RECTOR'S MESSAGE
The Rev. Sunil Chandy

On March 6th our Church celebrates Ash Wednesday. I hope the following will help answer some of the questions you may have regarding this holy day in the life of the Church.

What is Ash Wednesday?
Ash Wednesday originated as a penitential discipline of the early church. Through this discipline, those who had committed notorious sins were able to repent and return into full communion with the church community. But only after a period of penitence which included fasting, prayer, and intercession of the faithful. People who went through this process
of remorse were able to join the community at the Easter Vigil service. In the 6th century, the Wednesday preceding the 1st Sunday in Lent marked the beginning of this penitential season. The imposition of ashes, a later addition, became instituted as a sign of penitence in the 9th century during the Rite of Dismissal.

English reformers of the 1549 prayer book sought to re-institute penance as a discipline for the general population. The reformers hoped that people would learn to examine their shortcomings, repent of them while readying themselves to receive the grace of God.

**Why Ashes?**

In the context of the Bible, ashes remind us of our mortality. God tells Adam and Eve, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19 The covering of oneself with ashes was a sign of repentance and humility. In the book of Job, as Job realizes his sinfulness and pride he repents saying “Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42: 6. There are many other examples in both the New and Old testaments.

**How is it to be celebrated in our church?**

Our modern Book of Common Prayer retains the idea of Ash Wednesday as a day to recognize and repent of our sins while being open to receive the gift and freedom of forgiveness.
RECTOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

At Christ Church, we have many services to help us celebrate the beginning of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we will have a said service of the Ash Wednesday liturgy at 7 am and at noon in the main sanctuary of Christ Church. At 9:30 am and 1:30 pm in front of Mia’s restaurant, I will be offering “Ashes to go” for those who cannot make it to one of the three services at church. We will have a final liturgy of Ash Wednesday with music lead by the Christ Church Choir will be offered at 7 pm.

Why is it significant for us?

Not only does Ash Wednesday mark the beginning of the Lenten season for the church, it reminds us of our mortality, further helping us to acknowledge that we are often not in control of the vagaries of life. Ashes can signify our ability to trust in God who offers us wisdom to deal with the inevitable challenges of our lives.

Friends, please come and receive the imposition of Ashes at Christ Church. As you have the ashes placed on your foreheads may you “Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return” ultimately helping you to be open and grateful for the blessing and gift of life. Moreover, may this openness allow you to love more boldly, live joyfully and faithfully in life!

Your priest,

The Reverend Sunil Chandy+

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**1ST SUNDAY POTLUCK**

Beginning March 3rd, every first Sunday of the month we will be holding a potluck. Bring a lunch item, dessert or beverage to share and join us in the Parish Hall around 12:00 noon or immediately following the 11:00 am service. Lunch will be accompanied by conversation and discussion. Bring your family and friends!

**BEGINNING SUN. MARCH 3RD!**
We are now in the season of Epiphany and making preparations for Lent. Ash Wednesday this year falls on March 6th. We would like to remind everyone that there are no flowers placed on the altar during Lent except for Mothering Sunday, March 31st. This year, if you wish to order flowers during Lent, they will be placed on the windows on either side of the communion rail. Parishioners are still able to recognize special occasions and submit memorials by requesting the Sanctuary Light. Tributes, as always, will be printed in the bulletin.

During Lent, the church is less ornate. The crosses are draped in the simple. color of purple, candlesticks are The fourth Sunday in Lent (this year called March 31st) is “Mothering Sunday”. Just as we did in Advent on Laudate Sunday, we will be using our rose hangings as another name for this Sunday is “Rose Sunday”. This Sunday was called “Laetare” Sunday, which in Latin means “joyful”. This Sunday honors the Virgin Mary and the Mother Church. Flowers will be used on this Sunday.

According to The Encyclopedia Britannica, historically this day was once observed as a day on which people would visit their ‘mother’ church, it has become an occasion for honoring the
mothers of children and giving them presents. During the 16th century, people returned to their mother church or cathedral of the area, for a service to be held on Laudate Sunday. This was either the church where you were baptized, or the local parish church, or the nearest cathedral. Anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone ‘a-mothering’... Children and young people who were ‘in service’ (as household servants) were given a day off on that date so they could visit their families. The children would pick wild flowers along the way to place in the church or give to their mothers.

Mothering Sunday is now a day to honor mothers and other mother figures, such as grandmothers, stepmothers and mother-in-laws. An important part of Mothering Sunday is giving gifts (such as cakes and flowers) and cards.”

On March 31st, we will again be celebrating “Mothering Sunday”. We would like to offer an opportunity to honor our mothers or mother figures that are or have been a part of our lives and at the same time raise funds for the refurbishing of our original torches carried by our acolytes. On special occasions, we will again be able to have two Crucifers and 4 torch bearers. We also plan to purchase additional colored cinctures (belts) for the acolytes and crucifer to wear to match the color of the season as well as new gloves for them. Based on the profit, we may identify other projects.

The Altar Guild will be offering pink roses for purchase through pre-order. The names of those being honored will be published in the bulletin. Roses will be available for pick up at all three services.

ALL profits raised will be given to the Acolyte Guild (and other identified projects if profits permit) to defray or hopefully, fully fund the projects identified. We are enclosing a copy of the order form in the Cornerstone and will have forms available in weekly bulletins. Orders will be due by March 20th in order to guarantee delivery of
the roses. Forms can be placed in an envelope, dropped in the collection plate, mailed to or dropped off at the church office or be given to Cheryl Leong or Natalie Pukas. If paying by check, checks should be made out to Christ Church Altar Guild with a notation- ROSE ORDER.

We hope that all of you will consider purchasing one or more roses. However, if you prefer not to purchase any but would like to donate to this fundraiser, there is a space provided on the Order Form.

Thank you!

Please note: A hard copy of the rose order forms will be found in your bulletin and available on the table near the Parish Hall office or on a table in the Narthex.

You don't need to print this form.
Glory be to catchers and pitchers and baseball fans everywhere! The return of baseball season draws near. Three strikes, and you’re out. Tie goes to the runner. Ground rule double. These are the rules of baseball we abide by to assure the game is orderly and fair.

God gave Moses a list of ten rules etched on stone tablets that are meant to make our lives more orderly and fair, and we think that if we follow these rules, if we play fair, then God will take care of us. We try to get God to play by the rules.

But God is not constrained by rules because his love is freely given. We cannot fully comprehend his grace, his endless mercy or his limitless love, which override any kind of contractual agreement. God forgives us because he loves us completely. He does not require anything of us other than to love him in return.

I have followed my grandsons’ baseball “careers” from an early age. At first, they had trouble connecting the bat to the ball. Their wise coach would let each little fellow swing as many times as it took to get a hit. He gave every player an opportunity, and the likelihood of succeeding, in spite of the rules.

God is like that coach. It isn’t three, or thirty strikes that cause us to be called “Out.” God doesn’t consign us to the bench because we have failed to succeed after multiple tries. There is always another “at bat” in the kingdom of heaven, where the rules are inspired by love, and everyone is a winner.

Batter up!

Faithfully,

Anne

Rev. Dn. Anne B. Burke
Dear Friends,

Deacons are committed to serve “the poor, the weak, and the lonely,” and during Lent the deacons of the diocese traditionally sponsor a drive for the needy. This year we are working with the House of Hope in Warwick. They offer life changing service, to serve individuals and support change from living on the streets to permanent housing. A new program in this effort toward stability, is called **Shower to Empower**. This is a mobile shower truck that goes to different neighborhoods and offers complimentary showers, haircuts, clean socks and underwear. They have served 1,100 showers to people since last spring, but its more than a hot shower – it’s a time out of the cold, to talk with someone who listens, who offers the care and comfort of clean clothes.

We are asking specifically for donations of new underwear and socks (white) for men, new boxers, briefs and t-shirts (M, L, XL). These basic items, which we often take for granted, are not readily available to the needy and are much appreciated.

There will be a collection basket in or near the front office, and another at the front of the church. The drive ends April 30th.

“Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me.” (Mt. 25:40)

*With Thanksgiving, Deacon Anne*
Early Communion program at Christ Church is sharing the importance of the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Above: Howard Thorp explains to the children about the importance of incense. Right: Natalie Pukas showed the group the Baptismal shell. Below: The children are discovering our "church mouse" which is carved into the Priest's Chair!
Above: Children's Chapel.

Below Left: Children's Chapel Ushers; Below Right: Acolyte Guild
Thank you for another great Episcopal 101!

Speakers: Father Sunil Chandy, Bishop David Ioslin. Caswell Cooke, and Deacon Anne Burke.

Also special thank you to our hostesses: Lisa Gosselin, Cynthia Munzer, Lisa Ornberg, Janice Skonord, and Sandra Thibaut.

For the next Episcopal 101 refer to future Cornerstones for future times and dates!
March 13th, 6:00 pm: Rev. Terry Elsberry: "How to Live the Life God has for You"

Did God create us to go our own way and seek our destiny as best we can? Or, did He create us as part of a greater plan He has in mind; a plan that includes each one of us? Does God have a purpose and a destiny for each of us He's eager to reveal to us? Father Terry Elsberry will be exploring these questions which are crucial to each of our spiritual journeys.

March 20th, 6:00pm : Rev. Meaghan Brower: "Connection Lost: Trying to Re-establish: Phones and Faith in a Digital Age"

Join Reverend Meaghan Brower, Director of the Episcopal Conference Center to explore the challenge of spirituality in the 21st century focusing on life with our smart phones.
LENTEN SERIES 2019 (CONTINUED)

March 27th; 6:00 pm: Rev. Dcn. Ron Steed: "Serving God's Mission as Apostles: A Field Guide"

Deacon Ron Steed will discuss how discipleship naturally leads us into apostleship: going into the field to do God's Mission of healing, reconciliation, and restoration. We'll discuss Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the sense of calling, how to connect with others who share your call, avoiding duplication and finding the gaps, discovering the assets that your community has outside the your Parish, and ways of engaging with those we think we are serving.

April 3rd; 6:00 pm: Rt. Rev. Nicholas Knisely: "Reconciling Faith & Science"

Bishop Nicholas Knisely will explore the elements of faith and science. Bishop Knisely has a background in physics and is a graduate from Yale/Berkley Divinity School.
Early Communion

Our early Communion program educates our young children in the sacrament of Holy Communion. It is open to all children grade 1 and above. If you are interested in having your child participate in this year’s class, contact Kristy Livingston at 401-596-0197 or stop by the office. Classes will be held 2/10 through 4/28 during Christian Formation 10:15-11:15. The Early Communion Service will take place Sun. 5/5.

Join us May 17-18 for Nightwatch at the Cathedral of St. John the Devine, NY City.

Nightwatch Crossroads is a Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperons. Your group will have the opportunity to unplug from the distractions and stresses of daily life to connect with God and one another in the sacred space of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Nightwatch has created a safe, spirit-centered program of joyful fellowship, contemplative-contemporary spiritual direction, devotional singing, and lots of fun activities. Open to grades 7-12: If you or your teen is interested in joining us, please contact Emily Knowles 860-271-3806 or selwonk4@sbcglobal.net

With Lent now upon us, here are a few questions about its origins.

1. When did Lent originally begin?
2. Why is Lent 40 days?
3. When did the 40 days start being observed?

Answers on next page

LENT TRIVIA
MEALS TO HEAL
A good home-cooked meal can heal the soul as well as nourish the body. If you or a loved one has recently come home from the hospital, had a death of a loved one, experienced a trauma, just delivered a baby, etc., call us and one of our committee members will bring you a fully cooked dinner! We are looking for more cooks, as well. Contact the office at 401-596-0197.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
OA meetings will return to Christ Church every Tuesday at 1:00 pm in St. Mark’s Room. Please contact Sandra Thibault for more information: 401-212-0468.

PRAYER LIST
Please help us keep our prayer list current! Please take a look and send any updates to the secretary.christchurch@verizon.net. Please also contact us if you are ready to be placed on the Thanksgiving List of Healing. Thank you, The Pastoral Care Commission.

PASTORAL CARE REMINDER
We ask if you will kindly remember to call the church office when you or your family member are in the hospital or placed in a nursing home. It allows the clergy and us to visit, bring communion, or send flowers, etc. Due to restrictions of confidentiality, your call is the only way we will know when loved ones - family members and friends are hospitalized or placed in nursing homes.

TRIVIA ANSWERS
(from previous page)

1. It first began on the first Sunday, known as Quadragesima, in the Latin rite. Pope Gregory the Great moved the start to the previous Wednesday in the 6th c. where it later became known as Ash Wednesday.

2. 40 was already a significant number in the Jewish tradition, and the Gospels tell us that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert before beginning his public ministry, so 40 was chosen to remind us of that.

3. Shorter periods of fasting before Easter had been observed by the early church, but the first record of 40 days comes from the Council of Nicea in 325, and this may have just been for new Christians preparing for baptism. It wasn't until the 7th c. that this period of fasting encompassing the whole church was first noted, and calculations for how to count the 40 days (some traditions counted Sundays as well, some did not) continued through the next couple of centuries.
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For more detail please navigate to: [https://www.christchurchwesterly.org/eventscalendar/](https://www.christchurchwesterly.org/eventscalendar/)
The Acolyte Guild of Christ Church

present

The Annual Shrove Fat Tuesday
Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 5th, 2019
5:00pm – 7:00pm in the Parish Hall

Adults $7.50 / Children $5.00 / Families $20.00

Open to the whole community!
Christ Church
Ash Wednesday

Please join us on March 6, 2019
to share the beginning of Lent

Three Ash Wednesday Services
with imposition of the Ashes

7am, 12 noon and 7pm (with Choir)

“Ashes to Go”
will be available outside Mia’s Primetime Cafe
in Downtown Westerly/Pawcatuck
9:00 am & 1:30 pm

“Remember you are dust, and dust you shall return”
Genesis 3:19

A House of Prayer for All People

CHRIST CHURCH
7 Elm Street, Westerly, RI 02891
(401) 596-0197 • Fax: (401) 596-6529
Email: christ-church@verizon.net
ChristChurchWesterly.org
Taste of India III
Saturday, March 9 at 6pm
$25 per adult
$10 per child under age 12

Join us for an exciting evening open to everyone in the community. Come and experience a meal unlike any you’ve ever had!

The Christ Church Men’s Club and Fr. Sunil Chandy are hosting. The meal will be prepared by Fr. Sunil’s brother type Chandy.

We will have wonderful decorations as well as live entertainment!
Email: caswellcookejr@gmail.com for more information.

Tickets available through Eventbrite
Visit www.Eventbrite.com and search “Taste of India III”

Christ Church, Westerly, RI
7 Elm Street (Corner of Elm and Broad Street)
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891
DJ Trivia

TRIVIA NIGHT
@ CHRIST CHURCH WESTERLY

7 ELM STREET, WESTERLY, RI
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019 @ 7:00 PM
$12.50/ EACH OR $100/ TEAM
OF UP TO 8 @ THE DOOR

POTLUCK DESSERT * BEER & WINE SOLD!

RSVP: 401-596-0197 or parishadmin@christchurchwesterly.org
St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
ALL ARE WELCOME

Sunday
March 17th
from 5-7PM

Christ Church Parish Hall

CELTIC ENTERTAINMENT

$14 per person includes dessert
$7 alternate children’s menu available
Beer and Wine sold

Tickets in advance at Eventbrite.com (St. Patrick’s at Christ Church)
or at the office (401) 596-0197

COMPLINE SERVICE

A beautiful sung candlelight service of Compline will take place in the church at 7pm.

Compline is the monastic hour service sung traditionally at 9:00 p.m. By the end of the 4th century the hour services were in place in European and Middle East monasteries. Monks traditionally sang hour services originally started at 3:00 a.m. and Compline, a very beautiful service was the last service for the blessings of the day and to anticipate God’s gift of a new day.
Be a Christ Church Acolyte!
Join us today – we want YOU!

Be a part of this great Episcopal Church tradition and learn all about why and how we worship.

Open to all ages 8 and up. Being an Acolyte makes worship even more fun and meaningful and gives a sense of pride and accomplishment.

An acolyte can assist in worship by carrying a processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, carrying “torches”, assisting a deacon or priest set up and clean up the altar, swinging a censer or thurible or carrying the incense boat, handing the offering plates to ushers, and many other tasks.

Christ Episcopal Church
7 Elm Street, Westerly, RI 02891
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Email: christ-church@verizon.net
ChristChurchWesterly.org
Rector: The Rev. Sunil Chandy
Bishop in Residence: The Rt. Rev. David B. Joslin
Deacon: The Rev. Ann Burke
Clergy Associate: The Rev. Sandra Haines-Murdacco

For more information, contact Caswell Cooke at 401-932-3519 or caswellcookejr@gmail.com
Fall/Winter Services
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Rite I Holy Eucharist spoken service
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Rite II Choral Eucharist
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Eucharist with Incense
Wednesday 7:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 10 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 10:45 a.m.
Bible Study

Christ Episcopal Church

CLERGY
The Rev. Sunil Chandy, Christ Church Rector
The Rt. Rev. David Joslin, Rector Emeritus; Bishop in Residence
The Rev. Sandra Haines-Murdocco, Priest Associate
The Rev. Deacon Anne Burke, Deacon

STAFF
Jacquelyn Smith, Parish Administrator; Wedding Coordinator
Barbara Whitford, Financial Administrator
George Kent, Organist & Choirmaster
Kristy Livingston, Director of Christian Formation
Phillip Kurk, Sexton
Erin Breslin and Anthony Berling, Childcare Coordinators

VESTRY
Betsey Rice, Senior Warden
Caswell Cooke, Jr., Junior Warden
Sarah Starkweather, Clerk
Stephanie Blanchette, Treasurer
Fred Allardyce
Connie Annand
Barbara Capalbo
Mike Evering
Katherine Hoxsie
Lisa Kitchen
Paul Kuhn
Doug Lawrence
Emily Mugge
Natalie Pukas
Thomas Quaratella
Richard Roy

COME JOIN US!

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