

Week of February 26 - March 5, 2017

Sunday, February 26th

- 8:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9:30 am Convention Update, Adult Forum
Christian Formation for all ages, parish hall
Choir Practice, nave
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:45 am Cursillo 4th sunDay!, parish hall

Tuesday, February 28th

- 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, parish hall

Wednesday, March 1st

- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service, nave

Sunday, March 5th

- 8:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9:30 am The Best Way to Pray, Adult Forum, parish hall
Christian Formation for all ages, parish hall
Choir Practice, nave
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Notes from the Interim Rector

The Best Way to Pray: Adult Sunday School During Lent

What's the best way to pray? The best way to pray is the one that works best for you. As a matter of fact, there are probably several ways of praying that suit you. That's been my personal experience. My prayer life regularly includes prayers of gratitude and intercession, centering prayer, Collects from the Prayer Book, and journaling. And I'm open to experiencing other forms of prayer along the way.

I invite you to join me at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall during the Sundays of Lent as we explore and experience five of those other forms of prayer. My guess is that one or more of them might just appeal to you. I've found a couple of them quite helpful.

Each Sunday, I'll share a little bit about the personality type that may find a particular prayer form helpful. Then, after an introduction to the prayer form, we'll spend a few minutes using it. I'll send you home with some "homework" for further use of the newly introduced prayer form. I hope to see you there.

The Rev. Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector

*Living
in the
Spirit*

Acolyte Master

Would you like to work with the incredible youth of our parish?

Would you like to help prepare them to participate in our weekly services?

We are looking for an acolyte master to serve in this wonderful and important ministry.

Please let Father Bill know if you are interested in volunteering.

Weekly & Monthly Reminders

Choir Practice	Mar 1st	7:00 pm	Choir Room
Healing Eucharist	Mar 8th	11:00 am	Nave
Men's Prayer Breakfast	Mar 11th	8:00 am	Parish Hall
Vestry Meeting	Mar 12th	11:45 am	Parish Hall
Women's Circle	Mar 14th	6:30 pm	Nave
Bunco	Mar 16th	6:30 pm	Parish Hall
Pack for Beans & Rice	Mar 17th	9:00 am	Parish Hall
Beans & Rice	Mar 18th	9:00 am	Narthex
Holy Spirit 101	Mar 19th	11:45 am	Rector's Office

Save the Date

Tues, Feb 28th	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:30 pm
Wed, Mar 1st	Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 pm
Wed, Mar 15th	Lent Soup & Program with Susanna Whitsett, 6:30 pm
Wed, Mar 22nd	Lent Soup & Program with Rob Morpeth, 6:30 pm
Thurs, Apr 13th	Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm
Fri, Apr 14th	Good Friday Service & Stations of the Cross, 7:00 pm
Sat, Apr 15th	Easter Vigil, 7:00 pm
Sun, Apr 16th	Easter Sunday

Church Happenings

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 28th at 6:30 pm, parish hall

It's time to prepare for Lent with our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Come have fun & fellowship with one another, feasting on pancakes, bacon, sausage & other delights!

Sign up at PerfectPotluck.com to let us know what you are bringing.

perfectpotluck.com – coordinator: greer password: ecohs

Ash Wednesday Service, March 1st at 7:00 pm, nave

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The service of Ash Wednesday invites us to the observance of a holy Lent.

Cursillo 4th sunDAY!, February 26th at 11:45 am

All past Cursillistas are invited to reunion together every 4th Sunday of the month. Our first get together will be February 26th. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch.

If you are interested in attending, contact Kim Sorensen, ksorensen@jackhenry.com, for more information. Upcoming 2017 Cursillo Weekends:

* April 6th – 9th (*deadline Feb 28th*) * June 8th – 11th * Sept 7th – 10th * Oct 5th – 8th

Cookies for Beans & Rice

As part of our Beans & Rice Ministry, we like to add a small bag of cookies (homemade cookies, store-bought cookies, brownies, etc.) to the bag of food staples that we provide each month to those in need. This treat is greatly appreciated. Please consider signing up (by yourself or with a friend) to provide cookies for one of the Rice & Beans Ministry Saturdays during the year. Sign up and get all the details at: <http://holyspirit-al.org/volunteer-spot/>

Diocesan Convention Update

The theme of the 186th Diocesan Convention was, "Why Jesus? Telling the Compelling Story of God's Love."

Keri Ann Atkinson, Roy Clem, and Mary Hodgetts attended as delegates for Holy Spirit. They went to various workshops and voted on resolutions for the diocese.

The following resolutions were passed:

* Resolution for Continuing the Offering of Anti-Racism Training that is required for all ordained persons, diocesan staff, and those elected as delegates to General Convention and those elected or appointed to serve on diocesan committees, commissions, or boards.

* Resolution Recognizing a Dormant Parish. At the request of St. John's Deaf Church, Vestavia Hills, to be declared dormant. This is the parish across the street from St. Stephens and has been struggling with a declining membership for many years. The Diocese will determine how to handle the assets of the Parish.

* Resolution urging the Diocese and member Parishes to seek establishment of resettlement communities for refugees and immigrants in Alabama. This resolution called for the Diocese to affirm a 1948 United Nations resolution called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that established the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and unalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. It also called for the Diocese to reaffirm a Diocesan resolution from Alabama's 181st Convention of the Diocese that affirms the mandate of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the Church be no respecter of persons but serve all our neighbors whoever they are and wherever we find them. After a lot of word smithing, the term establish resettlement communities was changed to say offer hospitality and resources as needed. In addition to the terms refugees and immigrants the word migrants was added.

Bishop's Visitation Schedule: One Piece of Bad News and Two Pieces of Good News

During his annual address to convention and in a letter that accompanied the Bishop's visitation schedule through 2020, Bishop Sloan announced a difficult decision that Diocesan Council and the Bishop made about this year's diocesan budget. The Bishop said, "At the budget meeting we were faced with the unhappy fact that we had more than \$300,000 less than we needed to fund all of the ministries across the Diocese, and so some cuts had to be made. I suggested to the Council that it made sense for us to not hire an assistant bishop in 2017, which saved us well over half of that gap." As a result of this difficult decision the Bishop will not visit every parish every year. This means that the Bishop's next visit to Holy Spirit will be November 18, 2018.

The first piece of good news in the face of this change in visitation scheduling is that the Bishop and Council are committed to maintaining the support that the Diocese gives to college work, Sawyerville Day Camp, youth ministries, Camp McDowell, and Special Session. The funding to these essential ministries will not be cut. Instead, Council and the Bishop will look for other ways to trim the budget.

The second piece of good news affects people who want to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church; they will NOT have to wait until the Bishop visits their parishes. Bishop Sloan said that he is working with Camp McDowell to arrange several Sunday afternoon gatherings for Confirmation and Reception in St. Francis Chapel at Camp! Additionally, members from one parish may travel to another parish where the Bishop is visiting to be confirmed or received.

While it is disappointing that the Bishop cannot visit every parish every year, I think that the Bishop and Council made the right decision not to hire an assistant bishop at this time. In my opinion, it is far more important that we as a diocese support the ministries of the church that mean so much to so many people. The Bishop did say in his address and letter that he hopes that next year's budget permits the diocese to hire an assistant bishop but that depends on the generosity of parishes. Please let me know if you have any questions about any of this.

Financial Update

Contributions

Thank you for your generous support of our parish. Below is a summary of the contributions received during the week ending on Sunday, February 19, 2017.

Pledged	\$1,595.00
Unpledged	\$ 79.00
Beans and Rice	\$ 65.46
Flowers	\$ 17.44
Parish Life	\$ 3.92
Total Contributions.....	\$1,760.82

Please pray for...

Bishops and Clergy: Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop ECUSA; Kee Sloan, Alabama Bishop; Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector; Stan Wright, Priest Affiliate

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: Our companion dioceses of Alaska & the Virgin Islands & their bishops Mark & Ambrose; Parish Administrators; Parish Vestries

Ministries and Programs within The Church of the Holy Spirit: Parish Life, Choir, Altar Guild, Invite•Welcome•Connect, Stewardship

For Nation and Local Community: Donald Trump, President; Robert Bentley, Governor; Communities of Calera, Alabaster, Helena, Maylene, & Pelham

For all people everywhere, especially: those living in Syria and all war-torn countries

Healing & Guidance for members, relatives and friends of Holy Spirit: Richard Smith (Victoria Knierim); Carl Raymond (Allyson Agee); Jo Cochran (Judy Dykes); Roxie & Stan Wright; Debra Dewees (Glenda Jones); Bud Montgomery, Henry (Carol Smedley); Kim & Luke Sloan, Nila Whetsell, Roy Wolfe, David, Obie, Brian, Bill & Debbie (Katy Brooks); Karen Marshall (Allyson Agee); Barbara Carroll (Harriet & Bill Meeks); Jaxson (Mary Hodgetts); Jim Mankoski (Allyson Agee); Dan Poset; Shannon Bogert & family (Amanda Wilbanks); Buzz Palmer; Isabelle Jackson; Hal Skalka; Will Graham; Lou Malone (Sharon Poset); Zara Golightly (Mandy Golightly); Julia Jackson; Charlotte Callough (M.E. Spencer); Jimmy Lee (Rodney Dilbeck); Betty Marek; Greg, Tyler, Derek, & Josh Hussey; Robert Harrison, Scarlet Harenburg (Tara Portney); Val Autrey; J.T. Peterson; Barb Diehl (Jim Hamilton); Hailey

For those serving in the armed services: Hall Graham (Julia Jackson), Mark McKay (Gladys McKay)

For all who have died, may light perpetual shine upon them.

Upcoming Birthdays: Michael Matthews (3/3), Claudia Maxwell (3/4), Mandy Curry (3/4), Mike Stephens (3/5), Val Autrey (3/9), Judy Dykes (3/10), Janet Cooley (3/11)

Upcoming Anniversaries: Shirley & Jim Hamilton (2/28)

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

The Rev. Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector

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Tara's Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs – 9:00am to 1:00pm

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