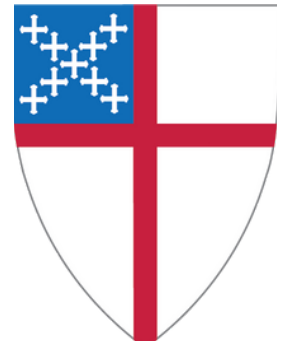




ST. GEORGE'S JOURNAL

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2024



Unashamedly Proclaiming our Christian Faith

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST:

HOW'S YOUR SPIRIT THESE DAYS?

IS YOUR CUP RUNNING OVER WITH JOY AND GRATITUDE? OR, DO YOU FIND YOURSELF BATTLING A PERVERSIVE SADNESS, OR FEELING RESENTFUL ABOUT ALL YOU DON'T HAVE? ARE YOU RIGHTLY HUMBLE, AWARE OF BOTH YOUR STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS? OR ARE YOU OVERWHELMED BY WHAT YOU LACK; OR, OVERLY CONFIDENT ABOUT YOUR ABILITIES? ARE YOU GRACIOUS, MERCIFUL, COMPASSIONATE? OR, DO YOU HARBOR BITTERNESS, ANGER, EVEN HATE TOWARD OTHER PEOPLE?

THESE ARE THE SPIRITUAL BATTLES WE ALL FIGHT. ALL THE TIME. EVEN THE GREATEST SAINTS HAD THESE STRUGGLES. IN THESE INTENSELY PERSONAL CONFLICTS, OUR FAITH IS TESTED AND SHAPED, AND WHETHER OR NOT WE REALLY FOLLOW JESUS IS DECIDED. NOT A SMALL THING!

THE BATTLE GOES ON ALL THE TIME, BUT THE CHURCH HAS SET ASIDE A SEASON FOR US TO FOCUS ON THE BATTLE. LENT. 40 DAYS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY TO EASTER (THE SUNDAYS DON'T COUNT, BY THE WAY, ALL SUNDAYS ARE "EASTER'S"). DURING THIS SEASON, THE CHURCH URGES US TO ATTEND TO OUR SPIRITS. THE PSALM APPOINTED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY IS FAMILIAR; IT INCLUDES THE WORDS, "CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME."

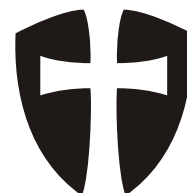
WE ARE ENCOURAGED DURING LENT TO USE TOOLS OF THE SPIRIT TO RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT: REFLECTION ON OUR LIVES AND SPIRITS, COMMITTING TO MAKING CHANGE, COMMITTING TO PRACTICES LIKE PRAYER AND FASTING, GIVING EXTRA OF YOUR TIME OR YOUR TREASURE, DOING "GOOD WORKS". I ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THESE TOOLS TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT AGAINST WHATEVER DESTRUCTIVE SPIRITS YOU BATTLE.

LENT BEGINS EACH YEAR ON ASH WEDNESDAY, A DAY ENCOURAGING US TO EMBRACE HUMILITY, REMEMBERING THAT WE ARE MORTAL BEINGS, WHOSE TIME ON EARTH IS LIMITED. (IF THAT DOESN'T HUMBLE US, PROBABLY NOTHING ELSE WILL!) THIS YEAR, ASH WEDNESDAY FALLS ON FEBRUARY 14 (VALENTINES DAY!), AND WE BEGIN WITH HOLY EUCHARIST AT 5:30 PM. THE SERVICE WILL INCLUDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON OUR FAILINGS, AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE ASHES AS A SIGN OF OUR MORTALITY.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR SIBLINGS IN CHRIST IN THE HELLERTOWN AREA MINISTERIUM FOR MIDWEEK GATHERINGS. THE SCHEDULE APPEARS ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER. EACH GATHERING BEGINS WITH A SOUP SUPPER AT 6PM, PROVIDED BY THE HOST CHURCH, THEN A BRIEF WORSHIP SERVICE AT 7 PM. (35-40 MINUTES). WORSHIP WILL INVOLVE FOCUS ON ONE OF THE PSALMS. FOOD FOR THE BODY AND THE SOUL!

HERE'S MY ADVICE AS YOUR "SOUL DOCTOR": DO SOMETHING THIS LENT. DON'T LET THIS DIVINE OPPORTUNITY SLIP BY. YOUR SPIRIT WILL THANK YOU.

IN CHRIST,
PG



THINGS TO KNOW:

- THERE ARE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO SIGN UP FOR THE ALTAR FLOWERS AND/OR THE 7 DAY RESERVATION CANDLE IN THE COMING MONTHS. SIGN UP SHEETS ARE LOCATED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX.
- GIANT GIFT CARDS CAN BE PURCHASED ANY SUNDAY IN AMOUNTS OF \$25 OR \$50. PLEASE SEE BRUCE BROWNE AFTER CHURCH. THE CHURCH GETS 5% BACK. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM!



ROXY'S YOGA

FULL BODY WORKOUT
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
10:30AM-12:00PM
\$10 PER CLASS

FOR MORE INFO CALL:
610-462-4921

ROXY WILL BE **OFF** ON THE
FOLLOWING DATES:
JANUARY 30TH
FEBRUARY 1ST
FEBRUARY 8TH
BACK ON FEBRUARY 13TH

FEBRUARY FEASTS:

FEBRUARY 2ND: PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
FEBRUARY 24: ST. MATTHIAS DAY



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

FEBRUARY 1ST: TOM GOODWIN

FEBRUARY 7TH: POLLY RANSON
BERNIE RICCARDO, LUCILLE MARTIN

FEBRUARY 9TH: LILYANNE SLAPINSKY

FEBRUARY 25TH: SHAWN JEFFERSON

FEBRUARY 28TH: DAVID ROBERTS

VESTRY CORNER:

- THE FEBRUARY SCHEDULE FOR REGULAR WORSHIP WITH PG WILL BE EVERY SUNDAY EXCEPT 2.11.24.
- MORNING PRAYER WILL BE LED BY ALISON HORN ON 2.11.24
- LENT BEGINS THIS MONTH STARTING WITH ASH WEDNESDAY ON 2.14.24. THERE WILL BE AN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 5:30PM.
- THERE WAS A FLOOD IN THE BASEMENT WITH SIGNIFICANT WATER DAMAGE. INSURANCE WILL BE COVERING MOST OF THE COSTS OF REPAIR.
- PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR OUR NEXT PRIEST WILL BE FORMING SOON. IF INTERESTED PLEASE SPEAK TO A VESTRY MEMBER.
- THERE ARE PLANS FOR A MAGIC SHOW & CRAFT SHOW IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

YOUTH CORNER :



YOUTH SERMONS BY PASTOR GEORGE ARE ALWAYS A SPECIAL TREAT!



VOLUNTEERING AT VICTORY HOUSE!



YOUTH GROUP IS ON HOLD AT THE MOMENT DUE TO THE FLOODING IN THE BASEMENT.



TO ALL WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE, THE LOCAL LENTEN SOUP & SERVICE SCHEDULE IS LISTED BELOW.

Lenten Series Soup & Service Soup @ 6 – Service @ 7		<i>“A Leisurely Lenten Stroll Through Psalms”</i>
Wednesday February 21st	<i>Psalm 118</i>	First United Church of Christ 501 Northampton St, Hellertown, PA 18055
Wednesday February 28th	<i>Psalm 139</i>	New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church 3233 Apples Church Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18055
Wednesday March 6th	<i>Psalm 51</i>	Christ Lutheran Church 69 Main St, Hellertown, PA 18055
Wednesday March 13th	<i>Psalm 23</i>	Lower Saucon United Church of Christ 1375 3rd Ave, Hellertown, PA 18055
Wednesday March 20th	<i>Psalm 133</i>	Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church 2451 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley, PA 18034



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FACEBOOK: HELLERTOWNEPISCOPAL

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM

RT. REV. KEVIN NICHOLS: BISHOP OF BETHLEHEM

PASTOR GEORGE GRUBB: SUPPLY PRIEST

VESTRY:

BRUCE BROWNE: SENIOR WARDEN

ANNE O'DONNELL: JUNIOR WARDEN

POLLY RANSON: TREASURER

ANNEMARIE IORIO, BILL FREY, ALISON HORN,

DIANE DOLL: SEXTON

JANET SCHROEDER: PARISH ADMIN/BOOKKEEPER

FEBRUARY CALENDAR:

FEBRUARY 2ND: PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

FEBRUARY 24TH: ST. MATTHIAS DAY

FEBRUARY 22ND: VESTRY MEETS VIA ZOOM, 7PM.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS: ROXY'S YOGA IN THE PARISH HALL, 10:30AM-12:00PM

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY: HOLY EUCHARIST 9:30AM

IN PERSON AND LIVE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK

