



Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, February 24, 2023

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

“Forgive me, Father.”

I don't know how many movies I've seen in which a penitent enters a confessional, kneels before a screen, and says to the priest sitting on the other side of the screen, “Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned.” While that practice was clearly a part of Catholic faith and life - and many Mafia movies - prior to the Second Vatican Council of the early 1960s, it has changed considerably and looks much like the practice employed by Episcopalians in the U.S. and Anglicans in Canada.

The next time you have The Book of Common Prayer in your hands, at home or in church, open it to page 447 and take a look at the ritual of reconciliation. When you think about it, there are few places in American society where one can speak the truth about oneself with absolute confidentiality, knowing that whatever is said will go to the grave with the priest. The very act of unburdening oneself can be more an enormous relief as whatever is said no longer needs to roam around within one's thoughts or dreams: it has been spoken into God's mercy and love. It need no longer be carried around as a burden.

Should you seek a reconciling and confidential conversation, simply send an [email to me](#) and we'll arrange a time to meet, asking God's mercy on both of us.

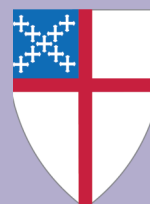
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Upcoming Events

- First Sunday in Lent, Holy Eucharist, **February 26**
- Veterans Village Prep, **February 26**
- Evening Prayer and Soup Supper, **March 1**
- Lent Quiet Morning **March 4**
- Rector Search Committee **March 5**
- Evening Prayer and Soup Supper, **March 8**
- Garden Clean-up Party, **March 11**
- Adult Formation: Water, Light, and Life Lead Us to the Three Days, **March 12**

Click Here to Donate
to *Deck the Halls*
(Wells Hall)



We strongly encourage masking during worship, mindful that we worship among people who need added protection. Masking not only protects us but also our neighbors.

Need Help??

To add to our prayer list, email the Parish Administrator. If submitting a name other than your own, please ask permission from that person first. Names remain on the list for **four weeks**, unless renewed by the one who submitted them.

In a **pastoral emergency**, please contact Fr. Torvend.

Parish Help Team: Errands run, groceries, meals provided, medication pickup, vaccination transportation, etc., contact Deacon Gen Grewell or call her cellphone at 360.280.5593. You may speak with a deacon on Sunday at the **10:30am Holy Eucharist**.

Christ Church Prayer List

Our baptismal commitment calls us to pray for the world and the needs of our community, including those who are experiencing any sort of trouble, illness, or grief.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Members and Friends of our Community:

Lloyd Albert; Tammy Creley; Megan McCarren; Liz Heath; Robert Reeves; Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; Dick Gregory; Bill Garriott; Stephen Behr; Christinna Olsson; Melissa Glick, Ginny Peterson; Morrie Stafford; Teena Kidder; and Jim Pierson.

Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them: Ellen Kjesbu; Debbie Oakman; and Lois Garriott.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Ascension, Seattle • Epiphany Seattle • St. Clement of Rome, Seattle

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Church of the Province of South East Asia

Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma *Weekly* Newsletter

The Rev. Samuel Torvend, Priest for Worship, Adult Formation, and Pastoral Care

Deborah Hope Breneman, Editor/Design and Layout

The *Weekly* is a publication of Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma.

Please visit our website at Christchurchtacoma.org to connect to newsletter links and previous editions.

Christ Church Calendar

To submit an article to the *Christ Church Weekly*, contact the Parish Administrator.

Articles must be submitted by Tuesdays to be included in the Friday edition, and may be edited.

We never share your information outside the church family.

Land Acknowledgement We gather at 310 North K Street. Let us give thanks to the Creator for the Puyallup and Nisqually people on whose ancestral land this church and many of our homes stand. Their descendants live among us still. For their wise stewardship of the creation, we offer our gratitude. May we never forget that their land was taken by force and broken treaty.

Episcopal News Service • Episcopal Church on Facebook • Diocese of Olympia Bishop Rickel's Blog



Worship 101

What to consider in Lent

Perhaps you know that like Advent, the season of Lent is a *preparation* for what comes next, and what will come next are the *Three Great Days* of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and their culmination in the Great Vigil of Easter on the evening of Holy Saturday. At the Easter Vigil, we will renew our baptismal vows, unique among all forms of Christian faith and life: vows that no other Christian communion makes.

While earlier generations of Christians were taught to focus on the need to be forgiven of personal sins, New Lent invites us to reflect on how these vows shape our daily lives. Perhaps, then, each of us can spend a few moments in each week of Lent meditating on the promises we've made:

- ◇ To continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers;
- ◇ To persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, to repent;
- ◇ To proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ;
- ◇ To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving the neighbor as oneself;
- ◇ To strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being; and
- ◇ To cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation.

Which ones are stronger in your life? Which ones might have been overlooked and need strengthening? Which one or ones seem a real challenge? For instance, the vow to serve Christ in all persons, inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 25 ("I was hungry and you gave me food"), does not say

"serve some persons who think and act just like me." It's no easy thing to say, each day, "Give me sight and strength, O Christ, to recognize your presence in each person I encounter today." And yet this is one of the spiritual practices we are called to practice so that it works its way into our flesh and bones, our hearts and minds.

Sunday, February 26

The First Sunday in Lent

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:30 in Trinity Chapel and at 10:30 in the church. At the 10:30 Eucharist, look for a new (but well-known) setting of the liturgy - and singing the Lord's Prayer. Throughout this period of transition, we are exploring the many options in the Book of Common Prayer: during the Sundays of Lent, we'll sing a different setting of the Prayers.

Weekly Altar Flower Donations

There are still a few Sundays available for flower donations; please sign up in the Narthex. ***Please note that due to our arrangement with our florist, we are unable to accept specific floral requests.***

February is Black History Month

In honor of this month devoted to Black History in the United States, we are presenting Black Episcopalians who are commemorated in our church's calendar.

Amanda Berry Smith

Amanda Berry Smith was an evangelist, missionary to Africa, and founder of an orphanage and school for Black children. She was born into slavery on January 23, 1837 in

Worship

Long Green, Maryland. Eventually her father worked for wages at night to buy freedom for himself and his family. Amanda's attempts to gain a formal education failed because schools were not available or segregation excluded her as a Black child.

In 1854, she married Calvin Devine. Calvin enlisted in the Union Army and never returned home. In 1855, while gravely ill, Amanda had a dream in which she was preaching at a church gathering. She recovered from her illness, her dream of preaching vivid in her memory. In 1865, she

married James Smith, a marriage that was made difficult due to the early deaths of their children. When James died in 1869, Amanda began to preach and sing at informal church gatherings. Nine years later, she travelled to Great Britain, India, and then Liberia: a nation in West Africa founded by free Blacks from the United States. For eight years, she taught Liberian children and preached at church services.

Upon her return to the United States, the memory of her exclusion from white schools prompted her to fulfill a long-time dream. With assistance from Black women in the United States and Great Britain, she established a school in the Chicago suburb of Harvey. It was called the Amanda Smith Orphanage and Industrial Home for Abandoned and Destitute Colored Children. For a number of



Amanda Berry Smith, evangelist, missionary to Africa, and founder of an orphanage and school for Black children.

years, she worked zealously at the school but ill health led to her retirement. She died on February 24, 1915, the day on which she is commemorated in the Calendar of the Episcopal Church.

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Amanda, whom you called to preach the Gospel here and abroad. Raise up in this and every land

evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Formation

Wednesday, March 1

Evening Prayer at Table

6:00 PM in Wells Hall

Join us for evening prayer and a simple soup supper: a time for common prayer, good conversation, and delicious soup. If you plan to come, please *sign up* on the sheet at the glass table in the church entry-way on *Sunday, February 26*. Evening prayer with soup supper will continue each Wednesday in Lent.

Saturday, March 4

Lent Quiet Morning

10:00am to 12:00 noon

In the church

The Daily Office Team invites you to Morning Prayer in the church at 9 AM, followed by refreshments in the entry way. The Quiet Morning will then begin at 10 AM in the church (and will be live-streamed as well). We will reflect on how ancient monastic wisdom can lead us to keep a fruitful and life-giving Lent. While this is a free event and open to all, your donations

at are always welcomed.



Sundays, March 12, 19, and 26

Water, Light, and Life lead us to the Three Days

11:45 AM in the Parish Library

In these three gatherings, we will discuss how each image from the Sunday's gospel invites us into a closer relationship with Christ, each other, and the world in which we live - with art, music, and spiritual reflections.



Godly Play, our Children's Formation,

is now every Sunday through mid-June. Meet in the Narthex at 10:30 am to travel to Wells Hall together on Sundays.

Thank you from the Profile Committee

We are happy to report that the 2023 Christ Church Profile has been completed and approved by the Vestry. You can view it in the [website](#) under “Employment Opportunities.” The Profile Committee would like to thank the congregation for its support and patience as we produced this document. It has been a long process, and we hope that you will consider it worth the wait.

We are proud of our parish. It was important to us that we represent the profile in all its specialness while striving to keep it “concise, candid and cohesive.” We were ably assisted by several members of the Diocesan staff who provided ideas, edits, and suggestions at all stages of this journey. And we especially want to thank Milana McLead, who provided us with the layout of the text and photographs (thank you Winfield!) which brought the Profile to life.



The Profile Committee gathered on February 17th to celebrate the completion of its task. L to R: (back row) Ron Fields, Don Johnson; (front row) Sue Stibbe, Vikke Pierson, Brianne Knudson, and Anne Avery.

As the Search Committee begins its work, we pray that the 2023 Profile will assist them in their process by providing them with a great pool of candidates for our next rector. We anticipate continued active support from the Diocesan staff.

Gratefully,

Your Christ Church Profile Committee for 2023: **Anne Avery, Ron Fields, Don Johnson, Brianne Knudson, Sue Stibbe and Vikke Pierson.**

Community

Want to have a bit of fun this Lent? Yes, you can have fun in Lent. Check out Lent Madness! (www.lentmadness.org) The same group that publishes Forward Day By Day, Forward Movement, brings us Lent Madness. Fathers Tim Schenck and Scott Gunn started Lent Madness in 2010 as a fun way to learn about the men and women on our Church calendar. Since then, it has expanded to include many worthy folks who didn't make it onto the calendar. Modeled on the brackets for the March Madness NCAA basketball tournament, Lent Madness has you voting among 32 'saints' of the Church, who are divided in brackets, and who advance to future rounds, until one Saintly Survivor is crowned with a Golden Halo.

LENT MADNESS

This year the brackets are Royals Roundup, Modern Mayhem, Ancient & Apostolic, and Mostly Monastics. Not sure how to choose between Augustine of Hippo and Hippolytus of Rome (yesterday's battle)? Short bios are published daily to help you choose who gets your vote, and perhaps so you can learn about these people in the process.

Let's have some fun. If you are participating, come find me at Coffee Hour so we can debate our choices. I'm hoping that someone from Modern Mayhem is crowned! What do you think? ~Deacon Donna Arellano



Community

Christ Church members and friends gathered on Shrove Tuesday for the burning of the palms to be used on Ash Wednesday and for a delicious pancake supper made possible by Rod Blackburn, Dorie Hahn, Robert Hicker, Jim Limerick, and Pam Vidan. But, there is one person who supervised the preparation of this wonderful repast and that is **Caroline Huckaby** who has been leading preparation of Shrove Tuesday's festive supper for 26 - yes, count 'em - 26 years!



Robert Hicker and Rodney Blackburn at the stove.



Caroline Huckaby and Pam Vidan

To Caroline, we owe our thanks for many years of faithful service in the kitchen and at the altar. Thank you, Caroline, for making this a truly festive occasion. We had the largest crowd in memory gathered in Wells Hall this past Tuesday.



Signing the Alleluia Banner

And thanks to Christi McCarren for overseeing the creation of the Alleluia Banner, to Tim Chen for assisting with the burning of the palms, all those who brought palms from their homes, and the many who assisted in cleaning up. What a great way to bid farewell to one season and prepare to enter into this next season of grace.



Mardi Gras Family Games



Shrove Tuesday pancakes, sausage, and fruit are enjoyed by all.

~Fr. Samuel Torvend

Community

More
Shrove
Tuesday
Fun!



Community



**Wells Hall Renovation
Updates this week...**



Above and left: the stage curtain valance is removed, and painting begins.

Below: the stage is ready for our next production...now all we need is a new curtain and lights! (Just be glad you didn't have to go up that ladder!)



Community



Starting top left and going clockwise: samples of potential accent colors; Pam Vidan and Project Manager Nancy Gow Knudsen in the upstairs newly-painted restroom; the floor tile next to the wall color; painting the hall over former radiator; painting crew member showing us where the accent wall is.



Daily Office at Christ Church

◇ Monday 9:00am*
Morning Prayer

◇ Tuesday 7:30am*
Lectio Divina

◇ Thursday 7:30am*
Morning Prayer

◇ Saturday 9:00am
Morning Prayer

*zoom link available at
[christchurchtacoma.org/
calendar](https://christchurchtacoma.org/calendar)

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

February 26, 2023:

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



Bulletin for 10:30am

Visit [Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar](https://christchurchtacoma.org/calendar) for weekday Morning Prayer, Lectio Divina, and Conversation & Compline Service Schedule

Online Daily/Weekly Devotion information:

[Forward Day by Day](#) | [Episcopal Church Weekly Reflection](#)

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO:

