



THE CLOAK

A monthly publication of

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

February 2016

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry Urges Us to Pray for the President

We recognize that this election has been contentious, and the Episcopal Church, like our nation, has expressed a diversity of views, some of which have been born in deep pain.

There has been much discussion, and some controversy, about the appropriateness of the Washington National Cathedral hosting the Inaugural Prayer Service this year, and of church choirs singing at inaugural events.

Underneath the variety of questions and concerns are some basic Christian questions about prayer: when I pray for our leaders, why am I doing so? Should I pray for a leader I disagree with? When I pray what do I think I am accomplishing?

On one level these questions seem inconsequential and innocuous. But real prayer is not innocuous. It is powerful. That question can become poignant and even painful as it is for many in this moment, given that some of the values that many of us heard expressed over the past year have seemed to be in contradiction to deeply-held Christian convictions of love, compassion, and human dignity.

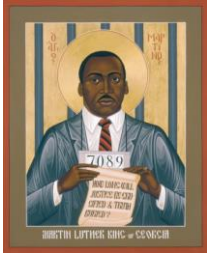
So, should we pray for the President?

We can and, indeed, I believe we must pray for all who lead in our civic order, nationally and internationally. I pray for the President in part because Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord. If Jesus is my Lord and the model and guide for my life, his way must be my way, however difficult. And the way prayer for others is a part of how I follow the way of Jesus.

This practice of praying for leaders is deep in our biblical and Anglican/Episcopalian traditions. Psalm 72 prays that the ancient Israelite king might rule in the ways of God's justice, defending "the cause of the poor," bringing "deliverance to the needy." 1 Timothy 2:1-2 encourages followers of Jesus to pray earnestly for those in leadership, that they may lead in ways that serve the common good. Even in the most extreme case, Jesus himself said, while dying on the cross, "Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing," was praying for Pontius Pilate, the Governor of Rome who ordered his execution, and for all who were complicit in it.

In this spirit, the Prayer Books of the Anglican/Episcopal way have always included prayer for those "who bear the authority of government," praying in a variety of ways that they may lead in the ways of God's wisdom, justice and truth. When we pray for Donald, Barack, George, Bill, George, or Jimmy, Presidents of the United States, we pray for their well-being, for they too are children of God, but we also pray for their leadership in our society and world. We pray that they will lead in the ways of justice and truth. We pray that their leadership will truly serve not partisan interest but the common good. When we pray for them, we are actually praying for our nation, for our world, indeed we are praying for ourselves.

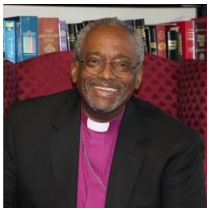
(Continued on page 2) *This was also read on Sunday Jan 29*



The Rev. Dr.
Martin Luther
King Jr.



Rev. Absalom
Jones



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

Prayer is not a simplistic cheer or declaration of support. Prayers of lament cry out in pain and cry for justice. Prayer can celebrate. Prayer can also ask God to intervene and change the course of history, to change someone's mind, or his or her heart. When we pray for our enemies, we may find that we are simultaneously emboldened to stand for justice while we are also less able to demonize another human being.

Real prayer is both contemplative and active. It involves a contemplative conversation with and listening to God, and an active following of the way of Jesus, serving and witnessing in the world in his Name. For those who follow the way of Jesus, the active side of our life of prayer seeks to live out and help our society live out what it means to "love your neighbor as yourself." So we work for a good and just, humane and loving society. We participate as followers of Jesus in the life of our government and society, caring for each other and others, and working for policies and laws that reflect the values and teachings of Jesus to "love your neighbor," to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," to fashion a civic order that reflects the goodness, the justice, the compassion that we see in the face of Jesus, that we know to reflect the very heart and dream of God for all of God's children and God's creation.

I grew up in a historically black congregation in the Episcopal Church. We prayed for leaders who were often lukewarm or even opposed to our very civil rights. We got on our knees in church and prayed for them, and then we got up off our knees and we Marched on Washington. Following the way of Jesus, we prayed and protested at the same time. We prayed for our leaders who were fighting for our civil rights, we prayed for those with whom we disagreed, and we even prayed for those who hated us. And we did so following the Jesus, whose way is the way of unselfish, sacrificial love. And that way is the way that can set us all free.

As we celebrate the birth of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we may find guidance in his words, spoken during one of the most painful and difficult struggles in the Civil Rights Movement. He asked that all participants live by a set of principles. The first principle read: "As you prepare to march, meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus."

Should we pray for the President?

Yes!

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

February is **Black History Month**, and the Episcopal Church recognizes February 13 as the feast day of **Absalom Jones**.

He was born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware, and he was ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in 1802, serving in St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument."

You can read about him and other devout women and men in the book "**Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints**" which we use in our Wednesday Healing service. Or you can download the entire book here: <http://diobeth.typepad.com/files/holy-women-holy-men.pdf>



Our Rector's Letter

St. Valentine's Day or the Feast of St. Valentine is commemorated on the 14th of February and is observed by people in many countries: the Anglican Church and the Lutheran Church also observe it as the Feast Day of Saint Valentine. St. Valentine was a third century Roman saint and associated since the High Middle Ages, with a tradition of courtly love.

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings, what you will do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything. –Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

The lyrics from the song "Getting to Know You" seem very appropriate for the month of February and our Parish of St. Martin's. We, like our country, are in a time of transition. The church has gathered for our yearly AGM (Annual General Meeting), and we have voted in new vestry members along with other committees, who have met to plan and begin our work for the year ahead. There are many more committees (I will not list them all here), but together they are all vital to the functioning of our collaborative ministry. I have been attending them with the purpose of getting to know the members and to learn of our gifts and talents. However, this is not enough.

My goal is to meet with each member of St. Martin's individually and to get to know you personally. These meetings help me to envision your hopes and dreams for St. Martin's and to spiritually support you in the years ahead. I have happily met with our long-time member, who is 101. I look forward to meeting with individuals who have not been to St. Martin's for a while, who were perhaps waiting for a rector to settle before coming. Now is our opportunity to meet! I encourage you to get in touch, by giving the office a call -- we have a new message machine -- or by email or you can stop by the church. Do let me know if you would like to visit at your home, to go out for coffee, or to stop by the office. I am available most Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and evenings are also possible. Everyone will be contacted eventually; however, if you have a matter you wish to discuss now or wish a pastoral visit, please let me or one of our office volunteers know.

If you are simply curious about what happens at St. Martin's and you wish to come for the first time or after a long time away, know that you are most welcome to join us for services anytime.

Here are a few more Valentine Quotes:

- "You come to love not by finding the perfect person, but by seeing an imperfect person perfectly." Sam Keen
- "Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile." Franklin P Jones.
- "You are precious in my eyes. I honor you and I love you." Isaiah 43:4

O loving God, grant us Minds to know you, Hearts to love you, Hands to do your work and Voices to sing your praise.

Blessings and Peace, Rev. Melodie+

Helen's Health Corner-
Take time to Love your ♥



**This Valentine's Day, Help your Heart
by Hugging and Kissing
and Eating Chocolate**

Hugging is good for your heart – reduces stress and lowers blood pressure, increases calmness and reduces loneliness.

A kiss is also food for your heart. An Arizona State University study discovered that couples who were told to kiss more often reduced both their stress and cholesterol — and increased their happiness. So pucker up and smooch. Both are good for the giver and for the receiver!

PS: Dark Chocolate is also heart healthy
YUM!

Care Kits Schedule

**Our next visit will be Friday,
Feb 24** and we will need lots of supplies.

- ✓ Feb 5 – Sudsy Sunday - Shampoos
- ✓ Feb 12 – Sudsy Sunday – Socks, gloves
- ✓ Feb 19 – Sudsy Sunday – Lap blankets or mini fleece throws

Please fill out an “in kind” donation form so we can demonstrate how the parish supports this ministry.

Meet at 10 am. On Friday morning to assemble kits. Meet at 3:30 pm to load up and go to First Christian.

THANK YOU!

We ♥ our Lebanon neighbors in Christ.

A Quick Look Ahead to LENT EVENTS in March

Shrove Tuesday Feb 28 - 5:30 pm Pancake Supper and Races, thanks to St. Martin's Men's Group

Ash Wednesday March 1 **Imposition of Ashes** with Holy Eucharist celebrated

- Morning -- 9:30 a.m. HE healing service
 - and Imposition of Ashes
- Evening -- 7:00 p.m. HE with Imposition of Ashes

Palm Sunday	April 9
Maundy Thursday	April 13
Good Friday	April 14
Easter Sunday	April 16

**Shrove Tuesday
Pancakes!
And Races!**



February 28, 5:30 p.m.
\$5 each or \$8 family.
St. Martin's Men's
Group

Feb 2 ~ Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, according to Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."



And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Annual Meeting of St. Martin's Jan 22 – Quick Overview

MEET YOUR 2017 VESTRY: Installation on Feb 5

- Senior Warden Jim Rutledge; Junior Warden Roger Munk;
- Members: Barbi Thomson, Larry James, Patty Linn, Sam Blankenship
- Clerk of the Vestry (non-voting) Jennifer Munk
- Treasurer Doug Young

Contact the Vestry for any questions about how St. Martin's operates.

SPECIAL THANKS were given to outgoing members Sue Coakley and Kathy Johnson for their attentive service over the years.

2017 Diocesan Convention Delegates are Doug Young and Sam Blankenship. Alternates elected are Kay Young and Patty Linn. The convention is in Salem in October.

BUDGET: The 2017 budget was approved. The 2016 Annual Report is in the Parish Hall. 2016 Year End Tax info has gone out. Please review the list of your donations.



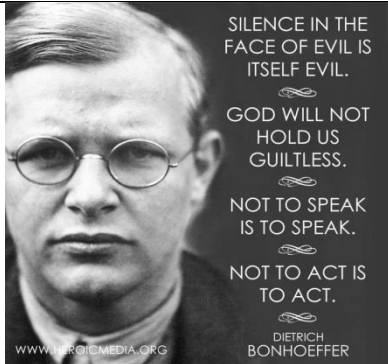
Altar Flowers



Signup for Altar Flowers and Sacramental Candles

Flowers and candles are a great way to honor God and memorialize loved ones or special occasions. New 2017 Sign-up sheets are on the Sacristy Door.

The "Flower Fund" envelopes for your donations are on the wooden table, and you can use them for candles as well. The candles are usually \$5, and the flowers can be brought from home or purchased. Contact the Flower Committee if you would like help with the arranging. Be sure to write down how you would like your gift to be listed in the bulletin.



Saturday March 4,
8 – 9:30 am

One Buck Seminary
Parish Hall

With Bishop +John Thornton

Reading Packets coming soon
A film is also planned. Date and
time TBA

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (4 February 1906 – 9 April 1945) was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi dissident and key founding member of the Confessing Church. His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential, and his book *The Cost of Discipleship* has become a modern classic.

Apart from his theological writings, Bonhoeffer was known for his staunch resistance to Nazi dictatorship, including vocal opposition to Hitler's euthanasia program and genocidal persecution of the Jews. He was arrested in April 1943 by the Gestapo and imprisoned at Tegel prison for one and a half years. Later he was transferred to a Nazi concentration camp.

After being associated with the plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, he was quickly tried, along with other accused plotters, including former members of the *Abwehr* (the German Military Intelligence Office), and then executed by hanging on 9 April 1945 as the Nazi regime was collapsing.

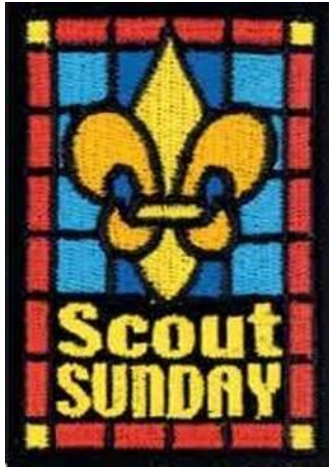
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer



How did you know?.....

St. Martin's Communication Committee needs to know how you find out facts and events here at St. Martin's. Please help us help you by taking a minute to fill out the communication survey form in the parish hall.

THE CLOAK..... Facebook.....Email.....Bulletin Board..... Bulletin.....??



**CUB SCOUTS / BOY SCOUTS TROOP /
VENTURING CREW 420**

Celebrate Scout Sunday on February 12, 2017

Scout units and religious-based chartered organizations share a special bond that lasts all year.

But on certain days each year — namely Scout Sunday and Scout Sabbath — we set aside time to celebrate a partnership that benefits all parties involved: the religious institution, Scouts, Scouters and the communities they serve.

On these important days, which are timed to fall near the Feb. 8 anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, Scouts give back in visible and meaningful ways.

In some units, that means simply wearing the full field uniform to worship services, where the worship leader presents religious awards to Scouts and Scouters. In others, the pack, troop, team or crew conducts a service project that benefits the religious organization.

At St. Martin's our youth will greet us and provide fellowship at the Coffee Hour and encourage us to help with Soup-er Bowl of Caring.

Doug Young, Jr. Scoutmaster, Troop 420
Kay Young, Assoc. Crew Advisor, Crew 420
Christina Young, Cubmaster, Pack 420



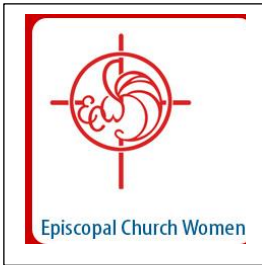
Our Scouts are collecting cans of soup for the Lebanon Soup Kitchen on Feb 5 and Feb 12.

Bring what you can. Some stores have extra-large size cans, but any size is fine.



Wednesday, February 22
POTLUCK at 6 pm
Vestry at 6:30.

JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP
ALL ARE WELCOME



ECW Brief Notes:

ECW met on Saturday Jan 28 to plan for the April 23 Annual Spring High Tea fundraiser. Minutes are on the bulletin board.

Join us for lunch on Monday Feb 13, Covered Bridge in Scio. Carpooling will leave from the church.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please **help us update** our Birthday and Anniversary list by sending your special days to the office.

February Birthdays

18 – Charlie Brown
21 – Jeanne James
23 – Sara Jameson
25 – Carolyn Brown



Parish Directory

Our Parish Directory is updated, and copies are available at church. Please send additions and corrections.

Please add to your copy one that got left off in the formatting. Apologies for the inconvenience:

Brandi & Tom Libra, 798 Hiatt Street
Lebanon, OR 97355
541-570-9178

Lessons for February Read Along

Feb 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20
Psalm 112:1-9, (10)

Feb 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
or Sirach 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37
Psalm 119:1-8

Feb 19

Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18
1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23
Matthew 5:38-48
Psalm 119:33-40

Feb 26

Exodus 24:12-18
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99

Ecumenical Mid-Valley Communion / Picnic ("Mass in the Grass")
Is planned for August 13 at Monteith Park in Albany with many churches participating



2014 Service

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Newsletter Submissions: The deadline for the March 2017 newsletter is **Monday Feb 20**. Sending your information in by e-mail helps reduce our workload. Please send your submissions to: stmartinslebanon@gmail.com. Thanks to Barbi T. for proofreading.

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
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541-451-1159; Office open Tues-Fri 9-12.

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