

THE EVANGEL

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
408 S. LEE STREET AMERICUS, GA

February, 2020

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Lent Looks Forward

I confess—I like Lent. Growing up in a little Protestant church, I had no clear idea of Lent's purpose. I was told it was what Catholics did to try to make up for all the sins they had committed the rest of the year. They would give up alcohol and hamburgers, I was told, so that they wouldn't go to hell, but then they'd go right back to such things on Easter, so what was the point?! My first Lent as an attendee in an Episcopal parish was a refreshing eye-opener. I will be forever grateful to the parish priest, Fr. John Goodrow (God rest his soul), for guiding me into a much different and lovely way to understand and 'do' Lent.

While Lent is surely a time to practice and focus one's self-awareness—and therefore, acknowledging one's past mistakes and sins is indispensable—the purpose of Lent is present and future oriented. Lent *does* provide an opportunity to abstain from something in one's life which has been harmful and self-destructive to oneself, others and one's relationship with God. However, Lent is not merely an opportune time to drop a few pounds or give up chocolate for a while, living in wild anticipation of gorging oneself after Easter. Our intention with Lenten abstinence should be to practice letting go of some negative part of ourselves *from now on*.

Even more, Lent is an opportunity to take on some neglected or untried practice of thought, word and/or action to further one's receptivity to God's loving-kind mercy. Therefore, beginning a new or different prayer practice, being more involved in ministry within or outside the parish, focusing one's reading on works of spiritual wisdom are all perennial Lenten practices. Lent is a good time to begin changing one's inner life, too: replacing anger with gratitude, substituting grouching with joy, letting go of judgment and practicing mercy. Some of our Lenten offerings are listed below, to assist you in keeping a good Lent. Of course, the clergy are available to help you discern how God is calling you to a helpful Lenten practice this year.

In Christ,

Fr Richard

Ash Wednesday

There will be two services offered: 12 noon and 6:00 pm. At both services we offer a Litany of Penitence, Imposition of Ashes and celebration of the Holy Eucharist. On Ash Wednesday (February 26) we will NOT have a supper or program after the 6 pm service.

Contemplative Prayer Opportunity

On the Wednesdays of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, Deacon Geri will offer a time of Contemplative Prayer at 5:30 pm, before the 6:00 pm celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Join her in St. Anne's Chapel (to the right of the Chancel) for a time of brief instruction and the practice of quiet prayer.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



Some are unaware that the Episcopal Church recognizes and offers this Sacrament, sometimes referred to as "Confession." There are two forms for the sacrament, beginning on page 447 in the Book of Common Prayer. If you wish to take advantage of this spiritual experience, call Fr. Richard, 912-655-8017, to set up an appointment. If you have not previously practiced the Sacrament of Reconciliation, he will gladly offer brief instruction before beginning.

Gift for Bishop Benhase

The Diocese will honor Bishop Benhase in two ways. There will be a drop-in reception on April 17th at the Starland Yard. They are also planning to give Bishop Benhase the automobile that he has been driving for the past few years. If you would like to make a donation you may mail your check to The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, 18 Est 34th Street, Savannah, GA 31401 by April 1.

Wednesdays in Lent

Wednesdays in Lent: March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1

5:30 pm Contemplative Prayer in St. Anne's Chapel

6:00 pm Healing and Holy Eucharist

6:30 pm Lenten Supper

7:00 pm Lenten Program (see schedule below)

We need volunteers to provide the simple Lenten Suppers. A sign up is in the Narthex.

Wednesday Adult Christian Education in Lent

Beginning Wednesday, March 4, Fr. Richard will offer a multi-part class: *Worship in the Episcopal Church*. He will cover the what, how and why of our services, focusing especially on the Holy Eucharist and the Holy Week Liturgies. The classes and dates are below. Questions will be welcomed! See you there.

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|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 4 | Introduction to Sacramental Worship |
| March 11 | Holy Eucharist: The Liturgy of the Word |
| March 18 | Holy Eucharist: The Eucharistic Prayer |
| March 25 | Holy Week Worship: Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday |
| April 1 | Holy Week Worship: Good Friday and The Great Vigil of Easter |

AND, on Sunday, April 5 at 9:15am, Fr. Richard will offer a Holy Week Worship class for the Adult Forum.

Americus Beer and Hymns



The debut of Beer and Hymns in Americus was a great success: standing room only, and barely that, at Pat's Place on January 16. Reportedly it was the biggest thing at Pat's, aside from St. Patrick's Day!

The next Beer and Hymns will be back at Pat's Place on Thursday, February 20, beginning at 6:30pm. The B&H band, Low Flying Angels, continues to rehearse diligently. They will even include a couple of love songs in honor of St. Valentine's Day. (Fortunately, they could not locate any Groundhog Day songs!)

Why Beer and Hymns (you may ask)? We are taking the Good News of God's love to those who may not otherwise darken the door of a church, to people where they are; a time to enjoy fellowship with people from diverse and no religious affiliations; an opportunity to sing old-time Gospel, contemporary renewal music, folk songs and traditional hymns. It's a good time!

Wednesday, February 19

Wednesday evening, Feb 19, we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 6:00 pm. However, there will NOT be supper or program following. The Art Show and Sale volunteers will be setting up for the event taking place February 21-23.

Cursillo Reunion Groups



We continue to meet at the Rectory (724 South Lee Street) Thursdays at 4:30 pm and Fridays at 9:30 am. All are welcome for this hour of mutual sharing and support. You need not have attended a Cursillo weekend to be part of a reunion group. Questions? See Fr. Richard or Deacon Geri.

Calvary In Community

We are rolling along with our weekly radio program featuring a meditation on a Scripture reading and an interview with someone who is making a positive difference in Americus, Sumter County and SW Georgia. We are especially grateful to Thurston Clary for his invaluable assistance at the radio station. Thanks, too, to Karen Kinnamon and Deacon Geri, who along with Fr. Richard, are the voices for the program. Tune in Sundays at 9:00 am on WISK 98.7 FM; you can also access the broadcast through their website, americusradio.com—just click on the WISK tab and activate the audio. Past programs are archived. You can listen by going to: <https://m.soundcloud.com/calvaryepiscopal>



Calvary Episcopal Church
January 21, 2020 Vestry Meeting

Present: Fr. Richard Nelson, Jerry Crisp, Ricky Duke, Tami Duke, Raye Holt, Bardin Hooks, Elizabeth Kuipers, Elise Miller, Sam Peavy, & Sandy Suddeth

Fr. Nelson opened the meeting with prayer.

- I. Minutes from December meeting were approved as corrected.
- II. New vestry - Fr. Nelson welcomed new vestry members Jerry Crisp, Sam Peavy, and Sandy Suddeth. Concerns were raised from parishioners about knowing who nominees are prior to the election. (This year's slate was not finalized in time). Bardin Hooks agreed to update the procedures for vestry person of the day. New vestry members need copies of by-laws, gift policy, & endowment fund instrument. Resolutions approved throughout the year will be compiled and presented at February meeting for revision/approval.
- III. Jr. Warden - Elizabeth Kuipers agreed and was approved to serve as Jr. Warden. Elizabeth will be removed from other committees (finance, outreach, renovation, Christian education). Sam Peavy agreed to replace Elizabeth on renovation committee. A building and grounds committee needs to be formed to relieve some duties from the Jr. warden and a list of preferred service providers needs to be compiled for transition to new Jr. warden. Fr. Nelson will check to see a HVAC equipment maintenance agreement is in place and request quote if not.
- IV. Sr. Warden – Bardin Hooks agreed and was approved to serve as Sr. Warden.
- V. Priest in Charge Report – Fr. Nelson gave update on ongoing Calvary in Community radio broadcast and Beer Hymns. He officiated at 2 funerals in December and made several hospital visits. Classes on our liturgy are planned for Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings during Lent.
- VI. Deacons Report – Dianne will be on sabbatical and is scheduling knee surgery. Geri will be attending the deacon's meeting at Honey Creek.
- VII. Renovation Committee
 - 1/5/2020 - The vestry and renovations committee met with Tim Finch of Finch Finishes (in attendance Fr. Nelson, Billy Carter, Kitten Carter, Rickey Duke, Tami Duke, Raye Holt, Bardin Hooks, Lee Kinnamon, Elizabeth Kuipers, Cheryle McCrary, & Carey Wooten). Mr. Finch addressed water issues that must be resolved prior to beginning plaster work, with biggest areas of concern the roof and windows. Vestry approved hiring Tim Finch as consultant to help find reputable contractors to “seal the envelope” and approve any work before issuing payments. (motion Elizabeth Kuipers, second Raye Holt). Discussion followed about investigating available grant funding for historical preservation.
 - Fr Nelson has contract with Finch Finishes and after review will email to vestry members for approval.
 - Additional areas needing attention discussed were playground, short wall by office, Christian education building upgrades, gutters, and all exterior doors. Hayden Hooks and Elizabeth Kuipers recommend pausing on playground to pursue other CE building items. Raye Holt and Rickey Duke each suggested gutter companies. Jr. Warden will request estimates from both. Ashley Goodin will be asked to give estimate for refurbishing and replacing (as needed) all exterior doors.
- VIII. Christian Education – Godly Play will resume 2/16 with teacher training on 2/2.

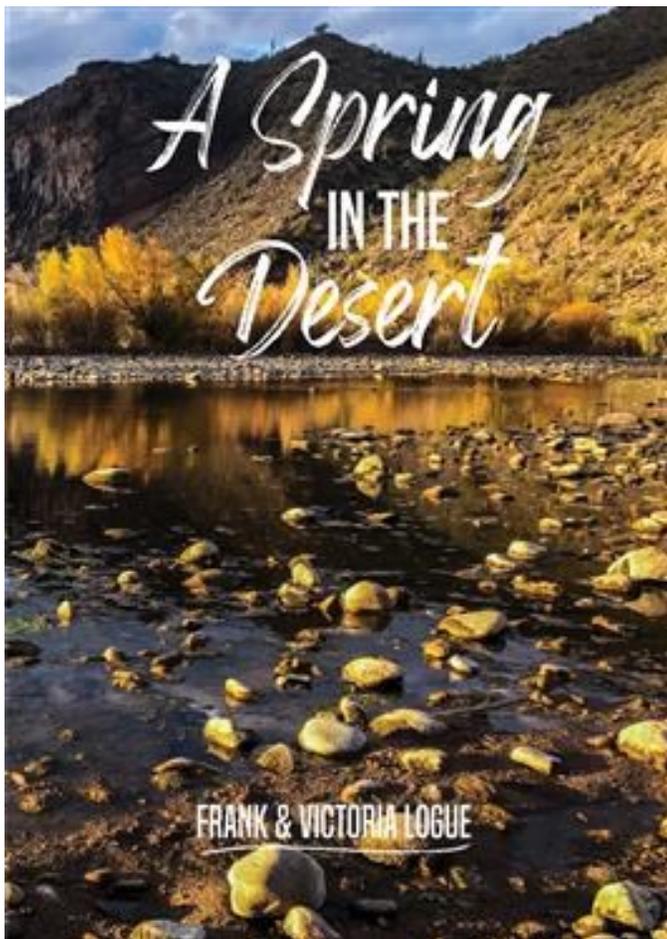
Vestry minutes continued:

- IX. Endowment committee – Vestry needs to propose nominees to fill Henry Crisp’s position.
- X. Outreach – Calvary is hosting a covered dish SAMA dinner 1/30 to focus on building relationships within the community.
- XI Finance Committee - Vestry is responsible for all expenditures of parish and approves expenditures recommended by committees (endowment, mustard seed, men’s group, etc.). Fr. Nelson recommended finance committee submit a revised 2020 budget to include an amount designated for Christian Education.
- XII. Financial Report – approved as presented.
- XIII. Old Business - Concerns were raised from parishioners about limiting photocopying and mailing information, especially affecting those without access or those that will not choose to access the information.

Fr. Richard closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Fowler

Sunday Mornings During Lent



Join us at 9:00am Sunday mornings during Lent for a discussion using this wonderful book (provided by Calvary) and led by Fr. Richard and Deacon Geri. Dates for this class are: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 28, 2020.

Jesus stepped out of the water of baptism into uninhabitable wilderness, emerging forty days later to offer the water of life for those thirsting for God’s presence. A little more than two centuries later, a group of Christians withdrew from a spiritually barren Roman Empire to find their faith blossom in the stony soil of the Egyptian desert.

Frank and Victoria Logue offer a Lenten journey inspired by the many passages of scripture that use images of water in the desert as a sign of the healing and wholeness that come through God alone. To this they add the distilled wisdom of the Desert Mothers and Fathers and the surprisingly rich inspiration of the plants and animals that thrive in an arid land. Along the way, they will share the ways our faith speaks to the barren places in our lives and how those times of drought can be a source of strength.”

March 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 9:00 am Calvary in Community Radio Program</p> <p>9:00 am Adult Discussion</p> <p>10:30 am Godly Play Holy Eucharist</p> <p>6:00 pm Ladies' Book Club</p>	<p>2 6-7 pm Yoga</p>	<p>3 5-6 pm Yoga</p>	<p>4 5:30 pm Contemplative Prayer in St. Anne's Chapel</p> <p>6:00 pm Healing and Holy Eucharist</p> <p>6:30 pm Lenten Supper</p> <p>7:00 pm Lenten Program</p>	<p>5 4:30 pm Cursillo Reunion Group</p> <p>6-7 pm Yoga</p>	<p>6 9:30 am Cursillo Reunion Group</p>	<p>7 9:00 am —1:00 pm Mustard Seed open</p>
<p>8 9:00 am Calvary in Community Radio Program</p> <p>9:00 am Adult Discussion</p> <p>10:30 am Godly Play Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>9 6-7 pm Yoga</p>	<p>10 5-6 pm Yoga</p>	<p>11 5:30 pm Contemplative Prayer in St. Anne's Chapel</p> <p>6:00 pm Healing and Holy Eucharist</p> <p>6:30 pm Lenten Supper</p> <p>7:00 pm Lenten Program</p>	<p>12 4:30 pm Cursillo Reunion Group</p> <p>6-7 pm Yoga</p>	<p>13 9:30 am Cursillo Reunion Group</p>	<p>14 9:00 am —1:00 pm Mustard Seed open</p> <p>9:00 am Altar Guild Work Day</p>
<p>15 9:00 am Calvary in Community Radio Program</p> <p>9:00 am Adult Discussion</p> <p>10:30 am Godly Play Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>16 6-7 pm Yoga</p>	<p>17 6:00 pm Vestry</p>	<p>18 5:30 pm Contemplative Prayer in St. Anne's Chapel</p> <p>6:00 pm Healing and Holy Eucharist</p> <p>6:30 pm Lenten Supper</p> <p>7:00 pm Lenten Program</p>	<p>19 4:30 pm Cursillo Reunion Group</p>	<p>20 9:30 am Cursillo Reunion Group</p>	<p>21 9:00 am —1:00 pm Mustard Seed open</p>
<p>22 9:00 am Calvary in Community Radio Program</p> <p>9:00 am Adult Discussion</p> <p>10:30 am Godly Play Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>23 6-7 pm Yoga</p>	<p>24 5-6 pm Yoga</p>	<p>25 5:30 pm Contemplative Prayer in St. Anne's Chapel</p> <p>6:00 pm Healing and Holy Eucharist</p> <p>6:30 pm Lenten Supper</p> <p>7:00 pm Lenten Program</p>	<p>26 4:30 pm Cursillo Reunion Group</p> <p>6-7 pm Yoga</p>	<p>27 9:30 am Cursillo Reunion Group</p>	<p>28 9:00 am —1:00 pm Mustard Seed open</p>
<p>29 9:00 am Calvary in Community Radio Program</p> <p>9:00 am Adult Discussion</p> <p>10:30 am Godly Play Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>30 6-7 pm Yoga</p>	<p>31</p>				