

February
2015



TOGETHER

A word from our Rector

Dear Friends,

Once again, it's hard to believe: Lent is almost upon us!

Ash Wednesday is February 18; we'll be offering three services on that day: 7:30 and 10:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m., each of these Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes. The early service will be spoken, the two later ones each with music. Let's make a special point this year of beginning our Lenten journey together. I invite all of us to make every effort to attend and participate in one of these services.

In the course of this year, it's my intention to place a heightened focus on personal spiritual growth—our ongoing formation in Christian discipleship. It's so easy to try to find life fulfillment by manipulating the externals: "If only things 'out there' were better, all would be well." But the only way we truly find growth, peace, and joy is from the inside out. Not as a private project we undertake on our own, but from the renewal that comes by Grace from God—the One utterly other who is nevertheless closer to us than our own hearts. The project starts from the center, and then radiates outwards.

Spiritual growth is intimidating, because it changes things—and we're no longer in control. This is why we often get ourselves caught in various ways. We can tell ourselves that the classic tools just aren't effective anymore. But at least some of the time, maybe it's possible that the problem is that they're *too* effective! It's not comfortable—at first—not being in charge. Later though, living as though God really is God, we get to the only comfort that really endures. So, let's help one another learn to let the distancing mechanisms go, and step forward into God's abundant, risky gift to us in Jesus Christ, the one "in whom is life."

With God, there's always more to learn, and always more in which to grow. The wonderful truth is that it is possible—more than merely possible—to live in an increased sense of the living presence of our good Lord. Why not, then?

In the words of our Prayer Book:

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."

It is such a providence that we're in this great adventure together. Thank you.

Blessings and Godly joy to you all.

Yours in Christ,

Adam +

Events in February

YOUTH GROUP BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 1st

Please come to our Youth Group Breakfast on Sunday, February 1st after the 10:00 am service. **Subsequent Youth Group Brunches are usually on the First Sunday of the Month!**



Thank you, *Matt Thompson*

CHILDREN'S INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST FEBRUARY 8th

Children's Instructed Eucharist on Sunday at 10:00 am February 8th.. The children will be at the altar with Father Adam for this special service.



WOMEN'S LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 5TH

Women of the parish are invited to their monthly luncheon on Thursday, February 5th, 12 noon. We had 22 women last month on the coldest day of the year—shall we try to break that attendance record this month? Volunteers for the day are Sara Fry, Ginny Clarendon and Janet Winter. Bring a sandwich to share—dessert and beverages are supplied. Please bring canned goods for the Food Pantry as well. If you need a ride, call Sandy Marshall.

EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION: MISSION DISCERNMENT DAY CANCELLED FOR FEBRUARY, NEW DATE TDB

Come and learn how you can engage in the work we are doing to bring about a more just society here in Eastern Massachusetts. Meet members of the Life Together internship program – Micah Fellows engaging in the work of social change. Participate in a facilitated conversation with other ECM supporters who are passionate about making our communities stronger. Learn about the emerging public policy initiatives for 2015. Begin to discern where God is moving in your communities and congregations!

You can register online at: www.EpiscopalCityMission.Eventbrite.com

PANCAKE SUPPER FEBRUARY 17th



ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

for the whole parish - sponsored by the Church School!
FEBRUARY 17, 2015 - 5:30 - Paper hat making, Mardi Gras beads, pancakes, fruit, dessert, singing by & with the Church School choir - home & happy by 7:30.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES FEBRUARY 18th

- 7:30 am Eucharist
- 10:00 am Eucharist
- 7:00 pm Eucharist



THE LABYRINTH (FEBRUARY 13th)

Our labyrinth community is growing in numbers of people sharing the monthly walking experience. It is also extending the scope of activities around and on the labyrinth. Our church is fortunate to have a canvas, Chartres - style to unfold in the Parish Hall for personal walks and group facilitated walks. We extend an invitation to people from all faiths, especially those who are in transition and/or struggling to find a means of prayer or meditation.

Facilitated walks are led by Dr. Margaret Rappaport, a Veriditas-certified facilitator. She studied with Rev. Lauren Artress at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, San Francisco, CA. and is an active, committed participant in the global labyrinth movement. Veriditas is dedicated to inspiring personal and planetary change and renewal through the labyrinth experience. We accomplish our mission by training and supporting labyrinth facilitators around the world, and offering meaningful events that promote further understanding of the labyrinth as a tool for personal and community transformation. Our vision is that the labyrinth experience guides us in developing the higher level of human awareness we need to thrive in the 21st century.

Dr. Rappaport lectures on images, labyrinths and other symbols. She speaks on the history of labyrinths, the concept of the labyrinth, sacred geometry, archetypal symbols, and subtle energies in stories and symbols. Her book, *Bringing Life to the Labyrinth* is available in Galley West and on Amazon.com.

Upcoming Labyrinth Walks:

Friday February 13

- At 10:00 am – our monthly guided labyrinth walk

Friday March 13

- At 10:00 am – our monthly guided labyrinth walk
- At 5:30 pm – a special Lenten guided labyrinth walk with Eucharist and a light supper

Friday April 3

- At 3:00 pm – a special guided labyrinth walk for Good Friday that brings together the meditative power of the labyrinth and the Stations of the Cross.

THURSDAYS AT THREE

January 29, February 5, and February 12

3:00 to 4:15 pm, Parish Hall

“Praying and Singing with Handel’s *Messiah*”

Please join us for a three session series, one for each of the three parts of Handel’s *Messiah*, one of the greatest masterworks of art and faith. These sessions will include listening to recorded portions, reflections, and—yes—some singing along, too. Led by Dilys Smith.

SHEPHERD GROUPS

FEBRUARY 15th - SUNDAY

Eastham-Wellfleet Shepherd Group: will meet at 1 pm, at the home of Martha Armstrong & Tom Lennox, 48 Indian Way, Eastham.

Brewster/Dennis Shepherd Group: Ian Ellison will be hosting. His address is 133 MacLean Road, Brewster. Please call Ian at 774-216-1605 for directions, time or questions.

Orleans: TBD

FRIDAYS IN LENT

We will continue our Fridays in Lent this year on February 20 continuing through March 27. At 5:00 p.m., in church, a diverse series of short services will be held in church. These will include both the traditional Stations of the Cross, as well as a number of other alternative offerings. At 5:30 a soup and bread supper will be held in the Parish Hall. And at 6:15, we'll begin the evening's program. (The only exception to this pattern will be on March 13, when we'll begin in the Parish Hall at 5:00 for Labyrinth followed by simple Eucharist, followed by the soup and bread supper.)

The programs this year will be hosted by our Justice and Peace Committee: "LENTEN CONVERSATIONS 2015: RACE, POLITICS, and RELIGION IN THE USA." This series will include film showings, panel discussions, and group conversations. These will be timely and compelling opportunities.

The program on February 20 features the award winning PBS film *Briars in the Cotton Patch: The Story of the Koinonia Farm*.

On February 27, we will continue with the first part of *Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity*.

Both of these viewings will be followed by discussion. Please look for additional details in the weekly bulletin.

SHARING THE BLESSING—ERICA KAY WEBSTER

FEBRUARY 21st 10:00 am IN THE PARISH HALL

Sharing the Blessing is a group that works to educate and gain understanding on issues that involve the LGBT population. On February 21st Erica Kay Webster will speak about her life as a transgender 15 year old living on the streets of New York City. She has launched a drive to open Promise Place, a school on Cape Cod for homeless youth.

General Articles

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Responsibility

As young children, our parents are responsible for feeding us, providing housing, making sure we go to school and teaching us about Jesus and God. They also teach us to be responsible by giving us chores and expecting us to take care of our things. As adults, we become responsible for ourselves. We need to work, develop good habits and when possible help others.

Living in the USA also means we have a lot of freedoms. As Norman Rockwell aptly depicted, we have Freedom from Fear, Freedom from Want, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Worship. However, these freedoms are not free. They require us to be responsible citizens creating a community where these freedoms prevail.

It is through our responsible membership's stewardship of time talent and treasure that The Church of the Holy Spirit remains our spiritual home where we are free to worship. Thank you to all who help make this freedom real. There is always more to be done.... Do you want to be more responsible and become more involved or provide more financial support? Please contact the Rector or one of our Wardens.

A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom.—*Bob Dylan*

Do you want to make a financial pledge to CHS?

Do you need Offertory Envelopes?

Please contact the parish office.

THE GREEN TEAM

You want solar? But you're frustrated by shading, limited roof space, the look of panels on your roof, not owning your home, details, or expense of your own array? If you are committed to renewable energy, and want to reduce your carbon imprint, there are a number of alternatives for you. Call Nat, attend the late February meeting of the Orleans Renewable Energy Committee, or come to the next CHS Green Team meeting (3rd of March).

Your Green Team: Jack Sasso, Chair;
Nat Goddard committee member (508-255-3818, or 1-774-722-5352).



CHS ARTISTS

The featured CHS artist for the month of February is **SEAN CHUNG**. The following words are taken from Sean's website - photo sean.tumblr.com—I encourage you to visit Sean's website! *About the photographer.....A amateur photography done by a bored 15 year old. I use a Nikon D7000. Night photography is my favorite thing to do but it is by no means the only thing I do. This is just what I do when I have no homework.*

Don't miss Sean's extraordinary photographs in the CHS gallery/Reception Room - be amazed at what a talented young man sees. There are still a few months available in 2015 to exhibit/sell your art for one month in the CHS gallery. The sign up sheet is located in the gallery by the door. Questions? Comments? contact Sharyn Laughton - artoff@comcast.net - 508 255 7277

BOOK RECOMMENDATION FROM THE RECTOR

Fostering our focus on spiritual growth this year, I'd like to offer a suggestion for our personal reading experience that many of us might share in the coming months, leading to some group sessions and reflections in Adult Education in the early fall.

It's a Christian classic that also pushes the envelope: *Revelations of Divine Love*, by Julian of Norwich. I have a further suggestion in the particular edition that I'd recommend we use. Some translations of this great work are frankly cumbersome; others get close to being paraphrases. However, a fairly new translation, very accurate, but also compellingly readable is the version by Elizabeth Spearing. It's available as follows:

Revelations of Divine Love
Julian of Norwich
Elizabeth Spearing, translator
Penguin Classics (1999)
ISBN-13: 978-0140446739

This is a direct volume, and not that long. However, I won't disguise the fact that reading a medieval devotional work, this one included, is not without its challenges for twenty-first century readers. Nevertheless, these challenges are very much worth it, and there's much that addresses us in great relevance and power. Julian is one of the great theological minds in the history of the church—and a brilliant writer. She has a way of speaking from the center—and going right out to the edge.

So, I invite us to read together; meditate, wonder, question, and grow.

Adam +

SPOTLIGHT ON ELLIE BRAINARD

Ellie Brainard has been our invaluable data entry person at CHS for many, many years, along with numerous other ministries that have kept her busy in our parish. One of her major tasks regarding the database has been to complete all the data entry for archiving at the end of each year—a monumental undertaking. This past year, with Ellie and Bernie Hutchens working together, they complete all monetary and membership data information for the 2014 year end close in the shortest time frame possible. Georgia Schneider was then able to place the yearend statements in envelopes for parishioners to pick up on the very first Sunday in January. It was an impressive effort carried off by Ellie, Bernie and Georgia—an invaluable team. This project, although quite large, represents only one part of the numerous things that Ellie had to do with the database each and every week.

After her many years of service Ellie has decided to retire from the data entry job and Bernie, thank goodness, has agreed to take her place. How lucky we are to have talented people willing to take on a necessary job that we sometimes take for granted.

Thank you Ellie for your dedicated work all these years—we greatly appreciate it!



Entered into Eternal Life

*Norman Adams
Helene Barrington*



PLANNED GIVING, CALENDAR YEAR 2015

The Planned Giving Committee, formed in 2008, is working on their “2015 Program”. During 2013, the Committee added the Planned Giving Program to the church Web Site. (Please visit our web site: holyspiritolean.org) We offered information on Charitable Gift Annuities; have introduced a “Family Legacy Plan” and members have participated in Fr. Adam’s “Taking Care of Business” program.

Over the years, our parishioners have added monies to The Church of the Holy Spirit invested funds by including the Church in their financial and/or Estate Plans. Thanks to the new Planned Giving Program bequests have been added to the General Fund; The Endowment Fund; and The Nickerson Endowment Fund. All monies received are deposited in the appropriate investment accounts managed by the Diocesan Trust Funds (DIT).

Also in 2014, \$184,137 was transferred from our DIT Investment Accounts, named above, to our Operating Account to support our church budget. Without the generous financial support of former parishioners and the prudent management of our investment accounts we could not maintain our Operating Budget.

Members of the PG Committee have participated in the Stewardship program and are pleased that 65 members of our parish have indicated an interest to include our church in the estate and financial plans.

The Planned Giving Committee meets monthly, January through May, formulating plans to offer our parishioners financial alternatives when considering our church in their financial decisions. New members are always welcome to offer new ideas.

Although members of the Planned Giving Committee can not offer legal or investment advice a parishioner can forward questions via email to holyspiritoleanoffice@verizon.net, Attn. Planned Giving.

Wes Dreher, Chair

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

January 15, 2015

The final meeting of the 2014 Vestry took place on January 15, 2015 in the Fireplace Room. The rector expressed the thanks of the parish to the musicians, Altar Guild and others who brought such beauty to the Christmas services.

Treasurer Jack Nixon presented the monthly reports and the 2015 Budget for approval. After discussion all were approved by the Vestry as required by parish by-laws.

The original Nominating Committee report was amended to include Cynthia Murray to fill a one-year vacancy to the 2015 Vestry. The Rector thanked retiring members Ernie LaFrance, David Moore, and outgoing warden, Wes Dreher, for their years of service.

Kate Paradise joins the Personnel Committee as it continues its studies on staff salaries and responsibilities. Other Liaison Reports were accepted as presented.

The Annual Meeting will take place on January 25 at 11:30AM to receive reports and elect the 2015 Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilys Jones Smith, Clerk

FREE SHOP

Three questions to answer this winter:

1. What coat can I give away?
2. Where can I walk an extra mile?
3. What enemies can I love?



Thank you for your winter clothing donations - they are gratefully accepted/received by our numerous customers! The Free Shop is open every Monday (Noon to 3) and every Wednesday (10 to 1). If the shop is closed -your donations can be dropped off in a container outside the Free Shop door. Questions? Comments? Contact Sharyn Laughton - artoff@comcast.net - 508 255 7277

DID YOU KNOW . . .

We invite all of you to send your “good news” items to our Parish Administrator, Amanda at holyspirit@leansadmin@verizon.net.

Did You Know . . .

Did you know that Sharing the Blessing, a committee of CHS which focuses on providing a welcoming and affirming community for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender persons here at CHS, has welcomed noted children's author, James Howe, to talk about his novels, Misfits and Totally Joe, and how they inspired the national anti-bullying initiative, No Name-Calling Week in schools throughout the country.

OFFICE CORNER

The Deadline for March *Together* is the second Monday, February 9th.



We'd like to hear from you and your groups!

Never written for *Together*? Give it a try!



Together February 2015

The Church of the Holy Spirit

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Vestry Officers:

Ike Cole, Warden

Rick Paris, Warden

Jack Nixon, Treasurer

Dilys Smith, Clerk

Or current occupant

Vestry Members:

Marcia Bechtold

Daniel Corcoran

Jack Gentile

Katherine Goddard

Cynthia Murray

Susan Owens

Elizabeth Pratt

Matthew Thompson

The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

Amanda McClenahan, Parish Administrator

Darlene T. Hagon, Director of Music

Sandra H. Cole, Organist

John P. Hagon, Handbell Choir

Debbi Manning, Office Assistant

Larry Kane, Head Sexton

John Larner, Sunday Sexton

Wayne Curry, Assistant Sexton

***Our mission as The Church of the Holy Spirit is
to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
welcome all people and serve one another with love.***

Dates to remember in February

Feb. 5 Thurs.	Women's Luncheon
Feb. 8 Sunday	Children's Instructed Eucharist
Feb. 5, 12 Thurs.	Thursdays @ Three
Feb. 13 Friday	Labyrinth
Feb. 17 Tuesday	Pancake Super
Feb. 18 Wed.	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 21 Saturday	Sharing the Blessing
Feb. 20, 27	Fridays in Lent