

THE BELOVED DISCIPLE

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

MARCH 2014

40 Fifth Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 www.saintjohnepiscopalpetaluma.org

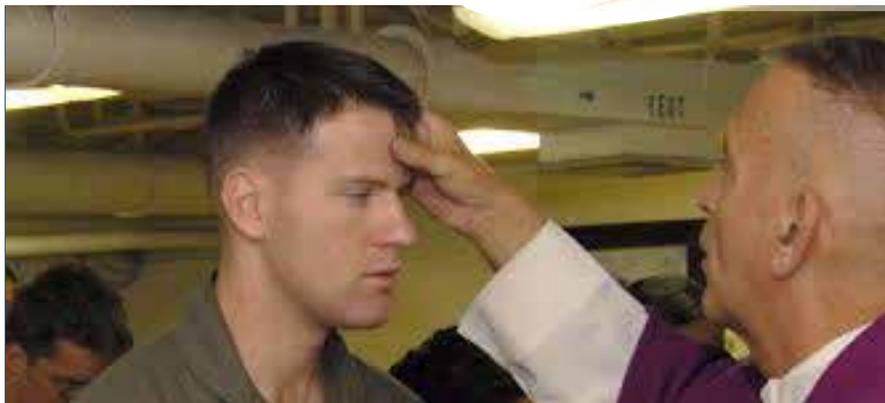


ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SINCE 1856

707-762-8872

Everyone Welcome!



An Episcopal digital network photo of an Ash Wednesday service.

Addition by Subtraction

BY REV. DANIEL C. GREEN

The observance of Lent likely originated in the early centuries of the church in a period of fasting and special discipline for those preparing for baptism at Easter. This practice eventually expanded to take in the church as a whole. To best understand the season it is helpful to remember this origin for Lent, not as an annual ordeal to get through, but as a time to form intentions and habits, attitudes and understandings that will define the new person of faith one hopes to become. The biblical prototype for the season, the Lord's own fast in the wilderness, reflects this point of view. Interestingly, the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe Jesus' forty days fasting and temptation as coming immediately following his baptism, not before. But the connection to baptism is still clear—the gift of new life in the water of baptism is precious. There is a danger that the one who receives it will leak it away, or muddy it, or stop it up so it stagnates, when it is meant to become an inexhaustible spring of life for the world.

The lessons for the Sundays in Lent in this year A of the three-year lectionary cycle are full of baptismal imagery, mostly taken from the gospel of John. They are stories of people who encounter Jesus and find in him unexpected hope for a new kind of life. It is this hope that makes the practice of Lent something more than an unpleasant duty, or a test of willpower, or an opportunity to detoxify and lose some weight. The wisdom of fasting, in whatever form you choose to undertake it, comes in seeing that our habit of grasping at the fullness of life by an endless process of addition isn't working out. More and more doesn't always translate into wiser, healthier, more purposeful, more grateful, more peaceful, clear-sighted, and kind.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Lenten Evening Prayer AND VENERATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Friday evenings from 7-8:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary on March 14, 21, 28 and April 11. The Office of Evening Prayer will be led by **Laurie Warren**, followed by a quiet Holy Hour of individual prayer, reflection, Lectio Divina or meditation in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. There is no registration and you are welcome to any or all of the offerings. SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS

Lenten Message

FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP

of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev'd Katherine Jefferts Schori can be found at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/presiding-bishop>

Lectio Divina for Lent

The Lectio Divina group for Lent will begin meeting every Wednesday morning from 10:30 a.m. until noon in the church library starting Ash Wednesday, March 5 and ending April 16. SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS.



Addition by Subtraction

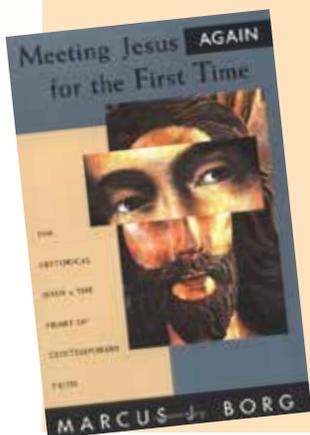
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 It can be painful to admit this. The forward momentum of pursuing more can feel like a kind of fullness in itself, but slowing down reveals the emptiness that it masks. And Lent is an opportunity to do that, to slow down and wonder about the self that we are relentlessly feeding with food, drink, entertainment, diversions, and distractions. So what if we discover that it is unfulfilled by its very nature? When we start subtracting these things from our lives, what are we left with, if not anxiety, aggression, guilt, helplessness, loneliness, and grief? Facing the truth about ourselves can be difficult. But if we never do, we will tend to be satisfied with half-measures that offer temporary relief of the symptom, without treating the underlying disease.

We worship Jesus as Christ and God because he heals the futility and barrenness of our existence, not just on the surface of things, but at the core. He draws out the poison dart of death from the life that we try to protect at all costs, to constantly improve upon, and bolster and fortify with all kinds of possessions, and honors, and degrees of distinction from our neighbors, but that is nonetheless doomed. And he does it by dying, by being subtracted to nothing, and so transforming death itself into the gateway of an overflowing and inexhaustible fountain of life upon life. Lent is our journey of approach to that great mystery by which Christ surrenders himself to the curse that looms over even our happiest hours, and vanquishes it once and for all. The hope of sharing in that victory of freedom and blessedness is what guides and sustains us as we share in Christ's journey through the wilderness of Lent. ■

Book Study Continues

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

by Marcus J. Borg



Sundays at 11:45 am
in the Library

The Rev. Daniel Green
& Gordon Gilmore

Marcus J. Borg is Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. Internationally known in both academic and church circles as a biblical and Jesus scholar.

LITURGICAL NOTES

The Decalogue

There are a variety of changes to the liturgy that highlight the special character of Lent, but the most dramatic is that our Sunday and weekday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will open with the Penitential Order. Moving the confession of sin to the beginning of the service gives it greater prominence, reflecting the need for repentance that is one of the basic spiritual attitudes of this season. One part of the Penitential Order that might seem out of place is the Decalogue, the responsorial reading of the Ten Commandments.

The use of the Decalogue in this place has a long history in Anglican worship tradition, dating to the 1552 Book of Common Prayer, where it took the place of a nine-fold Kyrie eleison in the first 1549 Prayer Book which, in turn, continued medieval usage. Martin Luther had provided a version of the Decalogue with Kyrie eleison as a response, and various other rites of the Continental Reformation did as well. This perhaps reflected the desire of the reformers that regular worship cultivate in the population a greater degree of biblical literacy, something which is increasingly needed again today. It certainly adds considerable substance to a corporate act of penitence when we do not merely plead for the Lord's mercy, but also recite the divine laws by which that mercy is revealed to us. ■



The 8 a.m. Candelmas service on February 2 began in the Parish Hall.

Prayers for Kairos Retreat Participants

The Rev. **Susan Reeve**, Deacon for the Diocese of Northern, California, extends her appreciation to everyone at St. John's for your prayers for her, the ministry leaders, and the residents involved in the Kairos Retreat during the weekend of February 14th at Chowchilla, Central California Women's Facility.

Susan shared that the weekend was extraordinary and actually life-changing for some of the women.

She and a small group of volunteers went back to instruct the women who live in the facility on how to form and operate small Prayer & Share groups of their own, having been so inspired by the retreat. Thank you to everyone at St. John's for responding to her request for your prayers, helping Susan and the others in fulfilling the mission of the Kairos prison ministry: "Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World". Thanks Be to God.



Prayer Quilt Ministry

A Prayer Quilt is a visible way to see prayers, to hold prayers close, to remember the many people that offered prayers and to bring comfort to the recipient during a time of need or loss.

Each quilt is blessed during a church service. As the knots are tied special prayers are offered for the person who will receive the quilt. Prayer Quilts are not for sale. A Prayer Quilt is not a surprise present; the person that is to receive the quilt must give their approval to accept this type of prayer. Neither the congregation member that made the request nor the person receiving the quilt is obligated to the ministry in any way.

There are many ways to help with this ministry even if you don't own a sewing machine or know how to sew. There is fabric to cut and ties to be put in the quilt. A planning and work day will be scheduled in the near future.

Like the Flower Fund, the Prayer Quilt Ministry is financially supported by donations and not part of the annual budget. The cost to complete a quilt can be over \$100. Currently funds are needed to continue with this ministry that has brought healing and joy to many of our members.

If you would like to request a prayer quilt there are forms in the church office or you can direct any questions to **Susan Hadenfeldt**.

Kairos
PRISON MINISTRY

LECTIO DIVINA for

Lent with TOM ROTELLA

The Lectio Divina group for Lent will begin meeting every Wednesday morning from 10:30 am until noon in the church library starting Ash Wednesday, March 5th and ending April 16th. Facilitated by **Tom Rotella**, Lectio is a sacred way of reading scripture and letting it speak directly to you. It is a spiritual practice that has been used for centuries. Tom will select scripture from both Old and New Testaments, including the psalms. During the first part of the meeting, a discussion question having to do with some aspect of one's

spiritual journey will be passed out. Sharing our answers in this safe space will help deepen our relationships to one another. The second part of the meeting will consist of reading the selected scripture passage several times while asking group members to let a word or phrase speak to their heart. We will then share the word or phrase with each other and our reasons for selecting it. During the meeting, there will be times for prayer and reflection. No registration required. Simply show up at the library. There is nothing you need to bring. If there are some meetings you are unable to attend, that's okay. Any questions, please call Tom at 981-8684. ■

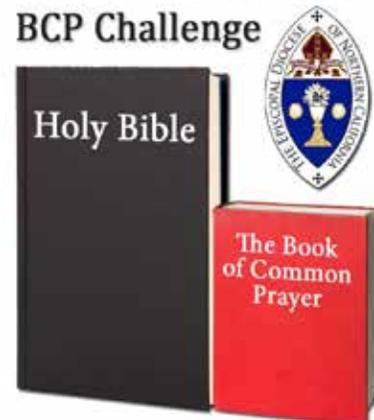
New Bible Challenge Adds Book of Common Prayer

Bishop Barry Beisner of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California has issued another "Bible Challenge" to the people of the Diocese in 2014. The daily reading schedule is much lighter than last year's "Bible Challenge," which led participants through the entire Bible. This year's course of readings begins on March 5, Ash Wednesday, and assigns a single chapter of the New Testament, one psalm (or portion of a psalm), and a brief excerpt of the Book of Common Prayer for each day. This program offers a condensed form of a classical

Anglican practice of daily scripture reading and devotion.

More information can be found at the Diocesan website, at <http://www.norcalepiscopal.org/the-2014-bible-and-bcp-challenge>, where the daily reading schedule and many other resources are available, including on-line editions of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. You can also contact the Priest-in-Charge for support. ■

The 2014 Bible and BCP Challenge



ST. JOHN'S U *presents*

Praying with the Body with the The Rev. Daniel Green

Praying can be more than words addressed to God.

In this workshop we will explore how posture, gesture, breath, sound, stillness and movement can bring concentration, awareness, and wholeness to the practice of prayer.

Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing. Bring a yoga mat, if you have one, and a small rug or blanket you don't mind putting on the floor.

Saturday, March 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Cram Hall

For more information, contact the Rev. Daniel Green, 707-762-8872 or rector.episcopal.petaluma@gmail.com

Wisdom of the Ancients

From the March 2014 edition of The Instructor, the monthly newsletter of St. John's, Petaluma, along with an advertisement for Strauss and Phillips, Successors to P. Sweed, Agents for Centemeri Kid Gloves—every pair fitted and guaranteed. Home Telephone 60.

The heart of the Rector was greatly rejoiced on his return from Sacramento to hear of the good beginning many of the congregation made in their attendance at the early communion on the first Sunday in Lent. No better way can be devised than this of putting into practice the Lenten discipline of self. If we break through the custom of sleeping late on Sunday morning now, the new habit formed may remain after Lent is over, and be assured that the greater the sacrifices the greater the blessing. ■

FROM THE DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

Calling a Priest-in-Charge as Rector

On the 20th of this month we will enter the last year of the Letter of Agreement between the Wardens and Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church Petaluma, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of Northern California, and the Reverend Daniel Currie Green that describes the terms and conditions of Daniel's service as our Priest-in-Charge. The contract contemplates that, during the final year of the agreement, the Vestry and the Priest-in-Charge will conduct a mutual examination of the mission and ministry in the congregation and discern together whether the Priest-in-Charge should continue in his ministry and, if so, in what capacity.

But why do we have to do this? If we all agree that we love our Priest-in-Charge, why can't we just call him as our Rector and be done with it? The provision for a period of discernment in the Letter of Agreement is there at the insistence of the Bishop. Experience has taught the Diocese that Parishes that come to regret their choice of Rector are those that failed to approach their decision in a prayerful, intentional manner. Therefore, a meaningful discernment process becomes a prerequisite for approval of the Vestry's nomination for Rector. But probably of equal (if not greater) importance is, at this significant point in the life of our Parish, that we take the time to assess what God has set before us at St. John's and seek to understand where we are called to be in the future.

To guide this process at St. John's, last Fall during the Mutual Ministry Review, the Vestry established a Discernment Committee for Calling a Priest-in-Charge as Rector. The Committee met for the first time on February 12th. The agenda for the meeting included a period of worship, a discussion of the discernment process, ratification of the composition of the Committee, establishing a schedule for significant milestones, and developing a communication plan. The Committee agreed to follow, in so far as applicable, the guidance provided by the Diocese for calling a Rector and established the following calendar of key events for the discernment process at St. John's:



Discernment Committee: Marti Shortridge, Tom Rotella (chaplain), Victoria Temple, Nancy Bosch, Clif Hill and Betty Petrillo

- **May 2014** Assessment Step: During a Parish meeting at 11:30 on a Sunday we will address the question "Who are we now and what is our unique mission?"
- **August 2014** Visioning Step: Similarly, at a Parish meeting at 11:30 on a Sunday we will discuss the question "Who is God calling us to be in the future?"
- **September 2014** Interview Step: The committee and the Priest-in-Charge will meet and explore what their initial discernment has revealed.
- **October 2014** Discernment Retreat: On Friday October 17th, a special Discernment Eucharist for the entire congregation will be celebrated by Canon Brit Olson. The next day the Vestry and the Committee will participate in a day-long Discernment Retreat facilitated by Canon Brit.
- **November 2014** The Committee will draft a recommendation letter to the Bishop.
- **December 2014** The Vestry will approve and forward the letter to the Bishop.
- **January 2015** The Diocese will act on the Vestry recommendation.
- **February 2015** St. John's will have a Celebration of New Ministry.

Throughout the process, the Committee will communicate its actions and findings via newsletter articles and monthly reports to the Vestry. While constituted, the Committee has agreed to meet each month on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm in the library. The meetings will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. — **Clif Hill**, Discernment Committee Chair

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

You Deserve a Big Night Out!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, but I find it amazing to be part of an organization in which the time, talent and treasure gifted to it is steadily growing. In my life's experience it hasn't been easy for a community dedicated in practice to "justice, generosity, compassion, integrity, and love" to flourish financially, which is how Father Daniel recently described Jesus' vision of the kingdom of heaven.

I can't tell you how heartwarming it is to read financial reports in vestry meetings that are in the black and show increased income. Some of this has to do with the foresight of our forefathers and mothers; some with the experienced leadership of key parishioners today; some with Daniel's vision, and some with the wise guidance of our diocese. But in the end **it's about you**, because you are the bearers of the gifts of time, talent and treasure dedicated to the renewal of the parish at St. John's Petaluma.

So what's this Big Night Out all about? One could think "if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it."

Our stewardship campaigns and very modest fundraisers have been successful. But after four good years, an ambitious new fundraising project like the Big Night Out can accomplish several important things:

Success breeds success. As a sign of integrity, people support and make donations to what is working, so it's a good time for us to extend our reach.

No mission as broad, deep and profound as ours can be accomplished in isolation. An event like the Big Night Out places us visibly into the community in a good way.

The collaboration between COTS and St. John's is the type of partnership that has historically bonded churches and service organizations over decades in America. The civil rights movement of the last century wouldn't have succeeded without it.

Historic preservation in Petaluma is of concern to our commercial and residential neighbors and to all who live and work here. While we are the stewards of this church facility, asking for help maintaining it is a socially responsible thing to do.

Fundraisers like the Big Night Out build community. They foster collaboration, spark generosity, support social justice work, let people share their talents and gifts, and provide a delightful and delicious opportunity for neighbors to meet and appreciate each other.

The people of St. John's deserve a Big Night Out! It is a celebration as well as a benefit. The cost (compared to value) is moderate. To help successfully launch an annual "not to be missed" community event is important. Participation is a chance to make a real difference.

So please buy your tickets early. Invite two friends to join you, and buy their tickets too if need be. If you can't attend, buy a ticket for someone who hasn't been to St. John's for a while and would really appreciate being back. — **Victoria Temple**

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PETALUMA SINCE 1856

**BIG
NIGHT
OUT**

MAY 3, 2014

A benefit
for
historic
preservation
and
homelessness
prevention

**Nourish
&
Preserve**



SCENES FROM THE ST. VALENTINE'S

Sacred Cabaret "The Subject Tonight Is Love"

featuring Margot Lubliner | Sunday School Choir | New Song Choir | Patty Graham & Mirielle Morshead | Risa Tinsley Green & Kaitlyn Klein | Roger Wise | Wayne Britton | Larry Temple, Marti Shortridge & Robin Temple | Amanda & Teresa Peter | Frances Frazier & Bruce Elliott | Michael Eodice | and a Beatles Sing-Along



A great time was had by all!

Lenten Evening Prayer

AND VENERATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Friday March 14, 21, 28 and April 11
7-8:15 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary

All are invited to come together to pray the Evening prayer and observe a quiet, self-directed Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament as part of your Lenten observance. **Laurie Warren** will lead the Office of Evening Prayer from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. After that you may stay for a Holy Hour praying with the Blessed Sacrament. During the Holy Hour you are welcome to meditate, pray, reflect on a sacred text of your choice, devote the time to a specific prayer intention, or simply be present with other faithful people in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Eucharist is a central focus of our worship in the Episcopal Church. Each Sunday we celebrate the Eucharist with one another in Communion with Jesus, the Holy Trinity and the Saints before us. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in a special tabernacle on the altar over which a candle burns perpetually, reminding us of Christ's Presence with us. It is also reserved for Lay Eucharistic Ministers to take to church members who are unable to attend services due to illness, mobility limitations and other reasons that make it difficult for them to come to church.

The practice of Venerating the Blessed Sacrament dates back to the 13th century. It is traditional in the Roman Catholic Church for people to pray with the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays, throughout the entire church year. Many Episcopal Churches observe this practice during Lent in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Please join us if you feel drawn to participate in this quiet, contemplative practice with others here at St. John's. There is no registration required and you are welcome to any or all of the offerings. If you would like more information, please email Laurie Warren at lewarren@gmail.com or phone (707) 775-1884.

FROM HELEN MOSSMAN

Sharing Our Stories

GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU

Flowers appear on the earth, the season of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle(dove) is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon, 2-11

It is early evening as I sit down to write this month's **Sharing Our Stories** column. Those beautiful lines of poetry from the Song of Solomon made me think of spring and young people and what they mean to St. John's Episcopal Church in Petaluma. It made me want to celebrate who they are.

New acolytes are in training to participate in Sunday worship services. Even their names are like flowers — Rose, Lily, Margot, Sergio, Jorge, Risa and Kaitlyn. I wanted to talk with all of them but in the interest of time I took the next best route and e-mailed a variety of questions to three of the fledgling acolytes.

My first question was: What are your favorite activities in school and out of school?

Sergio's response was this: "My favorite subject in school is math. Outside of school, I like to read, play with Legos, and play baseball and basketball. In fact, I'm playing Little League with my brothers."

I asked Sergio, who is 12 years old, what he likes best at St. John's and he said, "I really like going to Sunday School each Sunday, and I'm enjoying serving as an acolyte for Father Daniel. I also like being friends with the other kids at church and socializing with them at coffee hour."

Lily and Rose said their favorite activity is competitive cheerleading, and they are in training for what is now



Three acolytes were part of the 10 a.m. Candlemas service on February 2.

a team sport. The cheerleaders compete in meets between teams from other schools. Both girls are also learning to ride horses. One of them said her favorite activities are cheer and being able to be with her friends and not be in a hurry or "having to do chores like I am at home."

All three were asked what social problem such as hunger, disease, war, poverty or ignorance they would want to solve. One of the girls said she would choose working to solve hunger "because it makes me sad that we have so much food and they have nothing." Her sister said she wants to help care for abandoned animals.

Sergio answered the question in these words: "The world problem I would most like to solve is helping foster kids and orphans find a forever family, because all kids deserve a good family who will love them dearly."

And that's happening at St. John's this spring. ■



Everyone Welcome!

The mission of **ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** is to bring Christ to Life:

- Celebrating the mysteries,
- Honoring the beauty and wisdom of every person,
- Healing the soul, and
- Serving the peace and renewal of the earth.

February 22

In Touch with the Unconscious

with Meg Tinsley, MFT

Authentic movement is a Jungian-inspired expressive, improvisational movement practice that offers a way of becoming in touch with the unconscious through the body. No movement experience is required, though it is helpful to be able to sit on the floor for about 30 minutes at a time. Please email Meg Tinsley, MFT, at fuzemeg@rocketmail.com to confirm your attendance and for further information.

March 8

Chanting the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic

with Devi Mathieu

Explore the sound and substance of some of the teachings of Jesus, in particular the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke. We will experience simple, traditional practices of chants, prayer and contemplation common to Jesus, his disciples and the people of ancient Palestine. This exploration will be based on the work of Aramaic scholar and teacher Neil Douglas-Klotz.

March 22

Praying with the Body

with The Rev. Daniel Green

Praying can be more than words addressed to God. In this workshop we will explore how posture, gesture, breath, sound and movement can bring concentration, awareness and wholeness to the practice of prayer.

April 5

Religious Art of the Renaissance

with Bruce Elliott, Ph.D.

This Easter season Dr. Bruce Elliott will offer a visual presentation on religious art of the Renaissance, featuring works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rafael and Titian. We will explore ways in which these masters apply their artistic skills and their Renaissance humanist values to infuse Biblical narratives with new life.

May 24

The Story of the Spirit in Man & Mathematics

with Larry Temple

A presentation on the sacred story revealed in the Primary Numbers 1 through 13 including a form drawing workshop in Sacred Geometry, Forms, Rhythm, Essence and Qualities. There will be paper, rulers and compasses available for some simple geometric form drawing.



Bringing Christ to Life

ST. JOHN'S
U

SPRING 2014

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

40 Fifth Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
707-762-8872

ST. JOHN'S U

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

presentations
take place in

Norman Cram Parish Hall

350 "C" Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

For more information
contact **Frances Frazier**

707-484-8229

Franfrazier@aol.com

[saintjohnsepiscopal
petaluma.org](http://saintjohnsepiscopalpetaluma.org)

