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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 5

5:30-6:30 pm

Observed each year on the day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday has many customs about food. In Ireland and many British Commonwealth countries, pancakes are traditional because eggs, sugar, and fat, commonly forbidden during the Lenten fast, are used up so they will not go to waste.

Nancy & Woody Latour will host the pre-Lenten festivities at their home (114 Haverling St, Bath, NY). Pancakes and syrup will be provided; please bring your favorite accompaniment. There is a sign-up sheet in the cloister.

Ash Wednesday

Services

March 6

12:30 pm and 5:30 pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

We will offer two worship services that day, 12:30 pm and 5:30 pm, both in the Chapel, with Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes.



From Ashes to the Cross: Keeping a Holy Lent

The Rev. Kit Tobin

Many of us grew up in the church understanding Lent as a time to give up something for 40 days. One alternative to giving up something is to take on a spiritual discipline. Here are just a few of the many ways to help us do just that during our 40 day journey of Lent:

- ..# Commit to worshipping every Sunday at 7:45 or 11 am. Both services are held in the Chapel.
- ..# Attend Holy Eucharist on Thursdays at 12:10 pm.
- ..# Join Curious Christians on Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 am, in the Great Hall.
- ..# Follow the Lenten meditations from Episcopal Relief and Development.

(Continued on page 2)

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- ..# Say grace at every meal, even if we are out in public.
- ..# Take time to listen to a friend, family member, colleague, or stranger in need, even if it's not convenient.
- ..# Create a "piggy bank" (what used to be called a mite box) for your loose pocket change. Then, on Easter Sunday, place the change in the offering plate designated for the Discretionary Fund.

As we choose to engage in strengthening our discipline during Lent, among the myriad of routes available to us, don't forget the purpose of our journey. Our spiritual discipline is what nourishes our dependence on God, which kindles openness to God and God's work in all of our life. Remember, the Spirit, which anointed Jesus at his baptism, drove him into the wilderness to contend with Satan on our behalf. Discipline for us is the way we move out of ourselves and the barriers which enslave us here, into, where our calling demands, the wilderness, and there is where we enter into God's presence.

Because we accept that life is difficult, we commit ourselves to discipline. It's just that simple. Understanding the reality of the wilderness, we prepare ourselves to confront it ourselves and on behalf of others this and every day.

May we know and keep a holy Lent—in the wilderness, for it is there we meet God most directly and most profoundly. Blessings as we commence our Lenten journey together.

The Rector's Discretionary Fund

What is it and Why Do We Have One?

TITLE III CANON III.9.6, Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church: The Alms and Contributions, not otherwise specifically designated, at the Administration of the Holy Communion on one Sunday in each calendar month, and other offerings for the poor, shall be deposited with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge... to be applied to such pious and charitable uses as the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall determine. When a Parish is without a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry shall designate a member of the Parish to fulfill this function.

This Canon is the basis for the Rector's Discretionary Fund at St Thomas' which is funded primarily from plate and specified offerings on the first Sunday of each month. Additional contributions may be made at any time. This fund may be enhanced by memorial gifts, or in thanksgiving for a blessing in one's life. Donations during Lent are particularly appropriate as we review the gifts we have received through God's generosity and Jesus' direction to care for those less fortunate than ourselves.



The fund allocations are limited specifically to assist persons with issues, often critical and immediate, which the person is unable to resolve without financial aid. It is another form of outreach and support to those in need, discreet and confidential. Funds dispersed are generally in the form of a check to the entity requiring payment. During this time of transition here at St. Thomas', when a request is made for assistance, Rev. Kit meets with the person and then consults with the warden(s) on the appropriate amount and dispersal of funds.

Lent Study: Soup & Soul-Talk

Tuesdays, 6:00—7:30 pm

*Study Book: Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved
by Kate Bowler*

The Rev. Michael Hopkins

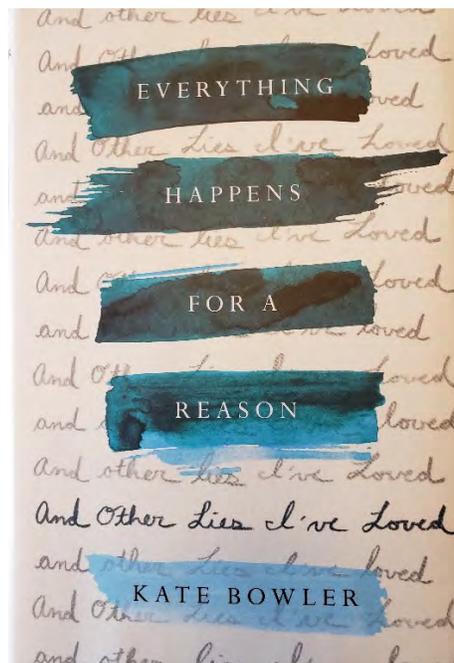
On the five Tuesdays of Lent (March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9) we will meet in the Great Hall for a simple supper of bread and soup, and discuss a new book which will challenge us to think clearly about the ways we talk about God and God's presence in our lives. The discussion will be led by The Rev. Michael Hopkins.

Here's a description of the book:

Kate Bowler is a professor at Duke Divinity School with a modest Christian upbringing, but she specializes in the study of the prosperity gospel, a creed that sees fortune as a blessing from God and misfortune as a mark of God's disapproval. At thirty-five, everything in her life seems to point toward "blessing." She is thriving in her job, married to her high school sweetheart, and loves life with her newborn son.

Then she is diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer. The prospect of her own mortality forces Kate to realize that she has been tacitly subscribing to the prosperity gospel, living with the conviction that she can control the shape of her life with "a surge of determination." Even as this type of Christianity celebrates the American can-do spirit, it implies that if you "can't do" and succumb to illness of misfortune, you are a failure. Kate is very sick, and no amount of positive thinking will shrink her tumors. What does it mean to die, she wonders, in a society that insists that everything happens for a reason? Kate is stripped of this certainty only to discover that without it, life is hard but beautiful in a way it never has been before.

This is a serious, funny, and at times provocative book that will help you ask questions that will deepen your faith. Please sign up in the cloister and indicate if you will buy the book yourself or need us to order it. Alternately, you can call or e-mail the office with the same information. Feel free to invite a friend! If you have any questions, contact me at [REDACTED]



Online Giving

John Clinton Bradley

St. Thomas' can now accept online donations through the Tithe.ly system. You can make one-time or recurring gifts using your debit or credit card. Tithe.ly charges a small fee for processing online transaction; you can choose to cover the fee or have the parish absorb the cost.

To donate online, visit www.stthomasbath.org and click the big, red Give button. You can also give and manage your gifts with the Tithe.ly app, which you can download from the App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play (Android devices).



Life Transformed: The Way of Love During Lent

Beginning Sunday, March 10

Roxanne Gaylord

This Lent, you are invited to join the Curious Christians study group as we journey with Jesus in his Way of Love. This set of seven forums ties the Easter Vigil readings to the seven practices of the Way of Love.

Session One: **TURN:** Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ (Romans 6:3-11)

Session Two: **PRAY:** Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:10-15:1)

Session Three: **LEARN:** Learn Wisdom and Live (Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6)

Session Four: **BLESS:** A New Heart and a New Spirit (Ezekiel 36:24-28)

Session Five: **REST:** The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

Session Six: **WORSHIP:** The Gathering of God's People (Zephaniah 3:12-20)

Session Seven: **GO:** The Empty Tomb (Luke 24:1-12)



Together, we will reflect on salvation history, walk toward the empty tomb, and embrace the transforming reality of love, life, and liberation.

Curious Christians meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Great Hall. All are welcome!

Gardening Potluck Dinner

Friday March 1, 6 pm

Ray Long

All parish members are invited to join the gardeners for this event. It is important to come together as a gardening community to share our 2018 experience and begin planning for success in 2019. The intent is to have fun sharing food and knowledge about gardening. This is an opportunity to improve garden work at the community garden as well as at our homes.

The following link provides access to several free resources you can use for home gardening and working in the Community Garden at St Thomas: <https://joegardener.com/resources/>



Fundraising in February

Again, we had two fundraising events in February like we did in January.

The first one was the **Dessert Auction**, which was held to raise money for the roof project. We blew previous year's profit out of the water - \$2443.25. It was a really fun event for all who attended. Bidding was wild, laughter abounded and our bakers really outdid themselves. JoAnn Brundage, Linda Ferris, Cinda Wheat, Gloria Moran, Dan Nichiporuk, Laura Underhill, Deb Scharf, Severina Weeks, Woody Latour, Nancy Latour, Brandi Graham, Terry Bilancio and I from St. Thomas made desserts. Friends of mine from the VA also made desserts including Donna Sciotti-Becker & her daughter, Sara, Julie Gibson and Leah Corey. Once again Ken Corey was our guest auctioneer and he outdid himself. Congratulations one and all.



Linda Ferris serving samples.



A year of cookies from Woody Latour.



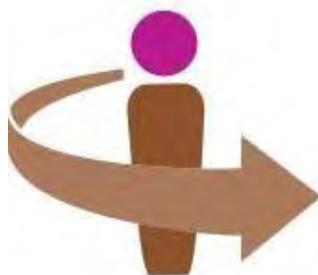
Nancy Latour and Ken Corey auctioning desserts.

Our second fundraiser was another **Magistrates Dinner** like in January. Severina Weeks chaired this one with assistance from Barbara Fowler and Linda Ferris. We cleared \$208 for this event which goes to the roof fund.

March 2019 Calendar

1
Parochial Report Due
6:00 PM Garden Potluck Dinner

3 Julia Peck's Birthday 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist; Chapel 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play 3:00 PM Sunday Suppers	4 6:00 PM District Meeting; St Mark's Episcopal Church, 179 Main St, Penn Yan, NY 14527, USA	5 6:00 PM Bath Beach Body Fit Club; Great Hall	6 Ash Wednesday 9:30 AM Open Bids; Memorial Room 11:00 AM Red Door Kitchen 12:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service; Chapel 5:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service; Chapel 6:30 PM Bath Peace and	7 Kevin Fink's Birthday Morgan Wheat's Birthday 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist; Chapel 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:15 PM Voice Choir Practice	8 Bill Hamilton's Birthday 5:00 PM Festa Italiana
10 JoAnn Brundage's Birthday 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist; Chapel 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play 3:00 PM Sunday Suppers	11	12 Dennis Wienk's Birthday 6:00 PM Bath Beach Body Fit Club; Great Hall	13 11:00 AM Red Door Kitchen 6:00 PM Grow Team; Memorial Room	14 Carin Tobin's Birthday Mary Crocker's Birthday 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist; Chapel 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:15 PM Voice Choir Practice	15
17 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist; Chapel 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play 3:00 PM Sunday Suppers	18	19 6:00 PM Bath Beach Body Fit Club; Great Hall	20 Jenna Winnett's Birthday 11:00 AM Red Door Kitchen 6:00 PM Vestry; Memorial Room	21 Brian Latour's Birthday 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist; Chapel 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:15 PM Voice Choir Practice	22 Bonni Lu Brundage's Birthday
24 Mark and Leah Lewis' Anniversary 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist; Chapel 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play 3:00 PM Sunday Suppers	25	26 6:00 PM Bath Beach Body Fit Club; Great Hall	27 Mary Watters Gaylord's Birthday 9:00 AM Samantha Thomas' Birthday 11:00 AM Red Door Kitchen 5:30 PM Magistrates Dinner	28 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist; Chapel 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:15 PM Voice Choir Practice	29
31 Bill Arnts' Birthday 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist; Chapel 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play 3:00 PM Sunday Suppers	Apr 1	Notes <h2 style="text-align: center;">Our parish calendar is online at stthomasbath.org/parish-calendar!</h2>			

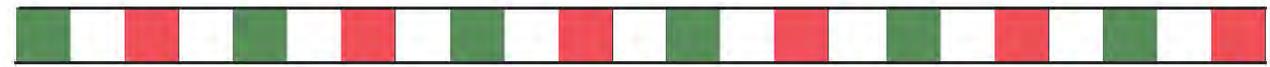


Turning Point

Barb Fowler

During February, we collected 291 rolls of toilet paper for Turning Point, far more than our goal of 200 rolls.

During March, we're collecting pasta, rice, spaghetti sauce, and tomato sauce for Turning Point. I have set the goal at 100.



Festa Italiana



Spaghetti & Meatballs

OR

Lasagna (meat or vegetarian)

Italian Bread

Salad Bar

Italian Desserts

Dinner includes glass of wine for adults



5-6:30 p.m. Fri., March 8

St. Thomas Church

122 Liberty St., Bath, NY

\$10.00 adults ~ \$3.00 under 7
takeouts available



Comments NOT to Make to Those Who Are Grieving

Barbara Fowler, Bereavement Minister

Here are phrases to avoid when trying to offer support to the bereft:

“Time heals all wounds.” Avoid banal philosophical or religious statements. Frequently such declarations seek to minimize the pain survivors feel. For instance, “Time heals all wounds,” implies that the hurt the survivor feels will at some point go away. The loss of that person will abide throughout their life although not with such intensity.

“Everything happens for a reason.” People often contend that there must be a reason for the terrible event. We would like to believe that a rationale exists for every catastrophe, that there is a silver lining to each dark cloud. Even if the deceased is no longer suffering and death was a blessed release, there simply is no upside to death in survivors hearts.

“I know how you feel.” It can be insulting to the bereaved to suggest that you know exactly how they are feeling. Instead, try asking them how they feel and let them know it's ok if they are not ready to share their feelings.

“It’s God’s Will.” Common religious consolations often suggest that the death is God’s doing, not because God is diabolical but because God is teaching us something. As Rev. Emily C. Heath writes in The Huffington Post, attributing terrible events to God makes it seem “that God will break hearts at will just because God can. It also communicates to parents and loved ones that they are not really entitled to their grief.”

So, what is appropriate to say to those who are grieving?

“I’m sorry to hear that this happened to you.” This phrase lets the grieving person know that you care about them and their situation, The American Cancer Society says. It also may give the bereaved an opportunity to talk about their feelings.

“Please let me know how I can support you.” Make yourself available to the family. Offer to do specific tasks like picking someone up at the airport, helping with chores or errands. Be available to talk. Be ready to assist when called.

Often simply listening can be what the grieving person needs to help them get through such a difficult time. You can also offer support in other ways, such as grocery shopping, bringing food, handling arrangements, paying bills or just spending time together.

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the death of Ella Barkley on January 25, 2019, at age 96 in Marietta, Georgia. Ella had been in hospice care since December. Ella’s death was peaceful. She was cremated. At some point convenient to the family, Ella’s cremains will be brought to Bath for interment in Nondaga Cemetery.

We also offer our condolences to Harriett Fort and family on the passing of her son-in-law James Kewley at age 66 on Friday, February 1, 2019, in Lakeland, Florida. James and Lorraine were the parents of sons and grandparents to four grandchildren. Funeral services will be held later with burial at Nondaga Cemetery.

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Finally, we extend our sympathies to John Clinton Bradley and his sister, Cynthia Bradley-Graziadei on the sudden death of her husband, David Graziadei, on February 23. Dave was a generous and gregarious guy, a faithful husband, a loving father, and a devoted son.

Vestry Notes

John Bradley, Junior Warden

The vestry held it's monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 20. Here are the highlights:

- ...# We approved the minutes from the January meeting.
- ...# We received a Finance Committee report from Brandi Graham. She informed us the our endowment fund and the Moore Trust lost significant value because of poor stock market performance during the last quarter of 2018.
- ...# We received the Treasure's Report from Nancy Latour. Income and expenses are within budget. Nancy noted that the correct amount of our diocesan assessment for this year is \$24,911 (not \$24,711).
- ...# We received a Grow Team report from me. Twenty parishioner attended the Pizza, Pop, and Parcheesi winter fellowship event on Wednesday, February 13. One unchurched visitor attended. Cinda Wheat and Gil Ferris generously underwrote the cost of the food and beverages. John also thanked Helen Monroy, Deb Scharf, Roxanne Gaylord, Barb Fowler, and Wood Latour for their assistance.
- ...# I gave an update on the rector search. On February 11, Canon Johnnie Ross met with Senior Warden Mary Paddock and me. Canon Johnnie recommended a second candidate for our rector position. This candidate is from the Diocese of Rochester and was recently ordained to the transitional diaconate. The entire vestry plans to interview this candidate as soon as possible.
- ...# Severina Week gave an update on the roof replacement project. We discussed options for additional funding to complete the project. The consensus of the vestry was that we should "borrow" the money from the endowment fund and pay ourselves back.
- ...# We reappointed Nancy Latour as Treasurer and Severina Weeks as Assistant Treasurer and Clerk.
- ...# We authorized new signatories for the parish checking account: Nancy Latour, Severina Weeks, Mary Paddock, and me.
- ...# We discussed several proposals to improve administration and accounting.
- ...# I asked all vestry members who need Safe Church training to complete it by the next vestry meeting. The diocese requires all vestry members to complete Safe Church training every five years.
- ...# Mary Paddock informed us that our Sexton, Joe Prunier, will be leaving us at the end of April.
- ...# Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, at 6:00 pm.

Parishioners are welcome to inspect the official vestry meeting minutes in the parish office during parish business hours, which are 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

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Episcopal Church, Bath, New York

Crossroads

March 2019 Issue

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Roof Update

On Friday, February 22, architect Virginia Searl held a bidders conference at the church. Three contractors sent representatives. Both of the wardens attended. The bids will be opened on Ash Wednesday, March 6, at 9:30 am, in the Memorial Room. All members of the Roof Committee are invited to attend.

Greeters

On Saturday, February 23, our greeters participated in a training program to learn how to welcome visitors and perform the many tasks related to their role. Thanks to all of our greeters for their ministry. Special thanks to Severina Week, our Head Greeter.

