

St. John's Good News



From Reverend Sarah...

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

(Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP 362-3)

Dear Friends,

During the season of Lent we gradually move our way towards Jesus last days on earth especially his last night when he share as last meal with his disciples. When we celebrate the Holy Eucharist we remember and commemorate a radical event. At that meal, what we call the Last Supper, Jesus gives the disciples specific instructions on how to hold similar meals in the future. Often when we think of the 12 disciples we think of a motley crew of men who left behind families, homes and jobs to follow Jesus in his wanderings around Palestine.

But if we understand the disciples only as followers we miss their true role in the Jesus story. Our word "disciple" comes from the Greek word, *mathétés*, which is more accurately defined as "learner" or "student." The difference between a follower and a student seems negligent and yet essential for understanding our own roles as disciples. To be a follower is to take no action, to simply walk in the footsteps of another person or persons. To be a student, on the other hand, is to take action by listening, studying, practicing and then using the knowledge to affect change in the world.

The original 12 disciples were not always the best students. In the Gospels we read that they misunderstood Jesus, that they had insufficient faith, and that they were ineffective healers. And yet Jesus understands their struggles to learn their lessons, with minimal frustration. The last lesson is captured in the above quoted section from Eucharistic Prayer A. Like any good teacher, Jesus left the most important lesson for the end of the semester.

Contd.

February 2018

**Winter Worship
Schedule**

**Sunday Morning
8am Rite I
10am Rite II**

Phone: 781-233-1242

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With the words, “do this for the remembrance of me,” Jesus asks his students to eat bread and drink wine but also to preach, heal, organize and all the other skills he taught them. Some 2,000 years later we are students of the same teacher, trying to master the same skills. Unfortunately, we don’t have the physical presence of Jesus to push us when the lessons seem too difficult or even impossible. It is easy to sit in the back of the class pretending that we are learning when we’re distracted by technology or our own imaginations.

If we are not constantly learning from Jesus and putting these learnings into action then we are passive followers. St. John’s, indeed the whole world, needs more disciples, more students of Jesus, who are willing and able to accept leadership roles that bring to life the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Are you a disciple? Are you a follower?

Peace,

Sarah

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**ST. JOHN’S FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS!**

**ST. JOHN’S ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, AFTER 10AM WORSHIP.**

Every year we gather as a community to review the work done in the past year and have conversations about the upcoming year. The Episcopal Church’s polity as a representative democracy (similar to the United States government) requires active participation and commitment from all adult parishioners. At our Annual Meeting this year we will vote in 5 new vestry members, Diocesan delegates, accept the 2018 budget and learn about potential projects for 2018. **The new vestry will meet on Sunday, February 11 after the 10 service.**

**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: FINISHING THE GOSPEL OF MARY MAGDAL & TAKING ON THE 50-DAY BIBLE CHALLENGE!**

After we finish with the Gospel of Mary of Magdala we begin our Lenten Bible study on the Gospel of Luke. Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has encouraged all Episcopalians to join “The Good Book Club” in reading the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts during Lent-Easter 2018. Our Lenten Bible Study will start on February 20 but our book, A Journey with Luke, begins its daily readings on February 11. Rev. Sarah ordered books for the Bible Study group; please sign up if you would like a copy for your own Lenten study.

**YOUTH GROUP MEETS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 11:30-1:30.** Youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to the planning meeting for the Youth Worship Service on March 4. We’ll start with some warm-up games to get our brains and bodies ready to work. We need all hands on deck to put together an amazing worship service for our faith community. Bring your favorite song you learned at the Diocesan Senior High Retreat!

**GOODBYE ALLELUIAS!** On February 11, the last Sunday before Lent, we will shout our last Alleluias until the Easter Vigil. During Lent, we leave out all Alleluias as we observe this season of penitence. After the Dismissal Rev. Sarah will invite the children and youth to the chancel to help put the Alleluia’s to bed for the next 6 weeks.

**LENT PROGRAM BEGINS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, AFTER THE 10AM SERVICE.**

All are encouraged to participate in our Lenten Adult Formation program, *Becoming Eucharistic Community*. It is a six-week exploration of what it can mean to connect to a Eucharistic community. Participants build relationships in small groups that provide support, encouragement to grow, and a sense of connection with the parish. *Becoming Eucharistic Community* invites participants to consider Jesus' invitation to a new life in God's reign of love and justice. The sessions will begin after Coffee Hour and include a light lunch. Please see Rev. Sarah for more information.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES AT NOON & 7PM.**

On Wednesday, February 14, St. John's will offer two services in observance of Ash Wednesday. Named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers, Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of our mortality, and are imposed in the sign of the cross. Both services will include a short sermon, imposition of ashes and end with Holy Communion.

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Valentine Sale

We will be having a Valentine Sale on both Sunday Feb 4th and Sunday Feb 11th after the 8 am and 10 am services in Ashworth Hall. There will be chocolate pops as well as cards and small gift items. All monies go to the church. A great chance to get 'a little something' for loved ones, friends, the kids and co-workers!

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**Every Child Deserves to Smile**

On January 14, we prepared and delivered a meal to 50 guests at the motel. A remarkable undertaking by phenomenal volunteers. Many thanks to the kitchen angels who helped make it possible: Karen Riccio, Nancy & Steve White, Fritz White, Sue Noonan & Jeanne Seaboyer.

**During the month of February** we are collecting paper towels, paper plates, plastic utensils, microwaveable meals, pasta & sauce, granola bars, soup, crackers and snacks. Guests are also in need of can openers, large bowls for cooking in a microwave, metal utensils, dish towels, pot holders, etc. Donations may be left in the Every Child Deserves to Smile collection container in the vestibule.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer to prepare a meal, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer 781-662-4342/ [jmseaboyer@gmail.com](mailto:jmseaboyer@gmail.com).

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Word Search

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          Z A J K                Z I H W
        S G Y V J R            G S W R N F
      D E J Y C V W L        T V E C M G X V
    X P R C V E N G A G E M E N T F Y R A G
  Y Q N A H E T W W F L C T L T J N K B B F V
V J U S P A P U H N L P W W S I V V N O K Y P K
V L W N H R H F L O U K E T Y M D M R H U H R Q
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C X I D M I B E L O V E D N I N T A C O O E P Y
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    H S I V T E Y M T H M H N P Q U K E R L
      T N R E S Z C O M M I T M E N T A F
        G Q E I O C R E F L E C T I O N
          V A L E N T I N E Y U S E K
            P E Q H N H K L R A P D
              A F U B L E S S E D
                V U N L K N I K
                  A A X C K W
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ADMIRE ~ BELOVED ~ BLESSED ~ CHARMING ~ COMMITMENT
 ENGAGEMENT ~ FASTING ~ HEARTTHROB ~ HIBERNATE ~ LENTEN
 PENITENCE ~ PREPARE ~ REFLECTION ~ ROSES ~ SAINT
 SENTIMENTAL ~ SERAPHIM ~ SWEETS ~ VALENTINE

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**Officers:** The Reverend Sarah van Gulden, Priest-in-Charge ~ T. J. Martin, Sr. Warden ~ Fritz White, Jr. Warden ~ Phil Littlehale, Treasurer ~ Janet Lancaster, Asst. Treasurer ~ Sandy Mears, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** Nancy Belyea (2019) ~ Alison Coppola (2018) ~ Armand Couture (2018) ~ Paul Felci (2020) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2019) ~ Jeanne Seaboyer (2020) ~ Jenna Sharwood (2020) ~ Nick White (2018)