



# ECCE

The Newsletter of S. John the Baptist Anglican Church  
Marshall, Virginia

Issue 52, February 2012

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of  
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*Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,*

Unlike last year, when Easter was as late as it could be, this year Easter will fall on the second Sunday of April. This means that Ash Wednesday and Lent will be upon us sooner than we realise. The Pre-Lenten season will begin with the first Sunday of February, reminding us that we should be reflecting on the sorts of things we will want to undertake this Lent. Elsewhere in this newsletter, I will include some thoughts about our Lenten Rule.

Meanwhile, we are still in the Christmas cycle, which ends technically with the Feast of Candlemas, or the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Those of us who have been studying the Book of Leviticus will recognise that under the Law of Moses, 40 days after giving birth to a male child, the mother was to come to the priest for the ritual of purification. Since blood rendered a person ritually unclean under the Old Covenant, before she could once again enter into the liturgical life of the Community, a woman had to undergo this bathing ritual as well as bring a suitable offering to the priest. If she was wealthy enough, she brought a lamb for the holocaust (or burnt offering) and a young pigeon or dove for the sin offering. In the case of the Blessed Mother, you may recall that she and S. Joseph brought two young doves, indicating their relative poverty.

The Venerable Bede, an early English historian and theologian, commented on their offering: *The Lord commanded in the Law that those who could were to offer a lamb for a son or a daughter, along with a turtledove or a pigeon. But one who did not have sufficient wealth to offer a lamb should offer two turtledoves or two young pigeons. Therefore the Lord, mindful in everything of our salvation, not only deigned for our sake to become a human being, though he was God, but also he deigned to become poor for us, though he was rich, so that by his poverty along with his humanity, he might grant us to become sharers in his riches and his divinity.*

As we reflect on this mystery of our salvation, may we be even more grateful for all that we have been given in Christ. As we look to this coming year, and to our relationship to S. John's, may we endeavour to express our gratitude by our willingness to not only support our parish financially, but by volunteering for the many opportunities we have to share in our common life. From altar flowers and the hospitality of the coffee hours to cleaning the church, there are many ways in which we can give of our time and talent. We are a family in Christ here at S. John's. May we each give of ourselves to each other and in so doing, give back to God as He has so generously given to us.

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

## Annual Meeting Report

The Annual Meeting of the Parish and Corporation of the Anglican Parish of S. John the Baptist took place after the Sung Mass on Sunday, 29 January 2012. After opening with prayer, the meeting was called to order and John Hagan appointed Clerk of the Meeting.

In the Business Session, the two new wardens were introduced: John Hagan as Senior Warden and Dr Dale Forrester as Junior Warden. (By way of explanation, the Senior Warden is appointed by the Rector and the Vestry select the Junior Warden from among those on the Vestry.) The slate for the 2012 Vestry was then presented for vote by the parish. As there were no additional nominations or discussion, the slate of Bill Stevens, Jim McGee and Bob Ashcom was elected by acclamation. Bill Stevens, the Treasurer, then presented the 2012 budget, and explained that we presently have a shortfall of approximately \$25,000. Some of this will be made up by jumble sales and crafts sales, and the hope is that the rest will be made up in unrealised pledges, that is, new parishioners or those parishioners who have not yet pledged for the coming year.

Dr Jim McGee and Dr Dale Forrester then discussed the importance of evangelism, noting the many opportunities we have in this parish for Christian education and formation as well as for hospitality. Both discussed their own spiritual journeys, speaking to the variety of parishes in which they had worshipped until coming to S. John's and expressing their appreciation for having found a parish that gave them a variety of programs to enable their spiritual growth. As their situation is not unique to them, they encouraged the parishioners present to let others know about S. John's and in particular, to mention the ways in which we are encouraged to learn more about our faith. Bob Ashcom then spoke to the importance of having an intellectually

stimulating environment and how that separates S. John's from so many other parishes.

In the Pastoral Session, Fr Ostman framed the discussion about the challenges we face in a larger question: "What does God desire for our parish, and for each one of us in particular?" The fact that the parish has continued in spite of the difficulties of the past several years suggests that God intends for it to continue, at least for the near term. We each have our part to play, as we are each part of the whole.

Fr Ostman then went on to speak to our individual vocation. First, we are called to a deeper **conversion** to conform our lives to that of Our Lord. This is done in the context of our common life together as a parish family. Second, we are called to **communicate** our faith to others. As we grow in our faith, we will become more articulate in what we believe and why, and God will allow us greater opportunities to express to others the joy we find in Christ. Third, we need to grow in the virtue of **courage** so that we will not hesitate when these opportunities arise. It is not always easy to step forward in conversation with our friends and acquaintances, but as we begin to express ourselves, we will find it easier and less stressful.

Fr Ostman ended this session by thanking the various parishioners who have stepped forward in various ways to contribute their time to keep things running smoothly in the parish, reminding the parishioners that we each have something to contribute to our mutual well-being.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer and the parish moved to the Annex to enjoy a potluck coffee hour that went on for some time.

## Vestry Notes

Present at the 15 January meeting were Fr Ostman, Dr Dale Forrester, John Hagan, Dr Jim McGee, and Bill Stevens. Bob Ashcom was recovering from surgery. The meeting began with a discussion of the "Church Growth and Evangelism in the Anglican Church" article forwarded to the Vestry earlier in the week.

Other topics discussed included:

**Bishop Hewett's visit:** The Vestry continued their previous discussion about an extended visit by Bishop Hewett. Areas where the Bishop can help include:

- Spiritual retreat for the Vestry
- Evangelism / Church growth
- Financial Plan
- Exploring purchasing our facility from the Episcopal Diocese

Fr Ostman proposed that the visit coincide with the Bishop's scheduled visit in June. Bill Stevens agreed to work with the Rector on drafting an e-mail to the Bishop.

**Finances:** Bill Stevens presented the current financials, indicating that all 2011 bills were paid and there is a positive balance in our checking account.

**Evangelism & Church Growth:** Extended discussion raised many possible activities to attract visitors, improve our profile in the community and raise funds, including:

- Spring Lawn Sale.
- Autumn Festival with Oktoberfest.
- Hosting a seasonal Farmer's Market.
- Hosting musical performances.
- Soup kitchen/community service.
- Grounds work to attract notice and recognition as Marshall green space:
  - Place new signage to complement the corner improvements planned by the township.
  - Remove the dead pine to open up the grounds and get more sunlight.
  - Place a bench near the corner.
- Take every opportunity to expose our church to visitors, especially during all future events conducted on site. This effort should include the offer of "guided" tours by Vestry and other volunteers to extend interaction with prospects, and provide opportunities to witness.
- Re-connect with the Warrenton food pantry.

The Vestry also discussed door to door visitation, Welcome Wagon advertising, maintaining better and more personal contact with our parishioners who do not attend regularly, and providing more frequent updates to parishioners about our financial health.

## MY LENTEN RULE

1. **Fasting and Abstinence.** All weekdays of Lent (not Sundays) are fast days, meaning that we reduce the amount of food eaten. A good rule might be no snacks or no second helpings; abstinence might mean flesh meat, dessert or alcohol. If you don't normally eat snacks or desserts or drink, you may want to consider giving up a favorite food. The idea is to undertake something sacrificial, yet not overwhelming. In addition, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are strict fasts: one full meal in the evening, and a light meal or collation in the afternoon. All those whose health, work, and age permit should fast. Abstaining from flesh meat on Wednesdays (when Our Lord was betrayed) as well as Fridays (required by the Prayer Book) is a common discipline during Lent. At the very least no flesh meat should be eaten on Fridays of Lent.

This Lent I resolve to:

2. **Mass and Daily Office.** Although we do not have daily Masses, they are scheduled as Holy Days occur and on Wednesdays. Lent is a good time to supplement the Sunday Mass, particularly as weekday Masses are of a more intimate and quiet nature; this can be a great blessing. We also offer Mattins at 9:30am and Evensong at 5:30pm daily in the Church: all are invited to join Fr Ostman in daily prayer.

This Lent I resolve to:

3. **Stations of the Cross.** Each Friday in Lent at 6pm, we will follow Our Lord's way to the Cross, using the Stations in the Church. This devotion helps us to appreciate more fully His sacrifice on Good Friday.

This Lent I resolve to:

4. **Spiritual Reading and Classes.** An ancient tradition is to read one of the spiritual classics or perhaps a book of Scripture during Lent. Fr Ostman can offer several suggestions. You may also want to join us Sunday mornings at 9.30am for our Christian Formation or 10.45am on Wednesdays for our Bible study.

This Lent I resolve to:

5. **Service and Self-denial.** In addition to "giving up" something for Lent, you may want to "take on" something as well, such as volunteering at a hospital, visiting the shut-in or taking care of a neighbour who may be in need of assistance. You may also want to give up some special pleasure or recreation for Lent and perhaps give what you would have spent on it (if anything) as alms to the Church.

This Lent I resolve to:

6. **Confession.** A sacramental confession at the beginning and end of Lent is not only an opportunity for a thorough self-examination, but also a powerful weapon against the temptations that come our way in Lent. Nothing helps a shop-keeper plan for the future like a good stock taking. You may schedule your confession with Fr Ostman for any mutually convenient time, and he tries to be available Saturdays before Evening Prayer.

This Lent I resolve to:

## Kudos

**To Anita Kamphuis** for providing the special Italian espresso we enjoy on Sunday and Wednesday mornings.

**To Michele Ballarin** for faithfully filling in on the organ bench Sunday after Sunday.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Purification of the Blessed Virgin:** Thu, 2 Feb 10 am

As discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, the Purification of the Blessed Virgin occurs 40 days after the birth of Our Lord in fulfillment of the Law of Moses. This feast is also called Candlemas, from the ancient tradition of blessing the candles to be used in the coming year. Parishioners often made an offering to their local parish of candles they had made, which were gathered in on this day and blessed for use in the worship of Almighty God.

**Thursday Night at the Movies:** 16 Feb, 7pm

This month, we will meet for a most prescient film, made a decade before the election of Karol Wojtyla as John Paul II, **The Shoes of the Fisherman**. Here is the IMDB review: *Set in a futuristic vision of the late 1980's, Ukrainian Archbishop Kiril Lakota is set free after two decades as a political prisoner in Siberia. He is brought to Rome by Fr. David Telemond, a troubled young priest who befriends him. Once at the Vatican, he is immediately given an audience with the Pope, who elevates him to Cardinal Priest. The world is on the brink of war due to a Chinese-Soviet feud made worse by a famine caused by trade restrictions brought against China by the U.S. When the Pontiff suddenly dies, Lakota's genuine character and unique life experience move the College of Cardinals to elect him as the new Pope. But Pope Kiril I must now deal with his own self-doubt, the struggle of his friend Fr. Telemond who is under scrutiny for his beliefs, and find a solution to the crisis in China.*

**Ash Wednesday:** 22 Feb, 10am & 6pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, and there will be two Masses, both with the Imposition of Ashes. Please make every effort to be present at one of these Masses as a start to a Holy Lent.

**Stations of the Cross:** Fridays, 6pm

On each Friday of Lent, we will follow the Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and a light Lenten supper. Please join us and bring a friend or neighbour.

# February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>February is dedicated to the Sacred Childhood</i></p>			<div style="background-color: #8B0000; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">1</div> <p>S. Ignatius, BM</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am <b>Mass 10am</b> <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">2</div> <p>PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am <b>Mass 10am</b> E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #8B0000; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">3</div>  <p>S. Blase</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">4</div> <p>S. Andrew Corsini, BC</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9:45 Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5</div>  <p>SEPTUAGESIMA (S. Agatha, VM)</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am <b>Mass 10.30am</b></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">6</div> <p>S. Titus, BC (S. Dorothy, VM)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">7</div> <p>S. Romuald, Ab</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">8</div> <p>S. John of Matha, C</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">9</div> <p>S. Cyril of Alexandria, BCD</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">10</div>  <p>S. Scholastica, V</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">11</div> <p>Our Lady of Lourdes</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9:45 Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">12</div>  <p>SEXAGESIMA (Seven Holy Founders of the Servites, CC)</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am <b>Mass 10.30am</b></p>	<div style="background-color: #8B0000; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">13</div> <p>Feria</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #8B0000; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">14</div> <p>S. Valentine, PM</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #8B0000; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">15</div> <p>Ss. Faustina &amp; Jovita, MM</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am <b>Mass 10am</b> <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">16</div> <p>Feria</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm TNM 7pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">17</div>  <p>Feria</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #8B0000; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">18</div> <p>S. Simeon, BM</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9:45 Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">19</div>  <p>QUINQUAGESIMA</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am <b>Mass 10.30am</b></p>	<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">20</div> <p>Feria</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">21</div> <p>Feria</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">22</div>  <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am <b>Mass 10am</b> <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> E.P. 5.30pm <b>Mass 6pm</b></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">23</div> <p>S. Peter Damian, BCD (Lenten Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">24</div>  <p>Lenten Feria (Vigil of S. Matthias)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm SOC 6 pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #8B0000; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">25</div> <p>S. MATTHIAS, AP (Lenten Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9:45 <b>Mass 10am</b> Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">26</div>  <p>LENT I</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am <b>Mass 10.30am</b></p>	<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">27</div> <p>Lenten Feria</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">28</div> <p>S. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows (Lenten Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #4B0082; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">29</div> <p>Ember Day</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am <b>Mass 10am</b> <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> E.P. 5.30pm</p>	 <p>S. IGNATIUS</p>	 <p>LENT</p>	 <p>S. MATTHIAS</p>

Ab=Abbot; Ap=Apostle; B=Bishop; C=Confessor; Dn=Deacon; D=Doctor; E=Emperor; Ev=Evangelist; K=King; M=Martyr; P=Pope; Pr= Priest; Q=Queen; gin; W=Widow; SCF = School of Christian Formation; TNM = Thursday Night at the Movies; SOC = Stations of the Cross