



† ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMMUNIQUÉ

February—2024

The Newsletter for St. Francis Dunellen

“During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference”

Pope Francis

As Easter approaches, we spend the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week reflecting on the past year and preparing to honor Jesus' resurrection. In 2024, Lent begins on February 14, Ash Wednesday. It officially ends on Holy or Maundy Thursday. That day, the Thursday before Easter, commemorates when Jesus gathered with his 12 disciples to celebrate Passover before he was crucified, which took place on Good Friday. Easter Sunday celebrates the day we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead, three days later.

Why is Easter so early this year? Easter's date changes depending on the year. The holiday is one of several "moveable feasts" in the liturgical year. Others include Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday. Easter is observed on the first Sunday following the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after the spring equinox. Since Western Christianity uses the Gregorian calendar, Easter typically falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

The Lenten season is inspired by the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his own sacrifice. In that same spirit of sacrifice and reflection, many people will give up something they love like chocolate, alcohol or another favorite food. But others prefer to spend the time thinking and praying about something important to them. Maybe that includes ways we can work toward being better or more prayerful people or ways to make the world a better place.

Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday share February 14 this year. Love doesn't depend on chocolates. It doesn't depend on greeting cards. It doesn't depend on flowers. It really depends on looking out for the good of the other person and reaching out to those in need. A call or a visit will go a long way to sharing God's love on February 14th and throughout the year ahead.

Wishing you a Holy Lent and a Blessed Easter.

Pam Maiolo, Sr. Warden

DEACON'S CORNER

Deacon Gerry Welch

It has been very busy since we last visited. I am blessed to be your deacon. My ministry continues to grow and I feel blessed to be a blessing. This season has marked the passing of three of our beloved parishioners. Rest in Peace Norma, George, and Carroll. I continue to do pastoral care for our flock. Please let me know if I can visit or if you just want to talk.

It was fun seeing the church transformed for its seasons. I loved waiting for the Magi. We added to the crèche each week as the Holy Family and Magi drew closer. It was especially lovely when the children carried the figurines to the altar. Thanks guys.

I cannot believe it is almost Lent. Please consider how you might be enriched this year as you prepare for Resurrection Sunday. I would like to help with that. Join me for Lent Madness. Which Saint will win the Golden Halo? <https://www.lentmadness.org/> Maybe you would like to join us for the Bible Challenge? St. Francis and Holy Cross are reading through Bible in a year. Join us on Wednesdays. I continue to pray the Office from church on Wednesdays. Stop on by. I also know lots of other resources. We will participate in Lenten Formation using The Way of Love. Let me know if you need other suggestions.

In closing, join me for Ashes to Go 2/14/24 at the Dunellen Train Station or Greenbrook Care Center.

Wishing you a Holy Lent,

Gerry

Advent 2—Lydia Placing Shepard at Manger





OUTREACH

Outreach Coordinator: Pam Maiolo

Beginning World Changers will be the recipient of our **winter coats, jackets and vests** this year. Collection will continue through the cold month of February. All items should be new or used for adults or children. Used clothing must be clean, spot free with no rips or tears. The donation box is at the top of the entry stairs.

Collection of **non-perishable food** items continues for **St. Paul's Food Pantry** (please see suggested donation chart below).

Plainfield Humane Society needs for **pet food** continues and they are also in need of blankets, towels, rags, sheets & small pillows. (Even if they are lightly used)

Fresh Start at Summit Health continues to collect **women's sanitary** items along with **children's diapers**.

These are on-going and never-ending needs. Please pick something up for donation when you are at your favorite store

St. Paul's Food Pantry Donation Chart

<u>JANUARY</u> Rice & Beans	<u>FEBRUARY</u> Canned Vegetables	<u>MARCH</u> Pasta & Sauce
<u>APRIL</u> Your Choice	<u>MAY</u> Canned Tuna/Meats	<u>JUNE</u> Canned/Jarred Fruit

Lenten Special Donation

The vestry has chosen this year's recipient of our special Lent donations to be **Women Aware**, New Brunswick. This organization's mission is to promote the safety and self-sufficiency of individuals and families affected by domestic violence in Middlesex County.

Women Aware's comprehensive programs provide support across the spectrum of client needs—from emergency crisis intervention to long-term efforts toward independent living. We offer services including a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, community education, support groups, and children's programs. All services are free and confidential.

We will send one check to **Women Aware** at the end of Lent that reflects your donations. Please make checks or electronic donations payable to St. Francis Church with a note that it is for **Women Aware**.

Special Offertory Envelopes

By now most folks have claimed their box of Offertory Envelopes for 2024. In addition to weekly giving envelopes the box contains envelopes for Holy Days and for Special Needs of the parish.

Occasion	Suggested Date
Heat	February
Ash Wednesday	2-14-24
Palm Sunday	3-24-24
Holy (Maundy) Thursday	3-28-24
Good Friday	3-29-24
Easter	3-31-24
Ascension	5-9-24
Pentecost	6-19-24
A/C	July
Thanksgiving	11-28-24
Christmas	12-25-24
2 Special Offerings (designated by you)	Anytime

If you choose to make a Special Offering electronically (Vanco, PayPal, etc.) please be sure to note for what occasion the donation is intended.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

STEWARDSHIP



Walk in Love

Stewardship 2024

Christy McGuire



I know, I know... we're all still recovering from the 2023 Stewardship campaign and thinking about the 2024 campaign isn't on anybody's radar yet. But Stewardship doesn't just happen during a finite campaign or a special season – it's a year-round, nonstop activity and attitude. How can we share our wealth, works, and wisdom *today*?

Well, the new church liturgical calendar (beginning in Advent 2023) also ushers in a new yearlong Stewardship theme from our friends at TENS*. For 2024 our theme is *Walk in Love*. Does it sound familiar at all? It should – it's part of an Offertory Sentence we frequently hear:

*Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2*

They're only three simple, little words but put together they mean soooo much!

“When we walk in love, there is clarity and purpose. We move in alignment with each other and with our values. Walking in love is also something we cannot do alone - by definition it implies connection, community. Whether we walk with our children or our spouse, or form an orderly line, or rely on the help of a friend or a neighbor we carry everyone with whom we are in communion as they carry us with them. Our journey is one made by millions, over thousands of years. A cycle of sharing and invitation.

“What a way to bring our gifts forward: first the bread and wine followed by the offering plates, and finally ourselves - walking in love! When we gather in love, bless, break, and share our gifts and ourselves with the world, we bring healing and transformation to our world.

“This year you are invited to join in the timeless call to walk in love as you share your wealth, works, and wisdom with a world in need.”

- J. Davey Gerhard

Canon for Stewardship and the Executive Director of TENS,

*The Episcopal Network for Stewardship



Walk in Love

Love's Destination: A Lenten Reflection



Lent is a journey, not a destination. It is the ultimate walk in love. As we hear the story of Jesus' physical journey toward Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week, we take our own spiritual journey. We follow that rocky road as our readings walk us through foreshadowing and heartache until we arrive at the foot of the cross.

We are invited on this journey not because we need to suffer as Jesus suffered, but so that we may understand the Grace that comes from living through difficult moments. Jesus models this work, and while he will be martyred and raised, his invitation is not to follow him into death, rather to follow him into the compassion and empathy that come from resisting and crossing over our darkest instincts.

The walk of love teaches us that the path through scarcity and anxiety is in trusting in the abundance we have been shown, the gifts that we have been given. We are, each of us, given gifts to grow God's Kingdom: kindness, generosity, strength, wisdom, creativity, passion, and so many more. Stewardship reminds us to harness and nurture these gifts so that we might be able to share them more extravagantly with those we meet on our journey. |

TENS.org

Questions for Reflection:

As you walk through Lent this year, how will you share your gifts to make the path easier for others?



J. Davey Gerhard is Canon for Stewardship and the Executive Director of TENS. He lives, works, and worships in San Francisco, California.



FEBRUARY HEALTHY BITS

Chris Colwell

Winter in New Jersey can be challenging. Frigid temperatures with snow and ice one day, then almost balmy weather the very next day! During those bone-chilling days, we need to be mindful of safely heating our homes. Below are some heating tips from www.usfa.fema.gov to help maintain a fire-safe home this winter.

Space Heater

- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.

Fireplace

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 10 feet from your home.

Wood Stove

- Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in your wood stove.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.

Furnace

- Have your furnace inspected each year.
- Keep anything than can burn away from the furnace.

Kerosene Heater

- Only use kerosene heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Refuel your cooled heater outside.

Following these simple steps will ensure your homes remain cozy, warm, and safe.

May you and your families continue to share the Blessings of good health.

--Chris Colwell

CELEBRATIONS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Errol Maye	02/01
Facktur Fitz	02/04
Matthew Toke	02/05
Benit Kurian	02/08
Daryl DeRogatis	02/09
Ilia Scriven	02/16
Chris Colwell	02/18
Merris Maye	02/20
Anthony DeRogatis, Sr.	02/21
Richard Trotman, Jr.	02/21
Xavier McConney	02/22
Samuela Crowther	02/26

FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

Benit Kurian	02/08
Christy McGuire	02/11
Juan Tirado	02/19
Sharon Benjamin	02/20

FEBRUARY CONFIRMATIONS

Christy McGuire	02/11
Althea Heirholzer	02/27

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Michelle & Jeff Klastava	02/01
Paul & Carline Sinckler	02/02
Karen & Cecil Baker	02/14

Come Have Fun in Sunday School

Sunday School is held every Sunday at 10AM. Bring your children to Sunday School.

We gather and say prayers. We have a bible study using the gospel reading for that Sunday. We discuss how God and Jesus are in our everyday lives.

We sing songs and hymns while using the small drums and tambourine. Sometimes Miss Kathy plays the keyboard to accompany everyone singing.

After a fun class time of sharing, we join our family and friends in the worship service to take part in the Holy Communion part of the service.

We look forward to teaching our St. Francis children.

Kathy Balenson, Nathalie Edwards
Sunday School Teachers

FEBRUARY MONTHLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 :15PM Intercessory Prayer Group	2	3 2PM Quiet After- noon Retreat (Via ZOOM)
4 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY 8AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site ONLY) 10AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line) 10AM Deacon's Chat	5	6 3PM Contemplative Prayer Group	7 7:15PM Bible Study w/Holy Cross Contact Deacon Gerry for Info)	8	9	10
11 LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY 10AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line) <i>Black History Month Presentation</i>	12	13 3PM Contemplative Prayer Group 5-6:30PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (Milbank Hall)	14 ASH WEDNES- DAY VALENTINES DAY 12PM & 7PM Ash Wednesday Worship 7:15PM Bible Study w/Holy Cross (Contact Deacon Gerry for Info)	15 6:15PM Intercessory Prayer Group 7:30PM VESTRY	16	17
18 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 10AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line) Craft & Coffee – Crocheted Treasures Nathalie & Heather	19	20 3PM Contemplative Prayer Group	21 7:15PM Bible Study w/Holy Cross (Contact Deacon Gerry for Info)	22	23	24
25 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 10AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line)	26	27 3PM Contemplative Prayer Group	28 7:15PM Bible Study w/Holy Cross (Contact Deacon Gerry for Info)	29		

FEBRUARY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

ROLE	USHER <u>On-Site</u>	Camera <u>On-Site</u>	Acolyte	CELEBRANT	FIRST LESSON <u>On-Site</u> Reader	PSALM <u>On-Site</u> Reader	HOST USHER (Zoom & Facebook)	SECOND LESSON <u>On-Site</u> Reader	PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*)	COUNTER
FEBRUARY 4 (Deacon's Chat)	Pam	Vin	Chalicer Tiffany	Rev. Andrew Calandriello	Larry	Olivia	Emma	Grace	Princess	Larry Rillette
FEBRUARY 11	Laura	Gerrienne	Jaeden	Rev. Megan Thomas	Kate	Pam	Emma	Ilia	Laura	Kathy Grace (*)
FEBRUARY 14 7pm Ash Wednesday	Laura	Gerrienne	-	Rev. Canon Karin Mitchell	Chris	Kathy	Emma	Laura	Pam	N/A
FEBRUARY 18	Chris	Vin	Chalicer Amy	Deacon Gerry	Chris	Laura	Emma	Larry	Grace	Marie Cynthia
FEBRUARY 25	Ilia	Michelle	Matthew	Rev. Canon Karin Mitchell	Ilia	Tyler	Emma	Olivia	Kate	Paul Michelle

Robin William's Top 10 Reasons To Be An Episcopalian

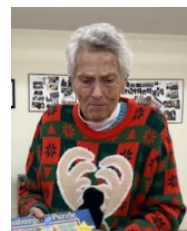
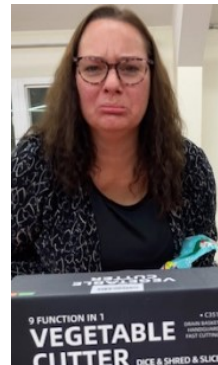
The comedian Robin William's once listed these top 10 reasons to be an Episcopalian:

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry – none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

And the Number One reason to be an Episcopalian:

1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

Women's Christmas Party 2023



I'm outta here.....

SAVE THE DATES!

Half-Day Retreat on February 3

On Saturday, February 3, Marilyn, and I will return with a half-day retreat over Zoom. We gather to mark several lesser-known holidays.

On February 1, Celtic Christians mark Imbolc, a celebration half-way between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. In Ireland, this is also the celebration of St. Brigid's Day. Both celebrations mark the turning of the year toward spring.

For most of us, though, February can be a tough month. It is still typically cold and wet. The days are longer, yes – but not THAT much longer. And the hopeful attitude many of us face on January 1 each new year can sometimes dissolve in the reality of Life.

And yet Imbolc (and Candlemas on February 2) speaks to hope. Winter will end and spring will come.

Join us to explore the wisdom and guidance you might find in silent time with other friends and companions. If you have never come to one of our retreats, there is beginner-friendly guidance, a warm and supportive community, and plenty of time for the Grace of the Divine to appear unexpectedly – just as spring appears when we are not looking.

Join us on Saturday, February 3, at 2 pm ET. Contact me via email at kate.mason.alchemy@gmail.com with any questions and/or to sign up (it is free).

Kate Mason



Shrove Tuesday

Pancake & Waffle Dinner

**Tuesday, February 13th 5PM-6:30PM -
Milbank Hall**

Chef Amy will be serving Pancakes/Waffles/Sausages/Applesauce

Eat-In or Take Out

FREE WILL OFFERING



PLAN AHEAD NOW!!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Saturday, March 16, 2024

5PM – 7PM

Corned Beef/Cabbage/Potatoes/Carrots/Irish Soda Bread

ADULTS - \$15

CHILDREN (Under 10) & VEGAN - \$11

Orders to be placed on-line

Eat-In or Take-Out

Stay tuned for more details!



SAVE THE DATE

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

Sunday, February 11, 2024 11:15 a.m.

EDUCATION IS SOCIAL JUSTICE!

St. Francis Episcopal Church

Dunellen, NJ 08812

Keynote Speaker: Dr. William F. Baskerville, Jr.

Assistant Superintendent- Piscataway Township Public Schools



Reception-Milbank Hall-RSVP -February 2, 2024

Contact Heather at hnunes505@gmail.com or 732 979 -4389

WE REMEMBER.....

Hyacinth Faydelma (Faye) Harper Coker

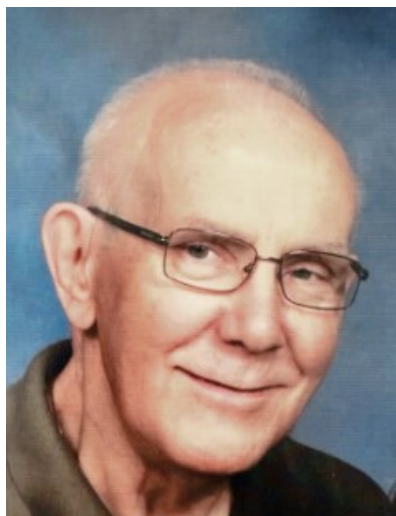


June 6, 1934 – August 16, 2023



Norma Trimmer

1923-2023



David Magee

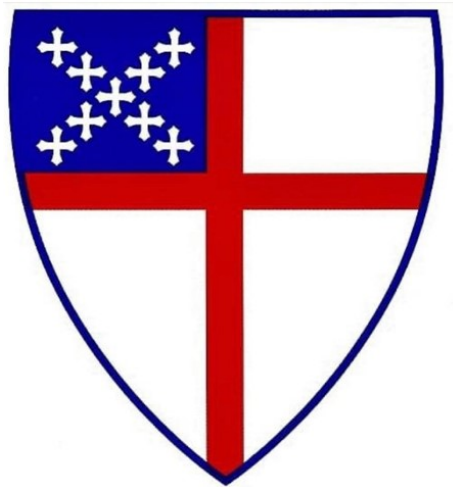
1938-2023



Carroll Wilson, Sr.

1932-2023

St. Francis Episcopal Church
400 New Market Road
Dunellen, NJ 08812



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

www.stfrancisdunellen.org (732) 968-6781

FEBRUARY 2024

Clergy

The Rev. Gerry Walsh, *Deacon*

Vestry

Pam Maiolo—Sr. Warden,
Amy Myzie—Jr. Warden

Christy McGuire
Marie Petit-Hommes
Elaine Patania
Cynthia Pelliccia
Paul Sinckler
Olivia D'Agostino
Gerrienne Breck
Grace McDougall
Michelle Klastava

Non-Vestry

Ilia Scriven—Treasurer, Finance
Administrative Assistant—Trina Rios
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