

Wednesday Information - February 17, 2021

Dear friends,

It was a most unusual Ash Wednesday. For a start, we decided at short notice to provide in-person worship. News about the lifting of the suspension to worship only came yesterday afternoon. If we were to have in-person worship, then we had to move quickly. We did. My grateful thanks to Jaclyn Hickman, Dave Kemper, Nancy Rojewski, Diane Gay, Carolyn Smith, Carl and Pat Long and Clem Edgar for responding to the call to be ready.

It was unusual for being a joyful service - not that we aren't normally joyful, it's just that Ash Wednesday is a *serious* beginning to our Lent. Traditionally it follows Shrove Tuesday - *Mardi Gras* - which is party time, when you get to let your hair down before donning the hair shirt. Today was different - being back in church, together again, was such a joy, even with the ashen cross on our foreheads.

During the sermon, I asked the congregation to "discover the thing that makes you come alive in Christ." It might be prayer, or faithful attendance at the Holy Eucharist, or helping out a neighbor or someone in need. Here's an excerpt from the sermon:

"Whenever we come alive in Christ we are entering the kingdom of heaven: a place where one day we will be fully present. But for now, we are citizens of both heaven and earth. As Christians, there is no ceiling to our sky, no limit to what we can achieve, if God asks us, and touches us with his love."

Lent is a penitential season, which means we are to repent of the sins which mar our relationship with God and one another. But Lent also carries potential for real growth and change, if we let it.

Our next Holy Eucharist will be on Sunday, February 21 at 9 am. We will gather again for in-person worship, and also offer a livestream service on YouTube. We have recently upgraded our internet modem which in theory should result in an improved visual presentation. If you happen to be experiencing blips or skips while watching, please bear with us as we iron out any technical issues.

The day before, On Saturday, is the premier of the Life Before Death series. This is an online course over five weeks which is free of charge - all you have to do is register beforehand with Jaclyn at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. There is also written course material which complements the course and is available once you have registered. The course is available to non-members, so if you know of anyone you think will be interested, please let them know.

With Lenten blessings,

Father David

Join us as we worship together in person.

*First Sunday in Lent
Sunday, February 21, 2021
9:00 am - Holy Eucharist*

If you are unable to worship in person, please join us as we livestream.

To view the livestreamed service please click the Youtube link below.



[Life Before Death](#)

Life Before Death

Saturday, **February 20** at 10 am. Week One

Advance Care Planning

- Completing an Advance Directive
- What are the medical alternatives (CPR, ANH, DNR, DNI, and more)
- Selecting a surrogate decision maker
- Durable Power of Attorney for healthcare
- DNAR, DMOST
- Palliative Care

This can be viewed through the link provided by Beebe Healthcare - Click [here](#).

Participants also need to email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or call Jaclyn at the church office to sign up. **Sign up is very important** so that we will be able to send links to you and also prepare the handout folder for each person.

Handout material will be in a blue covered file bin located by the red front door of St Martha's beginning Wednesday, February 17. Please make arrangements to pick up your materials that will be used in each session.

This program will run five consecutive weeks, Saturdays at 10am on 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13 and 3/20. Sessions will run 1.25 hours. Participants will be able to type in questions during the live broadcast. Contact info for follow-up questions will be provided.

Shepherd Group Leaders

Meeting on Tuesday, **February 23** at 11 am, with Father David and Elsa Fuentes. By Zoom. A link will be sent the day before.

In Person Bible Study

Tuesday, **February 23** at 1 pm. A study of the Book of Leviticus, Chapters 26 & 27. Led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jaclyn Hickman by email at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or by telephone on 302-539-7444.

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, **February 23** at 7 pm. By Zoom. A link will be sent the day before.

SMVBC

St. Martha's Virtual Book Club is taking a little break. Sessions will resume after Easter.



As we journey through the season of Lent, why not join us online for an evening Lent Course? "God and Us" comprises six sessions and explores our relationship with God, using traditional and creative approaches to the questions of faith and religion.

Each session begins at 7 pm.

Wednesday February 24	1. God Is
Wednesday March 3	2. God the Creator
Wednesday March 10	3. The House of God
Wednesday March 17	4. The Psalms
Wednesday March 24	5. The Vision of God
Wednesday March 31	6. God our Friend

The course will be conducted by Zoom. Please see the weekly emails or website for further information.

(In lieu of Prayer/ Soup & Salad each Wednesday of Lent sponsored by the Ministerium)

A Prayer Service will be held in the Parking Lot of St. George's United Methodist Church on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 24 @ 12 noon—led by St. Ann's

Wednesday, March 31 @ 12 noon—led by Ocean View Presbyterian Church

(Sound system available, so you may stay in your car. As in past, a free will offering will be accepted to support the less fortunate that Ministerium provides for).

Committee Updates

Outreach

Community Food Pantry, located at Salem United Methodist Church, is looking for volunteers to help with their monthly Friday food preparation and Saturday drive thru distribution. If you can help March 19th or 20th, please contact Joyce Dennis (302-732-6565) or Myra Bare (302-732-940).

Flower Guild

There are still two Sundays in Lent for which greens may be designated, March 14th and Palm Sunday, March 28th. Please call or email Jaclyn at 302-539-7444 or admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org if you would like to honor or remember someone on one of those dates.

Also, a reminder that donations for Easter Flowers may also be made by calling or emailing Jaclyn. Father David enclosed a donation form with his Lenten letter, which, of course, may be used also.

Donations in any amount are gratefully received, but just for a frame of reference, Sunday arrangements cost \$35; the greens for March 14th, \$25; and an average Easter plant, about \$15-\$25. Checks should have Flower Fund in the memo line and may be mailed to the church or dropped off.

Search

The Search Committee hopes you have had the opportunity to check out the recently activated Rector Search tab on the St. Martha's website and have found the church e-profile an interesting read. The committee continues to meet weekly on Zoom and is preparing for the interview process which will begin after the application deadline, April 12.



Time To
Celebrate

Click here to [view](#) February birthdays
and anniversaries



**MEETING
MINUTES**

- [Vestry - January](#)
- [Finance - January](#)
- [Finance - February](#)
- [Outreach - January](#)

Prayer List

Bev and Jack Shubert, Marie Hogsten, Harry Burlew, Robert Hicks, Christine Mains, Elsa Fuentes, Elizabeth, Bruce Robson, Carolyn Clarke, Joanne Grant, Ed Kapnic, Craig Brosi, Keith Smith, Jim Lucas, Jane Robbert and Michael Kilakis

For our serving military: Quinn Barber, HM3 Kevin Murphy, Conner Warlow, Daniel Olnick

Prayer LIST – If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office at (302) 539-7444 or email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. The Prayer List is a way to ask for prayer from the whole congregation for a loved one who is dealing with a stressful issue such as chronic illness, job problem, or other personal problem. Only the person's name is listed. Names stay on the list for one month unless and until renewed.

Prayer CIRCLE – These volunteer prayer warriors pray for a person who has asked for urgently needed short-term prayer for a specific purpose like surgery or an upcoming medical test. These requests are confidential. You can email prayercircle@stmarthasbethanybeach.org for Prayer Circle intercessions. You can also contact Jaclyn at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or 539-7444. Voicemail messages are being monitored and you will receive a return call during normal office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm).

Pastoral CARE –If you have a pastoral care need, please call Elsa or Carol at (732) 216-6875 or contact the office using the email address or phone number listed above.

Pastoral Care EMERGENCY – Please contact Father David Beresford at (302) 468 9062.

Please give by mail or website donate button

Please continue to support our mission work by submitting your pledge to St. Martha's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1478, Bethany Beach DE 19930 or give via the donate button on the website where there is a box to note your contribution purpose: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/make-donation-or-pledge/>.

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have a wonderful week!

The Rev. David Beresford, 302-468-9062, davidberesford@gmail.com
Senior Warden, Ron Kerchner, 609-424-7281, thekerchners@msn.com
Junior Warden, Bill Freund, 301-229-0799, wmfreund42@gmail.com
Secretary, John Short, 302-829-1699, johnnyeshort146@gmail.com
David Kemper, Music Director, 267-421-4453, dc.kemper@hotmail.com
Jaclyn Hickman, Administrative Asst., 302-539-7444, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org