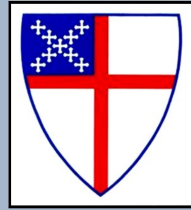


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
(540) 672-3761
Rector: The Rev. Dr. Lin Hutton



www.stthomasorange.org
email: stthomas3@verizon.net
Editor: Ann Wood

Vol. XLI

March 2023

Issue No. 2

From the Pastor

As we delve into the powerful Season of Lent, I would like to offer some thoughts on prayer.

“The Spirit helps us in our weakness,” St. Paul says; *“for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God”* (Romans 8:27-28). In other words, prayer is beyond us – as incomprehensible to us as a smartphone might be to my little dog, Jacuzzi. Of course, we do our best: hitting the keys, so to speak, praying with our own words or the words generated over the centuries in resources like our Book of Common Prayer. But do we really know how it “works”? Do we understand how human words can touch the heart of God? Do we comprehend the process by which the Lord of the Universe takes the prayers of, quite literally, billions of Christians and deals with them? Of course not. We’re not supposed to.

Rather, St. Paul tells us that when we pray, God does a miracle. In effect, God takes our inarticulate “groans” and translates them. For, even the elegant words and style of the Shakespearean era become inarticulate in the face of Eternity. Our poor human words become, in a way well beyond our grasp, part of the infrastructure by which God accomplishes God’s purposes. A New York Times Best Selling Author, Anne Lamott, published a simple book on spirituality and prayer in 2012 entitled: *Help, Thanks, Wow*. Even that three-word summary of prayer’s essential concerns points at best to a mere “groan.” We say the words (or, sometimes even better, simply sit in silence without words). And that’s a good thing. We do our part. Then St. Paul assures us that the Spirit does what the Spirit does best—*“intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.”*

As we progress through this Holy Season of Lent, I also encourage you to consider the collects found in the long season that follows the Feast of Pentecost, for they provide extraordinary reflections on the nature of prayer. For example: *“Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things, which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”* [BCP, Proper 11, p231] The point is that we don’t know what we’re doing, but that’s just fine. Jesus yearns for us to pray through him to the Father. When we do that, Jesus takes care of the rest.

Pastor Lin+



For All the Saints...

March has many memorable “saints of the church,” however, since Lent takes precedence, we often hear little about them during the Season of Lent.

Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, 672 ~ March 2



Chad was trained by Aidan of Lindisfarne as a follower of the Celtic tradition in ritual. Chad’s elder brother, Cedd, had built a monastery at Lastingham, where he governed as abbot. At his death, Cedd left the abbacy to Chad. According to the Venerable Bede, the king was so impressed by Chad’s “modesty, learning, and religious zeal” that he appointed Chad Bishop of York. The Venerable Bede tells us that Chad was ordained by “bishops of the British race who had not been canonically ordained.” Chad was, Bede also notes, “a man who kept the Church in truth and purity, humility, and temperance.”

However, when the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Theodore, arrived in England four years after Chad’s ordination as a bishop, Theodore made it clear that Chad’s ordination had been irregular, that is, not according to Roman custom. The devout and pious Chad, who had spent his entire ministry traveling his diocese on foot, humbly offered to resign from office, saying, “Indeed, I never believed myself worthy of it.”

Theodore was so impressed by Chad’s humility that he reordained him and appointed him Bishop of Mercia and Northumbria. Chad administered his new diocese with devout concern. He built a monastery and established monastic rule at Barrow. He continued his ministry largely on foot until forced by Theodore to ride on “longer journeys.”

Two and one-half years after his reordination, plague broke out, killing many residents of the diocese including Chad himself who was buried at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Lichfield. The Venerable Bede noted: “Chad joyfully beheld...the day of the Lord, whose coming he had always anxiously awaited. He was mindful to his end of all that the Lord did.”

Patrick, Bishop and Missionary of Ireland, 461: March 17



Patrick was born into a Christian family somewhere on the northwest coast of Roman Britain around 390. His grandfather had been a Christian priest and his father, Calpornius, a deacon. Calpornius was also an important official in the Roman imperial government of Britain. It was not unusual at that time for state officials to also be in holy orders. When Patrick was about sixteen, he was captured by Irish slave raiders and carried off to servitude in Ireland. When Patrick was about twenty-one, he escaped and returned to Britain, where he continued his education as a Christian and became both a priest and a bishop (although no particular See is known as his at this time).

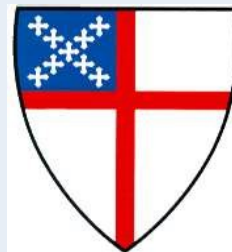
A vision then called Patrick to return to Ireland to evangelize there, which he did around 431. Tradition holds that Patrick landed not far from the place of his earlier captivity, near what is now known as Downpatrick (a “sown” or “dun” is a fortified hill, the stronghold of a local Irish king). Patrick then began a very successful process of missionary conversion that continued until his death around 461. Patrick made his appeal through the local kings and through them to their various tribes. “Christianizing” the old pagan religion as he went, Patrick erected Christian churches over sites already regarded as sacred, had crosses carved on old druidic pillars, and put sacred wells and springs under the protection of Christian saints.

Many legends of Patrick's Irish missionary travels possess substrata of truth, especially those telling of his conversion of the three major Irish High Kings. Patrick is said to have established his principal church at Armagh and to this day it is regarded as the primatial See of all Ireland. In addition to his successful missionary work among the Irish, the church cherishes two works attributed to Patrick: an autobiographical "Confession" and a "Letter to Coroticus," a British chieftain. Hymn 370, "St. Patrick's Breastplate" [*"I bind unto myself today"*] is also attributed to Patrick and although it is most likely not his work, it does express his faith and zeal.

MORE, "101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian"—

Reason # 67: "Episcopalians believe in moderation in all things, including moderation."
Sheena A. Lawrence, Diocese of Atlanta

Reason # 1: "When Anglicanism is at its best, its liturgy, its poetry, its music and its life can create a world of wonder in which it is very easy to fall in love with God." *Urban T.*



Thanks to those who have given to the **Rector's Discretionary Fund**, we were able to provide **Ms. G**, a young working mother with **rent assistance** who recently had to pay for unexpected car repairs in order to get to work.

The recent rise in home heating oil prices has also hit several financially at-risk families particularly hard with fuel bills far outside the norm. We were able to support **a couple of families** with the necessary funds to pay a portion of their **fuel bills** and avoid losing heat.

WHY are the **Rector's Discretionary Fund [RDF]** and our local **Christian Emergency Council [CEC]** so **important?** With additional funds recently provided from the RDF to the CEC we were able to help a local couple with an overdue Dominion Power bill of \$2300. However, this was not a "free" gift. The couple were required to participate in Financial Mentoring Sessions and to develop a Working Budget and cash flow plan that matched their expenses. Additionally, the couple met with a Credit Counselor who now has them on a good path to increasing their credit score. The couple now have a reasonable path for their dream to move from renting to becoming home owners. If they stick to their plan, their dream can happen in two to three years. The RDF and our CEC do not just "supply a fish;" they "provide the pole and the lessons on how to fish." There are countless, quiet and unnoticed success stories like this happening every day, right here in our little town and they happen because you care enough to give to support these hopes, dreams, and plans. Thank You! Pastor Lin +



Events During the Season of Lent

Make plans to join us for a season of reflection, study, and prayer during Lent

Wednesdays 12:15 p.m. Community worship and lunch
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer followed by soup supper
6:00 p.m. Bible Study "The Book of Ruth"

Thursdays 5:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Easter Lilies

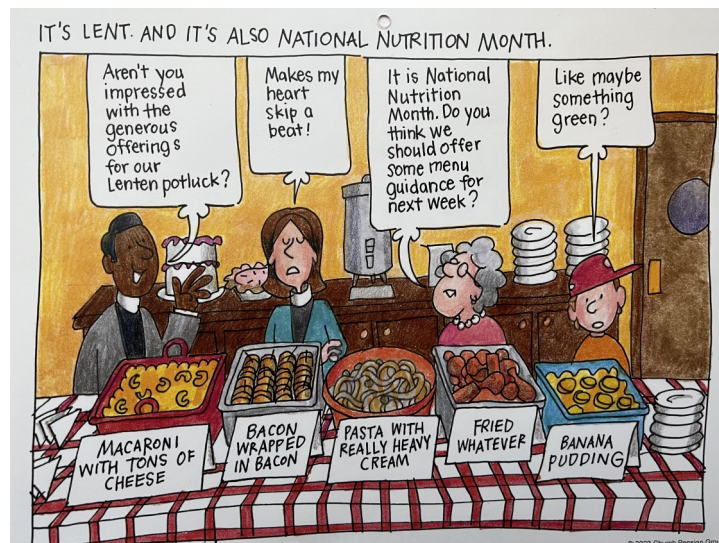


The Church will order Lilies for Easter, to decorate the nave and to support our local businesses. Lilies may be purchased in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one (\$20.00 each). Orders are due March 30, 2023.

Important News

Our Rector is retiring and we have begun the discernment for a new Priest. Part of that process will be a parish survey, giving us a chance to describe who we are as a church and where we want to be. Please make sure the church office has your current email address or the other best way to reach you so we can hear from you. The survey will be conducted in March and early April.

March Cartoon



NOW SHOWING



Based on the comical and moving New York Times bestseller (A Man Called Ove, by Frederik Backman), A Man Called Otto tells the story of Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks), a grumpy widower whose only joy comes from criticizing and judging his exasperated neighbors. When a lively young family moves in next door, he meets his match in quick-witted and very pregnant Marisol, leading to an unexpected friendship that will turn his world upside-down. This film was directed by Marc Forster . ~ *Rotten Tomatoes*

Friday, March 24th at 7pm in Robertson Hall

~ cost of admission is one non-perishable food item ~



March 2023

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Make plans to join us for a season of reflection, study, and prayer during Lent</i></p> <p><u>Wednesdays</u> 12:15 p.m. Community worship and lunch 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer followed by soup supper 6:00 p.m. Lenten Study "The Book of Ruth"</p> <p><u>Thursdays</u> 5:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross</p>						
<p>5 The Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Holy Communion 8 and 10:15 a.m.</p>	6	7	<p>8 12:15 pm Worship & lunch 5:30 pm Prayer, supper, & study</p>	<p>9 Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm</p>	10	11
<p>12 The Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Holy Communion 8 and 10:15 a.m.</p>	13	14	<p>15 12:15 pm Worship & lunch 5:30 pm Prayer, supper, & study</p>	<p>16 Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm</p>	17	18
<p>19 The Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Holy Communion 8 and 10:15 a.m.</p>	20	21	<p>22 12:15 pm Worship & lunch 5:30 pm Prayer, supper, & study</p>	<p>23 Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm</p>	<p>24 Movie night 7 PM</p>	<p>25 The Annunciation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary</p>
<p>26 The Fifth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Holy Communion 8 and 10:15 a.m.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Evensong</p> </div> <p>4:30 p.m.</p>	27	28	<p>29 12:15 pm Worship & lunch 5:30 pm Prayer, supper, & study</p>	<p>30 Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm</p>	31	





~Anniversaries~

Suzanne & Pen Bresee
Tina & Larry Rosine

~Birthdays~

03/03 Chris Dulin
03/04 Richard Floyd
03/09 Mary Brook Miller
03/10 Tina Rosine
03/10 Ann Marie Wood
03/11 Lynne Baines
03/11 Will Brockman
03/12 Bobbye Davis
03/17 Jonathan Yowell
03/20 Barry Barr
03/20 Harriet Moore
03/24 Shepherd Barfield
03/25 Carroll Johnson
03/28 Gillian Likins
03/31 Diane Acree



*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be
gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give
you peace.*

Food Pantry

Special request for February is **canned vegetables, rice, and toilet paper**. All food items and cash gifts are always welcome and appreciated.

The clothes closet accepts clean, gently used clothing, towels, sheets, and blankets (no used underwear, please). You can drop off donations at the Love Outreach Food Pantry each Tuesday from 8:00-10:30 and on Wednesday from 8:00-12:00. Their mailing address is: Love Outreach Food Pantry, Inc., P.O. Box 788, Orange, 22960. You may also bring any donations to the church to be delivered.



Prayer List

We pray especially for our church's leadership:

Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop; Mark, David, and Ted, bishops for this diocese

Our country: President Joe, Vice President Kamala, & Governor Glenn

For the men and women in our armed forces serving our nation around the world.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

For: Terrell, Margaret, Harriet, Ellen, William, Susan Earlene, Casey, Bev, Aubrey Elaine, Heather, Charlie, Lynne, Keith, Kevin, Carroll, Jack, Thames, Susie, and Sarah

Want to add something to The Builder? Contact Ann Wood at annwood304@gmail.com by March 24, 2023 with your information!

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
119 Caroline Street
Orange, VA 22960

March 2023

