



Photograph by Susan Bennett

# Loaves & Fishes

MARCH 2023

*Bishop Mariann's address to the convention was too long to run in its entirety. Here are excerpts; I am happy to forward the full text to anyone who would like to read it.*

## the left-hand column

☙ Time for the big change: Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. Sunday March 12. Probably a good idea to set your clocks forward Saturday night.

☙ We're about to have another pop-up yard sale—Friday and Saturday March 3 and 4. Steve could use some help setting up, selling, and cleaning up after. Please come and pitch in if you can.

☙ The Valentine dinner dance was a success, naturally. And beautifully done. Also a nice profit. Pictures inside. We're so fortunate to have gifted caterers.

☙ Then there was our Fat Tuesday pancake supper; Steve says that brought in \$595. Delicious too; saving something for a once-a-year treat makes it taste even better, don't you think?.

☙ Have you seen the new Thrift Shop Sign? Lovely, isn't it? The gift of Ron Leonard's friend Gene Wood.

☙ Here are excerpts from Bishop Mariann's address to the convention and her sermon. The convention approved two resolutions: Toward Repentance and Reparations in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and On Planting Trees to Celebrate Special Occasions. If you'd like to read these, let me know; I can send you copies. Or check [edow.org](http://edow.org).

2023 marks the beginning of my twelfth year as your bishop. It's the fourth implementation year of a strategic plan we launched the last time we gathered in this Cathedral for Convention, just two months before the COVID pandemic changed everything. Although we couldn't have anticipated the context we suddenly found ourselves in, the priorities we set and the disciplines we adopted then helped your diocesan leadership forge a path. . . .

Each of you has a story to tell about what life has been like for you. Each congregation and ministry represented here has a story to tell of what you've been through and what you've learned. You are still here. So am I.

... The Episcopal Church is still here. And God is not finished with us yet.

Using our Convention theme of taking the next faithful step, I will address the three areas of diocesan ministry that we identified in 2020 as our core priorities: In each area, I'll describe the steps we will take in the coming year.

Let me begin with what we originally named as our second priority, for it has become my first:

Friends, we can only inspire others to do what we do ourselves, so let's take a moment of personal inventory. How has my faith, how has yours grown in the past year or several years?

Specifically:

– How has God been present for you in the trials and blessings of your life?

– What has Jesus said to you through the words of friend or stranger, in your private prayer, or the sermon you thought was being preached just to you?

Photograph by Clara Stark



– What was it like when you felt stretched beyond your means and the Spirit met you in that place and saw you through?



I am persuaded that tending to our lives in Christ, personally and collectively, is the most important thing for us to focus on now. We've all had to spend enormous energy on institutional

maintenance, and we still do. All of you are working so hard to keep things going, on what we might call the chores of church. . . .

However you do it, I encourage you to tend to your faith, and to foster as many ways as possible for your people to grow in faith. Congregations who do this well tend to grow numerically as well as spiritually, because they are cultivating a vital center from which all ministry flows. . . .

In a moment, I'll suggest ways that congregations might inspire people to grow in faith together. But to bring this section to a close, and to underscore the importance of growing in faith, beginning in 2023 I'm establishing a requirement for those brought before me or any bishop in this diocese for the sacraments of Confirmation, Reception, and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. For those preparing people for these sacraments, I ask that you ensure that they are able to tell, in their own words, the story of Jesus.

I'd like those affirming their commitment to Christ to know His story as it's told in Scripture, beginning with His birth; a few highlights from His teaching and healing ministry; an understanding of why He was controversial among the religious and political leaders of His day and what led to His crucifixion; and finally, what happened on the day Resurrection and when He appeared to His disciples. Knowing things about Jesus isn't the same as having a relationship with the living Christ, but we can't

follow Him if we don't know about Him and His teachings. . . .

I want our people to be confident in their faith, and for others to know that we in the Diocese of Washington are committed to growing in faith and inspiring others to do the same. . . .

I turn now to revitalization.

Whether we can say that we are living in a post-pandemic world is for public health officials to determine. But we can now begin to assess in earnest the impact of the past three years on our congregations. Early assessments are both encouraging and worrisome. . . .

Some EDOW congregations, by your own account, are feeling hopeful. For you, pre-pandemic life is returning, and energy is high, which is wonderful to see. Yes, there have been changes. Deaths and the Great Resignation have taken their toll. Those new to your communities aren't as inclined to take up the work of church as others had in the past. Thus, the work of ministry rests on fewer shoulders. That's always been the case, but the trend has accelerated. It's an exciting time for you, and leader fatigue is real.

The next faithful step for the more robust EDOW congregations may be one of pruning, letting go of some things that were once life-giving but are less so now, so that you can invest more in initiatives that your people are responding to. That's one group among us.

The majority of EDOW congregations are doing okay—and okay is not bad—but you're not seeing a return to pre-pandemic levels of engagement—most notably in worship attendance, financial support, and other metrics of vitality. Fortunately, you've learned through the pandemic how to offer worship and other gatherings via technology, which is a tremendous blessing for those who would have otherwise lost their connection to the congregations they love. But it also means that the work of maintaining your congregations rests even more heavily on you, and that your future depends on creating the kind of spiritual community that other people, not yet a part of you, would find compelling. And who may that be? It's an important question for all of us.

In the diocese, we will continue to invest the lion's share of our resources into congregational revitalization efforts. But these resources aren't as helpful when limited leadership capacity works against your ability to do the very things needed for renewal. . . .

Leaders of some of our Black churches told us that at last year's Convention, when they asked for the creation of a Task Force on Black Ministries, made up of

members from Black congregations, to collectively address their situation and explore ways that they could thrive. They also wanted the rest of us to acknowledge the reality of racism in this diocese and its impact. . . .

Two weeks ago Canon [Anne-Marie] Jeffrey and I had lunch with the six full-time rectors serving congregations in the region of Southern Maryland. To provide a bit of context for the rest of you, there are twenty EDOW congregations in southern Maryland, located in St. Mary's and Charles Counties and the southern portion of Prince George's County. The majority are served by part-time clergy. There are currently five southern Maryland congregations in clergy transition; two have been advertising their clergy position for months with no applications.

The clergy around that lunch table serve the strongest congregations in Southern Maryland, and they have a lot in common with many EDOW congregations in that they can afford one full-time priest and maybe one or two part-time staff. The clergy wear many hats, and by necessity they carry a heavy load of church chores, alongside a few heroically dedicated lay leaders who are among the invisible saints of this diocese.

When I asked the clergy what was hardest about their work, they spoke of the isolation, and how they would love to work on a team. Some have that sense of team with the deacons of Southern Maryland, for which they are grateful, but even so, loneliness is real. They spoke of the weight of church maintenance—be it the care of buildings, the out-sized list of expectations placed upon them or they place upon themselves, the desire to be able to do more of actual ministry when their days are consumed with chores.

Then I asked them what they loved most about their ministry, and their eyes lit up as they spoke. What was surprising to them was the variety of loves around the table—teaching, pastoral care, leadership development, the planning and leading of worship. Listening, I thought, surely we can find a way to create some kind of team approach here, allowing clergy to lean into their strengths and support one another, rather than being disparate solo operators responsible for everything. . . .

The experience of the Southern Maryland clergy is not unique. We could have the same conversation in every region, or with congregations across regions. This isn't for everyone, and many resist even having the conversation. The most consistently expressed fear is the loss of parish identity, which I understand. Yet if we don't do something to ease the burdens we place on our

lay and clergy leaders, we can't expect as fruitful a return from all our efforts in revitalization, nor can we realize our visions of justice. The trends of decline will continue.



With those willing to step out in faith in this way, we will explore how to build ministry capacity across congregations. It could result in joint efforts to create small group gatherings across a given region, to strengthen youth and young adult ministry, or to address the spiritual questions for those blessed to live past their 60s and beyond. You might discover efficiencies in building use and maintenance, or—the bane of every solo priest's existence—the churning out of weekly bulletins. . . .

Last year, we took the first steps in fulfilling our strategic goal of growing younger, to start or restart up to three congregations with rising generations in mind. Leaders of six congregations are part of our first Growing Young cohort, exploring and sharing ways they might support, encourage and engage rising generations. . . .

It's important to remember that the institutional church as we know it has not been the form that Christianity has always taken. The essence and core of the church is not its outward form, which will always change over time. The essence and core is Jesus Christ—his Spirit, his teachings, his manner of life, his way of love—and the movement he founded cannot be stopped. We need our church leaders, both ordained and lay, to embrace this moment of reinvention, and the folks I see rising up are going to bring us into a profoundly different age. . . .

The Rev. Meredith Heffner at St. James' Church in Potomac told me recently that while some traditional aspects of congregational life haven't come back after the

the pandemic lockdown, there are new people in church who are enthusiastic about St. James' efforts to address racial injustice, care for the earth, and promote mental health. Those ministries, she said, are talking off.

So, too, at St. Thomas' in Washington, DC, a congregation that in the words of their rector, the Rev. Lisa Ahuja, is "leaning hard into being a blessing to their community." They are meeting the physical and spiritual needs of migrants arriving by bus to Washington, DC from border states, many dropped off at all hours of the night with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Other congregations have been part of this tremendous collective effort.

St. Matthew/San Mateo in Hyattsville is providing temporary housing for migrants from Venezuela, and collecting food, clothing, and household items. Other Spanish-speaking congregations are pitching in to help.

Meanwhile, our effort to welcome refugees from Afghanistan continues across the diocese. Many of you are helping to sponsor Afghan families, secure housing, medical care, and employment.

Still others of you are addressing rising food insecurity throughout the diocese, opening your churches as distribution sites and respite centers for people experiencing homelessness. Others have adopted nearby public schools or hospitals, or are working in partnership with Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, the Bishop Walker School, and others. We'll highlight some of your efforts throughout the day, but friends, they are everywhere

One of things I love about this diocese is how quietly and matter-of-factly so many of you simply do what needs to be done and make collaborative connections among yourselves. I wish that I could lift up every example that I know of, which is no doubt a small percentage of what you do.

But here is one: Church of the Atonement in Southeast Washington is a fresh produce distribution site. The food bank delivers pallets of fresh produce to the church once a month. Members from Atonement bag the produce, and community food pantries come and pick it up. Atonement prepares up to 500 bags a month. And now Christ Church, Georgetown is partnering in this effort. . . .

Many of you are taking steps in environmental stewardship—reducing single use plastic, recycling, cleaning trash, and putting solar panels on your

buildings. You are our inspiration. Later in the Convention, we'll consider a resolution sponsored by members of the Creation Care Committee, because their next step is to encourage us to set collective goals—the first of which is to plant trees and protect natural habitats, joining with Anglicans around the world in an initiative known as the Communion Forest.

The last area that I'll mention is on-going efforts to face and address racial inequity and injustice. Many EDOW congregations have held multiple sessions of Sacred Ground, a small group-based curriculum looking at the reality of race in America. For those of us who are white and were raised to think about our racial history as little as possible, Sacred Ground is an eye-opening and at times heart-breaking experience. We can't help but see the history of where we live in Maryland and the District of Columbia through the lens of race. Our congregations are part of that history and present-day reality. There is need for reckoning and repair. And we have a part to play.

When the word "reparations" first became part of our lexicon, I resisted its implications for us. But the more I learn and engage, the greater my understanding and commitment to reparations grow. While I cannot tell you how to vote on the reparations resolution or any other, I want you to know the seriousness with which I and members of the diocesan staff are embracing this work. We have an opportunity to do something brave that will bring life to others and to ourselves, as we take faithful steps toward the realization of Beloved Community. . . .

When we launched the strategic plan in 2020, we envisioned it as a five-year process, meaning that in 2025, we would assess all that we had learned and accomplished. I have proposed to diocesan leadership that we extend the implementation period for one year, which gives more time for the initiatives we've begun to bear fruit, and takes into account all that we hadn't anticipated. I promise a complete assessment in 2026, and an evaluation of the strategic planning process itself. . . .

2026 is also the year that I will turn sixty-seven and will have completed fifteen years as your bishop. That is when diocesan leaders and I will discern the next faithful steps for the episcopate. In all likelihood, we will call for the election of my successor. I love my work, but it's a big job. As I get older, I realize that the future leadership

of our diocese belongs to those coming up behind me. Part of my job now is to identify, encourage and make space for rising leaders, and to provide a strong foundation for the blessed person who will be your tenth bishop. . . .

I give the final word to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who recently said this:



*“When the church engages the community and is the presence of love and justice and compassion, the church comes alive. It may not attract great throngs, but Jesus only had twelve, and look what they did. If we listen to what Jesus tells us to do and actually do it, we will make a difference in every context in which we find ourselves.”*

That, my friends, is our call. Thank you for saying yes. I add my yes to yours. Together, we are still here.

***About the Valentine Dinner—  
From the Caterers***

Mary Larson and I would like to thank the parishioners and friends who attended the Valentine Dinner/Dance, which provided a profit of \$800 for St. Andrew’s.

And we would like to express our gratitude to all those who helped in the preparation of this event. Without their hard work it would not have been possible, and we want to recognize Linda Himmelheber, Clara Stark and Kathryn West for their work.

With a special thank-you to Mary’s grandson Dane and friend Dakota, our peerless waiters.

Bobbi Brown



Photographs by Clara Stark

*Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and he shall comfort your heart;  
wait patiently for he Lord  
~~Psalm27, verse 17*

**March 5 Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Verger-led pre-consecrated Eucharist**  
Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

**8:00 a.m.**  
Verger: Dee McRae  
Lector: Jerry Gehrig  
Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Magaret Hallau  
**9:15 a.m.** Choir  
**10:30 a.m.**  
Verger: Mary Maker  
Lector: Ginni Stein  
Coffee hour: Margaret Hallau and Hal Pease

**March 12 Third Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Eucharist withThe Rev. John Ball**  
Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

**8:00 a.m.**  
Lector: Ron Leonard:  
Altar duty: Susan Bennett and HillaryGill  
Coffee hour: Linda and Bob Sisson  
**9:15 a.m.** Choir  
**10:30 a.m.**  
Verger: Nancy Edwards  
Lector: Joyce Austin

**March 19 Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Verger-led pre-consecrated Eucharist**  
1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

**8:00 a.m.**  
Verger: Susan Bennett  
Lector: Iris Hall-Wiley  
Altar Duty: Bob and Helen Rotzinger  
Coffee hour: Maxine and Bob Aldridge  
**10:30 a.m.**  
Verger: Don Schramm  
1st reading and psalm: Ginni Stein  
Altar duty: Lyn Duff and Margaret Hallau

*\*\*\*\*\*  
Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and  
keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at  
home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your  
heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and  
temptations; give them courage to face the perils which  
beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding  
presence wherever they may be through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen*

**March 26 Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Eucharist withThe Rev. John Ball**  
Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

**8:00 a.m.**  
Lector: Jerry Gehrig  
Altar duty: Mary Maker  
**9:15 a.m** Choir  
**10:30 a.m.**  
Verger: Dee McRae  
Lector: Meghan Anderson  
Coffee hour: Susan Bennett and Louise Snell

*\*\*\*\*\*  
Please Hold in Your Prayers*

Bonnie Anderson, Jan Barnes, Robert Bennett, Eunice Benson, Taylor Benson, Carol Brimm, Judy Cavin, Judy Consoli, Lanette Cowles, McKenna Cox, Dan Donnelly, Billy Doughty, Phyllis Doughty, the Fulz family, Brian Gardner, Susan Geary, Gloria Gehrig, the Girard family, Maris Goris, Ronnie Guy, Mary Ellen Gwynn, Gina Hersh, Ryker Hurst, Salty Joyner, Jack Lawrence, Elinor Mattingly, the Mattingly family, Dee McRae, Bernice Nunes, Kyle Patrick, Chase Phifer, Lisa Powell, the Rev. Michael Pumphrey, Davi Elizabeth Reznik, Bob and Helen Rotzinger, Diane Rudish, Alice Snyder, Vera Standing, Jonathan Tanner, Tegan, Isabella Tenczar, Marian Underwood, Walter and Deborah Walton, Angelica Wilkinson, Stuart A. Wood, and all who serve in the military and their families.

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*Anniversary happiness to*  
**25** Bob and Maxine Aldridge

*March birthday good wishes to*  
**1** Rachel Appleby  
**5** Robert Frick III, Richard Wolcott  
**9** Jim Carnes,  
**13** Erin Mallory  
**15** Abby Simmerman, Antonio Rivers, Jr.  
**16** Kathryn M. Brigham  
**17** Margaret Hicks  
**18** Caroline A. Brigham  
**19** Jan Barnes, Karen Carnes  
**24** Brian Labows  
**27** George Walls, John Kollar  
**28** Sara Frick, Eva Hetmanski  
**31** Rebecca Werrell

March

- 1 Wednesday  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 2 Thursday  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
7:00 p.m. AA
- 3 Friday *Yard Sale!*  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
6:30 p.m.—AA
- 4 Saturday  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop
- 5 Sunday— *Yard Sale!*  
8:00 a.m. Verger-led H.E.  
10:30 a.m. Verger-led H.E.
- 6 Monday
- 7 Tuesday
- 8 Wednesday  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 9 Thursday  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
7:00 p.m. AA
- 10 Friday  
6:30 p.m.—AA
- 11 Saturday  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop
- 12 Sunday DST Begins  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 13 Monday
- 14 Tuesday
- 15 Wednesday  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 16 Thursday  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
7:00 p.m. AA
- 17 Friday  6:30 p.m.—AA
- 18 Saturday
- 19 Sunday  
8:00 a.m. Verger-led H.E.  
10:30 a.m. Verger-led H.E.
- 20 Monday
- 21 Tuesday
- 22 Wednesday  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 23 Thursday  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
7:00 p.m. AA

- 24 Friday
- 25 Saturday  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop
- 26 Sunday  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 27 Monday
- 28 Tuesday
- 29 Wednesday  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 30 Thursday  
  
7:00 p.m. AA
- 31 Friday  
6:30 p.m.—AA



*Our Treasurer Reports on 2022*

Here is a brief note regarding our financial status through the end of December, 2022. Financially we are in very good shape, even considering our reduced attendance and community events. Your giving remained stronger than the Vestry originally anticipated.

Through December Pledge and Plate offerings were more than \$235,000, about \$65,000 over what we budgeted; fund-raising contributions were almost \$33,000, over budget by more than \$24,000; our total income was over \$100,000 more than we had planned. Our expenses were \$13,500 more than we budgeted through that period, mostly for building maintenance projects and rising costs of goods and services. Nevertheless, we spent almost \$110,000 less than we took in as gifts and other income. We have more than \$380,000 in the bank to cover unexpected emergencies should they occur.

As I have reported before, this is all good news in the light of our operating without a permanent rector, but I continue to remind us all that expenses are only going to rise as we return to a fully staffed church. Coffee hours after church, social dinners and informal get-togethers all contribute to maintain the St. Andrew’s community and help to bring parishioners back to the church we enjoyed with Rev. Beverly before the Pandemic. We have welcomed new members and attendance at church services seems to be increasing. Thanks again for all you have done and continue to do for St. Andrew’s.

Please let me know if you have any questions on the financial status of the church

Respectfully, Chuck Stein

## Looking for Someone?

Parish Administrator: 301 862-2247 [parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org](mailto:parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org)  
 Senior Warden: Mary Maker  
 Junior Warden: John McKendrew  
 Secretary, Beth Wagner  
 Cindy Kilcoyne  
 Fundraising Steve Carroll  
 Robert Abell  
 Jessie Kilcoyne-Beaver  
 Bobbi Brown  
 Michael Dyson  
 Linda Himmelheber  
 Treasurer: Chuck Stein  
 Andy Walls  
 Minister of Music, Amy Foster  
 Newsletter, Dee McRae  
 Director of Sanford Concert Program: Lyn Schramm  
 To give flowers for the altar 301 862-2247 [parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org](mailto:parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org)  
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 301 862-2247 <http://standrewsleonardtown.org/>  
 The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 202 537-6550  
 The Diocese of Washington 202 537-6555 <http://www.edow.org/>



## Food for Thought

***The theme for the convention was Taking the Next Faithful Step. In her sermon, Bishop Mariann spoke of those times when we aren't sure what the next step should be.***

The renowned depth psychologist Carl Jung, who was deeply attuned to the spiritual dimensions of life, kept up a lively correspondence with people all over the world. People would write to him for all manner of advice. Two letters, and his responses, speak to this idea of the next faithful step.

The first letter was written by a woman who wanted to know, broadly speaking, how best to live her life. Jung responded, in part, with these words:

“Your questions are unanswerable because you want to know how one ought to live. . . There is no single, definite way . . . The way you make for yourself, which you do not know in advance, simply comes into being of itself when you put one foot in front of the other . . . if you do with conviction the next and most necessary thing, you are always doing something meaningful and intended by fate.”

What is the next and most necessary thing for you right now, and for the community you represent? It's a compelling question for all of us, and sometimes can help us keep going when our long-range vision is out of focus.

Another man wrote to Jung who had clearly done things that he now regretted, and was desperate for guidance in how to make amends. To him, Jung replied, “Nobody can set right a mismanaged life with a few words. But there is no pit you cannot climb out of provided you make the right effort at the right place. When one is in a mess like you are, one. . . must do the next thing with diligence and devotion and earn the goodwill of others. In every littlest thing you do in this way you will find yourself.”

I find Jung's counsel incredibly helpful when I've made a mess of things, which I have done in my episcopacy, or when I realize that my intentions to do good were experienced as harmful to someone else. It doesn't help to justify my actions or make excuses. I simply must do what I can to make amends and restitution, one step at a time.