

The Episcopaper – February 2012



St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Mark J. Miller, Rector

Year-Round Schedule:

Sundays: 8 am and 9:45 am

Thursdays: 10 am and 5 pm

From the Rector:

The great Easter celebration and its preparation during the six weeks of Lent are always a time for reassessing priorities and getting focused on what is central to our lives as Christian believers.

Scheduling Lenten activities, services and events is particularly challenging due to a very active parish schedule. We can turn that into a good thing. We can ask ourselves what are the most helpful Lenten practices, both individual and communal. How best to get ready for Easter? To examine that is itself a very good spiritual discipline.

In the next weeks I will send out via email (and distribute in church) simple questionnaires about various Lenten events, and ask folks to tell us what they find helpful to participate in. This is NOT a sign-up, so don't worry about saying you like a service or gathering, and not be able to attend! We want your ideas.

In fact, this year many of the Lenten offerings will not be series, but weekly prayers and studies which we can use as we are able.

First, let me tell you what IS scheduled for Lent:

1. **Ash Wednesday** (February 22) 6:30 am; 12 noon; and 7 pm (music). A penitential litany, imposition of ashes and Eucharist.
2. **Wednesdays 6 pm** February 8, 15 & 29; March 7 & 14. The Adult Education Committee and Creation Stewards are leading a movie series. Read more about this on page 2, following. This series begins before Lent, and I encouraged the planners reduce their activities during the remaining weeks of Lent.
3. **Thursdays 10 am** Eucharist & Bible Study continues, as does **Thursdays 5 pm** Evening Prayer.

In the coming weeks we will consider what else we all might do, personally and individually, as well as corporately, to be spiritually ready to celebrate the Feast of Feasts, the Day of the Resurrection.

~Fr. Mark

Looking Forward:

- ❖ Ash Wednesday Services Scheduled
- ❖ "Wine Into Wishes" Fundraiser this Saturday
- ❖ Wednesday Night Supper/Movie Series
- ❖ Women's Retreat in February
- ❖ Project Linus
- ❖ Mardi Gras Celebration
- ❖ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Planned
- ❖ Rotary Crab Feed on February 25th
- ❖ Welcome New Acolytes
- ❖ Mark Your Calendars: Holy Week & Easter Vigil
- ❖ Gardening Classes Offered
- ❖ Episcoplayers – Play Ahead
- ❖ Environmental Geek Report

Reflecting Back:

- ❖ Epiphany Celebration
- ❖ Water Gathered from the River
- ❖ Greening Congregation Banner Presented
- ❖ Vestry Report
- ❖ Annual Meeting Wrap-up

Plus:

- ❖ Many Thanks to...
 - Retiring Officers
 - Our Parish "Shutterbug"
- ❖ Cookbook Errata Alert
- ❖ Parish Game Night – to be Rescheduled
- ❖ March Episcopaper Submission Deadline
- ❖ February & March Calendars

**"Wine into Wishes" Fundraiser -
Saturday, February 4th at 6:30 pm**



→→→



Join us this Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. This festive fundraiser is an opportunity to taste several local wines, eat light appetizers and support the needs of our local community. There are some tickets available - \$20 each.

Laurie Gray reports volunteers are needed to set up, clean up, bring appetizers, and act as wine stewards. Please contact her for details.

Like last year, this fun event supports one of the many programs supported by the Outreach Committee. All proceeds from this year's wine tasting support the Everett Gospel Mission Women and Children's Shelter to purchase and outfit additional housing space for their ever-expanding clients' needs.

**Women's Retreat at St. John's -
February 17 & 18**



This year's Women's Retreat is at St. John's on Friday evening, February 17th from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm and all day on Saturday, February 18th from 8:30 am to 9:30 pm. Connie Pynsky, the Retreat organizer, asks that interested women commit to both days to get the full benefit of the program she has planned. There is a \$20 non-refundable supply fee.

Please contact Connie at cpynsky@gmail.com with any questions.

**Awakening the Spirit
Movie Series for All Ages**

February 8 - *Awakening the Spirit* - from the PBS Series: *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*

February 15 - *The Movie Dirt*

February 29 - *Secrets of the Sound*

March 7 - *Queen of the Sun*

March 14 - *Affluenza*

Join us on Wednesday evenings for a light supper and fellowship. Awaken your spirit and renew your connection with God's Creation as we enter this Lenten Season.

6 PM Soup Supper

6:30 PM Movie

On your way home by 8 PM

Special Activities for Kids
Nursery Care Available

Sponsored by the Adult Education Committee
and the Creation Stewards

**Project Linus: National
Make a Blanket Day**

Saturday 2/18/12

12 noon - 5 pm

Zion Parish Hall

330 Union, Snohomish

Help make quilts and blankets to be donated to Snohomish County kids who have experienced traumatic life events. Materials and equipment will be provided. No experience required, but sewers are encouraged to bring their own sewing machine. Volunteers are needed to help anytime between 12-5 pm, or make a quilt or blanket and drop it off. If you have questions, contact Diane at 425-252-4524.

**Mardi Gras Celebration –
Sunday, February 19th**



Join the Sunday School children, as they parade around the Parish Hall during coffee hour on Sunday, February 19th – following the 9:45 am service. Bring your Mardi Gras mask, find your green, purple and gold beads and be part of the parade! We'll all sing and enjoy the celebration!!

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper –
February 21st at 5 pm**

The Men's Club is hosting our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21st from 5 pm to 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall. There will be a donation basket.



Calling All Men: Please contact Rick Jusko at rjusko@gmail.com if you can help.

Lent Begins February 22nd

Ash Wednesday Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes:

6:30 am, 12 noon and 7 pm

Rotary Crab Feed – February 25th

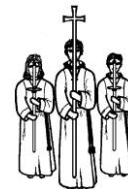
This year the Snohomish Rotary Annual Benefit Crab Feed is at the Snohomish Senior Center, 506 Fourth Street, on Saturday, February 25th. The evening includes fellowship beginning at 5:30 pm, a delicious Dungeness crab dinner from 6:30 pm to 8 pm, an Arts of Snohomish Silent Auction, and a dessert "dash".

See Bob or Pat Knight for tickets (\$40 each) or for more information.

Welcome New Acolytes

Welcome to our two new acolytes: Ann and Drew Sage – our first mother/son team.

Both adults and youth (over age 10 and in fourth grade or above) are welcome to participate in this ministry. Please see Fr. Mark for more information.



Mark Your Calendars: Holy Week Begins April 1st

Palm Sunday is April 1st. More information will be provided in the March *Episcopaper*, but be sure to mark your calendars for the Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 7th beginning at 9 pm.

Gardening Classes Offered this Spring

The Creation Stewards will sponsor three Saturday morning workshops this spring: March 17, April 28 and May 19, from 10 am to 12 noon in the Parish Hall. All of the speakers are WSU Master Gardeners, with a variety of specialties. The March 17th session will be led by Cathy Reed who works at Molbak's. Some of her topics include: growing herbs in small places and containers; choosing a garden site, the right container, garden soil and potting mediums and fertilizer; and herb selections, pairings and needs.



Episcoplayers – Play Ahead



Rumor has it that the Episcoplayers are reprising "See How They Run" – a play full of "rollicking good humor." Scheduled performances: Friday, April 13th and Saturday, April 14th. Stay tuned for details as they develop!

Environmental Geek Report – Get the Garbage out of your Shopping Cart

You are probably thinking that I'm going to write about the importance of staying away from junk food. Good idea, but.....no, this is about real garbage, all of that packaging that just gets thrown away as soon as the food is unwrapped.

Think about it--does this account for a lot of your garbage? Unfortunately a lot of that packaging is not recyclable. I'm a big believer in doing everything we can to cut down on garbage--and anyway, should we be using valuable resources to make packaging that will be used once and then thrown away?

A good start is to bring your own bags to the store. You've heard it from me before--enough said. Most people have some bags, but the problem seems to be remembering to bring them into the store. Keep them on the passenger seat of your car (or in your bike basket). If I forget my bags, I temporarily abandon my shopping cart in the store and go back out to the parking lot to get them. Do that a few times and you won't forget very often.

My other pet peeve is the plastic that is used to wrap bakery products, etc. It's big, it's pervasive, and it generally is not recyclable. My solution to this problem is to not buy anything that comes packaged this way--I cut up my own veggies (it's really NOT that time-consuming) for a vegetable tray, and bake my own muffins, etc. If you don't want to do that, ask at the bakery department to package your purchase in a bag--lots less garbage that way. If many of us

start doing that, we could start a trend toward less packaging. Or better yet, shop at an independent bakery--they don't tend to over-package.

Other non-recyclables--packaging from microwave meals, individual applesauce containers, etc. Try to look for alternatives--buy a big jar of applesauce, for example (or better yet, make your own). But buying in a recyclable jar is a good step in the right direction. Want more ideas? Check out the blog MyPlasticFreeLife.com. She makes me look like a rank amateur.



Challenge yourself. Count up how many bags of garbage you have in a week and try to cut it in half. Enlist your family members--make it a game and it will be fun. Kids love to get involved in something like this. And the bonus--most over-packaged food is also more processed, so cutting down your garbage will also likely result in a healthier diet. Healthier you, healthier planet.

Epiphany Celebration – Wrap-up



The Angels and Holy Family. Photo by Bill Tygret.



Wise Men Offer their Gifts. Photo by Ann Sage.

Close to 90 parishioners gathered on Saturday, January 7th, to celebrate Epiphany and the conclusion of the Christmas season. Children participated in a “living nativity” and three special Wise Men presented their gifts. We sang and shared an Epiphany cake, with its tokens inside.

All enjoyed the potluck fare – a “tour” of the St. John’s cookbook and new supplement. Many thanks to John and Barb Macho who organized the evening. If you don’t have a copy of the St. John’s cookbook and the supplement, they are available to purchase - \$5 for the cookbook and \$3 for the supplement.

Water Gathered from the River and Blessed



On Saturday, January 7th, ten people joined Fr. Mark in carrying water from the Snohomish River back to the church. They prayed before setting out, and said prayers of blessing at the river. The water was purified and blessed on Sunday, January 8th, for use in blessings and baptisms for the rest of the year. Some water was also blessed and is available for use at your homes or in the gardens, whatever you would like.

Greening Congregation Banner Presented



The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord was celebrated on Sunday, January 8th at both services. We blessed water gathered from the Snohomish River, and were joined by Jessie Dye, Outreach Director, and Betsy Cannon, Outreach Coordinator of Earth Ministry, who presented a “Greening Congregation” banner to St. John’s.

Vestry Report

The January Vestry meeting, originally set for January 16th, but postponed due to snow, was held on Monday, January 23rd. The Vestry gave approval in principle to a proposal from the Creation Stewards to build raised beds in the back church yard to grow flowers for the altar, and produce for local food banks and for the Community Kitchen. The 2012 budget was approved as presented. Al Mixon was elected as Junior Warden.

Your Vestry Members are: Mike Allert (Senior Warden), Al Mixon (Jr. Warden), Jud Chapin, Cathy Davis, Clarice Gregory, Steve Kenagy, David McConnell, Dottie Nelson, Jack Norvell, Lin Nyberg, Marsha Russell and Nancy Vandenberg.

Annual Meeting Wrap-up

On Sunday, January 22, we gathered together at one worship service, followed by the Annual Meeting, which was attended by 70 voting parishioners. The children were busy with special activities under the direction of our Nursery Employee, Leah Caton, who was assisted by Chase Cote and Charlie Sevenants.

Fr. Mark called the meeting to order, and Dottie Nelson, Senior Warden, offered an opening prayer. Following the Senior Warden's and Junior Warden's Reports, the next order of business was to thank outgoing Vestry members: Sharon Hall, Jerry Johnson, Rick Jusko and John Macho. Newly-elected Vestry members (three-year terms) are: Clarice Gregory, Steve Kenagy, Al Mixon and Lin Nyberg.

Outgoing Vestry officers were recognized: Dottie Nelson, who served a three-year term as Senior Warden, and Jud Chapin, who served a two-year term as Junior Warden. They both remain on Vestry. The entire parish thanks Dottie and Jud for their diligent, hard work! Jack Brenchley, retiring member of the Endowment Committee was recognized for his years of service – Jack was a founding member of the Endowment Committee.

Fr. Mark announced the selection of Mike Allert as Senior Warden. Finally, our representatives to the 2012 Diocesan Convention were elected. Delegates are: Jim Church, Cathy Davis, Eivind Nilsen and Sally Wesley. Alternates are Eleanor Church and Richard Davis. Various reports followed: the 2011 Financial Report, the 2012 Budget, Creation Stewards, College of Congregational Development Team, Outreach Committee and Adult Education Committee.

Written Committee reports from the Adult Ed Committee, Altar Guild, Communications Committee, Creation Stewards and Worship Committee can be found [here](#). Financial reports will be provided upon request to the church office.

Many Thanks to...



Dottie Nelson

...Dottie Nelson, our Senior Warden for the last three years, as well as teaching the preschool Sunday School class, attending more meetings than she ever imagined, and is a member of the Congregational Development team. Dottie likes to say that St. John's is the small church with big ideas. Thanks, Dottie, for your service!



Shirley & Jack Brenchley

...Jack Brenchley, a founding member of the St. John's Endowment Committee, is retiring from the committee. Thank you, Jack, for your many years of service on the Endowment Committee, as well as the many years you served as our Treasurer. Thanks to Shirley, for sharing Jack with us!

"Many Thanks to..." (Continued from previous page)



Preparing for April 1, 2010 Agape Dinner...



...Checking out the Furnace. Photos by Mary Nilsen.

...Jud Chapin, our Junior Warden for the past two years. You never knew where you might find him! Thanks, Jud, for overseeing so many projects during your term, including the "big ones": sewer line replacement, exterior painting of the building(s), and...the locks!



Bill & Helen Tygret-April 9, 2009 Agape Dinner
Photo by Mary Nilsen

...our Parish "Shutterbug" – Bill Tygret.

Bill has taken photos of St. John's events and services since he and Helen transferred to St. John's.

He has a "library" of over 75 discs of photos - approximately 1,800 (plus or minus) photos that he has taken for St. John's since early 2006. Bill started taking photographs at age 13 with an Argus "A1", purchased by monies earned from mowing lawns, picking apples and cherries, and working on his Granddad's farm. In total, over 25,000 photographs to date!

Bill reports that when using film instead of digital memory cards, his photo taking was less prolific than now. After giving his expensive film cameras to his kids and grandkids, Bill has turned to less expensive ("drugstore") cameras to stay active in photography. He has found the challenge of using unsophisticated equipment has actually improved his skills, i.e., he chooses and utilizes better subject matter, better composition, works with natural light without using flash or flood lighting, and uses computer photo enhancement programs to augment/improve the photos he takes.

Thanks, Bill, for your dedication and photography skills!

Cookbook Errata Alert – What's Chili without Chili?



Pull out your St. John's Cookbook, and make the following correction: June Gregory's Vegetarian Chili recipe [page 20(i), in the Soups & Salads section] of the Cookbook Supplement is missing a key ingredient: Chili! June reports that one tablespoon (or more) of chili powder should be added, along with the tomatoes, tomato sauce, beans and cumin.

Parish Game Night to be Rescheduled

Our Parish Game Night, originally scheduled for Saturday, January 21st, was cancelled due to the snow and ice. It will be rescheduled – hopefully after Lent. Details to come.

Deadline for March Episcopaper

Please email submissions for the March *Episcopaper* to the church office at office@stjohnsnohomish.org – on or before Monday, February 20th, with "Episcopaper" in the subject line.