March 2024

St. Paul's Journal

St. Paul's Richmond: A welcoming, inclusive community seeking to serve God and all God's creation.

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MISSIONAL MINISTRIES GROUPS

Dismantling Racism
Deb Johns
Mindy Wilson
Co-Coordinators

Food/Feeding
Jean Weigle
Barbara Hameetman
Co-Coordinators

Community Outreach
Heather Proctor
Emily Parks
Co-Coordinators

Community Partnership
Sharing Space and Ministry
Dwight Cass
Co-Coordinator

A Reflection From Our Rector – March 2024: The Sacredness of the Journey from the Transfiguration to the Festal Celebration of Easter

+ The Rev. Dr. Barbara Anne Fisher +

Although each of the six seasons of our liturgical year hold importance to us as Christians, a reflection may reveal to us a tender spot within our spiritual journeys. Mine is the ending of Lent leading into that which we call Holy Week. Not only does it carry the deepest significance for my spiritual journey, but for my entire life as well. Reflecting that my baptism was on my seventh Easter Sunday, there is also the memory that Easter was the first time I heard God calling me to ordination. Witnessing my rebel-rousing brother as Peter in a Foursquare Pentecostal Easter Sunrise service, brought me back to the fold after my first wandering in the wilderness. It was attending an LGBTQIA+ church on an Easter Sunday which led me to the full reality of God's love for me – and to the holy moment of my first ordination.

Each of these events was truly a sacred resurrection not only for my spiritual journey, but my life's journey as both became woven together into one tapestry. It is with these thoughts in mind, I encourage each of you to make this coming Holy Week a deeply personal reflection of the warp and weave of your spiritual journey with that of your life's tapestry:

+Where in your tapestry are those tender moments of a deep spiritual recognition of the Sacred Presence?

+Where are the times that your spiritual journey and your life journey appear in the tapestry to diverge into differing paths?

+Are there times in the tapestry when a sense of a void of the Sacred Presence exists within your life's journey? Perhaps even to the depth of questioning, "Why have you forsaken me, God?"

+Are there times when your spiritual *and* life journeys are so blended together you can sense a gentle fragrance of harmony and peace?

Transfiguration Sunday, as I prayed after reading the Gospel, I asked that God would open our hearts and minds to that which God would "draw us into" for this Sacred Season. The intent of the prayer being to open us to a reflective time of a transfiguration of self through hearing the word and realizing this season of Lent as a season of love: Of God loving us, of us loving ourselves, and of us loving others.

Continuing our journey through Lent, and reflecting on our study of forgiveness, may we not fall short of spending time in the Presence of the Sacred: Not only seeking the true meaning of both love and forgiveness, but putting both into practice. May we be so opened up that we bring a new sacrificial comprehension of, and participation in, the fullness of the journey of Holy Week. Please come to these sacred offerings as you feel led, bringing a humble heart that is open to the Sacred Presence:

+ Palm Sunday, March 24th @ 10:00 am– Procession of the Palms and the presentation of the Passion of Mark – An opening to the joyful entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and a reflection on the turning of his words of prophecy into the realities of that to which he was called.

+ Holy Tuesday, March 26th @ 6:15 pm – A Reflective Prayer Retreat – A joining together with those who have experienced the Living Compass study on forgiveness, to bring to the sacred holiness of our Altar and the foot of the cross, that which we are called to recognize and release.

+ Holy Thursday, March 28th @ 5:30 pm– Maundy Thursday with Stations of the Cross, Holy Eucharist, Procession of the Reserve Sacrament, Stripping of the Altar, and honoring of the Silent Watch – A participatory time of deep reflection from the significance of the Last Supper through the increasing darkness of the movement from that supper to the final betrayal of Jesus.

+ Good Friday Services, March 29th – Ecumenical Service at Noon (1st Christian Church) and Reserve Sacrament Service at 5:30 pm (St. Paul's): A time to ponder the deep meaning of the Cross, and to receive the Sacred Sacrament instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper, in the silence of this moment.

+ The Great Easter Vigil, March 30th @ 5:30 pm – Hearing Our History, Our Call to Baptism, the Coming of the Light, and the Anticipation of the Resurrection: This is the service of recalling the historical journey of our faith, the reminder of the new life found in the call to baptism, the bringing of the light into the Church, and the sacredness of the coming Resurrection and Eucharist.

+ The Festal Celebration of Easter Sunday, March 31st:

Sunrise Service @ 7:00 am – Roosevelt Hill – Glenn Miller Park
Easter Breakfast @ 8:30 am – Simmons' Room
Easter Sunday Festal Celebration @ 10:00 am – ***Remember to bring enough bells that we may lift the ringing all the way through the rafters to heaven!***

The purpose of each of these gatherings is to bring us to the full realization and joy that, as Christians, we are a resurrection faith – both of Christ and of our lives!

!Please see the attached Calendar of Lent and Holy Week for more specific details of each event!

A Message from the Senior Wardens
Jean and Dana Weigle, March 2024

February seemed to go by very fast and as I write this we are about to celebrate our second Sunday in Lent. On January 28th we had our Annual Meeting with an enthusiastic attendance ready to volunteer where needed for activities in the coming year. On Shrove Tuesday we had a good group including a couple who were familiar with our Blessing Box, join us for our Pancake and Bingo night. Dana and George cooked the pancakes and sausages and then we finished off the evening with some rousing games of bingo. Everyone had a great time! Last Sunday the 18th we had a wonderful healing service with Heather Barta from Provence 5 of the Episcopal Church. She then guided the Vestry through a very productive and enlightening retreat.

We are excited to report that George Eastman has heard from Willett-Hauser who plan to be here March 1st to start working on the Parish House window. Their time line is possibly 30 days. How great it will be to have that window repaired.

As we continue through this Lenten season remember the time Jesus spent in the wilderness and the joyous celebration of Easter to come.

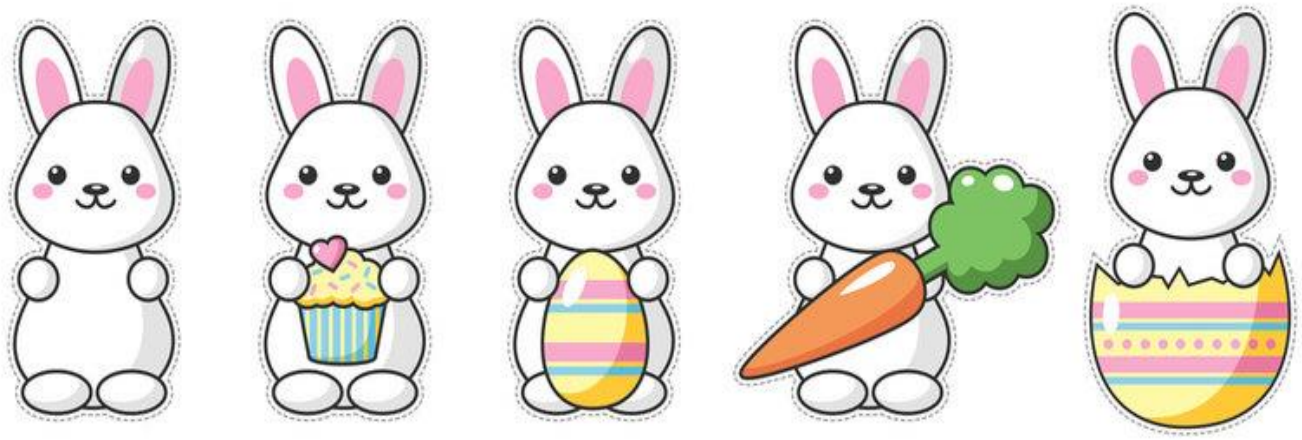
Dana & Jean Weigle, Co-Senior Wardens

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

George Eastman – 9th
Heather Proctor – 11th
Chris Huber – 12th
Jeanne King – 14th
Drake Mujete – 23rd
Loni Best-Pollitt – 29th
Naomi Felsman – 30th

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

No March Anniversaries



CALENDAR OF LENT AND HOLY WEEK PLUS BISHOP JENNIFER'S VISIT DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 25th: 2nd Sunday in Lent - Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

February 27th: Tuesday's Lenten Study Series – Practicing Forgiveness - Simmons' Room
Reflective Prayer @ 6:15pm * Study @ 6:30 – 7:30

March 3rd: 3rd Sunday in Lent - Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

March 5th: Stations of the Cross – A Reflective Meditation – 5:30 in Nave
Tuesday's Lenten Study Series – Practicing Forgiveness - Simmons' Room
Reflective Prayer @ 6:15pm * Study @ 6:30 – 7:30

March 10th: 4th Sunday in Lent – Rose Sunday- Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

March 12th: Tuesday's Lenten Study Series – Practicing Forgiveness - Simmons' Room
Reflective Prayer @ 6:15pm * Study @ 6:30 – 7:30

March 17th: 5th Sunday in Lent – Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

March 19th: Tuesday's Lenten Study Series – Practicing Forgiveness - Simmons' Room
Reflective Prayer @ 6:15pm * Study @ 6:30 – 7:30

March 24th: Palm Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Processional of the Palms
Reflections on the Passion in Mark's Gospel and Holy Eucharist Rite II

March 26th: Tuesday of Holy Week @ 6:15 – 7:30 in the Nave
Holy Week Reflective Prayer Retreat – Final Session - Practicing Forgiveness
Open to all!

March 28th: Maundy Thursday with Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm
Holy Eucharist Rite II – Procession of the Reserve Sacrament - Stripping of the Altar
Silent Watch Begins

March 29th: Ecumenical Good Friday Service - First Christian Church @ Noon
Bethel AME, First Christian, First Presbyterian, St. Paul's Episcopal

St. Paul's Good Friday Solemn Prayers and Reserve Sacrament Service @ 5:30 pm

March 30th: The Great Easter Vigil @ 5:30 pm
Coming of the Light – Holy Eucharist Rite II

March 31st - Easter Sunday Services:
Sunrise Watch @ 7:00 am – Glenn Miller Park – Roosevelt Hill
Vestry-sponsored Easter Breakfast @ 8:30 am in Simmons' Room
Easter Sunday Festal Celebration @ 10:00 am in Nave

April 7th – Bishop Jennifer's Visitation – Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Luncheon for Bishop Jennifer
Bishop Jennifer meets with Vestry

Dismantling Racism: Deb Johns & Mindy Wilson, Co-coordinators

Rev. Dr. Barbara Anne Fisher and Sandy Poole attended The Feast of Absalom Jones on February 10th at the Episcopal Cathedral on Monument Circle. This was a celebration of the first Black person ordained priest in The Episcopal Church. This celebration included during the daylong event some very inspirational music. Starting January 17th St. Timothy's Episcopal Church of Indianapolis sponsored a series called "Slavery and the Bible." It is an hour each Wednesday evening Zoom Meeting with a Biblical scholar that looks at Bible text cross referenced with other known ancient texts to get a better view of slavery during the Old & New Testament times. One insight the leader provided was that there were two main reasons that there were slaves during Biblical times. One was that a person was a slave due to being captured by the Israelites during the Israelites conquest of other territories. And the other was that Israelites would sell themselves or a child of working age into slavery to pay off a debt. And these two different types of slaves were not treated equally. The Israeli slave was released after 7 years of service whereas the captive slave had to serve their entire life.

Service and Outreach: Heather Proctor & Emily Parks, Co-coordinators

During the month of March the Giving Tree will continue focusing on Richmond State Hospital. The RSH houses roughly 170 patients and the items we will be collecting will be the start of Christmas presents for 2024. They ask for the following items: Hygiene items (Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Lotion, Toothbrush/Toothpaste.) Puzzle books (Search Word, Crossword, Sudoku, etc.) Crayons, Adult Coloring Books, Socks, Slipper Socks, Crew Neck Sweaters (Large and Up.) Pajama pants (Large and up.) Thank you!!

Food/Feeding Ministry: Jean Weigle and Barb Hameetman, Co-coordinators

Thank you again to all who are continuing to help buy the food and filling the Blessing Box each day. We are continuing to support the needy in our community with your much appreciated efforts. I have one special request…We are trying to get a better idea of the real cost of this ministry. I have put a large envelope on the table (behind the curtain) in the Simmons' Room and as you bring food in would you please put the sales receipt in that envelope or give the receipt to me. Just mark the Blessing Box items, you DON'T need to put your name on the receipt, and I will tally the amounts. Thank you SO much, this will be a great help!!

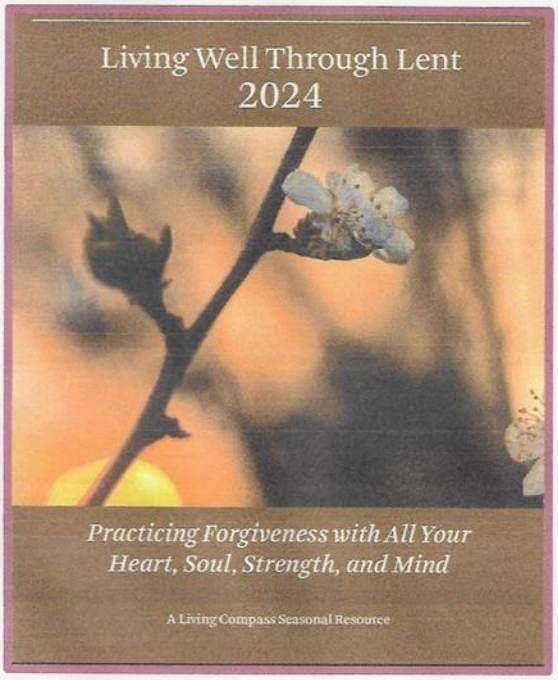
Co-Coordinators Dwight Cass and ?

Recently talked with Marista Jensen of the Richmond, IN Girl Scouts supporting girls with varying degrees of autism. They are looking at using the office area adjacent to the counting room to hold regular troop meetings. At the same time, Marista indicated interest in the Simmons room to provide the girls a space for achieving their Girl Scout cooking badges as well as using this space for regular meetings of the local Girl Scouts leadership. We are currently working with them to get their liability insurance and background checks in place prior to using the space. Marista also indicated a desire to work with existing ministries within the parish, such as the blessing box, to provide a teaching opportunity for the girls as well as a merit badge-earning opportunity.

Diocesan Youth Ministry Mission Trip - July 7-14

All current 7th through 12th graders are invited on our annual Diocesan Youth Mission Trip to Philadelphia, PA July 7th-14th, 2024. Participants will work with **St. James School**, a vibrant Episcopal school, worshipping community, and neighborhood hub in North Philly. We will stay in the **Episcopal Mission Center** of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Service activities will be a mix of social and physical, with opportunities to experience the rich culture of Philadelphia. Spots are limited, and the last day to register is May 1st, 2024.

Time is running out. If you are interested in going, please see Barbara Anne as soon as possible! Scholarships are available.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH RICHMOND INDIANA:

2024 LIVING COMPASS LENTEN +STUDY+

Reflective Prayer Times: 6:15 – 6:30pm

Study Sessions: 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Tuesday evenings:

February 20th and 27th,

March 5th, 12th, and 19th

HOLY WEEK RETREAT:

Practicing Forgiveness

Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

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Sign-up sheet and books in Simmons' Room

You may also email the parish to get signed up:

stpaulsrichmond@gmail.com

Earlham School of Religion is bringing best-selling novelist and essayist Anne Lamott to Richmond on April 25. Her talk will be from 7-9 pm at Goddard Auditorium in Carpenter Hall on the main Earlham campus.

Tickets are required. Cost is $25. Available only on EventBrite. For a link, go to esr.earlham.edu and click on Events.

Among many other things, Lamott has written extensively about her faith and her struggles as an alcoholic in long-term recovery. She is compassionate, inspiring and unexpectedly funny.

Mark Your Calendar!!
Friday, March 8th
A Showing of the Philadelphia Eleven's
50th Anniversary Film:
A dessert to recognize St. Paul's women.
Simmons' Room – Dessert at 7:30 pm