and unprepared....

Children's Chapel

"The Man Born Blind"

Children are invited to attend the Children's Chapel following the service to hear a story, have a snack, and enjoy an activity. This week's leaders are Kim Morris and Kerry Obermeyer.



The usual fare...

A Word from the Rev. William P. McLemore

Absalom Jones

Yesterday, February 13th, was the Feast Day of Absalom Jones. He was born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books. When he turned sixteen, his owner sold him to the proprietor of a local store, and he was allowed to attend night school for black youngsters operated by the Quakers. At twenty, he married another slave, and purchased her freedom with his earnings.



Jones bought his own freedom in 1784, and served as a lay minister at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. When this white congregation became worried about the number of black members Jones attracted, they tried to make them sit in an upstairs gallery. In protest, they left the church, and organized what became a Free African Society.

This group then applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, whereupon Absalom Jones was ordained as a priest in 1802, and the group officially took the name St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. He was an ardent preacher against slavery and all forms of oppression. His parish soon grew to over 500 members, and before his death, he was affectionately called the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Absalom Jones died February 13, 1818.

What we learn from Absalom Jones is the struggle which still continues among the current ancestors of those brought into America as slaves, and the deep racial divide that still exists among a majority of our fellow citizens, not only for African Americans, but for peoples who have currently migrated to this country from places around the world. Here we may fulfill two promises in our baptismal covenant: "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?" "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

**Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, February 18, 2018
(First Sunday of Lent - Year B)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore**

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17. This is the story of Noah and the flood. The Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9. "The paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness." Second Lesson: I Peter 3:18-22. The writer here tells of Noah building the ark to save a few and portrays Jesus as saving many. The Gospel: Mark 1:9-15. Jesus is baptized by John in the River Jordan and goes into the wilderness for forty days.

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 150. "Forty days and forty nights." This is one of the three Lenten poems by George Hunt Smyttan published in the "Penny Post VI" (1856). The original version had nine stanzas and our hymnal includes the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th of the nine, though greatly altered over the years. The tune called "Heinlein" in the 1940 Hymnal is "Aus der Tiefe rufe ich" in our new 1982 Hymnal, the actual melody attributed to Martin Herbst (1654-1681) and later harmonized by William Monk (1823-1889).

Sequence: No. 455. "O love of God how strong and true." This hymn was written by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), a priest in the Church of Scotland, who authored many hymns. The tune, "Dunedin," was composed by Thomas Vernon Griffiths, a New Zealand music teacher and lecturer-composer (1894-1985). This hymn was one of those sung at the funeral of President Ronald Reagan, June 10, 2004, at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul in Washington, D.C. (The National Cathedral).

Presentation: No. 142. "Lord who throughout these forty days." The words of this Lenten hymn are taken out of Claudia Frances Hernaman's "Child's Book of Praise," (1873). It is remarkable in that in just 5 verses, it encompasses the full scope of Lent. The tune, "St. Flavian," is from the English Psalter of 1562 and has been adapted by Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

Communion: "Let the broken ones be healed." This short song will be used for our communion hymn during Lent. It was written by the Rev. Michael Hudson in his "Songs for the Cycle," (2004).

Recessional: No. 143. "The glory of these forty days." This Latin hymn emerges from the 10th century and has been attributed to St. Gregory the Great but its true origin is unknown. The current translation was made by Maurice F. Bell for the 1906 Episcopal Hymnal and it has been in the hymnals ever since. The tune, "Erhalt uns, Herr," and is a hymn tune traced back to Martin Luther and a hymn that he wrote against the papacy and heretics, "Preserve us, Lord, by thy dear Word; from Turk and Pope defend us Lord."

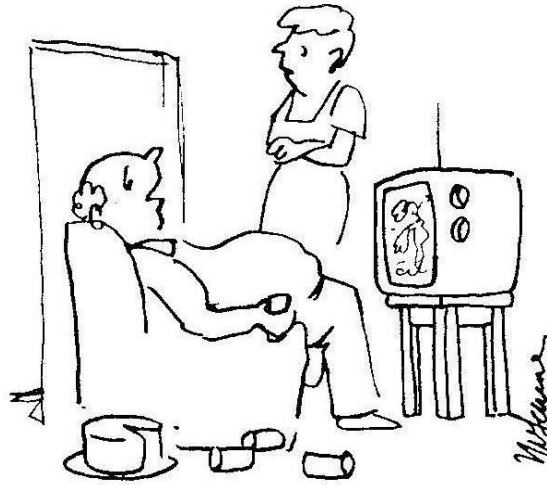
Servants for February 18th

Bill Lang - *Usher*
Charles Sterbis - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Barb Moriarty, Jeff Zabor - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Kathy Biggerstaff, Kim Morris - *Vestry Persons of the Day*
Antonia Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*
Bev Jannotta, Carol Toft - *Altar Guild*

On the Calendar...

Mid-Week Eucharist - Wednesdays at 12:15 pm
Options for Small Groups - Feb. 17 @ 10am, Feb. 18 @4pm, Feb. 20 @7pm
Endowment Committee - Tuesday, February 20, 5:00 pm
Vestry - February 21, 7:00 pm
Men's Breakfast - Saturday, March 3, 8:00 am
Ducks in a Row - Saturday, March 17, 9:00 am

From the cartoons created by
The Rev. William P. McLemore



"I can't think of a thing to give up
for Lent this year!"

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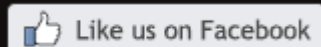
Vestry Minutes

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