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Date: 3/27/2020 11:34:45 AM

Subject: News and Notes from Durham for March 26

*News and Notes from
'Old Durham' Church
February 27, 2020
'Feeding Souls Since 1661'*



We are the Episcopal Church in Nanjemoy, Maryland. Our historic church building at 8700 Ironsides Road is currently closed.

[Click here join us](#) for worship online over Zoom--we'd love to have you join us!

Learn more at OldDurham.org

This Week's Announcements

All of our meetings are either cancelled or being moved online.

Joe's Place Food Pantry is going ahead under special conditions and with limited staffing. No extra volunteers are requested.

Paying your pledges. Yes, you can still pay your pledge! In fact, the parish budget is counting on it! You can either mail a check to the church's postal address (8700 Ironsides Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662) or use PayPal at [this link](#) , which is also on the church website. Please note that these payment arrangements may be adjusted over the next few weeks as we try to mesh the current situation with financial best practices. One way in which we are trying to provide financial oversight in these tricky times is to issue regular giving statements to our pledging members. When you receive your statement, please check to confirm that the church's records match yours.

What are we going to do about Holy Week and Easter? Your faithful parish leadership is working on that very question. We will find a socially isolated way to observe the high holy days of our faith: the "Triduum" of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. Our observances will likely be pared down to their simplest forms this year. On Easter Sunday morning we, like most local parishes, plan to encourage you to watch the live stream from the National Cathedral. We are still considering offering a modified Great Vigil service at sunrise over Zoom, and could consider other things to do with Easter evening.

Creative ideas welcome! start thinking about:

- sending in pictures of yourself in Easter hats and finery for a slide show or plan to wear them on a Zoom call. Other ideas for making worship more festive?
- For the Triduum observances, you might want to set up a sacred space in your house. Directions for how to make use of such a space are blossoming on Episcopal social media, and we will be circulating instructions for some simple home services.

Worship next Sunday



March 29, 2020 is the Fifth Sunday in Lent
*We hear the marvelous stories of God
breathing life in a valley full of dead bones and
into Lazarus, four days dead. God is indeed
the source of our life, and is faithful.*

Image: Icon by Nikola Saric. Available here [https://
www.nikolasaric.de/available-prints/?lang=en](https://www.nikolasaric.de/available-prints/?lang=en)

Check out this handy [calendar](#) to see what the readings will be in the Episcopal Church this Sunday or any Sunday. The [Revised Common Lectionary](#) site has additional resources for exploring each week's scriptures.

If you're looking for the Daily Office (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer), you can visit [Forward Movement](#) . You will also find Forward Day by Day at this site.

Observing a Holy Lent

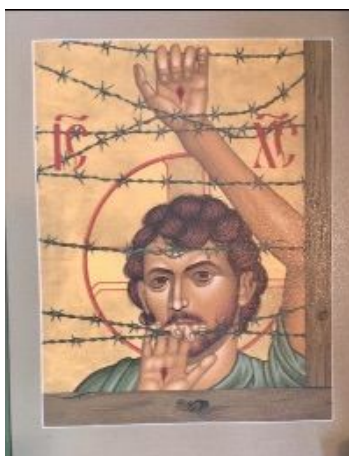


Lent Madness kicks off for its eleventh season in Lent. There is a bracket poster in the Parish Hall, and you are encouraged to follow along and vote each day. We will be getting print copies of the Scorecard again this year, but the action takes place on line. Check out www.lentmadness.org.

Living Well Through Lent, an offering of Living Compass, is once again offering a daily devotional for Lent. This year's focus is on courage, and our own Bishop Mariann is one of the contributors this year. The devotional works fine for private use, but if there are a few who want to gather to discuss it each week, that can be arranged. Speak to Rev. Catharine. You can learn more about LivingCompass [here](#).

Signs of Life: Join us Wednesdays at noon ([sign up here](#)), or sign up to follow along on your own schedule at www.signsoflife.org

Upcoming Events



Deacon Joan Crittenden has shared the following letter from a deacon who serves as a chaplain in the DC Jail. It outlines an opportunity to be a pen-pal for someone in prison. Please note that there is a mandatory training session this Monday, March 30 at 7:30pm. Another training session is expected later in April.

I am writing to share a ministry invitation with you and the communities you serve to participate in the Pen Pal Project sponsored by [Inter-Faith Action for Human Rights \(IAHR\)](#).

Individuals who are incarcerated can often be disconnected from their families and in need of connection and support. Additionally, in-person visitation by family and clergy has come to an end in the majority of jails and prisons. Video calls are an option in some but not all prison facilities.

For over two years Inter-Faith Action for Human Rights has sponsored a Pen Pal Project for DC residents who are incarcerated in the Bureau of Prisons and are serving their sentences throughout the country in 122 prisons.

Pen pals are asked to write once a month for a year. The Pen Pal Project hosts monthly trainings and has strict security guidelines which are included in this email. Please note that with the closure of churches during COVID - all correspondence will use the IAHR postal box. Individuals may use their own name or select a "pen pal" name.

During this time of social distancing we are all keenly aware of the need for and the importance of human contact and connection. As Bishop Curry mentioned recently, physical isolation need not be social isolation. We are invited here to move beyond physical isolation and be in touch with those in need of connection and care as a way to knit together the fabric of our society.

Any individual interested in participating in the Pen Pal Project must attend a training. The next Zoom training on Monday, March 30th from 7:30pm-8:45pm. There will be another training in April after Easter and Passover.

I invite you to consider participating in the training on Monday and to share this ministry opportunity with folks in your parishes. I recognize that it is very short notice for Monday but I wanted to go ahead and share this with you in the event that you or a couple of folks from your congregations might be interested and available.

Please be in touch with the names and emails of individuals interested in participating in the training and I will communicate to them the details of the training. Let me know if you have questions.

*The Reverend Julie A. Petersmeyer
Deacon, Episcopal Diocese of Washington
Chaplain, DC Jail*

In the Wider Church



Keep abreast of goings-on in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, of which we are a parish. [Sign up](#) for the newsletter or check our previous issues [here](#) .

In Our Prayers

Let us pray...

...in thanksgiving for the members of our congregation: Patsy, John, Ruth, and Bill.

...for support and protection for those who serve our country at home and

abroad: Alex, Mike, Wes, Thomas, Steven, and Megan.

...for those in need of God's healing grace: Anna and Chris (*daughter and son-in-law of Jinger and Sue*), Mabel, James (*parish cleaner and neighbor of Rick and Mary*), Ronda (*daughter of Marie*), Jane (*sister of Bill*), Barbara, Rick, Buddy, Tom; *Our continuing prayers are offered for:* Vivian (*mother of Barbara*), Sam, Thelma (*Deacon Susan's mother*), Butch, Livvy (*mother of Kathy*), Buddy, Rhonda, Jeanne, Jean, Rose (*friend of Gloria*), Roy, and Luci (*aunt of Barbara*).

...for those who have died: Juanita Napper (*mother of Deacon Susan's friend Leslie Fleury*).

The Diocese of Washington cycle of prayer: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; Christ Church Accokeek (St. John's Parish) and St. John's Chapel; Christ Church, Georgetown; Christ Church, Chaptico; Pray in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Martin Luther King, Jr. (April 4).

The Anglican Communion cycle of prayer: Today, the fifth Sunday in Lent, is the focus of the Primates' Task Group's call for a period of prayer and repentance in the Anglican Communion. The Bishop of West Malaysia, Moon Hing, is a member of the Task Group and has written this prayer, which the Task Group offers to the Anglican Communion for use today:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Sovereign Lord of the universe, Creator of humankind, we, your unfaithful children, are truly sorry for our sins and the lives that we have lived. We sincerely believe and confess in our hearts that only through the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary, can we obtain Your forgiveness. We repent that: In thought, word or deed, we have committed serious offences against You and our neighbours; In laziness, despair and lust for power, we have provoked hatred, division and hurt within our communities; In greed, deceit and indifference, we have caused serious damage, unnecessary conflict and aggravated destruction to our refugee and migrant brothers and sisters; In selfishness, insensitivity and bias, we have encouraged and emboldened those who inflict hurt, pain and sorrow on our loved ones and families; In the name of religion, doctrine and even of Christ himself, we have wounded believers and pursuers of holiness and faith; In stubbornness, pride and arrogance, we have caused division and strife within Your church and among Your children; Mercifully send Your Holy Spirit – the Spirit of order and comfort – and cleanse us from all unrighteousness; restore in us true faith in Christ which brings truth, peace and harmony; and help us to walk together with our brothers and sisters in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of Your name. Amen.



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