

March 28, 2019

“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”

On Sunday, March 31

— 8 am Said Eucharist

—10 am Sung Eucharist

Sunday School meets in the Undercroft at 10am

—11:15 am Coffee Hour

—2:30 pm Service at Lakeside Manor

—6 pm AA meeting

Inside this issue:

—“Checking In” - Lenten message from Fr Bill Baker

—Meetings and Events for the next few weeks

—Volunteers needed for the Maundy Thursday supper 6PM at Ascension—joint with St John’s

—Readers needed for the Richmond IPC Lenten Program

Photos from St Patrick’s dinner (with DJ) at St John’s



Ascension This Week

Checking In — from Fr Bill Baker

Helicopter moms check-in with their children. I believe they want to make sure that their kids are doing what they are supposed to do with their lives and also--that they are thriving! I risk this week sounding like a helicopter “father”, pardon the expression. I want to check-in and make sure that our Lenten journeys are going well—that our congregation is thriving!

At the onset, I suggested making this season of Lent into a journey and hoped that we would incorporate some spiritual aids and practices to deepen our relationships with God. So, how are we doing? What about the things that we gave up or took on for Lent? How about your prayer life? Have you attended the IPC Lenten Program, studied the Bible or served those who have less than we have? Three weeks in does it seem easier or harder to maintain these disciplines?

I know the first week of a new diet is always hardest. Since changing my eating habits, I have lost 8 pounds in the last couple of months. Today, it is easier to eat smaller amounts and feel satisfied. I hope that your sacrifice has both been a willing one and has seemed like less of a sacrifice because of your willingness.

What about your discipline has surprised you most? Have you enjoyed something or has something tickled you? What has been the hardest part? Do you have any wisdom about the journey that you could impart to your fellow Ascensionites?

However it is going we are about halfway done. I hope and pray things are going well for us this Lent. However, if you are struggling with your discipline, we were reminded on Sunday in the Parable of the Fig Tree, about a languishing tree, that God offers us second chances. If the first half of Lent you have been distracted or lazy--Start over. Get back into the game and try again. We still have half of Lent to study our faith and ourselves in order to better understand God’s love and grace in our lives.

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I encourage you to check in with each other and, if need be, please speak to me. We are stronger when we support and uplift one another as a church. I believe we also grow when we can work through our struggles and come out the other side. Finally, if you are looking for something to do this Sunday, please attend the IPC Lenten Program at St. Andrew's this Sunday at 4:00. We will be doing Stations of the Cross written by a deacon from the Diocese, The Rev. Joanna Depue. All my prayers,

Blessings, Fr Bill+



An Opportunity for Service

In case you still want to serve the community this Lent here is a program to consider! Ascension partners with Stapleton UAME Church to assist with their many programs. This relationship goes back many years. Both Artie Ullstrum and Bill Sorensen volunteer for these programs and all the food that we collect on Sunday goes to support their Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. Amazingly, all their programs operate out of the small first floor space in a house that serves as their church on Thompkins Avenue.

Here are a listing of Stapleton UAME's programs. They operate a Food Pantry on Tuesdays and Fridays during the day. In addition, they run an Outside Food Ministry on the street in front of their church to distribute large food donations quickly from time to time. The Soup Kitchen operates on Mondays from 3-4pm and Wednesdays from 12-1pm. Artie and I dropped off food once during the Soup Kitchen hours and the food looked delicious—big plates of fried chicken with collard greens. They also operate a Clothing Give Away on Thursday from 10am-12pm. Finally, they have an After School Program on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3-5 pm.

The programs rely on donations and City grants in order to stay open. One of their major fundraisers is their Annual Martin Luther King Dinner Celebration and Awards Dinner. It has been an annual event for the last 14 years and our own Bill Sorensen is a past recipient. The next dinner takes place on April 5th, 2019 and Bev and Bill Sorensen and I will attend in order to support their programs.

Stapleton UAME is located at 49 The Reverend Dr. Beasley Way on Tompkins Ave. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please call their pastor, The Rev. Maggie Howard, at 718 749 2933.

Opportunities to Help:

Maundy Thursday (April 18): This year, at Ascension we will be coordinating with St. John's to host a joint Maundy Thursday light supper of soup and rolls at 6:00 pm, just before the 7:30 pm service. We are in need of several volunteers to bring a pot of soup and others to bring rolls and or beverages. Help can also be used for setting up, cleaning up, serving.

Please contact Diane Gurgone to volunteer : e-mail: dianelmt@mail.com or phone (718) 982-7291 or text (347) 495-3383.

Sunday, March 31: Still need a few more readers for the "Stations of the Cross" Annual IPC Joint Lenten Service—4pm at Church of St Andrew, Hemsley Hall, 40 Old Mill Road, ST 10306. Rehearsal at 2:30. **Contact Fr Bill (wbaker@vts.edu) or Deacon Geri (deakswan@aol.com) if you would like to participate.**

Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:

***Thursday, March 28:** Adult Forum/Lenten study at Ascension, 7pm in the rectory. A light supper will be served. Meetings continue through Lent.

***Sunday, March 31:** Adult Forum/Lenten study at Ascension after coffee hour. Meetings continue through Lent.

Sunday, March 17 through Sunday, March 31, at St John's: LENTEN SERIES, "The Way of Love" Held during coffee hour, 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM, Eccleston Hall/ Community Room

Sunday, March 31: "Stations of the Cross", written by the Rev. Deacon Joanne Depue. Annual IPC Joint Lenten Service at 4PM, Church of St Andrew, Hemsley Hall, 40 Old Mill Road, Staten Island, 10306. 718-351-0900.

Thursday, April 18: Joint Maundy Thursday light supper of soup and rolls with St John's. 6PM at Ascension.

Saturday, May 4: *Mothers' Day Off.* More information to follow

Saturday, May 4: Spring 2019 Youth Lock-In presented by Richmond Inter-Parish Youth Council. Christ Church at 5PM. Worship! Games! Music! Food! Friendships! Grades 6th—12th. Permission Forms Required—please submit by March 28. Permission form printed in last week's newsletter, which is available on the website. (Ascensionsi.org— Home Page, then select from the left margin.)

For more information or questions, please contact:

Christ Church NB: Catherine Barnett, cgb1@hotmail.com

St. Albans: Chris Gerard, christian.girard@msnbc.com

St. Andrews: Pam Mullane, pamelamullane46@gmail.com

Saturday, June 8: St John's community yard sale. More information to follow.



Photos from Vivian Murray's post in St John's Episcopal Church Staten Island—taken at the St Patrick's Day fundraiser event. More photos are available in her post.



1 Kingsley Ave, Staten Island, NY 718.442.4187

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