

## From The Rector

A retired college professor and administrator told me once that buildings built to house libraries must have substantial foundations because books are so heavy. Pitts Theology Library has more than six hundred thousand volumes. It must have a really great foundation! I remember standing on the

front steps of that great library and wondering to myself what all those theological books are worth to someone who does not believe.

Five hundred years ago Martin Luther famously posted a series of theses he wanted to debate. He was a monk and an academic. The late middle ages had given rise to scholasticism which was a way of studying theology and philosophy based on Aristotelian logic and emphasizing dogma. It has been observed that since that time few saints have been theologians.

The saints are an odd bunch. They are people who do irrational things because they believe in God. They hear God's voice and rearrange their lives accordingly. They are not likely to want to argue but if they did, their logic would be hard to defend. And yet they are the ones through whom the Holy Spirit moves the Church to continue the ministry of Jesus. I was interested to learn recently how Christians in the second and third centuries would remain in communities where infectious diseases were rampant while others fled. Sometimes staying with the sick would cost them their own lives. That is an example of going beyond ordinary love. It is an

example of risking oneself for neighbor following the example of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday is March first. We begin another Lent with the imposition of ashes. When a priest makes the sign of the cross on our foreheads and reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Dust is what remains when we recognize as fantasy the notion that we can save ourselves and when we recognize our idols for what they are. Yet we do not despair because from the dust that is left when our egos have been through the furnace is precisely the stuff from which saints are made.

Let us get out of our heads and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts. Let us observe a holy Lent. That includes confession both corporately and individually. It also includes daily prayer and at least weekly Eucharist. It may mean participating in a group to prepare for baptism or confirmation or renewing your baptismal vows at the Easter Vigil.

Words can be as heavy as the books that contain them but the gifts of the spirit defy gravity and allow us to ascend to heights of joyful obedience. Those things we are called upon to sacrifice are the things that hold us down.

See you Sunday if not before.

## *Lent and Easter at Emmanuel*

**Ash Wednesday Eucharist**  
Wednesday, March 1  
12:15 p.m.—Bledsoe Chapel  
7:00 p.m.—Church

**Saturdays—Holy Eucharist**  
5:00 p.m.—Bledsoe Chapel  
**Sundays—Holy Eucharist**  
Rite I—8:00 a.m.  
Rite II—10:30 a.m.

**Wednesdays during Lent**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
12:15 p.m.—Bledsoe Chapel  
Lenten Series—Supper 6:00 p.m.  
March 8—April 5

### **HOLY WEEK**

**Holy Eucharist**  
Wednesday, April 12, 12:15 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday Service**  
Friday, April 14, 12:00 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross**  
Friday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Vigil**  
Saturday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, April 16**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
Rite I—8:00 a.m.  
Rite II—10:30 a.m.

# Formation: Activities, Events, News

## The Director of Formation Ministries



Lent is on time this year, as always. It's a season for reflection and penitence, for reinvigorating our personal piety and spiritual disciplines. And it comes as one of our Sunday school groups is exploring the spiritual

disciplines that come ready-made, both ancient often new to us, in the Book of Common Prayer. "Inwardly Digest" by Derek Olson is an approachable guide to the BCP, and lots of good discussion has flowed from our reading of that book. One member has even created an audiobook podcast of the book and chapter-by-chapter discussion forums.

John Mongle sat with some of us one Sunday after the eight o'clock service, and was intently interested in all this talk about the Daily Office and modern tools available to us today to experience it in new ways. I asked John if he would share a glimmer of his wealth of information and interest with the wider church, and he graciously offered the following:

Have you ever wished to read the Daily Office, observe morning prayer or simply get a spiritual boost, but seem never to have the time? Well, to rehash a too-used cliché, there's an app for that. In fact, the podcast app probably came included in your smart phone or tablet operating system.

We are or should be by now familiar and regular visitors to our own [The Open Red Doors podcast](#) of Fr. Joe's Sunday sermon. But, there is more, especially when it comes to prayer. Here are a few of my favorites to try.



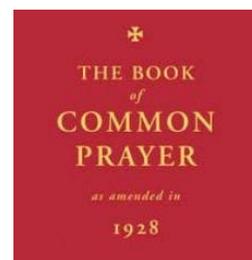
The Episcopal Church of Garrett County (MD) [episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org](http://episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org) offers a 15-minute daily podcast of Morning Prayer Rite II. Native flute music from R. Carlos Nakai fills the musical interludes of this podcast. The Old Testament reading is omitted I assume to keep the recording in the 15 - minute range. On the church web page there are also links to Sunday services, noon prayer and an abbreviated compline recording.



Pray As You Go <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/home/> is a digital outreach by the Jesuits in Britain. The podcast runs about 12 minutes and includes a Bible reading for reflection and a wide variety of music. The web site offers the daily

installment for listening or MP3 download. The organization has also developed stand alone Android and iOS apps for the service in addition to the podcasts that includes the text and details of the music.

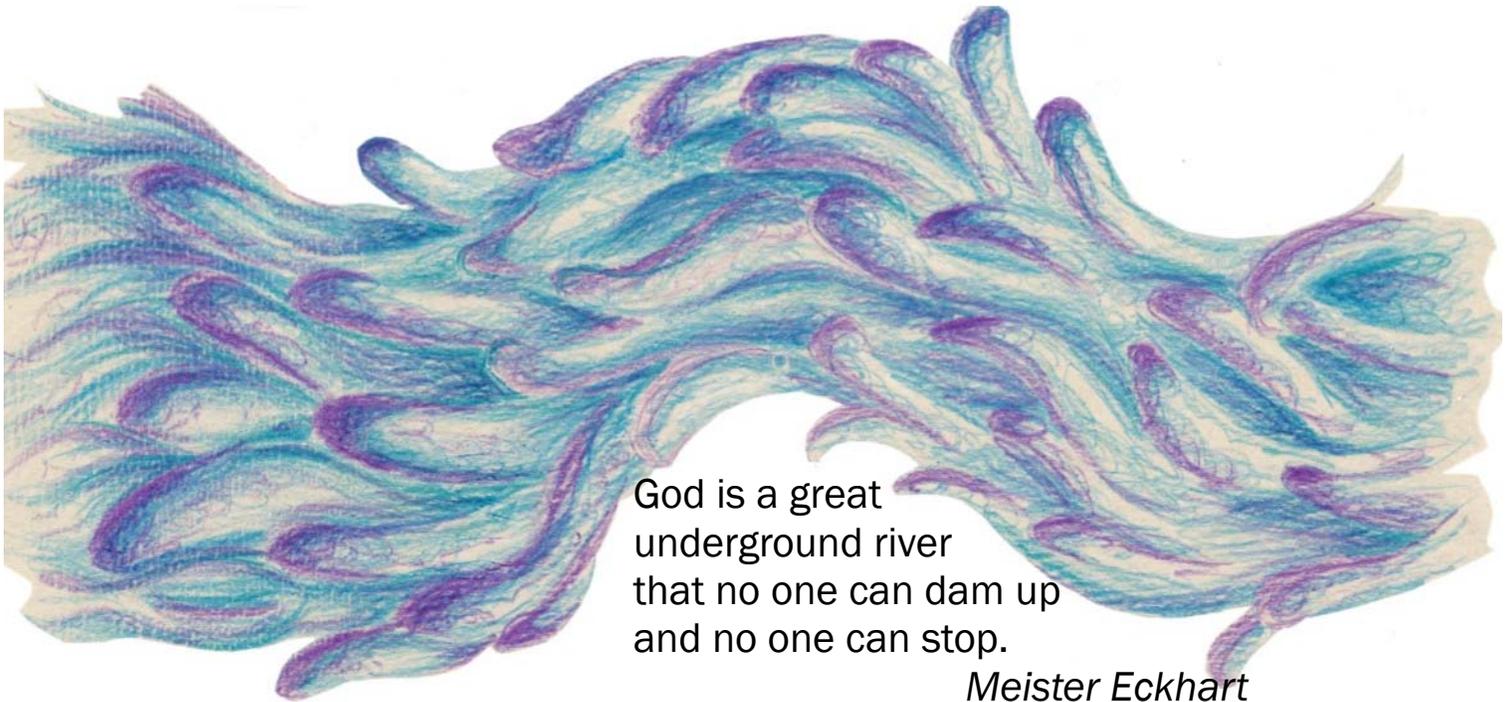
For a throwback to a different time, St. George's Anglican Church in Colorado Springs <https://www.stgac.org/morning-prayer.html> offers morning prayer from the 1928 Prayer Book. This podcast provides a change in rhythm, but I wouldn't want to listen every day. The first two on the list, for me, never get old.



That's a sample of the digital church presence, but there's more. Much more. Web sites, podcasts and eBooks abound on the faith and the Episcopal way. If there is interest we can get into that later.

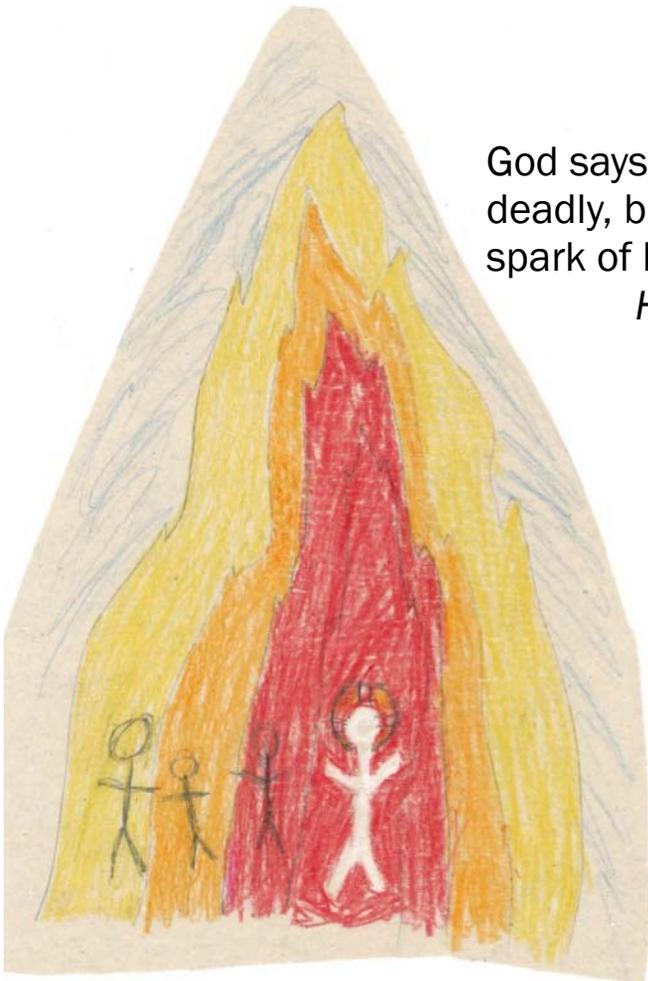
# Formation: Activities, Events, News

## Images of God



God is a great  
underground river  
that no one can dam up  
and no one can stop.

*Meister Eckhart*



God says: I am the supreme fire; not  
deadly, but rather enkindling of every  
spark of life.

*Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179)*

Our middle school and high school Sunday school class has been exploring spirituality through studying images of God. The images of God we surround ourselves with are important for our individual theologies. If I say the word "Mom" to you, you don't recall of definition of mother. You recall an image of a mother you know, maybe your own. In the exercise above, youth were given a description of God from historic theologians, and asked to create an image for it. These are two of their works.

# Parish Life: Activities, Events, News

## Emmanuel Lenten Texts

Join Emmanuel's Lenten Text series. Sign up to get 140 characters each day of thought- and prayer-provoking inspiration, each made from someone in our Emmanuel family.

The subscription is voluntary (you can opt out at any time) and one-way (no one else can reply with a message to the group). To subscribe, simply send @lentext to 81010. You can also go to [remind.com/join/lentext](http://remind.com/join/lentext). Texts begin Ash Wednesday and end Easter Sunday!



Enter this number

Text this message



### Reminder to Meals on Wheels Drivers

Meals on Wheels is the first Wednesday each month  
**April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6,  
October 4, November 1, and December 6**

*Thank you all for your ministry in our community.  
Contact Sandra Rushing for more information.*

## SOCIAL CLUB

**Tuesday, March 7, 6:00p.m.**

Join us for an evening of great food,  
bingo and prizes, and fellowship.

### 2017 Social Club Dates

<b>April 4</b>	<b>May 2</b>	<b>June 6</b>
<b>July TBD</b>	<b>August 1</b>	<b>September 5</b>
<b>October 3</b>	<b>November 7</b>	<b>December 5</b>

*Thank  
You*

The Valentine's Dinner was a huge success! Thank you very much to everyone who volunteered their time to make this fabulous evening possible. A special thank you to Brian Knickerbocker for the delicious food, all of the folks who spent extra time setting up, decorating, and cleaning, and all of the people who entertained us by sharing their musical talents. We raised \$2000.00 for the Mary Landrum Fund which will give us the opportunity to hire special guest musicians throughout the year. We have gotten a lot of positive feedback, and many folks would like to do this again next year. I say let's go for it!

-Stephanie

## Memorials

### Isaac Joseph McLaughlin

Jack and Mary Bevins  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Hitt  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rogers

Glasgow Theatre Company  
Dr. & Mrs. Larry Jayne  
Ben Vogel  
Gateway Church

Meghan Harlow  
Sharon Kyser  
Lee Wampler

### Jean Underwood

Margaret Kearfott

Judy Mitchell

# Birthdays, Anniversaries & Prayers

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Barber, Ruby Barber, Diane Bedwell, Carol Biegler, June Bradley, Henry Brewer, Sue Brickey, Barbara Bunn, Lisa Campbell, Winifred Campbell, Ben Crenshaw, Sharon Cross, Willie Crumley, Ivy Daniels, Alva, Emma, Lint Ellington, Dee Flanagan, Ham Fuller, Annette, Sharon Hatcher, Tom Hurt, Joe Kurre, Donald McCathy, Jill Mendiljian, Claire Miller, George Miller, Dan Morgan, Mark Morgan, Rachael Morgan, Laura Pearson, Jack Presnell, Renea Ramey, Rick Rimer, Jim Rodgers, Joyce Rodgers, Robert Rodgers, Denise Rowe, Emma Russell, Felicity Russell, Norma Shew, Sharon Slaughter, Lindsey Stiltner, Mary Jo Thomas, Braydon

## Lay Minister Schedule & Propers

### Sunday, March 5–The First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11

8:00 am Lector.....John Simpson  
 10:30 am Lector ..... Ashley McLaughlin  
 Intercessor..... TBD  
 Lay Eucharistic Minister..... Chris Yoder  
 Acolytes.....Jack, Mayne, Millie, Judson, Amelia  
 Ushers.....Nell and Dan Bieger

### Sunday March 12–The Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

8:00 am Lector..... Fred Knickerbocker  
 10:30 am Lector ..... Michael Webb  
 Intercessor..... Barbara Simpson  
 Lay Eucharistic Minister.....Debbie Tidwell  
 Acolytes.....Tucker, Grace, Adilyn, Kira, Hagan, Bree  
 Ushers..... TBD

### Sunday, March 19–The Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

8:00 am Lector..... Frank Goodpasture III  
 10:30 am Lector ..... Walt Bressler  
 Intercessor..... Jeremy McLaughlin  
 Lay Eucharistic Minister.....Harriett Harty  
 Acolytes..... Tucker, Grace, Adilyn, Kira, Hagan, Bree  
 Ushers..... Tina and Ed Hitt

### Sunday, March 26–The Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

8:00 am Lector..... Dave Zochowski  
 10:30 am Lector ..... Tom Hairston  
 Intercessor..... Fred Knickerbocker  
 Lay Eucharistic Minister..... Tom Hairston  
 Acolytes..... David, Grace, Lola, Lana, Hagan, Adilyn  
 Ushers.....Jane Bachman and Ruth King

### Sunday, April 2–The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

8:00 am Lector..... John Simpson  
 10:30 am Lector ..... Barbara Simpson  
 Intercessor..... Tom Rogers  
 Lay Eucharistic Minister..... Tom Rogers  
 Acolytes..... Jack, Mayne, Millie, Judson, Amelia, Lana  
 Ushers.....Monica and Daniel Shew

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Seth Allen, Alex Bowen
- 3 Sadie Harden
- 5 Lauren Zochowski
- 6 Lynn Couch  
Sherri Hopkins  
Paige Terry
- 7 Deane Everett  
Tammy Hardee
- 8 Judy Mitchell
- 9 Josie Tickle
- 11 Austin Carr
- 13 Adilyn Jones, Judith Wylie
- 14 Jamie Heath
- 16 Mike Riley
- 19 Shauna Webb
- 20 Peggy Horner
- 22 Linda Gaines, Larry Jayne
- 24 Prent Hallenbeck
- 26 Lark Adams
- 28 Barbara Wampler
- 31 Bree Adams  
Jackie Everett

## MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 31 Barbara & George Bunn



# March 2017 Parish Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>8 &amp; 10:30 am</b> Holy Eucharist <b>9:15 am</b> Faith Formation		<b>10 am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>1</b> Meals on Wheels <b>12:15 pm</b> Ash Wednesday Service (Bledsoe Chapel) <b>7 pm</b> Ash Wednesday Service (Church)	<b>2</b> <b>10 am</b> Lectionary Study <b>4 pm</b> LoE	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>5 pm</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>5</b> <b>8 &amp; 10:30 am</b> Holy Eucharist <b>9:15 am</b> Faith Formation	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>10 am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>8</b> <b>12:15 pm</b> Holy Eucharist <b>6 pm</b> Lenten Soup Supper <b>7 pm</b> Choir	<b>9</b> <b>10 am</b> Lectionary Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>5 pm</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>12</b> <b>8 &amp; 10:30 am</b> Holy Eucharist <b>9:15 am</b> Faith Formation	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>10 am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>12:15 pm</b> Holy Eucharist <b>5:15 pm</b> Finance Committee <b>6 pm</b> Lenten Soup Supper <b>7 pm</b> Choir	<b>16</b> <b>10 am</b> Lectionary Study	<b>17</b> April Messenger Deadline	<b>18</b> <b>5 pm</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>19</b> <b>8 &amp; 10:30 am</b> Holy Eucharist <b>9:15 am</b> Faith Formation	<b>20</b> <b>5:15 pm</b> Vestry	<b>21</b> <b>10 am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>22</b> <b>12:15 pm</b> Holy Eucharist <b>6 pm</b> Lenten Soup Supper <b>7 pm</b> Choir	<b>23</b> <b>10 am</b> Lectionary Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>5 pm</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>26</b> <b>8 &amp; 10:30 am</b> Holy Eucharist <b>9:15 am</b> Faith Formation	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>10 am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> <b>12:15 pm</b> Holy Eucharist <b>6 pm</b> Lenten Soup Supper <b>7 pm</b> Choir	<b>30</b> <b>10 am</b> Lectionary Study	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>5 pm</b> Holy Eucharist



## Rector's Catechesis Group

For those interested in Confirmation, Reception,  
or Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Sunday's at 9:30 a.m. in Fr. Joe's Study

# Vestry News

The January 16, 2017 Vestry meeting of Emmanuel Episcopal Church was called to order at 5:13 p.m.

Members present: Michael Webb, Jeremy McLaughlin, Greg Oakley, Richard Wolfe, Sharon Kyser, Tom Hairston, Audrey Zaidi, Barbara Sue Kurre, Tom Rogers, and Barbara Walling

Members absent: Jade Carson, Maggie Green

Opening Prayer

Minutes from the November 21, 2016 vestry meeting were approved with amendments.

The Canon 14 Declaration was circulated for vestry members to sign.

Minutes of the November 2016 Vestry meeting were approved.

Rector's Report

- Fr Joe expressed his thanks to Sharon Kyser and Fred Knickerbocker for their work on the Christmas Dinner. He also expressed his gratitude for Sharon's help setting up for the Convocation meeting on Sunday, January 15.
- Barbara Walling made a motion that all four current vestry officers be re-elected for the 2017 term. Motion second by Barbara Sue Kurre. Motion passed unanimously. The Vestry will be commissioned Sunday, January 22 during the 10:30 a.m. service.
- Fr. Joe submitted his continuing education report to the diocese as required and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- Total pledges received for 2017 as of today, are \$302,740 compared to \$256,570 in 2016.
- Fr. Joe asked if the junior warden would research the needs of a columbarium committee and report back to the vestry.
- John Simpson is an aspirant for Holy Orders. The vestry of an aspirant's parish must approve him or her as a potential postulant for Holy Orders and submit to the diocese, in writing, that the aspirant is a communicant in good standing and that the vestry recommends the aspirant proceed in the process. The form was circulated for the vestry members to sign.
- Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser for Mary Landrum Fund will be February 10<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall.
- Fr. Joe invited Vestry members who want to serve as lectors and/or intercessors to receive the training and join the rota.
- The 2017 Lenten Suppers will once again take place all Wednesday's during lent (except Ash Wednesday and Holy Week).
- Canon 17 of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia requires the vestry of each parish holding real property to elect not fewer than three trustees in whom is vested the legal title to any and all real property owned by the parish. The current trustees of record with the Bristol, Virginia court are Frank Goodpasture III, Richard Horner, Nell Bieger, and the late King Rogers.
- Tom Hairston made a motion to re-elect Frank Goodpasture III, Richard Horner, and Nell Bieger as trustees. Second made by Greg Oakley. Motion passed unanimously. (Trustees serve for a term of five years and may be re-elected for no more than three consecutive five year terms, unless the vestry is unanimous in its vote to re-elect the trustees.)

Director of Formation Ministries Report

- John was not present because he was with the young people who had observed Martin Luther King Day by working at the food pantry and seeing the movie *Hidden Figures*.

Senior Warden Report

- Sharon Kyser expressed her thanks to everyone who assisted with Christmas Dinner. She and Fred Knickerbocker are working on a manual for the annual event.
- Daniel Shew is writing a series of devotionals featuring the symbolism in Emmanuel's stained glass. The Senior Warden will include these in material she is preparing for newcomers.

Junior Warden Report

- New Nest thermostats were installed in the nave. In November we ran 183 total hours and in December we ran over 900 total hours.
- The bell tower doors are not functioning properly. The doors need to be rehung and fit with new locks. Jeremy will investigate options for fixing the doors and improving security. Jeremy requested consent to hire someone to do this work. Motion by Sharon Kyser to approve up to \$1,100 for the work. Second by Tom Hairston. Motion approved unanimously.
- Sharon Kyser procured a quote to have a remove-able handrail on the steps leading from Cumberland Street to the bell tower. The quote also includes cleaning the wrought iron on the doors as well.

Treasurer's Report

- Greg Oakley presented the final 2017 budget. The only changes since the annual meeting in November 2016 was the balance on some non-cash items. On behalf of the finance committee, Greg Oakley recommends the vestry accept the 2017 budget as presented. Motion to accept the 2017 budget by Jeremy McLaughlin. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Invite Tom Day to attend the February 2017 meeting and revisit goals the vestry made at the December retreat and develop action plans.

New Business

- Discuss the parking lot across the street at the next vestry meeting.
- Jeremy McLaughlin assisted the youth today at the Bristol Emergency Food Pantry. He shared that the pantry assisted 28,000 people last year on a budget of less than \$500,000 annually. Jeremy asked that as a parish we assist the food pantry as much as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.



**MARCH 2017**  
**MESSENGER**

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Bristol, VA 24201

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Return Service Requested

**MESSENGER**

*The deadline to submit information for the April 2017 Messenger is March 17. Please be prompt.*

Weekly Schedule

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:00 a.m. Rite I  
10:30 a.m. Rite II  
Holy Eucharist

**SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION**

9:15 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Youth Formation

9:30 a.m.  
Adult Formation

**WEDNESDAY**

12:15 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist & Prayers for Healing  
Bledsoe Chapel

6:00 p.m.  
Young Adult Formation

7:00 p.m.  
Choir

**BIBLE STUDY**

10 a.m.  
Thursday

**SATURDAY SERVICE**

5:00 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist



**Beginning Wednesday March 8**  
**6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

Make our Wednesday Lenten Suppers a part of your spiritual discipline this season. Our focus this five-week series will be the connection of the sacraments and ministry with the poor. The series will feature speakers from community ministries.

Soup will be provided.

