



FROM THE DEACON

I am writing to you while returning from my week at Nashotah House Theological Seminary where I have begun my next course of study in Church History. One of the historical elements of our faith has been the practice of ascetical disciplines. A quick search of literature will show that there have been many extreme practices throughout the ages. As the celebrations of Christmas and the New Year wane we often begin the practice of resolutions we made for the new year, resolutions that for some of us are broken sometime in March.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I learned a long time ago not to make promises I don't plan to keep. Sometimes this is phrased "can't" keep. Intention and ability are two different things. One who knows they cannot keep a promise made and makes the promise regardless is different than attempting to keep the promise and failing. The same goes for resolutions and ascetical disciplines; we try but we can't keep the discipline or resolution. We have an example of this in scripture when we hear Paul say I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. (Romans 7:15,19).

Ash Wednesday is March 1st, which means Lent will begin before some of you receive the next Trumpet. As we wind our way through the remainder of this Epiphanytide and approach Lent now is the time to start considering some resolutions or disciplines to practice during

Lent that may be achievable. Ask God, what can I do to show you my love of you, not what will I give up. Then make a promise to God to try to do it. Sometimes this takes the form of extra prayer or just extra time praying, reading a book with a spiritual message, attending a Bible study, organizing a Bible study, going to an extra church service in a week, perhaps saying the Daily Office or talking to that person we avoid.

Talk your plan over with someone you trust that can help you figure out what you want to do and with whom you can discuss that you are having trouble keeping your promise. Sometimes this discipline may take the form of giving. Consider giving a little extra for the hungry or homeless, feeding a neighbor, cleaning that closet and donate the unused clothing to a ministry, skip one meal and donate what it would have cost to a pantry.

Paul also tells us after he confesses to doing the very thing he doesn't want to do, that "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1-2)

To take on a special discipline during Lent is not so that we should feel condemned if we mess it up, it is so that we can rejoice that God has already forgiven us and to remind us that our humanity needs a Saviour. If you mess up, confess it and try again. There is an old joke about two abbots discussing what life is like in each other's monastery. The one abbot says to the other abbot, "The usual, we fall down and we get up."

My prayer for each of you is that your Lenten preparation is Holy and Blessed.

In His Love,

Deacon Randy

PRAYER CONCERNS

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
The Right Rev. William Love, Bishop
David Ball
Daniel Herzog
Rev. Canon Clinton Dugger
Deacon Randolph Lukas
Pastor James
Brother Bill
Pope Francis
Fr. John
Deacon Peter
Metropolitans of Eastern Orthodox Services
Bishops of Lutheran Synods
Archbishop of Canterbury

Missionaries
United States Government
President Trump
Governor Cuomo
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Senator Kathy Marchione
Senator Charles Schumer
Congressman John Faso
Supervisor Colleen Teal

Ann DeVost	Kimberly Harrington
John & Teri Koepp	Richard Jones
Roberta Page	Kristen Thompson
Edgar LaCombe	Melissa
Vince Flanigan	Mark & Sue Bull
The Rev. Christian Agunwamba	Lois Johnson
Nancy Mills	Florence Stock
Doug	Barbara Felter
Marie	Nathaniel
Malina	Beth
Michael D.	Sharon
Jayne Sawin	Pat Ruby
Betty Hicks	Heather Kromer
Rose G.	Scott
Katrina	Bill Bourquard
Bennett	Carolee Hearrel
Janis	Jessi
Eric	Angela B.
George Ertel, Jr.	Lynne E.
Al & Jeanne Mayer	Jane Garnsey
Don Tinney	Peter Guiler
Adrian	Sue H.
Margaret	Rich
U.S. Military – Evan and families	
Church of Our Saviour Parish/Vestry/Prayer Table and Saturday evening contemporary service	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-IN:

Florence Stock
27 Canna Drive
Freehold, NY 12431

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 – Donna Faulkner

11 – Kris Smith

19 – Rosa McKeon

21 – Eugene Browning

22 – Jeanne Marriner

23 – Kent Mooney

24 – Eric May

25 – Ginny Dugger

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

11 – Kris and Steve Smith

If you know of a birthday or anniversary that we haven't included in past newsletters, please leave a note in the church secretary's mailbox in the office or email Kris Smith at pioneer03@aol.com with your date so that I can update my list.

Thank you

VESTRY'S VIEWS

The days are getting longer and the extra light makes the drive home from work so much better. It gives hope that the warm days of spring and summer are on their way. Our Saviour is a light in the valley. Your vestry is working to fix and repair the church and rectory. We are hopeful that the light in the valley stays open for a few more years. Pray to keep the light shining.

Bitsy

VESTRY – 2017

Senior Warden	Elizabeth Sheffer-Winig	(01/2018)
Junior Warden	Mary Young	(01/2017)
Vestry Members	Richard Dauchy	(01/2018)
	Eugenia Browning	(01/2019)
	Tom Stone	(01/2020)
Clerk	Eugenia Browning	
Diocesan Delegate	Mary Young	

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Well it is that time of year again when we look at all the receipts and items that we've saved for that dreaded April 15th! For me in the Church of Our Saviour office I've got lots of things to do.

First, the annual reports must be obtained, printed and assembled for the Annual Meeting. Luckily, with Kris' help, the printing and assembling went fairly fast. Of course, along with the reports, the Church directory is updated, printed and assembled.

Second, the Giving statements are run for the first time. The information is then reviewed for any inconsistencies against the weekly tally sheets. Once everything is checked, the Giving statements are printed, folded and placed in envelopes for distribution. Hopefully, since I'm writing this before the Annual Meeting, people will pick up their Giving statements and any left will be put in surface mail.

The last item on the to do list is to generate the IRS forms for our employees. Didn't know the Church had employees? Besides the office angel, Kris, there are the people who maintain the Church property. There is Barbara who makes everything clean and shiny and the Godfroy family who maintain the grounds.

Of course, the people out front who lead us in worship are employees too – Deacon Randy, Father Frank (once a month) and Father Dugger. As you can see, January is a very busy time in the office. Probably you really didn't want to know what goes on in the office but maybe this might answer someone's question.

Like every other month, there are bills to pay and Giving information to enter, bulletins to produce and of course the Trumpet (thank you Kris for being so creative and being a watchdog on us to meet our deadlines).

See and you thought we just sat around and ate bon-bons (old expression so I'm dating myself). But come Sunday, it is all worth it. The parish family is so special – thank you again God for bringing me to Church of Our Saviour.

One of these Sundays, come join us at Jimmie D's after service – just coffee or even pancakes. Just a fun time for fellowship to start our weeks!

Blessings to all!

Susan Darcy

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Thank you to:

Thank you all who attended the annual meeting and are willing to work to keep serving the Lord through Church of Our Saviour.

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter deadline for the March issue will be ***Wednesday, February 15th***.

If you have any news to share, please send it to

Susan Darcy at susan@darcy-systems.com

or

Kris Smith at pioneer03@aol.com.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 5 -

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

8:00 a.m. Sunday School

Sunday, February 12 -

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

8:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, February 15 – **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!!**

Sunday, February 19 -

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Rev. Frank Lockwood

8:00 a.m. Sunday School

3:00 p.m. Deanery meeting at Church of Our Saviour

(3:00 p.m. Evening Prayer)

(3:30 p.m. Meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Light refreshments will be served)

Friday, February 24 & Saturday, February 25 –
Women's Retreat at the Spiritual Life Center.
Please see the Diocesan website for details.

Sunday, February 26 -

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

8:00 a.m. Sunday School

Coming Up:

Wednesday, March 1 – Ash Wednesday

12:00 noon Service

7:00 p.m. Service

Sunday, March 19 –

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Fr. Lockwood

Friday, June 9 – Sunday, June 11 – Diocesan Convention