

THE STEEPLE

Volume I, Issue I

Lent 2018



Rector's Reflection

Tuesday, February 13 will be our Shrove Tuesday celebration. Come have pancakes for breakfast from 7-11 AM in the Parish Hall (more information on page 3). Then, come to church and begin a holy Lent with the Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon or 6 PM on Ash Wednesday -- which is also Valentine's Day. Yes, there also will be chocolate available.

As we enter the 40 days of Lent, I hope that you all will immerse yourselves in this season of devotion and be led into Holy Week with the waving of the Palms, the Maundy Thursday Stripping of the Altar, and the Good Friday procession of the Cross and liturgy. We all need to engage once more in Christ's story and prepare for the glory of the Resurrection on Easter morning! How can we know the joy of the Resurrection if we have not walked through the days of Lent? Join your friends and welcome our new-

comers on this journey!

As reported at the Annual Meeting, 2017 has been a breakthrough year for Ascension. The vestry and I made several decisions which have offered Ascension a fresh start for 2018. We identified three goals for 2018:

This year we will strive for a broader participation from our current members in our worship and encourage each other to join in our ministries.

This year we will increase our effort to build our membership by inviting friends, neighbors, and strangers who are looking for a "church home".

We already have added several Fund Raisers for our church. The largest one will be Ascension Market Day, May 5 (See page 4). You will soon hear announcements about it on the radio and through other social media. We will once again have a booth at October Fest and at some of the smaller

festivals. We are counting on your support for these ministries. Let people know where we are. Let others know about your church Ascension.

I want to thank everyone who serves as Office Angels at Ascension; Deep gratitude to you all.

Thanks to everyone for your pledges. Our future rests on keeping those pledges paid on time. It is also grounded in your regular attendance at church on Sundays. That is where we sustain and build our faith and welcome others who come and want to be with us. Ascension is making a difference for countless others and we want to build on this bright future to serve Christ and to do the work God has called us to do.

Together we can....with God's help!

See you in church...

Deedie+

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Senior Warden's Comments

Not too long ago, the Vestry had the difficult duty of informing the congregation of Ascension that financially we had just a few months at most to remain together within this facility. Your positive response to the Stewardship Campaign gave us the funds to remain united in this building for another year.

However, keeping the doors open comes with a price. The problem we face is one of a decreasing congregation in a large facility whose costs aren't decreasing. The funds provided by your pledges are a true gift, but we must continue to work diligently within a very trim budget. For example, in order to save some paper and ink costs the Sunday bulletin has been reduced in size and content. The good side of that is we will learn to use our prayer books – probably should have learned that a long time ago.

Our Rector has voluntarily taken a very large reduction in her current stipend, and our office secretary will have her hours cut way back beginning in mid-January. We will need volunteers from the congregation to do some of the office work and an-

swer the telephone. Several other changes will help us to maintain our church home.

Some of our facility space has already been rented to Safe Harbor; the Quilters pay us a fee for facility use, three HOA's pay a facility use fee to use our Parish Hall for their annual meetings, and our financial need is currently under discussion with Respite. That's still not enough.

At this moment, several additional fund raisers are being planned. You can help by participating in the effort and promotion of these events. We have a year to work at keeping up our income and you can rest assured that we will spend wisely at every step.

The very good side of this news is that we continue to function as a "family". If YOU know of a way we are able to turn an idea into extra funds please feel free to speak up. Not every idea is "do-able", but it's always worth listening to and investigating.

One "fund-raiser" idea already taking shape is a Market Day later in the spring. This will be a time to

sell all sorts of odds and ends including furniture that is in good condition, leftover furniture from the Sunday school room, framed pictures, warming plates, crock pots, dishes, to name just a few possible items.

We expect to continue participation in local fairs such as Apple Fest and October Fest with a booth to sell food. We also plan to hold a Pancake Breakfast on Shrove Tuesday again this year because it was well received last year.

Above all, we encourage and welcome everyone to worship with us not only on Sundays, but on holidays and special days as well. This congregation, its faith and belief, continues to make folks feel "at home".

Difficult news for a Senior Warden to pass along to a loving congregation, however these are the facts we face. So put on your thinking caps and roll up your sleeves – it's time to get to work – together. I ask your continued help by keeping your pledges up to date.

Jr. Wardens Report

Now that spring is approaching, it will be a busy time for your Junior Warden.

Spring blossoms signal the beginning of the growing season, and that means the grass will be growing, flowers blooming, and the need for additional activity in maintaining the building and grounds.

Thankfully, we have an outstanding lawn service. We will be busy keeping bushes and trees trimmed; gutters cleaned and the Biblical Garden manicured. Weeds that grow in the parking lot cracks are always a challenge, and the re-sanding of

the Labyrinth will be done this spring.

Adoption of a community garden box is important. Several boxes were unused last spring. Those that were planted provided a plentiful harvest of garden vegetables. I would encourage you to adopt a box. Just let me know. I do not anticipate any major maintenance issues within the building. Most of the urgent repairs have been completed and the most pressing issue now is the continued replacement of the defective florescent lights in the parish hall and kitchen. This

will be addressed as the maintenance budget allows. If you notice any maintenance issues that need attention, please do not hesitate to bring them to my attention.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast

February 13th

7:00 am – 11:00 am

Pancakes, Sausage, Fresh Fruit & Drink

All you can eat just \$8!

Eat In Or Take Out



Ann Hope Wednesday Dinner

March 21 is the date of our next Ann Hope event. John Hulsey will be cooking a delicious meal for us to serve to those who need a good supper. Please join us to cook or serve. We leave the church at 5:00 pm to head to Ann Hope and serve dinner at 6:00 pm. Contact Tricia Dodge if you wish to join the team (843) 907-2398.

Wednesday Lenten Community Prayer Services

Ascension will once again take part in the Seneca Community Prayer Services, although we will not be hosting .

February 21	Seneca Presbyterian	Father William Hearne, St. Paul the Apostle
February 28	Ann Hope UMC	W.C. Honeycutt, Ebenezer Baptist
March 7	Trinity Baptist	Matt Turner, Ann Hope UMC
March 14	St. Paul the Apostle Catholic	Nancy Morris, Seneca Presbyterian
March 21	New Harmony UMC	Deedie Marshall, Ascension Episcopal
March 28	St. Mark UMC	Ryan Perry, Seneca Baptist

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

There will be two services on Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 12 noon and 6 PM. The Holy Eucharist with administration of ashes will be offered at each service.

Play “Lent Madness” 2018

Learn more about the heroic men and women of the Faith. Then vote for your favorite saint each day of Lent. Pick up a booklet in the Parish Hall with a complete lineup of this year’s contenders or click on the image to the right to enlarge it and see the entire bracket. Then click on the logo to go to the Lent Madness website and enter your email address so you will receive information each day about the saints . Vote for your favorite each day during Lent. At the website, you can also order souvenirs of past winners and find many amusing and informative articles. Have fun!



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Birthdays:

February 16 Gil Huggins
March 4 Deedie Marshall +
March 8 Mark Davidson
March 13 Lowell Ross
March 23 Ben Phillips
March 24 Sam Mango
March 25 Margaret Barre
March 30 Ellen Kochansky

Anniversaries:

February 4 Sam and Dee Mango
February 14 JD and Mary Ann Williams
February 18 Tripp and Necia Ross
March 29 Russ and Sharon Ross
March 30 Mike and Ellen Sanford

Coming Events

The 2018 Partnership Cange Symposium

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
910 Hudson Rd, Greenville, SC
29615

Friday, 2/23/18 through Sunday,
2/25/18

Friday evening, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. Join us for a Dessert and Coffee Reception in Stockstill Hall followed by a private showing of the film, *Bending the Arc* at 7:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. *Bending the Arc*, produced by Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, is a documentary about the history of Partners in Health, which began in Cange. Much of their history is closely intertwined with our diocesan work in Cange, and many familiar people, sights, and sounds are presented in the movie. Further information about the film can be found at <http://bendingthearc.com>. There will be no cost for admission,

but all donations will be appreciated and given to the diocesan World Missions Committee. (If nursery services would be necessary for you to attend, please contact Deborah.yochum@gmail.com.)

Saturday, Feb. 24, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The agenda will include presentations from diocesan representatives of the various ministries and missions; Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries; and special guests from Haiti including Marie Flore Lafontant Chipps of Summits Education, Dr. Accilus Deluc, Medical Director, Cange Medical Complex, and Luigi Lafontant Chipps, representing Zanmi Lasante. A catered lunch is included with the registration fee of \$15.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. **Registrations are requested by Friday 16 February.**

Ascension Market Day May 5

We have many important fund raisers planned for the 2018 year, but the most important is the "Market Day" sale on May 5, 2018 from 8:00am to 5:00pm in the Parish Hall. We are asking for parish wide support for this event. The sale can include nice clothing, shoes, furniture, small appliances, boats and sporting equipment, decorating items, and odds and ends. We are also including a Silent Auction on that day. This can include any high value items you may want to contribute or obtain from local businesses. We will have flyers available to take to local businesses to solicit their participation. Please begin to look over your unused or stored items and get them ready to bring in on Friday May 4, 2018. The vestry is in charge of this event. Call me (256-557-0217) if you need assistance transporting your items to the church or if you have any questions. We will have the Parish Hall opened on Friday May 4, 2018 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Volunteers are also needed to help with organizing and setting up the sale on Friday, and assisting customers on Saturday. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer. This is an excellent opportunity to eliminate unused items from your home and to support the many ministries of Ascension in our community. So let the spring cleaning begin!

Thanks, Linda Pressley

Prayer List for Lent

For the healing of: JD*, Lowell*, John*, Louise*, Reta*, George M*, Carolyn P*, Jane*, Millard*, Jean N*, Sue, Laura, Caitlin, Jessie, Wilburn, Judy, Jane, Bill, Mehreen, John, Chris, April. Pray for the Children, Staff and Workers at the Helping Hands Home, Families and Individuals at Our Daily Rest, and our community, The people in Cange and the surrounding regions of Haiti, those helped through Safe Harbor and fed by Rise Against Hunger. Pray for the youth of our nation and all victims of gun and domestic violence. Pray for world peace.

Our Servicemen and Servicewomen, their families and for

the safety of: Stefanie, John, Bayne, Grace, Andrew, Patrick, Scott, Hunter, Wayne.

Entered the Larger Life:

The Rev. Thomas C. Davis, died Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018.

Mozelle Green died January 28, 2018.

Carol H. Gillman, aunt to Betty Stephens.

Margaret McKissick Davis, friend of Bruce and Deedie Marshall. *Pray for all the faithful departed.*