



Crossroads Lent Through Easter Time 2015



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 29th at 9:00am (one service) followed by a potluck breakfast
Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00pm
Good Friday, April 3rd at Noon and 7:00pm
Easter Vigil at 7:00pm at the Women's Re-entry Center
Easter Sunday, April 5th at 8:00am and 10:00am

Women's Retreat held in January was a time to be away and with the theme, *Wholly - Holy Tending the Soul, Mind and Body*, 20 women gathered at the retreat center in Alfred. Opportunities for prayer, scripture, conversations, quiet time, yoga, Holy Eucharist and chair massages rounded out the weekend. The food was a real treat and their famous cinnamon buns were prepared for us on Saturday.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I am writing this letter to you a huge bulldozer is piling the tons of snow in the church yard and parking lot across the street so the church yard looks like a mini Alps. Now parking will be safer. I think at this time most of us have said, "enough already" but we are hardy souls and we know spring will come. Just as the snow has been cluttering our lives and we work to remove it, during Lent we are asked to de-clutter our souls, to take more time in prayer, to seek forgiveness, to study the scriptures and to offer (alms) financial gifts and materials, to help others. Our theme for this year is *Hearts, Hands and Hospitality*.

Each Sunday in Lent we will have a theme that addresses our Lenten journey and our response to the needs of children in our local area. In an African village when visitors arrive they ask the inhabitants, "How are the children?" If the response is "They are doing well" it would mean that all in the village are doing well. Can we as a country say that? There is much to do right here for our children. Ann O'Sullivan, our deacon candidate, will be offering a course called *Love Your Neighbor: Feed the Hungry* between services on Sundays at 9:00am except for March 8th when she needs to be at a weekend retreat with other deacon candidates. She will address food insecurity, something many children and families in Maine are experiencing. I will offer a Lenten book study using the book *Being Christian* by Roman Williams (the former Archbishop of Canterbury), on Tuesday evenings in the former Chapel starting February 24, 6:45pm-8:00pm for 5 weeks. This book will lead us to not just asking, "How are the children?" but will challenge us to address their needs, so the response can be, "Yes they are all well." Mindful that we can't fix all the issues that challenge our society, but I do believe we can care and can do more to make life better for others.

Are you more apt to use the internet? Go to the following for Lent. www.lentmadness.org to learn more about our Church History in a program called Lent Madness. Modeled after March Madness College Basketball individuals who have made their mark in Church History, compete with one another for the "golden halo." Fun and Faith in action. For a daily word of inspiration you can go to the Society of St. John the Evangelist website www.ssje.org/word

Lent only comes once a year and when we make it a priority in our lives, we give God a chance to break in more and more and to bring peace to those we are in relationship with. Love, Susan+



Annual Meeting on February 8th was very well attended even in the midst of a snow storm. The hearty 50 souls who gathered made a decision to have one service on the last Sunday of each month at 9:00am. The purpose is to join the 8:00am and 10:00am o'clockers for a time of fellowship and to focus in a more intentional way on our combined ministries and dreams. An effort to meet the contemplative and music needs of each group will be attended to, as we plan the liturgies. Our first combined service will be Palm Sunday at 9:00am followed by a potluck breakfast for all.

KIDS CLUB, Making a Difference with St. G's Hearts, Hands and Hospitality in the lives of our local children will be our major focus for Lent offerings. In addition to our Kids Supper Club, our ministry to youth, Rebound Dinners, Nerf Night, and efforts being put toward the development of a teen hospitality center and ongoing Parenting Workshops for the community, we are also a designated community partner with The KIDS CLUB, an academic after school support program of the Sanford Schools. We join along with the Good Shepherd Food Bank offering Cooking Matters programs at St. G's, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and Partners for a Healthier Community in offering opportunities for over 200 children in grades 1-6. Watch for what you may be able to do whether donating cash for field trips and supplies for the program, cooking for their Family Celebration nights that will be held at St. G's in late April and early May, or providing time for caring for children as their parents attend worship services, there is something for everyone. Most especially praying for these children, their families and the educators who work with them.





St. Paddy's Day Family Game Night, Potluck with Music and Dance Night Coming on March 14th

We were unable to have our Family Game Night on February 14th due to more snowy weather, but Rev. Wanda was able to celebrate her Valentine's birthday with a cake at home. Our next Family Night with a potluck will be Saturday, March 14th at 5:00pm. Hopefully the leprechauns will bring us good weather.

Gearing up for Summer and Camp Bishopswood!!! Mike Douglas, the Director of our Diocesan Camp Bishopswood, will be here on Sunday, March 15th to talk about the camp and our role in it. Our congregation has provided for multiple camperships, not only to our own Episcopal youth, but to our neighborhood KIDS. This year will be no different and Mike will share all the happenings at camp as we prepare for this annual summer option for more KIDS.

Become a Hospice of Southern Maine Volunteer

This organization is currently accepting applications for their April training. If you are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, and would like more information, please contact their volunteer department. You may also visit www.hospiceofsouthernmaine.org. 207-289-3652
Email: volunteer@hospiceofsouthernmaine.org



Volunteers help form the heart of hospice. Their dedication and compassionate care support the well-being of their patients and their families in immeasurable ways, completing the professional circle of hospice care. Volunteers are needed in your community. Trained and certified hospice volunteers provide an average of 3-4 hours per week of non-medical aid and support to patients and families, including the following:

- Emotional support to patients and caregivers
- Respite care to allow caregivers time to themselves
- Assistance with light household chores, light meal prep or family concerns
- Help with errands