



No – photo not from this year! Can't complain about too much snow at least so far here in Salem!

February 2023 Newsletter

ANNUAL MEETING

We had our annual parish meeting on January 22nd. It went very smoothly. We expressed our gratitude for all the work so many of you have done in so many ways over the course of the past year. I also gave thanks in particular for the exemplary job Barbara Sager has done as Senior Warden for the past five years.

New people who were elected:

- Sr. Warden – Richard Boucher
- Vestry – Miriam Acevedo and Brandon Sousa
- Delegates – Carla Boucher and Paula Klenner

I mentioned this in our last newsletter, but let me put it out there again. There are also other positions not requiring formal elections, but ones in which team leadership should be rotated: Safe Church, Altar Guild, Property, and the different craft fair areas. One group I forgot to mention with gratitude are those who quietly take care of providing refreshments each Sunday making newcomers feel welcome and giving everyone a chance to relax and have fellowship after church. For any of these areas, consider working with those who help organize these ministries and then giving it a go yourself. There are many ways to serve! Please speak to Carolyn or those leading these areas if you'd like more information.

OUTREACH

December Outreach – Episcopal Relief and Development: \$600 was donated. Thank you!

January Outreach – Family Promise: People have been making donations to support this needed program. We'll let you know what was collected in the next newsletter

February Outreach – 68 Hours of Hunger: The Salem school food pantry began a number of years ago providing low income children eligible for free school meals with a backpack of food

to make sure they had something to eat over the course of the weekend. But it greatly expanded over the years especially during Covid. The pantry not only provides food for needy families, but there are also always requests for toiletries, paper towels, cleaning products, toilet paper, and food containers. So when you go shopping this month, pick up some items and drop them off in the foyer. Financial donations will also be accepted.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are always in formation – learning about and exploring our faith and other religious traditions, engaging in spiritual practices to deepen our relationship with God, seeing where and how our faith speaks to current social issues, and growing together through shared discussion and reflection. In addition to an ongoing Bible study, two to three adult education opportunities are offered each year. What might you be interested in and what format would work best for you? Please fill out a short survey that will be handed out on Sunday and made available in the foyer, so we can offer what you most need and are interested in. You can also email Carolyn your thoughts and ideas. Thank you!

WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. There will be two services with the imposition of ashes at noon and at 7PM.

COOKIES!

COOKIES TO CURE CYSTIC FIBROSIS

This April, I will be running the Boston Marathon for the Cystic Fibrosis Center at Mass General Hospital. Some of you may know, CF is a cause close to my family's heart since my wife, Kerri, and Sister-in-Law both have Cystic Fibrosis.

I will be baking chocolate chip cookies to assist with my fundraising efforts and am offering a dozen cookies for a \$10 donation. If you would like to help support my cause, please contact me at eboucher30@gmail.com or speak with my father, Richard Boucher 978-204-3115 or richard.w.boucher@gmail.com, or fill out an order form which will be made available on the table in the foyer.

Thank you all for your consideration.

Best, Eric Boucher

PROPERTY

Light Bulb Swap – members of “Solar Saints”, through funding from the diocesan Earth Care Commission, replaced the incandescent light bulbs in the church and rectory with much more efficient LED's. We may be making some adjustments to the lighting in the sanctuary.

Improving Zoom Worship Experience – We are exploring improved lighting, an additional microphone that we hope will enable “zoomers” to better hear congregational sharing, and a mounted camera so as not to have one in the center aisle. It is a challenge to find the balance between improvements in sight and sound while keeping the system as simple as possible! But

we are so grateful for Zoom that enables those unable to attend church to worship with those in-person each week!

Dead tree removal – The large tree in front of the rectory and one tall pine by Geremonty Extension should be coming down by early January.

JUST FOR FUN

Winter Doldrums Pot-Luck Supper and Yankee Swap – Many years ago a blizzard forced the cancellation of a parish Yankee swap which was rescheduled in February. Everyone decided that this fun event was perfect to break up what can feel like a long dark winter. So hold the date of Saturday February 11. More details will come out closer, but in the meantime you may want to keep an eye out for a gift to swap which can be anything – crazy, cheap, edible, nice, funny. Sometimes gifts get “re-gifted” from year to year. Almost every time there is one or two gifts that everyone wants and gets swapped back and forth over and over again. Great night for good food and laughter!

CALLING ALL KIDS!

On Saturday April 1, there will be a special program for kids from ages 3-10. It will be about the major events of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. There will be stories games and crafts making processional crosses, dying eggs, and baking “Empty Tomb Cookies”. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Save the date and spread the word and let Carolyn know if your children and their friends are interested.