IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT

Ash Wednesday, February 18th:
Eucharist with imposition of ashes
7:30am and 12:10pm.

Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, is the first day of Lent in Western Christianity. It occurs 46 days (40 weekdays plus 6 Sundays) before Easter and can fall as early as 4 February or as late as 10 March. Ash Wednesday is observed by many Western Christians, including Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Anglicans, and Presbyterians.

According to the canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus Christ spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter. Every Sunday was seen as a commemoration of the Sunday of Christ's resurrection and so as a feast day on which fasting was inappropriate. Accordingly, Christians fasted from Monday to Saturday (6 days) during 6 weeks and from Wednesday to Saturday (4 days) in the preceding week, thus making up the number of 40 days. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of participants to the accompaniment of the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

Lenten Book Study group 1:
Begins February 25th at 6pm.
Light dinner, discussion at 6:30pm

Lenten Book Study group 2:
Begins March 4th at 10am.

A Celebration of the Mystery of Lent Around the Thoughts of Thomas Merton.
Saturday, February 21st
8:30am – 12:30pm.

From the Rector - Lent 2015

The Book of Common Prayer exhorts us to the observance of a holy Lent, “by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” (p. 265 BCP). That’s significant. Being a Christian is certainly more than attending church or volunteering. It is a way of life that should continually lead us deeper into our relationships with God through Christ, ourselves, our neighbors and the world. This type of life takes some deliberate thought, practice and discipline.

In order to help facilitate this type of life, this year’s Lenten book study will be a small book entitled, Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer. This book is authored by Rowan Williams, the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury. This thoughtful text will enable us to examine and discuss the essential elements of the Christian life, the things we do over and over again, and should provide new insights into our lives lived out in Christian community. This book is based on talks given during Holy Week in Canterbury Cathedral.

The book will soon be available for purchase for a nominal price. In order to allow the most people to participate, we will have two groups. One will meet on Wednesday evenings beginning on February 25. We will gather for a light supper at 6pm and start our discussion at 6:30pm and be finished by 7:30pm. The second group will start on Wednesday, March 4th at 10am. This session will allow participants to attend the 9am Eucharist and then convene for discussion.

Ash Wednesday is February 18th. We will have two services that day, 7:30am and 12:10pm. I look forward to our Lenten journey.

Peace, Fr. Seth
WORSHIP NEWS

SUNDAY SERVICES

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HOLY EUCHARIST
with hymns  8:00am
HOLY EUCHARIST
sung, with hymns  10:30am

HEALING SERVICE
Each Wednesday at 9:00am

The Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing takes place every Wednesday at 9:00am. This is a simple service of prayer, Holy Communion, and the laying on of hands for those who desire it. All are welcome.

ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Order of the Daughters of the King is a religious order of women in the Episcopal Church who may not necessarily live in the community but do make vows and practice a rule of life. “The mission of this order is the extension of Christ’s Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism.” By devotion to one another and Christ, the members of the order seek to grow in these three areas of the spiritual life during the course of their lives.

CENTERING PRAYER
Each THURSDAY at 3:00pm
PARISH HALL

Each Thursday, a group of between five and ten meets to conduct Centering Prayer. We gather in the Parish Hall and then go to the Nave to engage in contemplative prayer for the next twenty minutes. Then we go back to the Parish Hall for Lectio Divina or to watch a DVD on various related topics. Afterwards, we share our feelings and insights.

Currently, we are experiencing a wonderful conference conducted by Fr. Richard Rohr and James Finley called Jesus and the Buddha. We have also worked with a DVD presentation by Sister Maria Tasto called The Transforming Life.

Although several of the group are St. Bart’s parishioners, there are also participants from other Estes Park churches.

If you are interested, please call
Mary Ann Kuntz (970) 586-1779 or
Mike Willborn at (970) 586-4504 (church office)

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:20am

Adults
The Adult Forum meets in the Parish Hall between services.
They have started a series on the
Liturgical, from its beginning to today.
Children
The Children meet downstairs and come up to receive Communion during the 10:30am service.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY
(see below and the following page)

Centering Prayer Morning of Silence
Saturday, February 21st
8:30am to 12:30pm
A Celebration of the Mystery of Lent
Around the Thoughts of Thomas Merton
Questions? Call the Office - 586-4504
The Center for Spirituality at St. Bartholomew’s is a new ministry that has created a great deal of energy within our community. The role of the center is to consider creative and engaging ways to encourage and equip individuals on their spiritual journeys.

Ways in which we envision the center in fulfilling its mission would include a variety of experiences. Offering classes or forums that vary in length from one evening or morning, to as long as a year or more are being considered. The content of the classes would vary from biblical studies, spiritual teachings unique to our tradition, methods of prayer and meditation, worship experience and retreats, and understanding the philosophy and content of other traditions.

Another desire of our center for spirituality is to offer our unique gifts and perspectives to the community outside of our parish walls. Just as we believe that all the participants of intergenerational learning enrich the learning experience for everyone, so too, we believe that entering into dialog and learning with groups and individuals of the larger community in which we live will create dynamic opportunities to learn and enter more deeply into what the Spirit may wish to show us all.

Recent offerings of the Spirituality Center have included an Advent quiet morning devoted to Lectio Divina. Cynthia Johnson offered a class called “3-2-21”, a method of self reflection that strives to help the practitioner access deep-seated ideas that may influence decision-making. This month we are pleased to offer on the morning of February 21 a program entitled A Celebration of the Mystery of Lent Around the Thoughts of Thomas Merton. The Lenten Book Study this year is also an outreach of the Center of Spirituality. This year’s book is written by former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. The book is entitled Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer. Please let your friends know about these opportunities.

Questions? Contact Fr. Seth Richmond, 970-586-4504 or Mary Ann Kundtz, 970-586-1779

MUSIC NEWS

If you were at the Annual Meeting this year, you heard that John Cannon has accepted a position as Music and Choir Director at Christ Church in Cooperstown, NY. This is a wonderful opportunity for John, and while it is difficult to say goodbye, we certainly wish him the best in his life and career in music. Just think, church in the morning and The Baseball Hall of Fame in the afternoon! Many Blessings, John, our prayers go with you.

With John leaving soon, we are in need of securing dependable musicians and examining the music program at St. Bart’s. I am pleased to be able to report that a committee has already been formed that will seek to review our current program, gather information from parishioners, and seek to ensure that we have musicians for our worship. I would like to offer a big thank you to John Breed, Kathy Bowers, Derald DeYoung and Diane Roehl for taking on this important mission. We will keep you informed of developments. Fr. Seth
SPECIAL NEEDS FOR OUR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Nursery is desperately in need of workers during the 10:30 service. Since we have lost our paid worker and we have not had volunteers, most Sundays parents have been keeping the children in the nursery. Probably 50%-75% of the time there have not been any volunteers. There are a few who have been great to help, but we don’t want to overuse the same few volunteers. The time commitment is from 10:20 until parents pick up their children for communion, which is usually around 11:30. You will have a partner, which might be another parent or volunteer. Eventually, we will find a paid worker who will serve from 9:20 until 11:30 and that person would be your partner. There are books to read, coloring, and toys for the kids. There is no need for preparing activities or thinking ahead. Just show up and play or talk to the kids. But you are always welcome to come prepared with an activity. If you did not feel comfortable, you could come get a parent. If you just wanted to sign up for once every few months or once every six months that would be extremely helpful for the parents to attend church without children. If you are not yet trained, let me know and I will work with you on options for training. I will be glad to help anyone with the process to make sure we can get you ready to be a worker. Our kids and parents need you! There is a link below for training.

**Training for Working with Children and Youth:** If you are interested in working with our kids, you will need to be trained. Here is a link for an online training option. If you cannot use the online option, contact Deedra Ivie to find out about other training options. [http://www.dioco.org/safeguarding-gods-children---online.html](http://www.dioco.org/safeguarding-gods-children---online.html)

**Sunday School Need:** We need one or two people interested in working with the babies during the Sunday School hour. The time commitment is from 9:20 - 10:20. You can sign up for as few or as many as you would like. Isabel needs someone to take care of her while I teach the teenagers.

**Nursery Volunteers:** If you are interested in caring for children in the nursery, you are needed. You only need to sign up for one Sunday every two or three months. Signing up once a year would even be helpful. The time commitment is 10:20 until communion for the 10:30 service. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex or contact Deedra Ivie.

*Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked with the children and youth. We have a great team and I look forward to our year ahead. Call me with any questions.* Deedra Ivie, 970-461-3488 or deedraivie@yahoo.com
THE MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH meets regularly during the year to receive requests from organizations providing a variety of services to residents of the Estes Valley. The work of the committee is coordinated with St. Bart’s ECW, Men’s Group, and others who raise additional funds for outreach. In 2014, we gave over $70,000 to the Community. Those receiving aid included The Food Bank of Larimer County for “Kid’s Cafe”, Estes Valley Victim Advocates, Estes Park Youth Center, The Haiti Project of the Colorado Episcopal Diocese, Food for the Poor (providing assistance across the Caribbean and Latin America), VA Hospital in Cheyenne, WY through Bill and Judy Howell, Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Services, Estes Park Learning Place, Caring Pregnancy Center of the Estes Valley, Estes Park Partners Mentoring Youth, History & Heroes Alternative Therapy Project, Crossroads Ministry Emergency Flood Relief, Glen Haven Flood Recover, Inc. We have received thank you letters from most recipients as of this writing. Thank you to everyone who participated.

CROSSROADS MINISTRY: St. Bart’s donated 560 pounds of food to Crossroads in 2014. The amount given in 2013 was 402 pounds. In terms of dollars, this represents approximately $780.00. We are extremely grateful for those weekly food donations when you come to church! Here, thanks to John Roehl, is a brief history of this ministry and St. Bart’s huge involvement. Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park originated in St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church when parishioners and clergy decided in 1982 they wanted to actively help those in need in the Estes Valley and environs. The scope of the work quickly grew and within weeks other churches joined St. Bart’s. Crossroads is an ecumenical lay ministry supported by Estes Park, the Town’s churches, service clubs, organizations, businesses and people. Its Mission Statement is: Crossroads Ministry exhibits Christian love by providing basic human services to residents in need in the Estes Valley. Just as Crossroads at its beginning stepped forward to aid victims of the 1982 Long Lake flood, the Ministry went to work on the 2013 Deluge. Estes Park designated Crossroads the repository for flood relief funds for the emergency. One of Crossroads strengths is its agility. Staff are empowered to make decisions regarding clients on the spot, without having to go through lengthy hearings or committee meetings. In the aftermath of the Flood, Crossroads channeled tens of thousands of dollars to Glen Haven for heavy equipment and operators to clear flood debris blocking streams so they would not re-flood during the spring runoff. Time was of the essence and Crossroads moved quickly and decisively. Volunteering at Crossroads is one of the most useful thing you can do with your time and talents.

PRO VITA ROMANIAN ORPHANAGE: It has been the committee’s recommendation that we look beyond the boundaries of our little town and our state in our outreach support and that we favor programs where one or more of our parishioners are actively involved. The Committee, with Vestry approval, is supporting Pro Vita Romanian Orphanage. What follows is the story of the orphanage, with pictures, thanks to Sara Maypole:

Nestled in the shade of the Carpathian Mountains, Valea Screzii is a rural village which adheres to a slow-paced village life. Pro Vita (“for life”) a Romanian orphanage is located nearby. Pro Vita has approximately 30 children under the age of 18 who live permanently in homes there. 10 caregivers (many victims of domestic abuse) work on a shift pattern with each person working 12 hours per day, seven days per week. There are also nine women and a man who live at Pro Vita. Their disabilities are the direct result of the old style communist institutions which left many adults permanently traumatized. They all left the state run care at the age of eighteen or earlier, many ending up on the streets of Bucharest. Many of these young adults have a mental age much less than their physical age. Most can read and write. Pro Vita has over 200 children in the surrounding areas for which the organization is responsible, but who have been placed with foster families. Often these families are very poor and struggle to bring up their own children, but still offer to take another one, two or more. Pro Vita supports these families however they can, with food, clothes, financial and emotional assistance whenever possible. The organization has nine safe houses. Residents often have experienced problems with their families, some are escaping abusive husbands, or other abusive situations.
What they all have in common is a need for refuge and some help to solve their problems and re-start their lives. Pro Vita assists these families by providing accommodation, food, electricity, firewood, furniture, clothes, and legal assistance as well as offering social support. They also provide shelter for elderly men and women who have been put out on the streets by families who lack the resources to care for them. Pro Vita was founded by a Romanian priest whose son (Mihail) and his wife (Melanie) manage the day to day operations. They have a policy of never refusing anyone who comes seeking assistance, which means there is always an extraordinary patchwork of children and adults staying there.

Nor is there any rule about departures. The inhabitants can stay as long as they need to.

All the residents contribute to working the farm (which provides the majority of their fresh produce) and tending the animals. Older children clean out the stalls and shepherd the flock of sheep. There are also cows, horses, donkeys, chickens, pigs, and a huge population of stray dogs and cats.

MaryAnn Martin and I will leave the Monday after Easter for Pro Vita where we will teach any who are interested the joys of hand work: knitting, embroidery and making Pysanky eggs, all of which are part of the rich Romanian folk art tradition. Our hope is to provide the beginnings of cottage industries and to enhance the self esteem of the residents.

What we need are knitting needles, straight and short circular, in sizes 6, 7 or 8. If you have a pair to donate, please leave them in the basket in the narthex labeled “Knitting Needles”.

Thank you in advance for your support of this project! Contributions will be gratefully received.

We will be at the orphanage during Holy Week and will celebrate Orthodox Easter with them on April 12. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call or email

Sara Maypole 577-0172 or smaypole@gmail.com

Photo from Pro Vita Orphanage April 28 - May 13, 2012

A Residence in Valea Screzii
We met in January to approve our budget for 2015. It was a very successful meeting. Because so many of our members are away during the winter, we voted to cancel our February, through May meetings, unless something special occurs and a meeting is needed. Our next scheduled meeting will be June 17 and we look forward to seeing all of you and to start planning the Bazaar, which is Saturday, November 21st this year. Mary Oldberg 586-4822

Can YOU help with our annual Shrove Tuesday Shrimp Dinner? We do need help setting up, in the kitchen and, especially clean up! Thanks in advance!

Community/Fellowship News

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ECW Morning Guild
Third Wednesday, 10:00am

We meet for a couple of hours (a little longer if we have a lot to say!). We laugh; we pray; we eat; and we share fellowship! We end our meetings with Compline. All women of the parish are invited to participate – snacks are provided…and so is a caring attitude! Yes, it’s hard to get out when it is dark and cold AND the wind is blowing – but this time together is worth it! Please come join your sisters in Christ for a couple of hours which will bless you….and others!

(PS – Please put March 2nd on your calendar for our March meeting!) Ginger Harris 227-0806

ECW Evening Guild
First Monday, 6:30pm

We meet for a couple of hours (a little longer if we have a lot to say!). We laugh; we pray; we eat; and we share fellowship! We end our meetings with Compline. All women of the parish are invited to participate – snacks are provided…and so is a caring attitude! Yes, it’s hard to get out when it is dark and cold AND the wind is blowing – but this time together is worth it! Please come join your sisters in Christ for a couple of hours which will bless you….and others!

(PS – Please put March 2nd on your calendar for our March meeting!) Ginger Harris 227-0806

Men’s Luncheon
First Tuesday, 11:30am

Please join us for our monthly Men’s Luncheon in the Parish Hall. The luncheons are open to all men of the parish and their guests. The favor of a reply is requested in order that a place may be reserved for you at the table, but last minute drop-ins are always welcome. Hope to see you there.

Happy Birthday

This has been too long in coming, BUT, here is wishing a happy 90th Birthday to Audrey Clearman! Audrey left the octogenarians behind on September 25th 2014. Audrey is not often seen in church these days, but she is still keeping us in her prayers and thoughts. Audrey is a retired member of the Altar Guild where she served for many years. We miss her in the sacristy. She has given of herself in many ways to the life of St. Bart’s, and we are grateful for her gifts and her wonderful Spirit. Happy Birthday, Audrey.

Mardi Gras is Coming!
Tuesday, February 17th
5:30pm to 7:00pm

The Shrimp Boats are coming! PLEASE sign-up on the list in the Parish Hall for the dinner and the fun – we need to know if you are coming so we know how much shrimp to order. Plan to come to this great fun/fundraiser, enjoy some terrific food, swing your foot to the Dixieland beat of the Riverside Ramblers and pretend you’re having an evening in New Orleans! Don’t miss out…you KNOW how much fun it is! Please let us know you’ll be there! Ginger Harris – 227-0806

Thank You!

Even though Christmas seems long ago -- please let me offer my sincere thank you to all those who helped with the Christmas Eve receptions – you know who you are – thank you especially to all of you for hanging in there for the late night final clean-up! The fun was shared by all; the joy of the Lord blessed each of us; and, the love we show for one another is just one more way we see a glimpse of Heaven if we take time to look for it! Thank you all for the ways each of you contribute to our Parish Family through your ministry in the kitchen! Ginger
St. Bartholomew the Apostle
welcomes you
Come and Worship with Us

Vision: “The Parish Church of St. Bartholomew the Apostle...a joyful, loving, caring, growing Christian community, expressing God’s love and acceptance, through Christ, to all.”

Mission: “Empowered by the Holy Spirit and in the Episcopal tradition, we celebrate the teachings of Christ through worship, service, education, stewardship, missions and fellowship.”

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FOR DAILY UPDATES AND INFORMATION, DON’T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.stbartsestes.org and be sure to like us on facebook