

Christ Church Chronicle

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Lent

Janice Hansen

Lent -- time to reflect upon our lives, review our habits, ponder the great mysteries of Creation, Life, and our Faith. Though we take on something or give up something during Lent, it is not something WE do, but something we pray that God will do in our lives. It is somewhat easy to take on a Lenten practice, like a daily devotion, or a daily reading, or a new desirable habit and convert it to our accomplishment. Likewise it is sometimes easy for us humans to give up something -- wine, chocolate, whatever our favorite indulgence, and take it as our accomplishment. But who accomplishes anything without God?

If I can remember this Lent to let God work in my life, whether it be through taking on Bible reading, or a new daily prayer practice, or giving up some favored treat, and deal with the temptation to take pride in such an accomplishment, I shall be glad. That is why the concept of "rewarding in secret" sits right in our Gospel for Ash Wednesday.

The paradox is that while we may take on or give up things individually, we are called to Lent as a community. Our reading from Joel asks that we do this together, that we thus be strengthened by our walk of a Lenten observance together. "Blow the trumpet in Zion, proclaim a fast, call an assembly; gather the people, notify the congregation; assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants..."

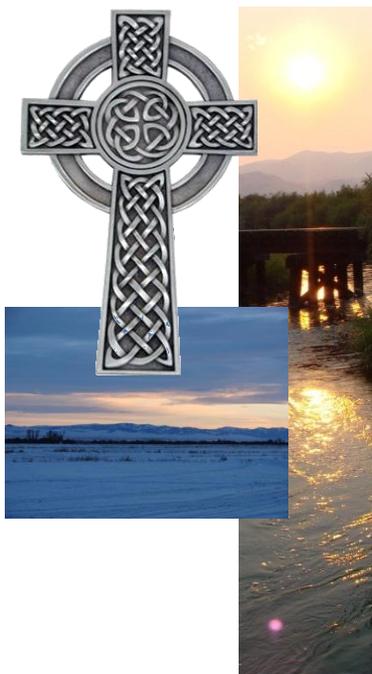
Our Wednesday evening Soup and Sharing at Christ Church will reinforce our collective observation of this season.

So, once again, we are presented with the challenge: make sure we privately keep our Lenten practices, but make sure we do this in community!

And we begin with the imposition of Ashes at our Ash Wednesday service. The ashes hark back to a time when this season focused on penitential acts, and upon the preparation for baptism at Easter by those who were not yet baptized. Our church history gives us a rich array of Lenten practices, evolving in many areas and changing through time. We know the ashes were a sign of penitence, and that by the 10th century, the practice began, and was institutionalized in the Roman church.

We are told that in the 12th century, the practice began of burning the palms blessed on Palm Sunday to be used as Ashes on Ash Wednesday. A full circle in these linked moments -- the acknowledging and heralding of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, with its earthly end in death, and our own deaths. Yet, like Jesus, we move toward the Day of the Resurrection, toward Easter.

May our journey toward Easter, here at Christ Church, be meaningful and blessed!



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Senior Warden's Letter

Frank Ford

For those who missed the annual meeting of the congregation, not only did they pass up an excellent meal and social hour, they also didn't get a chance to take part in an upbeat business meeting in which Ed Boucher was elected to the Vestry after a year's hiatus to replace retiring members Susan Hansen and George Rich. We also reviewed our 2012 activities and laid out some ideas for the new year, then discussed and voiced general approval of a balanced 2013 Christ Church budget. We are still looking for a Clerk, though, to record and maintain the minutes at Vestry meetings, so anyone wishing to express their stewardship by taking on that little task is encouraged to contact one of the Vestry.

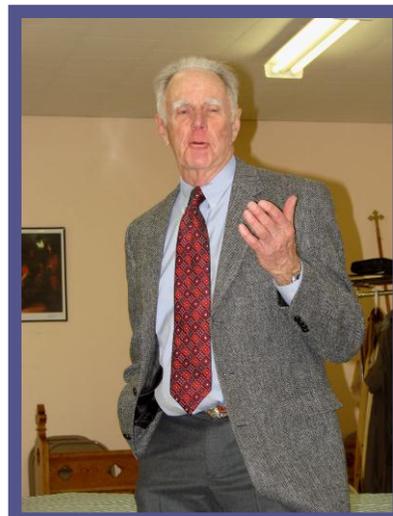
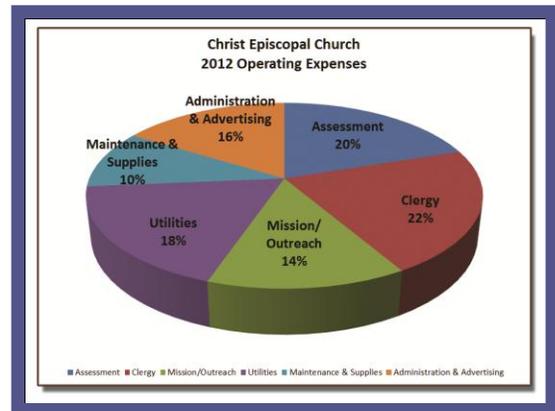
The ongoing effort to upgrade and generally improve our Parish Hall kitchen received a big boost during January. Not only did we get the new stove installed in time for the general meeting, we are also the beneficiaries of a very generous donation received from JJ and Don Snyder, who are wintering in their California home. Alice and Cynthia are still taking suggestions for this overall effort and we hope to have some real progress to show the Snyders when they return to us this spring.

With Deacon Janis back from her extended western visit and Fr. Bruce coming aboard as our "semi-permanent supply priest" the opportunity for pastoral ministry at Christ Church has never been greater. We will be getting together soon to discuss and perhaps more precisely define what this might mean in the life of the church, but in the meantime, make your thoughts and desires known so that we can better determine how our clergy might be able to meet your needs. We are very fortunate to have these fine and caring folks among us. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity.

Frank Ford
Senior Warden

Financial Picture 2012 Summary

Debra McNeill



Our Senior Warden in action at the annual meeting.

News for Lent

Ash Wednesday Service will take place at 5:00 pm on February 13. See Deacon Janice's article on page one for more information.

We have Lenten devotional booklets available free for those who want a daily meditation for the Lenten season. The booklets are simply entitled "Lenten Meditations," and the meditations are written by a number of different people, both lay and clergy. Fr. Bruce will bring the booklets over when he comes to Sheridan for services on Feb. 10.

The first Sunday in Lent, February 17th, the Rev. Canon Roberts will officiate at Rite 1 Eucharist. Rite 1 uses the traditional language of the earlier prayer books. The Rite 1 service is more penitential in focus and is an appropriate and beautiful way to begin Lent.

Christ Episcopal Church invites the community to gather around soup and meditation on Wednesday evenings during Lent. We will start with a simple meal of soup and bread at 5:30pm followed by a time to center on thoughts and meditations on themes related to the spiritual practices of Lent, finishing about 7:15 each meeting. Readings will be from Jerry Aaker's book "A Spirituality of Service" - though it will not be necessary to buy the book to participate. These meetings will start on February 20 and run for five weeks.

The Ruby Valley Churches will be hosting Lenten Breakfast each Wednesday morning during Lent as in past years. Look for announcements soon for time and venues.

Touched by the Words

"Lent is the time for trimming the soul and scrapping the sludge off a life turned slipshod. Lent is about taking stock of time, even religious time. Lent is about exercising the control that enables us to say no to ourselves so that when life turns hard of its own accord we have the stamina to yes to its twists and turns with faith and hope.... Lent is the time to make new efforts to be what we say we want to be."

Sister Joan Chittister's, [The Rule of Benedict: Insight for the Ages](#)



Good food and fellowship at the annual congregational meeting.

Coffee Hour Recipe

Judy Aaker

\$100 BRAN MUFFINS

Bran Mixture - Stir together & set aside:

2 cups Bran buds (or raw bran)
2 cups Boiling Water

Cream together:

1-1/4 cup margarine (2-1/2 sticks)
3 cups sugar

Then add:

4 eggs
1 qt buttermilk

Add:

Bran Mixture
5 cups flour - 5 tsp soda - 1 tsp salt - 2 cups raisins -
4 cups All Bran (shreds)
Bake 15 - 20min @ 400 degrees -- Makes a bunch!
(Dough will keep 3 wks in frig)
Large recipe; easy to half.



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INVITE people into our midst
INCLUDE people in the life of the church
INFORM people about past events that shape our present,
and current events that shape our future
PROCLAIM the gospel in thought, word and deed
REJOICE in a new life found in Christ Jesus.

Mission Statement

To be formed as the body of Christ, seeking to love and serve one another and those in need.

Vision Statement

To be Christ's continued presence in the Ruby Valley by welcoming those who seek Christ, offering varied forms of services, reflecting our diversity while maintaining our Episcopal identity.

Service Leaders for February and March

Upcoming Service Leaders for February/March

- 3 Feb: Morning Prayer -- Deacon Janis Hansen
- 10 Feb: Eucharist -- Rev Bruce McNab
- 13 Feb: 5:00 pm Ash Wednesday -- Deacon Janis Hansen
- 17 Feb: Eucharist (Rite 1) Rev. Canon Chris Roberts
- 24 Feb: Eucharist -- Rev Bruce McNab
- 3 Mar: Morning Prayer -- Deacon Janis Hansen
- 10 Mar: Eucharist -- Rev Bruce McNab
- 17 Mar: Joint Svc @ Methodist Church (Deacon Janis Hansen/Rev Ben Nardi)

Upcoming Lectors for February/March

- 3 Feb: Jerry Aaker
- 10 Feb: Sandra Baril
- 17 Feb: Susan Hansen
- 24 Feb: George Rich
- 3 Mar: Alice Forwood
- 10 Mar: Bill Callaway
- 17 Mar: Frank Ford



Saint Brigdet of Kildare

Abbess (1 Feb 523)