



**ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
307 LONGTOWN ROAD  
RIDGEWAY, SC 29130**

**THE EPISTLE  
MARCH 2026**

**MARCH AND APRIL PRIEST SCHEDULE**

|          |             |                            |
|----------|-------------|----------------------------|
| March 22 | Fr. Arthur  | Fourth Sunday in Lent      |
| March 29 | Fr. Arthur  | Palm Sunday                |
| April 2  | Fr. Arthur  | Maundy Thursday at 12 Noon |
| April 3  | Fr. Arthur  | Good Friday at 12 Noon     |
| April 5  | Open        | Easter Sunday              |
| April 12 | Fr. Charles | Second Sunday after Easter |
| April 19 | Fr. Arthur  | Third Sunday after Easter  |
| April 26 | Ft. Arthur  | Fourth Sunday after Easter |

**March Birthdays**

Ashley Lever 3/13

**April Birthdays**

Brian Fraley 4/11  
Beverly Anderson 4/13  
Charlotte Floyd 4/20

**MESSAGE FROM THE TOM HARWOOD, SENIOR WARDEN**

As you all can see we do not have anyone for Easter Sunday and the church will be closed. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 12 noon. To provide alternatives, I have checked with St. John's in Winnsboro and St. David's in Columbia to obtain their schedules for Holy Week. St. John's will have a service Maundy Thursday at noon, Good Friday at noon and Easter Sunday at 11. St David's will have a service Maundy Thursday at 7PM, Good Friday at 7PM and Easter Sunday at 10:30 AM.

On Palm Sunday we will have the Liturgy of the Palms and the Passion Narrative. Weather permitting we will form outside the church for the procession into the church. You may want to pick up your Bulletin and a hymnal prior to the procession into the church. The hymn will be Hymn 154 All glory, laud and honor. We are in need of people to become Eucharistic Ministers and Morning Prayer leaders. If you are interested in helping out please let me know and I will arrange training for both. Some additional lay readers would also be great.

**SAVE THE DATE:** We will start our monthly dinner out again on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM. The Olde Town Hall in Ridgeway has a small room at the back of the restaurant that should be able to accommodate us. Please let me know if you plan to attend by Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, so I can give them a reservation count.

Fr. Arthur provided a poem which is attached. It is for Laetare\* Sunday which was Sunday, March 15. If you look at your Episcopal Calendar you will notice that the day is orange and not purple. There is meaning behind this and if you are curious Google Laetare Sunday. Due to my delinquency I didn't get this out before March 15; so the notice is a little late.

\*Laetare Sunday is the fourth Sunday and "half-way point" in the season of Lent. It is a day of celebration within the austere period of Lent. The name comes from the first few words (*incipit*) of the traditional Latin entrance verse (*introit*) for the Mass of the day. The robe worn on that day is *Rose chasuble* compared to dark violet worn on other Sundays of Lent

Lines for Laetare Sunday: Saluda County

Among trees leaving winter's grasp  
wisteria splashes violet swaths  
announcing a new season

In a time of introspection;  
Things past, present and to come  
Extend darkening shadows.

Less of a participant than before  
In several ways I stumble into  
A time of transition.

The horizon round I search  
For reassurance that there  
Will indeed be a new season.

Resting on the edge of the woods  
I realize the wisteria's comfort will  
Also extend over me.

Arthur Turfa

*Poets of the Promise* Local Gems Press ©2023

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of people to become Eucharistic Ministers and Morning Prayer leaders. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know, and I will arrange training for both. Some additional lay readers would also be great.

#### Message from the Treasurer

The letters containing the donations to St. Stephen's have been sent out by email. Please review the letter and if there are any questions or problems let me know.