

Loaves & Fishes

FEBRUARY 2020

A New Creation

the left-hand column

Before we know it it will be Ash Wednesday, but first it will be Fat Tuesday, and we will all be stuffing ourselves with pancakes. First seating at 5:00 p.m. Doors close at 7:00 That's February 25. And here's a thought: we should consider having a pancake race one of these days.

Our Saturday lunches are back (there will be a small gap here with no lunch on the eighth), and they're even more popular this year. February 1 was the best yet, bringing in \$191. (The Thrift Shop had a banner day too; looks like the shop and the lunch together are better than either alone.) Do you have an excellent soup recipe? You can help; bring your recipe and the ingredients and join the kitchen staff one Saturday.

And, speaking of the shop, why not join the sales staff? You'll meet new people—many of our customers are regulars, and like to visit as well as shop. You'll find things you need—or just want—at truly bargain prices. Remember the old commercial—"Try it, you'll like it."

By the way, in case you didn't hear it the first time, *Thank You*, everyone, for making our 275th anniversary events a success. It was a great celebration. As was Christmas. We are so blessed.

Dear Friends:

In this season of Epiphany, we are skating back and forth from the hope-filled season of Christmas to the season of Light wherein the epiphanies (showings) of Jesus are described. When in Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus, just out of the wilderness, teaches the crowd the *Beatitudes*, we are called out of our "bleak midwinter mindset," to ponder the signature framework for the life of Jesus.

The Beatitudes and their proclamation reveal the very nature of who one of these days.

The Beatitudes and their proclamation reveal the very nature of who Jesus is and who he is to become. He is the designer of a radical vision.

Note that Jesus himself is meek, he mourns, he is righteous, he shows mercy, and he is persecuted and reproached. Jesus himself is enacting a new creation and revealing his true nature—but also he is himself embodying the incarnation of God's blessings in his own life and ministry.

It may be that we need more to see the revelation of Jesus Christ than to set our sights to receive more blessings in this life.

So it is for the church to ponder this revelation of Jesus Christ and discern what God is calling us to do in mission and ministry. How might we embody the incarnation of God's blessings in our discipleship?

This parish has been blessed with the faithfulness of outstanding



Vestry members who have served their terms on Vestry and are now retiring. Jan Barnes, Judy Ersek and Chuck Stickney have in so many ways embodied the love and devotion we learn in Christ. Their hard work in their particular ministry choices has helped make St. Andrew's a stronger community. Please thank them for their service.

Coming up at Annual Meeting (February 9) when we honor the three retiring members, we will present the next class willing to serve, including the continued service of Steve Carroll, Mary Maker, and Beth Wagner, and adding a new member, John McKendrew, with a past record of distinguished Vestry service including many years as Junior Warden. Prayers for the parish Vestry are always needed as we face our future parish challenges.

Let us pray: Rescue your church from the seductive promises of this world's powers and form us as the community of the beatitudes, that we may become your faithful remnant in the world, and that Christ alone may be our wisdom and our righteousness, and sanctification and redemption. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen. (From Prayers for Sunday and Seasons, Year A, Peter J. Scagnelli, LTP, 1992)

Blessings of Light and Love to you and yours, Beverly+

I will try this day to live a simple, sincere, and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence, exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust, and a childlike faith in God.

In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating, and sleep, which I believe the Holy Spirt has shown me to be right.

And as I cannot in my own strength do this, nor even with a hope of success attempt it, I look to thee, O Lord God my Father, in Jesus my Savior and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

~~Forward Day by Day

Made Your Reservations Yet?

There are a few places left for this year's Valentine dinner-dance. Dinner begins this year with tomato-basil soup. Then there's beef tenderloin and crab cake, roasted tiny potatoes, asparagus, roasted-beet salad with honey-Dijon vinaigrette, rolls, chocolate cake, and assorted wines.

Lent starts soon, so now is a good time—something like "last chance for fun"—to enjoy fine food and frivolity.

It's \$35 each. Contact Bobbi Brown (<u>brbrown62@md.metrocast.net</u>) or Mary Larson (<u>larsonml@md.metrocast.net</u>); you'll be glad you did.



Photograph by Steve Carroll

Excerpts from Bishop Mariann's Convention Address 2020

January 25, 2020

I'd like to speak of where we've been as a diocese; what our focus will be in the coming year; and in particular, what you can expect in the first ninety days after Convention and in subsequent ninety-day increments after that.

Today we officially launch our strategic plan. I want to assure you that this plan is not going to occupy a spot on our diocesan website and not be referred to again. None of us can afford to let that happen.

There are three words I'd like you to remember. **Revitalize. Inspire. Partner....**

Friends of the Diocese of Washington, this is our time to turn and set our faces toward a preferred future that we have collectively discerned.

Let me remind you where we've been in the last 12 months:

At last year's Convention, we launched the discovery phase of a strategic planning process, drawing inspiration from Jesus' parable of the sower who planted seeds in all kinds of soil. We wanted to become good soil in which seeds that God plants can bear fruit

Then we took time to talk to one another. Think of those 12 discovery sessions as the mountain we climbed together. In the middle of everything, we stopped long enough to pray, talk candidly, and cast our gaze toward the horizon. . . .

The Diocese of Washington exists to draw people to Jesus and embody his love for the world

The focus of our mission is Jesus and his love, not ourselves

The way that we live out our mission as a diocese is: by equipping faith communities, promoting spiritual growth, and striving for justice.

Our Vision for the next five years is To be a diocese that draws on the gifts of all God's people to serve Christ together and live Jesus' Way of Love.

This is a vision of collaboration, born of the conviction that God has already provided all that's needed for our congregations to thrive. Everything we do rests on the foundation of our relationship with

Christ and one another. We are investing in that foundation now.

During worship, we highlighted one expression of our investment with the commissioning of regional deans. Led by Andrew Walter, Canon for Strategic Collaboration, and supported by all the diocesan staff, regional deans will do the work of convening and relationship building, so that neighboring congregations can come to trust one another as friends and resources for ministry. . . .

For today, what's important for you to know is that all of our work aligns with three overarching goals:

Revitalize our churches to grow the Jesus movement, **Inspire** every person to grow in faith and equip our leaders to lead well, **Partner** in ministries of service and justice for greater impact.

Under each goal, we have measurable objectives. If we try to do everything at once, we risk accomplishing nothing. So for the first year, we've chosen one objective under each goal. We'll divide each objective into smaller tasks to complete in ninety-day increments. . . . Here are the three objectives for 2020 and our first implementation steps.

Under the goal of **revitalizing our churches**, this year's objective is to establish church health assessments and revitalization strategies

[Canon to the Ordinary] Paula Clark and [Missioner for Revitalization and Young Adult Ministry] Todd Thomas are the diocesan staff leading the revitalization work that is mission focused. Don Crane, Andrew Walter and the administration team-Kathleen Hall, Peter Turner, Kelly Cooper, Kim Vaughn--will provide the personnel, financial, legal, and yes, crisis, support essential for congregational health. Rest assured that congregational revitalization is part of every diocesan staff member's portfolio. In early February a group of clergy and lay leaders will gather with us to determine the health assessments and practices that will become our revitalization strategy...

Some of our congregations are ahead of the curve here, and if you're among them, this is your opportunity to share what you know. For those that are struggling, there are no quick fixes to reverse years of steady decline or plateau. But there are ways to move toward spiritual health and renewal. . . . With God, all things are possible, and it helps when we're clear why we're making a change and for whom, and when we've identified the most strategically important changes to make.



Here are a few examples. One metric is to keep track of how many first-time visitors your congregation has in a year. A healthy number to strive for, we've learned . . . is the same number of first-time visitors as your average worship attendance. For example, if your average worship attendance is 100, then you'd want how close number of first time visitors to 100 in a year.

Keeping track of first-time visitors prompts you to assess is how well you prepare for, welcome, and follow up with guests. . . . As a part of your revitalization strategy, you might decide to brainstorm ways to increase the number of first time visitors. That would have the effect of shifting your focus outward and ensure that your worship is uplifting and meaningful for others, not just yourself. . . .

Another metric of health--this goes deeper--is the quality of the relationships among the congregation's core leadership. . . . If your core relationships are healthy, that's cause for celebration. If there is conflict, confusion of purpose, or drift at the center, your revitalization strategy must include dealing with those things. For if primary relationships in a congregation are strained, it adversely affects every creative endeavor you attempt.

Another assessment might be an evaluation of the depth and relevance of your ministry offerings. When people visit your website or attend Sunday worship, what do they find? How obvious a priority is spiritual growth for you, and how clear the path for growth?

The second objective of our plan speaks to the importance of spiritual growth and the clarity of our message--more on that in a minute.

One final assessment that I think of every Sunday on my visitations is the physical attractiveness of the spaces we inhabit. I know there's a lot of deferred maintenance to contend with, but I'm also convinced that we could make many of our churches more hospitable and attractive with volunteer labor, \$10,000 worth of cleaning supplies and paint, and a dumpster.

Here is my offer: if you provide the labor, a makeover plan, and the dumpster, we will provide the money. Our first 90-day action plan is to identify the assessments and practices that will become our diocesan revitalization strategy. We'll share them with everyone, and in the second 90 days we'll work with up to ten representative congregations that are ready to do the work of strategic revitalization.

Under the second goal: Inspire every person to grow in faith and equip our leaders to lead well, our first objective is to create a School for Christian Faith and Leadership.

Across the diocese we heard a desire for greater spiritual depth and clarity, concern for the lack of resources in some congregations, a sense of frenetic activity in others, and a need for leaders to be better equipped.

The good news is that we are blessed with tremendous educational expertise. We have gifted teachers for all ages, retreat leaders, and spiritual guides. We have leaders who know a lot about finance and administration. The aim here is to create a flexible structure--both relational and online--so that we can best amplify their gifts and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to grow in faith and leadership. Congregational collaboration is key here, as we learn to share resources and build one another up. Robert Phillips, Sue von Rautenkranz, Sarabeth Goodwin, and Mildred Reyes are the diocesan staff leaders on the side of spiritual formation and growth. Don Crane and Andrew Walter will anchor the parish leadership track, although, again, we're all involved. In the first ninety days, we'll gather a group of educators to help us imagine what shape the school might take. . . . Once we've determined the scope of the school, in the second ninety days we'll determine the steps we need to take to create it.

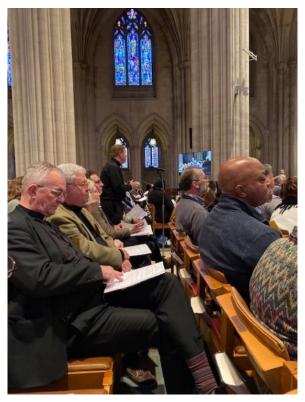
This is a big undertaking, and we're excited about it. We also know that it's going to take some time, and we need help in thinking it through and creating it. As God is gracious, last year the diocese received a generous bequest dedicated solely to education, which means we have the resources upfront to do this work well.

Lastly, In fulfillment of our goal to partner in ministries of service and justice, our first objective is to identify a primary justice ministry in each region on which

to collaborate for greater social impact

In the discovery sessions many expressed the belief that we would accomplish greater good if we worked together and lamented the fact that they didn't know what their neighboring congregations were doing.

In the first ninety days, Daryl Lobban will take the lead in his new role as the Missioner for Advocacy and Justice, working with regional deans and deacons. Together they'll ask what your congregation is doing in the realm of community service and justice. Then they'll invite community service and justice leaders of



each region to meet. We'll learn a lot from those conversations alone, and given the passion of some of our people, I expect there to be a lot of energy in the room. We'll give the Holy Spirit room to inspire us with possibilities we do not yet see.

By the end of the year, we'll see if one ministry emerges in each region for collective engagement, and if not for the entire region, perhaps for several congregations within it. There are justice concerns that transcend regional boundaries which we listed in our plan, and we fully expect them to surface in our local conversations, as they did in our discovery sessions, and that will help us organize more effectively.

Remember that the focus of our justice efforts is what we pray every time we pray as Jesus taught us: that God's Kingdom might be realized on earth; that we might do our part to fulfill God's dream for everyone in the human family and all creation, that we might join Jesus in way of sacrificial love.

In closing, let me say this: the hardest part of a strategic plan isn't doing the work. It's narrowing the focus of our work to the things that are most essential, and not doing other good things that diffuse our efforts. In the coming year, our diocesan focus will be to revitalize, inspire, Partner.

Let me speak personally now. Just as the best science tells us that we don't have all the time in the world to reverse the damage we're doing to our planet--maybe ten years--we as a church don't have all the time in the world to reverse the trends of decline. But in the ten years or so that--God willing and the people consenting--I have left as your bishop, this work is my focus. It is my work because I believe that our church, with our vision of what it means to follow Jesus, is a priceless jewel on the broad spectrum of Christianity. I believe that what we have been given and what we have to offer is desperately needed in our time. I believe that, as Jesus said, we are like yeast in a loaf of bread and light in shining in darkness, and that we are called to serve a wider purpose than we realize. . . .

As your bishop, I commit to turning toward Jesus every day, and I invite you to do the same.

I commit to follow Jesus and his Way of Love, and I invite you to do the same. I commit to the mission, vision, and strategic goals we have collectively discerned and invite you to do the same.

You must hold me and the diocesan staff accountable to the goals we've set, but if this work is only for the bishop and her staff, we will fail. I need to hold you accountable, too.

Will you, on this weekend of revival and renewal, rededicate your life to Jesus?

Will you commit to a way of being church together that will help us realize the dreams God has placed on our hearts?

If so, then I am confident of this: that the God who has begun this good work in us will see it through to completion.

May God bless and keep us all, as we follow Jesus and his way of love.



Our Mission

To draw people to Jesus and embody his love for the world by equipping faith communities, promoting spiritual growth, and striving for justice.

Vision 2025

To be a Diocese that draws on the gifts of all God's people to serve Christ together and live Jesus' Way of Love.

Revitalize our churches to grow the Jesus Movement

- We will implement a church revitalization strategy that leads to healthy, thriving congregations throughout the diocese, reversing the trends of decline
- Our leadership and congregations will reflect the demographics of our surrounding communities
- We will develop a stewardship strategy for our facilities and finances so that parishes are not constrained by building concerns
- We will launch or relaunch three worshipping communities focused on rising generations so that we become a spiritual home for our children and grandchildren

Inspire every person to grow in faith & equip our leaders to lead well

- We will establish a school for Christian leadership for clergy and laity
- We will develop and implement a collaborative strategy for spiritual growth and discipleship
- We will strive for a 10% increase in baptisms, confirmations, and receptions across the diocese year over year

Partner in ministries of service & justice for greater impact in our communities

- We will strengthen our collective witness in service and justice through partnerships and shared resources to meet the needs of our regions
- We will promote Creation Care practices in all our faith communities
- We will engage issues such as racial justice, gun violence prevention, LGBTQ equal rights, and immigration reform through on-going trainings, workshops, pilgrimages, and public witness

FIRST 12 MONTH PRIORITIES Measurable Objectives

Church Revitalization

We will provide church health assessments and revitalization strategies; introduce to ten representative congregations

Spiritual Formation

We will establish a school for Christian leadership

Justice

We will work with each region to identify a primary ministry of justice on which to collaborate for greater social impact

Hooray!



The Vestry is shopping for a new kitchen range, and maybe a new dishwasher as well. It will cost a lot of money but make it **so** much easier to host community events, fundraisers, WARM.

So, how much is a lot? Depending upon whether we buy in the low range or higher on the list, a ten-burner stove, the cost would be \$2,000 to \$4,000; twenty-four-inch steel griddles cost from \$200 to \$400. A new commercial dishwasher will run \$2,500 to \$5,000. Installation will be from \$500 to \$1,500.

You'll be pleased to know someone (or several someones) has already jumped in with a donation of \$2,000. Make your check to St. Andrew's and be sure to write "new stove" on the memo line.



In the freedom with which you freely choose to give yourself in love to the love that gives itself to you, in that reciprocity of love, your destiny is fulfilled, and God's will for you is consummated. That all of life when you distill it out to its simplest terms, it has to do in the intimate always utterly personal way that each of us serendipitously stumbles upon this great truth. When everything is said and done, only love is real, only love endures. Outside of love, there is nothing, nothing at all.

~~James Finley, Intimacy: The Divine Ambush

Also at Convention—

The Committee on the Constitution and Canons proposed a pilot program for changes to the regional assembly meetings; it was approved.

Regional Deans were introduced; the Rev. Greg Syler is Dean for the Southern Maryland region.

A Committee for Diocesan Stewardship and Parish Vitality Was proposed and approved. This committee of eleven members will be appointed by the bishop. It will study the standards that constitute a viable entity in the diocese as a parish, separate congregation or a mission; the standards and processes that should apply to parishes should financial /economic factors prevent or restrict the parish in meeting its obligations; the role of the diocese in providing support or exercising authority; any other matters the committee deems relevant to its mission. The committee's report is due no later than September 30, 2020.

A petition was presented and approved to merge Patuxent Parish, Church of the Ascension, and William and Mary Parish, St. George's, becoming Resurrection Parish.

Members of the Standing Committee and deputies and alternates to the General Convention were elected. Going to the General Convention from Southern Maryland—the Rev. Greg Syler, clergy deputy, and Iman Green Syler, lay deputy.

 ${\rat{\$}}$ For more about all of this, go to ${
m edow.org}$



O God, your unfailing providence sustains he world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

February 2 8:00 a.m.

Chalice: Judy Ersek

1st reading and psalm: Jake Ersek 2nd reading and PoP: Jerry Gehrig

Acolyte:

Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Margaret Hallau

Coffee hour: Ersek 10:30 a.m.

Verger: Mary Maker

1st reading and psalm: Katy Dailey 2nd reading and chalice: Dee McRae

Acolytes: Taylor Benson. John Blackwell, Mikell Blackwell

Ushers: Walls Family

Coffee hour: Stark/Bradford

February 9 8:00 a.m.

Chalice, 1st reading and psalm: Dan Donnelly Chalice, 2nd reading and PoP: Judi Donnelly

Acolyte:

Altar duty: Susan Bennett and Hilary Gill

Coffee hour: Hall/Brown

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Susan Bennett

1st reading and psalm: Laura Essex 2nd reading and chalice: Chuck Stickney

Acolytes: Olivia Johnson, Zach Stickney, Andy Stickney

Ushers: Benson Family Coffee hour: Reed **February 16**

8:00 a.m.

Chalice, 1st reading and psalm: Brenda Frazier

2nd reading and PoP: Ron Leonard

Acolyte:

Altar duty: Mary Maker and Kim Stickney

Coffee hour: Frazier

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Don Schramm

1st reading and psalm: Bob Sisson 2nd reading and chalice: Beth Wagner Acolytes: Taylor Benson, John Blackwell,

Mikell Blackwell
Ushers: Duff Family
Coffee hour: Stein/Snell

February 23 8:00 a.m.

1st reading and psalm: Ken Cornet 2nd reading and PoP: Stephanie Cornet

Acolyte:

Altar duty: Margaret Hicks and Annette Lawrence

Coffee hour: Frank

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Nancy Edwards

1st reading and psalm: Ginni Stein 2nd reading and chalice: Kim Stickney

Acolytes: Gregory Belvin, Bronte Pepper-Hicks,

Daniel Ulrich

Ushers: Bradford family Coffee hour: Appleby

March 26 Ash Wednesday Noon Imposition of Ashes

Bob and Helen Rotzinger have altar duty

February 2

Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 *or* Psalm 24:7-10

Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

February 9

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12] Psalm 112:1-9, (10) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16] Matthew 5:13-20

February 16

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 *or* Sirach 15:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37

February 23

Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

February 26

Joel 2:1-2,12-17 *or* Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 103 *or* 103:8-14

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6,16-2



What really matters is that we should all of us realize that we are guilty of inhumanity. The horror of this realization should shake us out of our lethargy so that we can direct our hopes and our intentions to the coming of an era in which war will have no place."

~~Albert Schweitzer, accepting the Nobel PeacePrize

February

1 Saturday

9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

2 Sunday

8:00 a.m. H.E. I

10:30 a.m. H.E. II

7:00 p.m. AA, Al-Anon

3 Monday

6:00 p.m. AA

4 Tuesday

5 Wednesday

9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

6 Thursday

9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

7:00 p.m. AA, Al-Anon

7 Friday

6:00 p.m. AA

8 Saturday

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop

9 Sunday Annual Meeting

8:00 a.m. H.E. I -Annual Meeting

10:30 a.m. H.E. II —Annual Meeting

7:00 p.m. AA, Al-Anon

10 Monday

6:00 p.m. AA

11 Tuesday

12 Wednesday

9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

13 Thursday

9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

7:00 p.m. AA, Al-Anon

14 Friday St. Valentine

6:00 p.m. AA

15 Saturday Valentine Dinner

10:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

6:00 p.m.—Valentine dinner

16 Sunday

8:00 a.m. H.E. I —Annual Meeting

10:30 a.m. H.E. II —Annual Meeting

7:00 p.m. AA, Al-Anon

17 Monday

6:00 p.m. AA

18 Tuesday

19 Wednesday

9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

20 Thursday

9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

21 Friday

6:00 p.m. AA

22 Saturday

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop

23 Sunday

8:00 a.m. H.E. I

10:30 a.m. H.E. II

7:00 p.m. AA, Al-Anon

24 Monday

6:00 p.m. AA

25 Tuesday Mardi Gras

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Pancake Supper

26 Wednesday Ash Wednesday

9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

Noon Imposition of Ashes

27 Thursday

9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

7:00 p.m. AA, Al-Anon

28 Friday

6:00 p.m. AA

29 Saturday

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop

















Love in the Month of Saint Valentine

8 Brent and Katie Johnson

12 Gerald and Judith LaMarque

13 George & Kathy Kirby

28 Win & Karen Everett

Valentine (almost) Babies

- 2 Hannah Simmerman, Jackson Wood
- 5 Lauren Rivers
- **6** Vera Standing
- 8 Chris Wagoner, Connie Benson
- 9 Laura Appleby, Brianna McKenna
- 14 Gaye Dugan
- 16 Joseph Nunes
- 17 Charlene Mallory
- 18 Caroline A. Brigham
- 22 Kathryn Easterling
- 26 Karen Everett, Emily Labows
- 28 Nancy Easterling

Looking for Someone?

Rector: The Rev. Beverly Weatherly 301 862-2247 rector@standrewsleonardtown.org

Parish Administrator: Donna Triplett 301 862-2247 parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org

Senior Warden: Mary Maker ('20) Minister of Music: Amy Foster

Newsletter: Dee McRae 301 994-2784 <u>deemcrae@mac.com</u>

Thrift Shop: Jerry Frank

PreSchool: Sarah Freese 301 862-1610 <u>www.standrewsprek.com</u>

Sanford Concerts: Lyn Schramm

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