

the COURIER

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The Newsletter of Christ Episcopal Church
Dearborn, Michigan

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What is Truth?

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21 NRSV)

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12 KJV)

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

What is truth?

When Jesus says that he is the way, and the truth, and the life, he is pointing Christians to something that has more depth and breadth than most Americans realize. We tend to think that there is only ONE thing that can be true and if that one thing is true then other things are false. But Jesus does not mean that. Which is why he says he is the way, and the truth, and the life. For Jesus, truth is a multi-faceted reality that includes the experiences and viewpoints of many people, the Samaritans, Gentiles, and Jews. Truth is like more like the Chinese ideogram for the word truth, which means ten different eyes or ten different perspectives.

Truth as Jesus used it comes from the Hebrew word *emet*, which includes the first, middle and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The truth is not one moment in time, but a movement from the past through the present and into the future. To understand truth as Jesus uses it, one must know all of what God intends, past, present, and future. And, we can never fully know that since we do not know all of the past, only some of the present, and none of the future. The truth as Jesus intends it means that there will always be multiple points of view to be explored and considered. Hearing the truth as Jesus intends creates a process of building the beloved community through listening to one another and learning from one another, through taking the time for introspection, for self-awareness and for other awareness. However, certain characteristics of truth prevail. For example, the truth as Jesus intends it is anchored in love. Not a sentimental love, but the love that has its roots in the baptismal covenant vow to respect the dignity of every human being, which is a second characteristic of Truth as Jesus intends it. Third, that we are to

be held accountable for our actions, and fourth, we are to be mature, compassionate human beings who act with integrity. Truth as Jesus intends it is grounded in a mature love that respects the dignity of all people, acts with integrity, and holds one's self and others accountable for upholding this truth this way.

Michael Curry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, invites us, on every Wednesday from now until the first Wednesday of Advent (December 2), to pray, to fast, to repent, to take action, to turn to God. He calls us to pray for this country and its leaders. This is a political act, but it is not a partisan act. It is Gospel politics because love as God intends it confronts the principalities of this world that work against God. Jesus was engaging in Gospel politics when he confronted Rome. We are to do this because we are committed to Jesus and his way of love. We are to do this because we love our country, and we are concerned about its moral and spiritual health and well-being. Engaging in these practices will be courageous because taking time to be intentional with God will be transformational. A person is never the same after intentional time with God and it takes courage to enter into, to live through it, and to stay with it until one comes out on the other side.

Practicing courage through Lent is an invitation to see challenges as opportunities to grow emotionally and spiritually stronger. Practicing courage is a process. Maybe the challenges in your life are relatively small yet seemingly insurmountable. Like, the courage to get out of bed when depression is overwhelming. The courage to take the next step when pain is overwhelming. The courage to become more aware of the circumstances in your life that have wounded you, so that you are not led by your wounds, but by your healing.

What about the courage to become really clear about your values and beliefs and to live from them without the need to make others think or believe the same way you do. And what about the courage to let others think and believe what they do without the need to argue or debate or diminish or demean them?

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At Christ Church we will have opportunities during Lent to engage in this practice of courage. You may find yourself engaging in the practice of prayer, fasting, repentance, action, and turning to God, every Wednesday until December 2. Other opportunities include:

- On various occasions, dates still being developed, we will hold conversations on conflict, violence, and war in the world, using the digital art piece, *Lamentation for the Forsaken* as our premise. We will also have a viewing of the academy award nominated film, *For Sama* which is a documentary on the war in Aleppo, Syria.
- Then, on Sunday mornings we will have adult forums that help us take a look at who we are and whose we are. These will include considering some of the documents that are foundational to this country like the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. It will include some Christian history like The Doctrine of Discovery and its influence on the formation of this country. We'll look at race and immigration because these are at the root of the formation of Christ Church and our history in Dearborn. We'll take a look at Christ Church through ages, taking note if we see any patterns in our history. And, we'll discuss the IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory) and what it tells us about who we are as parish and our capacity to notice cultural similarities and differences. All of this will be part of the process of learning the truth about who we are so that we can use the strengths and the challenges of what we learn about who we are to be better disciples of Christ.

- Lastly we will have a meditation book called, *Living Well Through Lent 2020: Practicing Courage with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind*, that can be emailed to you to read on an e-reader device, or you can get a hard copy from the office.

As we are learning in "Holy Currency" by Eric Law, strengthening one currency will build the other currencies stronger. Building the currency of truth can lead to wholeness and well-being.

"We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." Ephesians 4:14-16

*In Peace,
Pastor Terri*

JANUARY FINANCE UPDATE

By Kevin Green, Treasurer

Not much to report through the end of January. As shown on the accompanying table, we were slightly ahead of budget, with income and expenses both lower than budgeted. Please contact me if you have any questions and/or are interested in joining the Finance Commission.

1/31/2020	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	2020 BUDGET
INCOME	\$12,953.75	\$13,848.21	\$240,983.00
EXPENSE	\$24,505.71	\$26,056.39	\$305,073.00
NET	(\$11,551.96)	(\$12,208.18)	(\$64,090.00)

MUSIC MOMENT

By Ally Barone

During the season of Lent we will be singing the weekly psalms responsively, which is a significant part of the High Anglican tradition. Singing psalms during service dates back to temples in Jesus' time where they may have been sung by the whole congregation or a cantor. This inspired the plainchant tradition of singing on a single unaccompanied line. Anglican, or English, chant grew out of the plainchant tradition during the English Reformation in the 16th century. English chant is, "a way to sing unmetrical texts, including psalms and canticles from the Bible, by matching the natural speech-rhythm of the words to the note of a simple harmonized melody". Throughout Lent we have the opportunity to learn more about and honor this tradition.



A WORD FROM OUR CURATE

By Curate Halim Shukair

Last Wednesday, February 26, millions of Christians around the world marched around with a large black cross on their foreheads. What is recognized as Ash Wednesday in Western societies is called Ash Monday or Clean Monday in the Middle East societies, where millions celebrated the same symbolic tradition on Monday, February 23 – two days earlier. This tradition marks the beginning of the Lent Season for Christians. It is a period of fasting and prayer to God for 40 days before Easter which falls on April 12 this year. Yet, Orthodox Churches follow the Julian calendar and their Lent Season begins on March 2 this year and their Easter on April 19. This tradition of fasting and prayer is found in other Abrahamic religions, like Islam, and specifically during Ramadan where Muslims also fast as a spiritual and physical sacrifice to God.

The emphasis on 40 days of prayer and fasting has roots in both Jewish and Christian symbolic traditions and scriptures. Forty is a special number in both Jewish and Christian sacred texts. On one hand, the Jewish people journeyed for 40 years on their way to the 'Promised Land'. On the other hand, and in Christian scriptures, Jesus spent 40 days fasting and praying in the desert/wilderness before he began his public ministry. To remember how Jesus spent his 40 days, many Christians try to follow his practices and use this 40 day period as a time of spiritual and physical preparation for Easter which is Christianity's most important feast.

In Lebanon, many followers of the Maronite (and Roman/Greek Catholic Churches, in line with Easter Christian traditions, commonly abstain from eating meat during Lent Season. The search for meat alternatives during Lent has probably led the Copts in Egypt to invent the popular falafel as a dish, as they frequently claim. Some devoted Christians even abstain from all animal products, including eggs and dairy, and others might eat only fish during Lent. In Lebanon for example, many well-known restaurants and American franchises like Burger King or McDonald's introduce the fish burger for a discounted price. During this period, many Christians tend to prepare

a variety of vegetarian dishes, like Pumpkin Kibbe and Green Beans in oil or the various chickpea dishes.

Some historians trace back the tradition of marking a black cross on the foreheads of Christians to the beginning of the 8th century CE. The significance of using ashes on Ash Monday /Wednesday is two-fold. First and foremost, it serves as a reminder of our mortality. The priest imposes the ashes and makes the symbol of the cross on the forehead saying: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This saying requires Christians to reflect on their life and remember that they might need to repent and change some of their habits and practices. The meaning usually entails a message for a better spiritual life with God through going to church more and reading the Bible more frequently. Lent is a journey that draws us near to God by reviving our spiritual relationship with God and the neighbor through prayers, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word." (BCP 265)



Pumpkin Kibbe



Green Beans in Oil

OPEN HOUSE

Do you have a friend or family member looking for a preschool this fall? Chapel Day Preschool, housed here at Christ Church, will have an Open House on March 4, 2020 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. At the Open House prospective students and their parents can explore the classroom, meet the teachers and ask questions. Enrollment for the upcoming school year will begin at the Open House for both the 3-year-old class (Tu/Th 9-11 a.m.) and the 4-year-old class (M/W/F 9 a.m. - noon).

For more information, please visit

www.chapeldaypreschool.com or call (313) 565-2444.





Office of Public Affairs

*Note: the following information is presented in English and Spanish
Aviso: La siguiente información se presenta en inglés y en español*

(Watch video at <https://episcopalchurch.org/invitation-to-fast>)

Lent 2020: A Call to Prayer, Fasting, and Repentance Leading to Action An Invitation from Presiding Bishop Curry to Turn and Pray on Behalf our Nation

[February 11, 2020] As the season of Lent approaches, Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites Episcopalians and people of faith to turn and pray on behalf of our nation:

“In times of great national concern and urgency, people of faith have returned to ancient practices of repentance, prayer and fasting as ways of interceding with God on behalf of their nation and the world. This is such a moment for us in the United States.

“On Ash Wednesday I will join with other Christian leaders observing this Lent as a season of prayer, fasting and repentance on behalf of our nation, with continued fasting each Wednesday until the Wednesday before Advent begins.

“Our appeal comes during a time of profound division and genuine crisis of national character. This is not a matter of party or partisanship, but of deep concern for the soul of America.

“The group of religious “Elders” who share this commitment – the same group that over a year ago published the “Reclaiming Jesus” statement – includes Evangelical, Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant leaders. While we hold diverse political affiliations and positions on many issues facing our country, we find common ground in two shared convictions:

- First and foremost, we are committed to Jesus Christ as Lord, and his way of love as our primary loyalty.
- Second, because we love our country, we are concerned about its moral and spiritual health and well-being.

“For me, this call is rooted in my personal commitment to practice Jesus’s Way of Love, by which I turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go and rest in the way of our savior. Especially now, drawn together by love, hope and concern, and recalling the wisdom of our ancient traditions, I am grateful to join others in the spiritual practice of prayer, fasting and repentance for our nation. If you feel called to join us in this practice, the invitation is attached. The full text, together with the “Reclaiming Jesus” document can be found on the [Reclaiming Jesus website](#).”

Let us pray.

Almighty God ... We humbly pray that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Your brother,



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

#ReclaimingJesus
[ReclaimingJesus.org](#)

Lent 2020: A Call to Prayer, Fasting, and Repentance Leading to Action

Answer the call by adding your name here.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. — Romans 12:21 NRSV

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. —Ephesians 6:12 KJV

SHARING STORIES PROJECT

EUNICE BUZBY

By Martha Amis and Jeanne Martens

Eunice was born in Merchantville, N.J. in 1928 and will soon be 92. She met her husband, Bob, while in junior high in Merchantville, but they didn't start dating until Eunice was 18, when mutual friends who were going to Atlantic City encouraged Bob to ask Eunice out. Both Eunice and Bob grew up in Merchantville. During WW II, Bob went into the Navy and was stationed in Philadelphia. They married in 1948 and while Bob studied at Lehigh University, Eunice worked at the telephone company. Upon graduation, Bob and Eunice moved to Philadelphia where Bob worked until 1956, at which time he followed his boss to Ford Motor Company in Dearborn with Eunice and their young son, Bob Jr.

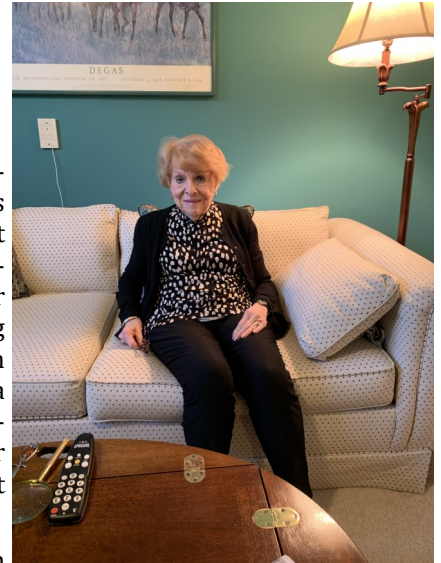
Eunice and Bob enjoyed 70 years of marriage until this past May, 2019, when Bob died. They made their home on Beechmont and their family grew again when Lynne was born. Bob Jr. and Lynne gave Eunice and Bob seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Bob Jr. resides in Las Vegas and Lynne lives in Columbus OH.

Bob was a lifelong Episcopalian and Eunice grew up in the Methodist church, but they both joined Christ Church in 1956 when Fr. Stacy was the priest. Both were active in the church. Eunice belonged to St. Anne's Guild and was in charge of wedding receptions. She established a Bride's Room (now the children's prayer room), purchased plates for receptions and oversaw the caterer who provided fancy sandwiches and sweets. Eunice was also part of the Wednesday afternoon bridge group until eye problems kept her from continuing. Bob served as Treasurer for many years as well as served on the Finance Commission until his death.

Eunice fondly remembers her daughter's wedding at Christ Church. She also remembers the time her young son was playing baseball and got hit in the eye, producing a big black eye, yet carried the cross on Easter Sunday sporting that black eye.

After Bob retired from Ford, he served as a consultant to Ford for a few years, assigned to Europe. These were wonderful, magical years for Eunice and Bob, as they lived in the Czech Republic, Budapest, Poland, and Northern Ireland, and traveled nearly every weekend to places in Europe they always wanted to visit. Eunice's advice to young couples: "Be kind to each other, forget the little things and concentrate on your marriage and each other."

Eunice now lives in Henry Ford Village in a beautiful apartment, and although she broke her hip shortly after moving in, she navigates well with her walker and is traveling to Las Vegas and also Columbus during the upcoming holiday season to be with her family.



VESTRY REFLECTION

By Jean Angel

Hello, March is my month for Vestry Reflection and I would like to write about love and the Baptised for Life Sponsored Dinners with Christ Episcopal and Mother of the Savior members. Many Thursdays this winter/spring a group of people from each congregation join together for fellowship, bible study and the most delicious food.

As I sit enjoying good company, tabouli and healthy stew, I think about this community of people from both congregations seeking a closer relationship to God and each other. I feel a lot of love in these get togethers from Pastor Terri and Father Halim, Felicity, a facilitator from Ann Arbor, and all the attendees.

Love expressed as bible study preparation, language translation, food preparation, curiosity about each other and story and experience sharing. These dinners are very meaningful and a big success because a loving group of people gather to make this experience good for each other.

I really enjoy learning about the bible and I enjoy hearing the verses in Arabic too. There will be other sessions of these

dinners in the coming months and I recommend participating in them. I am confident you will enjoy food and fellowship and expanding relationships with people in our congregation and Mother of the Savior's.

At our kick off vestry meeting we read the 1st Corintian's 13 verses about love. The verses speak to the qualities of love like patience and kindness and truthfulness. The verses also speak to the importance of love in all things: "If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." The special thing about the dinners is the love and that is definitely something, something great.

APRIL COURIER SUBMISSIONS

Submit news and articles for the April issue of the Courier by March 24th to office@christchurchdearborn.org. Please add Courier to the subject line.

Calendar Highlights

FELLOWSHIP

COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, 11:15am

Refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the 10 am service. The sign-up sheet is downstairs if you would like to host a Sunday.

YOUNG PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S PRAYER ROOM

Sunday at 10:05am for 3-9 year olds during the 10am service. The children leave the church together and meet in the Prayer Room for a child friendly service with stories and crafts, then return to church for communion. Please contact the church office at 313-565-8450 or office@christchurchdearborn.org.

HEALTH

MARTIAL ARTS

Adult Classes

Wednesday 7pm

Sunday 2pm

STRETCHING CLASS

Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday monthly at 10:30am. Michael Mroczyk, leader of our Martial Arts Group, is offering coaching in a method of effective, dynamic, facilitated stretching for all interested persons. The sessions are open. The greatest benefit will be for those whose range of motion has atrophied. Come dressed comfortably. The sessions are free of charge. Donations to Christ Church are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- Mar 2 Listening Group 7pm
- Mar 2 Scout Leaders 7pm
- Mar 3 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm
- Mar 5 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm
- Mar 6 Stations of the Cross 7pm
- Mar 7 League of Women Voters 10am
- Mar 10 AAUW Meeting 7:30pm
- Mar 11 Boys 2 Men 6:45pm
- Mar 12 AAUW Book Club Noon
- Mar 13 Stations of the Cross 7pm
- Mar 16 Listening Group 7pm
- Mar 18 CHI Healing 6:30pm
- Mar 19 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm
- Mar 20 Stations of the Cross 7pm
- Mar 21 Dearborn School of Music Recital 3:30pm
- Mar 21 MotS Mother's Day Dinner 6pm
- Mar 22 Vestry 2pm
- Mar 24 Sonneman Studio 5:30pm
- Mar 25 Boys 2 Men 6L45pm
- Mar 26 Sonneman Studio 5:30pm
- Mar 27 Stations of the Cross 7pm

APRIL

- Apr 2 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm
- Apr 3 Stations of the Cross 7pm
- Apr 4 League of Women Voters 10am
- Apr 5 Palm Sunday
- Apr 6 Listening Group 7pm
- Apr 6 Scout Leaders 7pm
- Apr 7 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm
- Apr 7 AAUW Meeting 7:30pm
- Apr 8 Boys 2 Men 6:45pm
- Apr 9 Maundy Thursday With Mother of the Savior Bilingual Service 7pm
- Apr 10 Office Closed

- Apr 10 Good Friday Services Noon Stations with Kids 3pm With Mother of the Savior Bilingual Service 7pm
- Apr 11 The Great Vigil With Mother of the Savior Bilingual Service 7pm
- Apr 12 Easter Sunday One Service 10am
- Apr 13 Office Closed
- Apr 20 Listening Group 7pm
- Apr 21 Blessings in a Backpack Fundraiser
- Apr 22 CHI Healing 6:30pm
- Apr 23 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm
- Apr 25 AAUW 1pm
- Apr 26 Vestry 2pm

MAY

- May 2 Chi Running 9am
- May 2 League of Women Voters 10am
- May 4 Listening Group 7pm
- May 4 Scout Leaders 7pm
- May 5 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm
- May 5 AAUW Meeting 7:30pm
- May 6 Boys 2 Men 6:45pm
- May 14 Dinner with the Bishop
- May 17 UTO Ingathering
- May 18 Listening Group 7pm
- May 20 CHI Healing 6:30pm
- May 25 Office Closed—Memorial Day
- May 30 Holy Housekeeping
- May 31 Vestry 2pm

March Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

Georgia Cotter	MAR 3
Lynn Kenney	MAR 8
Karen Beck	MAR 10
Daniel Kastner	MAR 10
James Connelly	MAR 12
Mary Ann Zawada	MAR 17
Jeanne Martens	MAR 20
Jean Angel	MAR 25
Eleanor Dolega	MAR 27
Ruth Durbin	MAR 28
Elaine Kirton	MAR 28
Judith Polcyn	MAR 29

ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Lena Gray	MAR 4 (60)
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Little Blue Boxes

How are your "little blue boxes" doing? Are they being fed every day with your coins and prayers of thankfulness to God? Or have they been forgotten in the midst of all the holiday parties, etc. Please use the season of Lent to keep up the practice of being faithful in dropping coins into those "little blue boxes" and giving thanks to God daily. If you need a box, please see me during coffee hour, or whenever you run into me, and I will be glad to give you one or two. Our Spring Ingathering will be on May 17, 2020.

Barb Hall

UTO
Every day



120 N. Military
Dearborn, Michigan 48124
Phone: 313-565-8450
Fax: 313-565-8515
E-mail:
office@christchurchdearborn.org
Website:
www.christchurchdearborn.org



Don't forget Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8th!

Set your clocks forward one hour.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, Bishop
The Rev. Terri Pilarski, Rector
Lynn Becker, Sr. Warden
Dale Taylor, Jr., Warden
Kevin Green, Treasurer
Matthew Sallman, Clerk

STAFF

Allison Barone, Music Director
Erin Biggs, Office Manager
Tess Dowgiallo, Children's Choir Director
John Jones, Sexton
The Rev. Halim Shukair, Curate

VESTRY

Jean Angel
Lynn Becker
Barbara Hall
Stephanie Mulkern
Jill Poske
Holly Schanz
Dale Taylor
James Thornton