

# THE MESSENGER

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH · SOUTHBOROUGH, MA

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## Shrove Tuesday

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on Feb. 28th at 6pm. The cost is Adults-\$5; Children-\$3; Family maximum \$15.

Sign up in the parish hall!

## Neighbors for Peace Game Night and Potluck

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Join us on Saturday, March 4, at 6 pm. Bring your neighbors and friends. All are welcome! Sign up in the parish hall!



In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it mean to be themselves.

- If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?
- When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?
- Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?
- If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.

—Frederick Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark*

## Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, March , 2017.

Services will be as follows:

- 12pm spoken service with the imposition of ashes at noon.
- 6pm Ash Wednesday service for kids.
- 7pm Holy Eucharist with the imposition of ashes and choir and organ music.

## Ecumenical Lenten Series

Tuesdays at 6 pm,  
March 14 through April 4

Join our friends in Southborough on Tuesday evenings for the Ecumenical Lenten Series focusing on the Journey to the Cross. We begin with worship at 6pm, followed by a meal and conversation. All are welcome!

**March 14:** St. Matthew Church

**March 21:** St. Anne Church — Phil LaBelle will be speaking.

**March 28:** Pilgrim Church

**April 4:** St. Mark's Church — Sign up for the Potluck in the lobby of the Parish House

## A Word from the Rector

Lent focuses on the wilderness.

Now for a guy who's about to embark on sabbatical with many treks and forays into the wilderness, that sounds almost enchanting. For like two seconds. Then I remember what comes with the wilderness, and recognize that even if I romanticize it, there's difficulty to be encountered.

Mark's gospel describes the scene following Jesus' baptism in this way: The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Two things strike me about this passage: the wild beasts and the angels. Jesus' time out in the desert wilderness for those 40 days puts him in contact with wild beasts. Our minds can conjure up all sorts of wild beasts in our lives, both real and imagined. I've been camping in the Rockies and heard the rumblings of bears in the night. I've listened to the howl of coyotes that sent shivers down my neck. I've sat with the realities of cancer in those I love. I've been awakened at night worrying about circumstances in my own life and our world. The wild beasts are out there to be sure.

But Mark's account doesn't end there, because those angels show up. They wait on Jesus. They comfort him. When the dark night seeps in around him, they attend to him. They bring hope. They don't magically teleport him out of the wilderness, but they abide with him.

As he now does with us.

The wilderness and wild beasts make appearances in our lives too, challenging us, scaring us. But Jesus has already traveled that way. He's already been challenged by them. And he brings us comfort and hope.

Wherever you walk this Lent, know that Christ walks with you. Jesus abides with you. He brings hope and encouragement. While he cannot usher you out of the wilderness times, his presence is enough. To meet the wild beasts. To allay your fears.

Let him walk with you this Lent, wherever your feet—or your life—take you.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit, crochet, or quilt? Please join us as we create prayer shawls for those who are ill or home-bound. Even if you don't knit, crochet, or quilt, please join us for a time of fellowship! We meet in the Parish Hall, 9:30 – 12: 00. Our next meeting is Saturday, Feb 25.

Please contact Rosemary Nelson at [rosemarynelson@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarynelson@gmail.com) or at 508-481-2774

## Bargain Box

It's already time to think Spring! Please check the website at the beginning of March to see the Spring Flier. You can either consign Spring clothes or donate any season's clothes. We begin take-in for consigned clothes on March 21, 22, 23, March 30.

We open for selling Thursday, April 6th. After that, we will take donated items. We will also take consigned or donated clothing on Sunday, March 9th, Palm Sunday.

Thank you to all who participate as consignors, donors, and shoppers.

Please contact [bargainbox@stmarkssouthborough.org](mailto:bargainbox@stmarkssouthborough.org) with any questions.

St. Mark's Church

## Adult Faith Formation

**Sunday, February 26, Intergenerational Coffee Hour**  
Come color some Stations of the Cross coloring pages (coloring isn't just for kids – it's creative and therapeutic!) and share conversation in preparation for Lent. The pages will be used in the children's Good Friday service.

### **Sunday, March 5, Adult Faith Formation**

Living Well Through Lent 2017 is the devotional that we will have available for all and that we will use throughout Lent to explore the concept of "Listening With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind". This first week we explore *Listening in the Wilderness*.

### **Sunday, March 12, Adult Faith Formation**

The second week of our Lenten Study from the Living Well devotional explores the theme of *Listening as Being Fully Present*. You do not need to have attended any of the previous studies. We have free devotionals for all.

### **Sunday, March 19, Sunday, Adult Faith Formation**

The third week of our Lenten Study from the Living Well devotional explores the theme of *Cultivating the Discipline of Listening*. You do not need to have attended any of the previous studies. We have free devotionals for all.

### **Sunday, March 26, Intergenerational Coffee Hour**

Come color some Stations of the Cross coloring pages (coloring isn't just for kids – it's creative and therapeutic!) and share conversation around Lent and Holy Week. The pages will be used in the children's Good Friday service.

### **Sunday, April 2 Adult Faith Formation**

The last week of our Lenten Study from the Living Well devotional explores the theme of *The Healing Power of Listening*. You do not need to have attended any of the previous studies. We have free devotionals for all.

## Our Sunday School Classes

Caitlyn Kelley and Owen Cormier perform a baptism on Baby Jesus during their Sunday School class, lead by one of our amazing Pre-K / Kindergarten teachers, Andrea Fitzpatrick.



## From the Directors of Christian Education

It's been an exciting few months in Sunday School. On Christmas Eve, over 25 children reenacted Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus in the stable. The children rehearsed six songs and sang beautifully, along with our Music Director, James Wallace. On January 8th, we celebrated the arrival of the three wise men with an Epiphany Party. Caleb Csank, Owen Cormier and Owen Hart were the lucky three students who found a gold coin in their cupcakes. The three boys were crowned kings for the year (and have the honor of making cupcakes for next year's Epiphany Party)! During the Annual Meeting, children had a great time doing Valentine's crafts and competed in a variety of games, including Patriots' Monopoly, Bingo and Chutes & Ladders. The excitement will continue over the next few months with several fun activities on the schedule -- please join us!

-Kathleen Kiley and Christiann Kelley

## Christmas Eve Pageant



## Epiphany Party

Caleb Csank, Owen Cormier and Owen Hart found the "gold" coins





**Staff**

The Rev. Philip N. LaBelle, Rector  
James Wallace, Organist and Choirmaster  
Christiann Kelley & Kathleen Cormier, Dirs. of Children's Ed  
Maureen Hansen, Parish Coordinator  
Dave Holland, Sexton

**Sunday Worship Services**

7:45am Spoken Eucharist  
8:45am Family Eucharist  
9:45am Faith Formation  
10:45am Sung Eucharist

[www.stmarkssouthborough.org](http://www.stmarkssouthborough.org)

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