

March 2020
Week One

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Oxford, North Carolina



The Weekly Messenger

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“Our Journey of Lent”
The Rev. Dr. Lorraine Ljunggren

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Some of us have heard the old saying, “You can’t get there from here.” In the days before GPS it was a response to someone asking directions on how to get from point A to point B. The old saying put a person on notice that there wasn’t one, simple, direct highway or road or pathway from A to B.

Contrary to the displays in stores of bunnies and baskets, of candy corn and chocolates, we Episcopalians don’t generally ‘get’ from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day without taking the winding road through the Season of Lent.

The year 2020 has us making this journey via Year A of the Revised Common Lectionary which determines our Sunday biblical readings. Each year we begin by going into the wilderness with Jesus where, yes, he faces temptations. Then this year we’ll encounter a faithful Jewish man named Nicodemus, an unnamed Samaritan woman at a well, a man blind from birth, as well as the astonishing raising of Lazarus. These are stories rich in word pictures which invite us to be companions of Jesus as he makes his way from the Mount of Transfiguration to Jerusalem and the ultimate conflict with the Roman authorities.

Along the way we’ll experience more hours of daylight. That’s no surprise since one root of the word ‘Lent’ is *lencten* which has to do with the ‘lengthening of days’ or spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Council of Nicea, held in the year 325 of the Common Era, set the length of Lent as 40 days not counting Sundays. That’s because every Sunday for Christians is a ‘little Easter.’ Hence, Sundays are ‘in’ Lent, not ‘of’ Lent.

But since, as a faith community, we are most often together on Sunday, our worship takes on a more somber tone. On the First Sunday in Lent we will pray The Great Litany in procession. Thereafter, following our opening hymn, we’ll use The Penitential Order to begin our celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Our altar hangings will shift to purple and the lovely flowers to which we are accustomed will be absent. The evening before Lent begins we will ‘entomb’ our ‘Alleluias’ until Easter Day (meaning we will omit saying Alleluia during worship).

These shifts all intended to enrich our spiritual lives, deepen our faith, expand our horizons, and confirm our calling to be aware we are God’s people in all our comings and goings. We are each invited to the observance of a Holy Lent.

Peace and love in Christ!



Cold and Flu Season at Church

While we may have an early spring in North Carolina, we are still in the middle of the cold and flu season. As always it is important for us to follow the usual advice about hand washing or using hand sanitizer or staying home when we're ill. We can help our younger ones learn how long to wash their hands by singing 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' (the timing parallels what medical professionals suggest -- wash hands at least 20 seconds). We make hand sanitizer available in church near the front doors. Staying home from work or school or church is important if we are ill.

In addition to the usual illnesses there is much in the press about the latest coronavirus. In order to keep us informed of reliable information, our Diocese is providing us links to helpful sites. Two ways to locate links to the information are: https://www.dionc.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3201818 or by going to www.episdionc.org and scrolling down the left side of the Diocesan website.

Because we are a group of God's people who also care for one another, do keep us informed if there is support needed during any illness. Hoping and praying for a healthy year for one and all.

Peace and grace from your Interim Rector & Senior and Junior Wardens

FLU SEASON IS HERE.

MINIMIZE YOUR RISK OF CATCHING THE FLU.

- RECEIVE YOUR ANNUAL FLU VACCINE.
- WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP & WARM WATER.
- COVER YOUR NOSE & MOUTH WHEN YOU COUGH OR SNEEZE.
- AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH.
- WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE EATING.
- DO NOT SHARE YOUR FOOD, DRINK, OR UTENSILS WITH OTHERS.
- AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH SICK PEOPLE.

DO YOUR PART.

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS



THIS SUNDAY

March 1, 2020

The First Sunday in Lent

- Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00 AM
- Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:30 AM
- Children's & Youth Sunday School at 9:15 AM
- Adult Christian Education at 9:30 AM in the Parlor

Tuesday

March 3, 2020

- Knitting for Duke Children's Hospital at 10:00 AM in the Choir Room

Wednesday

March 4, 2020

- Youth Choir at 4:45 PM
- Lenten Supper at 5:30 PM in the Parish Hall
- Lenten Program at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall
 - Adult Choir at 7:00 PM

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am Children's SS 9:30am Adult SS / P 10:30am HE Rite II	2	3 10:00am Knitting / CR	4 4:45pm Youth Choir 5:30pm Supper / PH 6:00pm Lenten Series / PH 7:00pm Adult Choir	5 5:30pm WW / PH	6 9:00am Hope Hour Mtg. / PH	7 <i>REMEMBER - Daylight Saving Begins Tonight. Move your clocks ahead 1 hour!</i>
8 <i>Loose Offering to Rector's Discretionary Fund</i> 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am Children's SS 9:30am Adult SS / P 10:30am HE Rite II	9	10 10:00am Knitting / CR	11 4:45pm Youth Choir 5:30pm Supper / PH 6:00pm Lenten Series / PH 7:00pm Adult Choir	12	13	14
15 <i>Loose Offering for Murdoch Easter Project</i> 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am Children's SS 9:30am Adult SS / P 10:30am HE Rite II 11:45am Outreach Mtg. / P	16 4:45pm Executive Committee / Office 5:30pm Vestry / PH	17 10:00am Knitting / CR 5:30pm WW / PH	18 4:45pm Youth Choir 5:30pm Supper / PH 6:00pm Lenten Series / PH 7:00pm Adult Choir	19	20	21
22 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am Children's SS 9:30am Adult SS / P 10:30am HE Rite II	23	24 10:00am Knitting / CR 5:30pm WW / PH	25 4:45pm Youth Choir 5:30pm Supper / PH 6:00pm Lenten Series / PH 7:00pm Adult Choir	26 Private Event	27	28
29 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am Children's SS 9:30am Adult SS / P 10:30am HE Rite II	30	31 10:00am Knitting / CR 5:30pm WW / PH	1 4:45pm Youth Choir 5:30pm Supper / PH 6:00pm Lenten Series / PH 7:00pm Adult Choir			

Weekly Church Duties

CHURCH DUTIES

	<u>March 1</u>	<u>March 8</u>	<u>March 15</u>	<u>March 22</u>	<u>March 29</u>
8:00 am Reader	Sandy Gabel	Sandy Gabel	Dottie Snyder	Lisa Pearson	Sandy Gabel
8:00 am Chalicer	Robert Powell				
10:30 am Readers	Lindsey Swanner Clarence Lemons				
10:30 am Prayers					
10:30 am Crucifer	Samuel Spittler				
10:30 am Banner	Joshua Spittler				
10:30 am Flag Bearer					
10:30 am Flag Bearer					
10:30 am Torch Bearer	Joshua Ramsey				
10:30 am Torch Bearer	Nicholas Ramsey				
10:30 am Chalicers	David Holden George Foster				
10:30 am Greeters	Andrew Swanner Lindsey Swanner				
Nursery Helper	Susan Foster	Mary Hicks	Frances Mathews	Amy Stone	Susan Foster
Coffee Hour	Bettye Currin	Bettye Currin	Bettye Currin	Bettye Currin	Bettye Currin
Vestry Person	David Smith	David Smith	David Smith	David Smith	David Smith

Each month you receive an email asking about your availability to serve during the upcoming month. Going forward, please respond to this email each month by the stated deadline even if you are available for any Sunday. This will give us confirmation that you saw the notice. Thank you for your cooperation as always!

ALTAR GUILD

Feb. 24 - March 1	*Julia Day	Amy Stone	Jenny Koinis	
March 2 - 8	*Eve Harris	Dawn Lemons	Cindy Bostic	Ginny Hicks
March 9 - 15	*Charlotte Watson	Ruth Hicks	Lillian Hicks	
March 16 - 22	*Grey Currin	Jennifer Tartamella		
March 23 - 29	*Lea Lea Ivey	Sarah Johnson	Kelly Holden	
March 30 - April 5	*Maureen Taylor	Elizabeth Taylor	Pat Nelson	

Financials January 2020

Message from the Treasurer

<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budget</u>
Pledge Offering	\$ 13,584.00	\$ 15,154.00
Non-pledge Offering	1,732.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,163.00	945.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 16,479.00	\$ 16,099.00
 <u>EXPENSES</u>		
Diocese Support	\$ 2,002.00	\$ 2,002.00
Office/Administrative	297.00	225.00
Christian Education	0.00	25.00
Insurance	3,831.00	833.00
Personnel Expense	3,673.00	3,746.00
Utilities/Maintenance Contracts	2,374.00	2,170.00
Rector (Salary, Pensions, Benefits, Etc.)	0.00	3,373.00
Interim Rector Expenses	4,038.00	3,625.00
Worship	335.00	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 16,550.00	\$ 16,099.00
 NET OPERATING TOTAL	 \$ -71.00	 \$ 0.00



ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE
\$185,450 Total Pledges Received to Date
52 Pledging Units

March Birthdays

- 7 David Folger
- 8 Dawn Lemons
- 9 Bill Cheatham
- 12 Scott Dickerson
- 12 Sandy Gabel
- 18 Arch Hicks
- 18 June Manning
- 21 Robert Powell
- 22 Emil Malinowski
- 22 Grey Currin
- 24 Richard Cowart
- 26 Lydia Powell
- 30 Charlotte Watson

Anniversaries

- 12 Jimmy & Harriett Watkins
- 12 Emil & Liz Malinowski
- 19 Jesse & Jane Sullins
- 26 John & Jennifer Coplin

Daylight Savings Begins!

Early Sunday morning, March 8th Daylight Savings begins. This means we must all remember to push our clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday evening, March 7th. It also means we gain more daylight in the evenings! Spring is on the way!



† Mary Branch, Pam Martin, Kelly Holden, Dick Taylor, Cissie Bryan, Dave Ivey, Jim Branch;

Parishioners: Lucy Landis Moore, Jesse Sullins, Dave Ivey, Jimmy Winston, Rives Hicks, Mary Helen Talbott, Gladys Tyson, Hubert Jackson, Carlton Garrett, Richard Concepcion, Herb Gregory;



Non-Parishioners: Jerrad Wilkinson, Vivi Drake, Isaiah Newton, Henry Moore, Jeffrey Ferrell, Carolyn Stovall, Florette Moore, Therese Josefsson, Leon Josefsson, Evelyn Champion, Michelle Campbell, Joe Sacco, Ronnie, Myra Clark, Chelsea Stroud, Jimmy Bailey, Janelle Ramsey, Hazel Lyon, Herbert Washington, Don Smith, Terri Immordino, Rose Grantham, Mary Salvo, Janet Finch, Angela Webb Franzen, Dan, Dorie Rillera, Ethan Coghill

EASTER DAY and Holy Baptism

It is our custom in The Episcopal Church to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Easter Day. This year Easter Day is April 12, 2020. If you or someone in your household desires to be baptized, please contact our Interim Rector, Rev. Lorraine, to make arrangements. Baptism Instruction will be scheduled when we have received names of those seeking Baptism.



Lenten Series and Dinner: 5:30 - 7:00 PM (Parish Hall)

(Wednesdays, March 4th - April 1st)

Liturgy: Bringing Us Together

We are invited to come together on the five Wednesday evenings in Lent at 5:30 p.m. to share table fellowship in the form of dinner organized by our Church Life Committee. It's our custom after dinner to explore topics related to our faith journeys.

This year's program is designed to enrich our experience as persons who worship in "a liturgical church." The word 'Liturgy' means 'the work of the people.' We in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion rely on books of common prayer and hymnals to give form to our worship of God. Our 2020 Lenten journey invites us to explore how we name and know God as people created in the image and likeness of God. Our five Wednesday evening programs are entitled:

March 4 – Praying Shapes Believing: Naming and Knowing God

March 11 – The Rite Stuff: Our Books of Common Prayer

March 18 – Our Life of Prayer: 'Collecting' and Communicating with God

March 25 – Enriching Our Worship

April 1 – Sister Books of the Anglican Communion: North, South, East, and West



Dinner 5:30 - 6:10 PM

Church Life will provide the entrée and beverages for each meal. **Please sign-up each week and bring a side dish to share.** The entrees will be: 3/4 - Chicken Casserole, 3/11 - >, 3/18 - Barbecued Chicken, 3/25 - Brunswick Stew, & 4/1 - ?

Program - 6:00 - 7:00 PM

(Nursery will be provided during the program)

Please plan to join us!

Adult Sunday School During the Season of Lent

Godly Play Comes to Adults: Loving God, Ourselves, and One Another



Adults at St. Stephen's will have another enriching experience on Sunday mornings in Lent this year. Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor as we immerse ourselves in stories from the Bible designed to spark our imaginations and bring us closer to God and one another.

Godly Play is a program churches most often offer for younger members and visitors.

It is a wonderful way in which to explore our faith and to deepen our spiritual lives.

It's a challenging task to choose five stories among the many, many stories available.

Be prepared to be moved and inspired as our trained Godly Play Leaders take us on this enlivening journey.

Murdoch Easter Project

For many years St. Stephen's has supported this annual effort for the Murdoch Developmental Center in Butner. This outreach is one of many ways we can continue to make a difference in our community. Any gifts made will go to support the Murdoch Easter Project, which allows the clients some special recognition and activities during the Easter season. **This year, Sunday, March 15th the loose offering will go to the Murdoch Center.** **Additional donations will be greatly appreciated & accepted through Palm Sunday, April 5th.** Make your check payable to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and put 'Murdoch' on the memo line. Place them in the collection plate, drop them in the mailbox, or bring them to the office. Let us offer our love and assistance to Murdoch!



Outreach Meeting

Please join us on Sunday, March 15th following the 10:30 AM service in the Parlor for an Outreach Meeting. We will be discussing plans for the many events and activities we have on the horizon . We need everyone to join us, as this work is only possible when we all come together and do our part. Hope to see you on the 15th!



Who comes to ACIM?

On two days recently, a volunteer jotted down a few facts about the clients he was talking to—when they were born, female or male, how many in their household. The sample (26) is way too small, but it is random, and it is interesting:

- 1 of 26 was disabled.
- 19 of 26 were female.
- 21 of 26 were single person households.
- 23 of 26 were over 60, 6 were over 80, & 1 was over 90. (Born in the 1920s!)

So the most frequent ACIM client is a 60-90 year old woman living alone.

A Visit to ACIM

The first people arrive at ACIM around 7:00 AM to wait for the doors to open two hours later. Beginning at 9:00, they sign in and have a seat in the waiting area. They show their ID. Their folder is pulled and racked in first-come order.

After some time, an intake person takes the next folder in the queue and calls the client's name. The two of them go to one of four intake cubicles. The intake person confirms key data in the client's folder—date of last visit, number of adults and children in the household, IDs on file, date food stamp approval will expire, is the client a senior, is he or she approved for a Senior Box, etc.?

The client signs their TEFAP form (Emergency Food Assistance Program) and the intake person gives them a reminder form telling them when they can come back. The client chooses three hygiene items from whatever is available on the cubicle's shelf. The intake person fills out a cart slip and takes it to the food room. A volunteer in the food room fills a grocery cart with food based on the number in the household & what ACIM has available. The volunteer calls the client & helps them put the food in their car. On most days, the process will have taken several hours.

Needs

Right now, ACIM's shelves are nearly empty of hygiene items. If you can, please bring toothpaste, shampoo, soap/body wash, toilet paper, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and disposable diapers (sizes 3 to 5) by the church. You can put your contributions in the Parish Hall, in the closet in the front left corner. If you do not have time to shop, please make a dollar donation at the Church Office, and a volunteer will shop for you.

Thank you!

February Vestry Minutes Coming Soon!



**ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH - OXFORD
ESTABLISHED 1823**

140 College Street
Oxford, NC 27565
(919) 693-9740

(919) 892-4578 - Clergy Cell Phone

office@ststephensoxford.org
www.ststephensoxford.org

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www.facebook.com/ststephensoxford

**Mission Statement: We are dedicated
to sharing the Gospel and love of
Christ Jesus through service to our
Church, community, and world.**

Parish People

Interim Rector - *The Rev. Dr. Lorraine Ljunggren*
rector@ststephensoxford.org

Treasurer/Administrator - *Sherry Owens*
office@ststephensoxford.org

Director of Music/Organist - *Sharon Curry*
michaelsharonc@aol.com

Sexton - *William Harris*

Senior Warden - *Cindy Bostic*
4bostics@embarqmail.com

Junior Warden - *Joe Sciortino*
jsciorti@centurylink.net