

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

February 2016



Lent is a season when we are called to deepen our focus on God. We follow our Savior into the wilderness for forty days, turning to God in prayer and removing distraction.

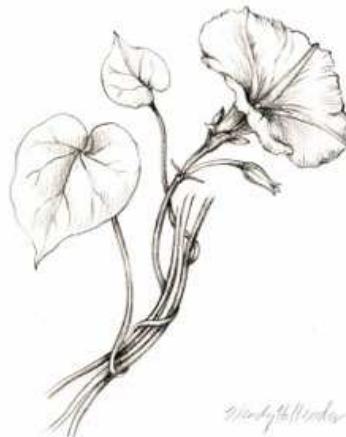
That's what the traditional practices of self-denial are all about.

But we all know that not eating chocolate – or even not eating meat – does not automatically make us turn to God. We need to be intentional about it.

The great English Anglican spiritual writer, Evelyn Underhill, once wrote, “You don’t have to be peculiar to find God, but you do have to make a willed commitment to make Him the center of your life, all aspects of it!”

Underhill took her own advice. Born in 1875, she grew up in a household that had no particular interest in religion; she, however, always had a spiritual bent, and became a Christian in 1907. She spent a great deal of time writing about faith, offering spiritual guidance, and visiting those in need, and in 1924, she began to lead retreats.

Yet she was not removed from ordinary life. Her faith was grounded in Christ and his incarnation: if Christ became human, then every part of life is sacred. Yes, she spent a great deal of time in prayer, but she also managed a household, enjoyed sailing, was interested in woodwork and metalwork, and during World War I, worked in naval intelligence! And in everything she did, she paid attention to where God might be found. In fact, it was that careful attention that led her to become a pacifist later in life.



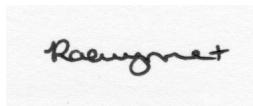
Wendy Hender

Underhill’s great passion was to help people connect with God. In *Practical Mysticism: A Book for Normal People*, she wrote: “Eternity is with us, inviting our contemplation perpetually, but we are too frightened, lazy, and suspicious to respond; too arrogant to still our thought, and let divine sensation have its way. It needs industry and goodwill if we would make that

transition; for the process involves a veritable spring-cleaning of the soul, a turning-out and rearrangement of our mental furniture, a wide opening of closed windows, that the notes of the wild birds beyond our garden may come to us fully charged with wonder and freshness, and drown with their music the noise of the gramophone within. Those who do this, discover that they have lived in a stuffy world, whilst their inheritance was a world of morning-glory: where every tit-mouse is a celestial messenger, and every thrusting bud is charged with the full significance of life."

This Lent, take time for God. Put aside a few minutes each day to read the bible and to pray, and then, as you move through the day, look for Christ around you. You may be amazed by what you discover.

Blessings,



WARDENS' COLUMN

Scott Gunn, the Executive Director for *Forward Day by Day* suggests that for this season of Lent we might try a more traditional approach to practicing what has become our Lenten discipline of deprivation. What if, he writes, instead of giving up chocolate or initiating a more stringent diet, we were to embrace Lent as a voyage of repentance, acknowledging our sins and trying "to grow more deeply into the full stature of Christ?"

After all, as Gunn points out, Lent provides an opportunity to turn away from temptations of a more spiritual rather than corporal nature. We can take this time to focus our attention on trying to walk our Lord's path more humbly and devotedly.

Alex & Chris

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 9:30 A.M.

All parishioners are encouraged to attend this Eucharist and meeting, which will take place in Mills Hall. At this meeting there will be reports, updates from the Rector, the presentation of the annual budget, brunch, and kids activities. Elections will be held for Warden - one for a two year term; one for a one year term, and Vestry members - two for a three year term.

**SHROVE TUESDAY
MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

We celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Mardi Gras party and pot luck supper. The festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Mills Hall, and you are invited to come in costume, wear a mask and/or beads and bring a dish to share. A fun time will be had by all.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will begin the observation of Lent with services of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m. on February 10.

Join the Rector at the St. James train station from 5:45 - 8:00 a.m. to give out ashes to local commuters. Sign up today.

LENTEN PROGRAM

In his book, *Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus*, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites us to know more deeply what it means to follow Jesus. During Lent, we will offer two complementary programs based on the book:

Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. (in the church) “How to be a Crazy Christian with Michael Curry”. We will begin at 7 p.m. with Eucharist, then watch a video from our Presiding Bishop and then discuss questions he raises.

- February 16 Introduction
- February 23 What is a Crazy Christian?
- March 1 Why Being a Crazy Christian is Easy – and Hard
- March 8 Habits of a Crazy Christian
- March 15 Giving Yourself Permission

Sunday mornings 8:50 - 9:20 a.m. (Mills Hall)

Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus discussion group.

- February 14 Chapter 1 “We Need Some Crazy Christians”
Chapter 2 “We Are Part of Something Greater Than Ourselves”
- February 21 Chapter 3 “Following Jesus With Our Feet”
Chapter 4 “Living into God’s Dream”
Chapter 5 “A Mountain Climb That Can Change the World”
- February 28 Chapter 6 “Down With Walls of Division and Up With the Dream of God”
Chapter 7 “The Savior’s Not-So-Serene Call to Life on a Wild, Restless Sea”
Chapter 8 “When Upside Down is Really Right Side Up”
- March 6 Chapter 9 “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize, Hold On, Hold On”
Chapter 10 “The Outstretched Arms of Jesus and the Limitless Reach of Love”
Chapter 11 “*E Pluribus Unum*: God’s Dream, Our Hope”
- March 13 Chapter 12 “The Gospel Witness of Welcome Will Rearrange the World”
Chapter 13 “Come, Let Us Go to Galilee – Probably the Last Place We Want to Be”

Copies of the book (\$15) are available in the office and at the back of the church.

CONFIRMATION

Have you been baptized, but want to make a more formal commitment to God, and/or the Episcopal Church? Please talk with the Rector if you would be interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church later this spring.

A NOTE FROM THE KRALLS

Dear Friends and Family at St. James Episcopal Church,

It was not easy (!) but we have arrived in the Big Easy! We arrived at our apartment at midnight with 5 suitcases which our son Daniel wrestled into the apartment for us. The management at Lambeth House had outfitted our apartment temporarily with roll-away beds, a couple tables, floor lamps, wine, cheese, grapes, plates, cups, etc.

The next morning a member of the welcome committee stopped by to answer questions. Since it was then New Year's Eve day, a dinner party and fireworks were on the agenda for that evening. A nice lady from Mississippi invited us to join her party of 10 for the steak dinner they were serving. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming and we are trying to learn names of our new friends. Everyone has an interesting story to tell of their history. We, of course, tell how our son volunteered after Katrina with the Office of Disaster Response for the Episcopal Diocese of LA, fell in love with NOLA, and we moved here to be near him and his wife Paige. After a wonderful dinner I went up to the glassed-in top floor to watch the New Year's Eve fireworks. Because Lambeth House sits on a bend in the Mississippi River, we could see fireworks continuously up and down the river for 180 degrees. It was quite amazing!

Luckily our car was delivered before we arrived, which was a big relief. Our towels, sheets and blankets were packed in the car's trunk. We have ventured out to a grocery store and hope to find another one today (Jan. 4). I have studied the map but the roads are a bit crazy with some following the bends in the river. Tomorrow our furniture and boxes arrive. Then the unpacking begins...

The main thing we have learned is never move at holiday time. It has made the whole process more complicated. Offices are closed and people don't work over the holidays!

We want to thank you all for the lovely coffee hour send-off. It was a great way to get to talk with everyone while enjoying your delicious home-made goodies. The beautiful framed photos of St. James Church will be a wonderful reminder of you, our church family at St. James. You and this church are etched in our memories forever.

We will try to keep in touch and hope you will too. Come to New Orleans – we have a lot to show you.

Love,
Sue & George Krall
Lambeth House #508
150 Broadway
New Orleans, LA 70118
631-741-7839 (George's cell)

CHURCH SNOW POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, we follow the lead of the Smithtown School District. If the schools are closed, the office is closed and all activities are canceled. If the schools are on a two hour delay, so is the office. Sunday services are only canceled if a snow emergency is declared, and motorists are advised to stay off the streets.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
2 Winter Clergy Day @ Mercer School 9:30 a.m. (Rector)
Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Recovery Group 7:30 p.m.
3 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Women's Yoga group 7:00 p.m.
5 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
6 Piano recital 2 p.m. - Mills Hall
7 Last Epiphany
Annual Parish Meeting & Eucharist 9:30 a.m. - Mills Hall
8 North Suffolk Garden Club 4 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
9 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Shrove Tuesday potluck supper 6:00 p.m. - Mills Hall
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
10 Ash Wednesday
Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes 12 Noon
Women's Yoga 7:30 p.m.
Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes 7:30 p.m.
11 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
12 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
14 Lent 1
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
Lenten program 8:50 a.m.
15 Presidents' Day - office closed
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
16 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Lenten program 7:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
17 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Women's Yoga 7:00 p.m.
19 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
21 Lent 2
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
Lenten Program 8:50 a.m.
- 22 Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
23 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Lenten Program 7:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
24 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Challenger Teen group 6:30 p.m.
25 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
26 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
27 Mills Hall rental 5:00 p.m.
28 Lent 3
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
Lenten Program 8:50 a.m.
29 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kerrick Wille
Peter Cahill
Sandy Grigoletto
Annabelle Wille
Colette Tarantino
Lorelei Glogg Allen
Joan Mercep
Kelly Lally
Jimmy Allen
Jeff Smith
Maggie Lawrence
Amelia Bowden
Kevin White
James Andrews
Leah Tarantino Roseto
Jeremy Dean
Bruce Jeffrey

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Istvan & Edit Dioszegi

Raewynne Whiteley
Ordination to the Diaconate