



## February 2021 Newsletter

### *FROM THE RECTOR*

Hard to believe that Ash Wednesday and Lent is almost here! (February 17) And less than four weeks from then it will have been one full year since the initial stay-at-home orders were issued by the state because of the pandemic. There is a phrase going around the diocese that says that this year has been the longest and lentiest Lent ever! We have all been all too aware of our mortality, and our long fast has been one of social distancing.

But Lent is a season primarily to prepare us for Easter and the new life available to us in Christ. As the vaccines are getting into arms, we hope that life will be restored to us also. But will we just go back to the same, or will we move forward, bringing with us what we've learned – such as new ways of keeping connected, gratitude for the simple blessings of each day, becoming more aware of racial disparities, and how just one bug can impact the health of the world? The earth has become a much smaller space. How important it is for us to care for it and each other!

Although the imposition of ashes are optional in the Book of Common Prayer, they are nevertheless a powerful sign of our mortality and dependency upon God, and our desire to live more deeply into the reign of God revealed and promised through Jesus. So I'm going to offer two ways of receiving ashes.

- The first is to pick up a little zip-lock bags with a small amount of ashes at the church between Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot do that, call the office next week and we'll try to get a bag to you. Then you can either do a little service on your own at home using a handout that will also be available; or you can attend a zoom Ash Wednesday service on the 17<sup>th</sup> at noon during which you and your household can mark your forehead with ashes.

- The second is primarily for those who cannot do zoom. We will hold a very brief outdoor service (no communion) at 9:30 AM in the back parking lot.

Have a very blessed Lent!

Carolyn

## *ANNUAL MEETING*

Our first Zoom annual meeting Jan. 17 went smoothly. A few highlights:

**Finances:** Between the government forgivable loan program, and two significant donations, the church had a surplus at the end of the year. Since the 2021 initial budget had a deficit around that same amount, the surplus was put in an account line to be used in 2021. The end result was about a break even budget for both years. This is assuming that during the second half of 2021, the building use and fundraisers will be able to take place.

**Elections:** The officers were all re-elected to another one year term. Liz McGilvary rotated off the vestry (thanks again to Liz for all her work!) and Richard Boucher was elected to take her position for a three year term. Barbara Scanlon was re-elected to serve another 2 year term as delegate, and Marlene was elected as a delegate and Diana Seifert as an alternate.

**Bylaws:** A new set of parish bylaws were passed that conform to the most up-to-date diocesan bylaw recommendations.

## *CHRISTIAN EDUCATION*

### **Sacred Ground**

Fifteen people are participating in the Sacred Ground course. It is a study and discussion series that helps us to become more aware of both historical and current issues of racism, and perhaps begin to plant some ideas as how we can work towards healing and reconciliation.

## *OUTREACH*

### **Dave Hall Fund**

One girl in the group home for foster children had a birthday. The fund purchased the gifts on her wish list: a small bedside stand with drawers, a set of basic ear buds, and a WWE wrestling poster.

*AVAILABLE IN THE FOYER free for taking and sharing*

### **Parish Directories**

the latest **Episcopal Newspaper**

**Day by Day** devotional booklets for March, April, and May

**Bulletins** for the upcoming Sunday are usually there by Tuesday afternoon.

