



**BITS & PIECES**

# The E-pistle

To submit announcements and news for the next edition, please bring your copy no later than April 5 to Rosemary Halstead in the Parish Office.

## Stations of the Cross in Lent

Calling all parishioners and friends. Be on the lookout for Lenten practice for St. Paul's. You don't need to read any study any Bible passages, all you need to do is pick up some markers. St. Paul's has ordered a large set of Stations of the Cross designed specifically for coloring. We rolled them out (like the pancake supper this week, and you'll start seeing various panels from the set at coffee hour, Lenten Christian education classrooms. We invite everyone during the course of Lent to do what we hope will be some real works of art. A special service for our work! More details on the service will follow. *Susan*

## Our Lenten Focus: Episcopal Relief

This Lent, St. Paul's provides two opportunities for receiving. We're encouraged during this season to address poverty, disaster and disease in their communities, leveraging local resources and expertise to address global needs. For over 75 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has worked with ecumenical partners in nearly 40 countries on local strategies and disaster relief efforts. You can learn more at their website [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org) or pick up a tract at one of the tract racks.

**RECEIVE:** Want a simple, daily way to pray in Lent? A meditation booklet that's available in the narthex, near the plastic tract rack. Consider taking home a copy as a prayerful part of your Lent.

**GIVE:** In the coming week mite boxes (or in ERD boxes) for Parish children and youth are encouraged to take part in the next six weeks. Adults can join this almsgiving project on both tract racks. And remember to return your mite boxes on Easter Day. We'll tally up all the giving and report it back in the May *E-pistle*.

**Youth Group** There will be no March meeting of the Youth group today as we work out what new form a Youth Group at St. Paul's might take.

**Family Game Night is postponed.** The Fellowship Committee regrets that at present there are scheduling conflicts so the March 18 event is being postponed. We look forward to a fun filled night with you at a later date.

**Book Club in March** This month the group, meeting on Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 pm in the Lounge, will discuss: *A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle (224 pages). All are welcome!

**St. Paul's is on Facebook!** Like our page for announcements of upcoming events, interesting happenings in the greater Episcopal community, and fun pics of our parishioners! Simply log in to your Facebook account, type "St. Paul's Church in Morris Plains" in the search box at the top of the page, and hit the Like button on our page.

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# Soup Supper



On Lenten Wednesday's, we're teaming up with our neighbors from the Presbyterian Church to hold a series of soup suppers followed by worship. We'll gather for a basic meal of bread and soup from 6-7 pm, and end each evening with a short Communion service starting at 7 pm. Bible study will follow at the Presbyterian Church, and at St. Paul's you can stay for the *Returning Home* series from 7:30-9 pm. We're alternating sites, so here's the list of where we'll gather during Lent:

March 8 Undercroft, St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
March 15 Westminster Hall, Presbyterian Church  
March 22 Westminster Hall, Presbyterian Church  
March 29 Undercroft, St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
April 5 Westminster Hall, Presbyterian Church

Simply bring a pot of soup to share, or perhaps a loaf of bread. For the two St. Paul's hosting dates, we'll need volunteers to set-up and clean-up afterwards.



### Lent & Easter Memorial Envelopes

to support our worship expenses during the season of Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter are popping up in our weekly bulletin. It takes about \$700 to fund all of our palms, Easter flowers, new paschal candle and bulletin covers for the season. We're starting from zero this year, so every dollar received up to the \$700 budget will be put to this use. Any money received above the goal will be placed in the general Altar Flowers fund to purchase altar flowers on future weeks when there are no donors. Donations are needed ***no later than April 9*** to be recognized in the Easter bulletins. We also need a volunteer coordinator to plan out, order flowers and organize the flowering of the church for Easter on April 15. Flowers need to be ordered in the next few weeks, so step up now. If this might be of interest, check in with Fr. Paul at [rectorstpaulsmp@optonline.net](mailto:rectorstpaulsmp@optonline.net) or Rosemary in the Parish Office for more details.



**Argyle  
Fish 'n  
Chips Dinner**

**Friday, April 7**

# Friday, April 7

Are you up for a simple challenge?????

This year, Argyle's Fish and Chips will be our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year!!! Our goal in the past has been to serve 200 dinners and thanks to you our church family, we have always reached that goal!! Now we need your help to make this bigger and better than ever. My challenge is simple -- just like this fundraiser. If each family buys for their own and then sells at least 2 additional dinners it will be a GREAT success. Pre-sale of tickets will start on March 8th so start getting those orders in!!

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 7th. From 5–7 pm we'll be doing take-out orders and from 5:30-7:30 pm we'll be serving sit down diners in the Undercroft. For \$18.00 an adult and \$9.00 a child you get: a choice of Fish or Chicken with Fries, Coleslaw, Ice Tea or Lemonade, and a Brownie.

The event is only a few hours and involves a lot of people, so I'm also looking for volunteers to help set up or clean up, food runners , servers, cashiers and platers. We will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers real soon. Look for it after church or contact Jeanette DiGiacomo at [abzmom56@gmail.com](mailto:abzmom56@gmail.com) for more information.

## Camp Information Session

Spring is almost here and before you know it, it will be summer. What will your children be doing this summer? If you're anything like me it's something you probably don't even think about until you realize that school's about to end and you don't have a plan. There is a better way.

On **Sunday, March 19** there will be an information session to share more about [Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center](#). During coffee hour information will be available about summer programs for grades 2 – 12. There will also be information for upper class high school and college students interested in finding a summer job. This is an opportunity to learn more about Cross Roads as well as to speak with alumni and their families. Find out why kids love Cross Roads and what keeps them going back.

If you are unable to attend the information session or would like to learn more one-on-one, contact Alethia Carter Stone at [adc1620@yahoo.com](mailto:adc1620@yahoo.com).



## **RAMP: Our March giving opportunity**

*Reach Out to RAMP!*

On Sunday, March 10, we will have the opportunity to reach out to RAMP, which is the acronym for Refugee Assistance Morris Partners ([www.rampnj.org](http://www.rampnj.org)). RAMP is "a coalition of faith-based religious organizations consisting of members representing 10 Protestant churches, two Catholic churches, two synagogues, and two mosques located in the area," according to a press release issued on November 17, 2016. Working with Church World Service (CWS), RAMP was able to bring a Syrian family (a mother, father, daughter, and two sons) to live in an apartment in Morris County this past November. "They had come so far to escape the horrors of war and violence. They had given up everything but hope. RAMP will support the family for their first year in the US. "After that, the family is expected to become self-sufficient," said Gerry Gannon, convener of RAMP. If possible, the group would like to bring a second family to Morris County as soon as possible. But to do so will require both additional financial resources and more dedicated volunteers to help the new family with ESL tutoring, rides to appointments with doctors, social service interviews and job interviews. Volunteers can offer their time through the group's website (mentioned above). Please help RAMP in its continuing effort to assist refugees by

appointments with doctors, social service interviews and job interviews. Volunteers can offer their time through the group's website (mentioned above). Please help RAMP in its continuing effort to assist refugees by putting a contribution into the envelope that is inserted in your bulletin on Sunday, March 10.

# Lenten Christian Education offerings

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Meeting from 10-11:30 am in the Lounge, the group will be working through the series *Returning Home: Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths*. Each week we'll read about and reflect on a Lenten theme, with additional perspective provided from the Buddhist, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish faith traditions. A booklet of materials is needed for the series, so pick up your copy from the tract rack in the narthex or the information table outside the Lounge. Snacks, coffee and tea are always in plentiful supply. Simply bring your bible and your blue booklet of reflections.

## Wednesday Evening Series

Can't make a daytime session? At 7:30 pm in the Lounge, we'll reprise the *Returning Home: Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths*.

## Tuesday nights: the Pilgrim series

We're moving into our final topic of the series – the Beatitudes. We gather on Tuesday evening from 7-8:30 for prayer, scripture reflection and discussion on the weekly topic. Anyone may come, but you'll need a copy of the booklet (available from most booksellers online or through Church Publishing).

**St. Paul's Outreach Program** – There are opportunities to get involved in and help shape the future of our outreach programs at St. Paul's. The organizing committee (Karen Ross, Penny Jones, Susan Robinson, and Lynn Schuenzel) welcomes your thoughts and ideas. Please contact us (Lynn is usually at the 10am Sunday service) or by e-mail, to share your views ... [lynn.haynes@mdlz.com](mailto:lynn.haynes@mdlz.com). Check St. Paul's website <http://www.stpaulsmp.org/>, St. Paul's Church in Morris Plains on **FaceBook**, and Hillview bulletin board for Outreach events coming in the next few months.

## Light of the World

### Middle School Retreat

When: April 21-23, 2017

For youth currently in grades 6th - 8th

Arrive at 7pm on April 21nd

Depart after lunch on April 23th

Cost: \$95 per person

Join us at Cross Roads for "Light of the World," a retreat for middle schoolers! We will be talking about what it means to reflect God's love and light in our schools, our homes and our world. This weekend retreat will be filled with games, bible study, great food, singing and laughter! For more information, go to their website at [www.crossroadsretreat.com](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com)





# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Palm Sunday, April 9

8:00 am Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Liturgy of the Palms with Procession (gather on the lawn)  
& Holy Eucharist *(Church School in session/child care provided)*

## Maundy Thursday, April 13

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Footwashing & Stripping of the Altar

## Good Friday, April 14

12 pm Good Friday Liturgy with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

7:30 pm Ecumenical Tenebrae Service at Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

## Holy Saturday, April 15

10 am Flowering of the Church

## Easter Day, April 16

6:15 am Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Roberts Garden

8:00 am Holy Eucharist with music

10:00 am Holy Eucharist with choir *(Church School in recess/child care provided)*

11:30 am Easter Egg hunt on the lawn

## *March Celebrations in the Parish*

### Birthdays

3/1 Bob Mullen

3/2 Michael Norrie

3/7 Maureen Carter

3/9 Bob Diering

3/10 Kristen Gogerty

3/13 Louise Heick, Kris Taubald and  
Leena Varughese

3/16 Steve Berry

3/17 Charles Taubald

3/21 Stephen Potter

3/24 Bob Sullivan, John Houde

3/25 Kristin Pfeffer

3/28 John Forand

3/31 Brett Smith

4/1 Kelly Hemenway

### Wedding anniversaries

3/17 Amy & Justin Connolly

3/19 Rose Ann & Harry Stevens

3/26 Joanne Chu & Kent Forden



# Interfaith Food Pantry **Help feed a neighbor**

## Serving Morris County

For Lent, we're reminded to more authentically practice almsgiving, prayer and fasting. Perhaps this season is a time to consider making it a weekly almsgiving practice to add an item or two to your shopping cart and provide food for a hungry neighbor. The shopping cart in the Hillview hallway can always use donations. Here's IFP's current list of critically needed items for the pantry:

Please note: Items underlined in red are most needed

**FRUITS & VEGETABLES** – Look for fruit canned in its own juice or with “no sugar added” or vegetables with low sodium or no salt added.

- Canned Fruit
- 100% Fruit Juice – 32 oz. preferred
- Canned Vegetables
- Spaghetti / Pasta Sauce, Tomato Products (sauce, crushed, whole, diced, paste, puree, etc.)
- FRESH PRODUCE from your garden (uncooked)

**GRAINS** – Donate whole grains as often as you can

- Cereal – low sugar, high fiber
- Oatmeal
- Pasta / Whole Wheat Pasta
- White Rice / Brown Rice – 1 or 2 lb. sizes preferred

**DAIRY** – Donate shelf-stable low-fat (1%) or non-fat dairy products

- Parmalat (shelf stable 32 oz size)
- Dry Milk (1-qt. package)
- Evaporated milk
- Calcium-fortified Milk alternatives such as soy, rice or almond milks

**PROTEIN** – Look for “no salt added”, “low-sodium” and canned in water

- Canned Beans – pork and beans, pinto, red or white kidney; NOT green beans
- Dried Beans
- Tuna Fish, Salmon and other canned fish
- Peanut Butter – 18 oz preferred
- Canned Meats and Meals – ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, hash, stew, canned chicken

**SIDE DISHES**

- Rice-A-Roni, Pasta-Roni, etc.
- Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, etc.
- Instant/Dried Potatoes
- Stuffing

**SOUPS**

- condensed varieties
- hearty varieties
- low-sodium – condensed and hearty varieties

- [hearty varieties](#)
- [low-sodium – condensed and hearty varieties](#)

#### **BABY ITEMS**

- [Enfamil Infant Formula](#)
- Baby Food (Fruits, Vegetables, Meats & Meals) – Stage 1 ([Vegetables](#)), Stage 2 ([Meats & Meals](#)), Stage 3
- Diapers – Size N, Size 1, Size 2, Size 3, Size 4, Size 5, Size 6
- Pull ups – Size 2T-3T, Size 3T-4T & Size 4T-5T
- [Baby Wipes](#)

#### **SPECIALTY ITEMS**

- Gluten Free products
- [Boost or Ensure, regular](#)
- [Boost Glucose Control or Glucerna](#)
- Adult Depends
- Tea (100 count boxes)
- Resealable (i.e. Ziploc) sandwich bags and quart sized plastic bags
- Empty Copy Paper Boxes (8.5" x 11") – we use these to sort and store the food donations in our warehouse

## **Bishop Beckwith calls for the election of the next Bishop of Newark**

February 28, 2017

Dear members of the Diocese of Newark,

Earlier today I informed the Standing Committee of the Diocese and the Diocesan staff that I am calling for the election of the next Bishop of Newark. Given that the search and call of a bishop takes 18 months, the Presiding Bishop's office has set a date of September 22, 2018 for the consecration of the 11<sup>th</sup> bishop of the diocese, shortly after I turn 67. When I came to the diocese as bishop, I had made a commitment to my family and myself that I would serve as Diocesan Bishop for ten years. It will end up being nearly twelve. I intend to be fully engaged as Bishop until the time of my successor's consecration.

It has been an enormous privilege to serve as Bishop of this extraordinary diocese for the past ten years. The gift of serving the people and congregations of the Diocese of Newark has been an incredible blessing to me. I have learned so much about God, God's people and myself. I have been cherished and challenged; and I have been warmly welcomed and cautiously greeted – all of which is part and parcel of what it means to be a vital community of faith.

I look forward to continuing the journey with you for the next year and a half. We have much to do as God's people – as we listen to scripture, each other, our communities and the Holy Spirit to help us fashion a new way of living, grounded in the Gospel and rooted in our faith. The collective energy generated from Going Local clergy and congregations, from the fall Listening Tables, from Diocesan Convention and from the growing commitment to engage in disciplined listening, says to me that more and more people and congregations are shaping and being shaped by the journey. We are learning as we go – all the while inviting others to join and offer their creativity and imagination. My hope and prayer is that the process of electing the next bishop will be an invitation to join the diocese on this journey of Joining God in Shaping our Future, offering his or her gifts and wisdom as we continue to see what God is up to.

I don't have any definitive plans after September 22 of next year, other than to have more available time to be a grandfather and get to Fenway Park. That said, my continuing experience here in the diocese has

I don't have any definitive plans after September 22 of next year, other than to have more available time to be a grandfather and get to Fenway Park. That said, my continuing experience here in the diocese has inspired me to discern new ways of joining God in God's work. I can't tell you how grateful I am for learning – here in this diocese, how important that has become.

Peace,

+ Mark W. Bechwell

Mark

*Here endeth the E-pistle*