

*Week of March 5 - 12, 2017*

**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

**Wednesday, March 8th**

11:00 am Healing Eucharist, nave

7:00 pm Choir Practice, choir room

**Saturday, March 11th**

8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast, parish hall

**Sunday, March 12th**

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

*Save the Date*

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 & Foot Washing, 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

*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*

## Weekly & Monthly Reminders

Healing Eucharist	Mar 8th	11:00 am	Nave
Choir Practice	Mar 8th	7:00 pm	Choir Room
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
Cursillo Reunion	Mar 26th	11:45 am	Parish Hall

## Church Happenings

### **Healing Eucharist, Wednesday, March 8th at 11:00 am**

In need of a mid-week boost? Come join us for a quiet, service of healing March 8th at 11:00 am. Those who wish to stay are welcome to stay for a brown bag lunch immediately following the service.

### **Men's Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, March 11th at 8:00 am**

Join the men of Holy Spirit as they meet once a month on the second Saturday to gather for breakfast, prayer time, and fellowship. **All men are welcome and encouraged to come.** Cooking starts at 7:00 am with breakfast served at 8:00am. Please bring a few dollars to help cover the cost of breakfast. Be sure to wear your favorite hat!

### **Lent Soup & Program, April 15th & 22nd at 6:30 pm**

Join us for soup and salad at 6:30 pm in the parish hall as a family. Then at 7:00 pm we will have guest speakers for the adults in the nave and Julia will have activities for the school age children in the parish hall. *Childcare provided.*

#### **April 15th – Susanna Whitsett, Faith Based Programs Coord. for Bethany Village at Camp McDowell**

*Partners in Creation: Co-laboring with God to write the blank page*

With the parable of The True Vine as a guide, Susanna will facilitate a discussion on the idea of collaborating (or co-laboring) with God to realize greater sense of order and presence in our lives as we move ever towards the fulfillment of creation.

#### **April 22nd – Father Rob Morpeth, Staff Officer for Finance for the Diocese of Alabama**

*Jesus Died Because of My Sins Not for My Sins*

Father Rob offers another way of looking at the meaning of Jesus' death.

### **Music Captures the Season**

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. The Gloria is not sung during Lent and is sometimes replaced with the prayer: *Kyrie, eleison*. This prayer derives from the Psalms and several New Testament passages. In Matthew 20:30, 31, two unnamed blind men call out to Jesus, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David." The phrase "Lord, have mercy" became the basis for the liturgical prayer.

Kyrie, eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe, eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie, eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

During Lent we will sing the Kyrie, Sanctus and Fraction Anthem from the *New Plainsong Mass* composed by David Hurd. These are found in our *Hymnal 1982*. Hurd (b. 1950) is an African-American composer, organist, choral director and educator. He is widely recognized as one of the foremost sacred music composers, and church musicians in the United States. He was one of the major musical contributors for the Episcopal Church's ***Hymnal 1982***.

## *Lenten Retreat*

### **Renewed Life: Seizing the Promises of Christ, March 31-April 2 at Camp McDowell**

We yearn for a rich relationship with Christ, one that will deepen our connection to God and to one another, but too often, the new life in Christ can seem a lot like the old life, plus church. How do we cross the gap between the faith we have and the living faith we truly desire? How do we enter into Christ's promises, not only in heaven, but here, today, in this world? What does it really mean to love Christ and to accept his love for us? Flyers available to the narthex. Visit [http://www.dioala.org/digital\\_faith/events/3173137](http://www.dioala.org/digital_faith/events/3173137) for more info and to register. Contact M.E. Spencer if you have any questions, [spencermedr@gmail.com](mailto:spencermedr@gmail.com)

## *Diocesan Convention Update*

### 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.

\* 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.

### 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. 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.

*Visit [dioala.org](http://dioala.org) for diocesan events and resources.*

## *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 26, 2017.

Pledged .....	\$2,110.00
Unpledged .....	\$ 105.62
Beans and Rice .....	\$ 25.00
Total Contributions .....	\$2,240.62

## *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; Vocare Steering Committee; Happening Steering Committee; Grace Church, Anniston; Grace Church, Pike Road, Montgomery

**Ministries and Programs within The Church of the Holy Spirit:** Children's Christian Formation, EYC, Adult Education, Diocesan Connections

**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 (Tara Portney); Val Autrey; J.T. Peterson; Barb Diehl (Jim Hamilton); Hailey; Elaine Vazquez

**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:** Mike Stephens (3/5), Val Autrey (3/9), Judy Dykes (3/10), Janet Cooley (3/11), James Araujo (3/14), Jason Portney (3/16), Emma Nash (3/16), Zac Roberts (3/18)

**Upcoming Anniversaries:** Suzanna & Jody Rawlins (3/17)

### ***The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit***

**The Rev. Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector**

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