RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Recently on my trip to India, I was able to see the construction of a new apartment building. I even had the opportunity to speak with the architect and engineers before the actual building began. These wise construction gurus described to me the importance of the cornerstone. They told me that the cornerstone was the most essentially placed stone in a building process. The cornerstone stone aligns all subsequent stones from the deepest foundation to those in the highest tower. The image of a cornerstone is a good one as we think about our spiritual and emotional lives in community. Scripture, both the New Testament and the Old Testament, remind us to align our lives with God as our chief cornerstone as we live in
community. St. Paul tells us: in having Christ Jesus...as our cornerstone, we are fit together by God in community and through this alignment we as a community grow into a holy temple - a place of in which God's Spirit dwells. (Ephesians 2: 20). What does it mean to align or fit my life to Jesus Christ/God as the chief cornerstone? For me, it means that I commit myself to the teachings of Christ, doing my best to live those teaching in my life even when it is not easy. Especially when it is not easy, it also means that I trust in God's grace to help me overcome my fears, frustrations, and insecurities. And, yes, in the process of aligning myself with Christ, I know that I will fall far short of perfection. When I do fall, faltering in my intentions, I try to remember that I am a beloved child of God, still growing, still learning, still becoming what God calls me to be. At these times, I rely on the Grace of God to help me find the courage to step forward in faith, following Jesus. You may ask what the benefit of living a life this aligned with Jesus as the chief cornerstone is. One of the benefits for me is clarity in a world with many different choices and voices; aligning ourselves to Christ allows us to focus on our next right choice in alignment with the teachings of Jesus. This clarity grants us peace as trust in the power of God. Another benefit is God calls us to be in community with others who also seek to alignment with God. Together we make up the community of God called the church. A holy place where God begins the work of healing and transformation for the world Here is a real-world example of this type of alignment process. Recently I
heard (through a third person) a comment that one of our parishioners is struggling with "the liberal-leaning" of our church. They told this person that they thought that Christ Church was a "politically liberal church," and further distressing, they were considering leaving the church. I asked if I could meet with them, but to no avail. Hopefully, they will come to speak to me directly. If I do get a chance to meet with them, I hope I can convey my profound belief and understanding that our church does not have a political leaning (neither liberal or conservative)! I truly believe that the members of Christ Church strive to live in alignment with Christ, our chief cornerstone. Although we have devoted members who are politically conservative while others have liberal leanings, our church follows the model of Jesus's community as it welcomes and embraces all people. Yes, we may engage in spirited debate, but in our conversations, we find learning and insight from one another about the various confusing issues of the world. In the end, due to our alignment with Jesus, we embrace each other as fellow Christians and beloved children of God. And we appreciate all who courageously offer their point of view to help us all to be better informed. Friends, may God always bless us to be humble of heart and mind so that we may continually align our lives to the chief cornerstone of the universe and find in ourselves and our community a holy temple in which God resides.

Sunil Chandy+
Rector, Christ Church Westerly
We would like to remind everyone that there are no flowers placed on the altar during Lent except for Mothering Sunday, March 22nd. 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.

The fourth Sunday in Lent (this year March 22nd) is called “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.

Mothering Sunday is a day to honor mothers and other mother figures, such as grandmothers, stepmothers and mother-in-laws.

On March 22nd, we will again be celebrating “Mothering Sunday” at Christ Church. We are offering 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 14 additional chairs for our Parish Hall and 4 additional chairs with arms, especially for those who may need special assistance. If funds permit, we plan to help defray or fully fund the tiling of a church school classroom.

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 support items needed by the church. In the past, we have installed railings behind the altar leading to the reredos, purchased items for the church school and bible school programs, purchased cinctures for the acolytes, refurbished the original brass torches, and paid for the purchase and installation of CO, Smoke and Gas Detectors throughout the Parish Hall. 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 8th 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 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!

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ROSE ORDER FORM
(Due by March 8th)

1 Rose @ $5.00  6 Roses @ $15.00  12 Roses @ $25.00

Name________________________________________

Number of Roses______________________________

Names(s) of Those Being Honored (Names will be published in the bulletin)______________________________________________________________

Service You Attend ________________________________

Checks should be made payable to Christ Church Altar Guild with a notation of "Rose Order"

I do not wish to purchase a rose(s) but would like to make a contribution to this project.

Amount Enclosed___________
The NCAA basketball tournament, or “March Madness,” as it is known, is a passion of millions of men and women across the country. College students routinely skip classes to track their favorite teams. In the workplace people watch surreptitiously at their desks; however, many desks are empty because employees are, as they claim, “working from home.”

While gamblers and sports bars profit from this seasonal phenomenon, the overall economy takes a $1.8 billion hit from low productivity and absenteeism. Yet it is all in good fun, and college deans and business managers try to view the obvious shirking of normal responsibilities as a healthy diversion from the late winter blahs; a morale booster that does more good than harm.

To mitigate the grim and challenging weeks of Lent, we Christians can engage in “Lenten Madness,” thanks to Forward Movement Publications. It is a tournament of Saints, brackets and all, winners advance by popular vote, and the trophy is a “Golden Halo.” It is a morale booster to guard against taking ourselves so seriously that we become depressed for the duration of Lent. Go to https://www.lentmadness.com and have some fun.

It isn't really necessary to wear “hair shirts” or undergo various means of punishment to have a good and holy Lent. Personally, I am a bit more disciplined during this period which usually leads to a more favorable reading on the bathroom scale. The goal is not to suffer or submit to fervent self-denial; it is to re-fuel the engine of faith and re-examine our relationship with God.
ANNE'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Yes, it is good to empty ourselves of those things that interfere with that relationship so that we may be filled with the same love and grace of the Holy Spirit that upheld Jesus on the cross.

Jesus has already done the work. Salvation is our destiny and we have nothing to prove but our gratitude. So find a book, keep a journal, pray the Daily Office, meditate, vote for and learn about your favorite Saints. Turn to your passions - whether sports, saints, scripture, or song - and let the madness drive you on to Calvary and beyond. Bishop Curry calls us “Crazy Christians” for a reason.

Faithfully,

Anne
Taste of Poland
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Christian Formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others and all creation. This month our Confirmation class has yet another exciting trip planned. We are spending two nights at the Episcopal Conference Center for a Confirmation Retreat led by Reverend Meaghan Brower. There will be theological reflection, Episcopal 101, Sacramental scavenger hunts, time to “ask a Priest/Bishop” questions, time to think about what God is calling each of us to do and one of the favorites from our last retreats that was surprisingly poignant, choosing songs to connect to the Sacraments. I will put our end of the year slideshow to these songs so you will all have a chance to hear! We did this weekend with our last class and Meaghan found it to be so impactful for her and the comments we had from the kids were so powerful that she has decided to offer the weekend to the Diocese.I am working with Meaghan and Rev. Susan Wrathall from St. Mark’s in Warwick to create the weekend’s lessons. I know I’m really looking forward to it!

The rest of our Christian Education crew has been super busy too! The kids are singing songs such as This Little Light of Mine and Jesus Loves me. They are learning about miracles from the bible. To learn about Jesus walking on water and had a chance to walk on blue slime “water” themselves. They’ve been using balloons to learn about the strength of Samson, the Nazirite who helped save the people from the Philistines. His strength came from his long hair. He was dedicated at birth to serve God but fell away and lived his life the way he wanted, telling Delilah that his strength came from his hair. When she cut it he became weak, and only after turning back to God his hair grew again and his strength returned, allowing him to push down the columns and destroy the temple holding him prisoner.

"People and Events in March"

1. We all know who St. Patrick is March 17, so instead of him, we will look at St. David instead. Who is he?

2. Who is Ethelred the Unready?

Answers on page 12
TRIVIA ANSWERS
Questions found on page 10

1. St. David is the patron saint of Wales, born in Menevia, Wales, around 500 AD. Although he is one of the most famous of British saints, there is no reliable biography of him, so much of what is said of him is legendary, with not much to support it. We do know that he probably belonged to a noble family, and after becoming a priest, he established a monastery near Menevia, and became its abbot. He would later become Bishop of Menevia, around 544, and then founded 11 other monasteries in the region. Despite the overwhelming victory of the paganAngles and Saxons in other parts of Britain, the Welsh part remained faithful to Christianity due in large part to his ministry. One story says that he was chosen by the archbishop of that region, after hearing him preach, to succeed him and become the next Primate of Wales. Tradition holds that he died on March 1, around 590, and March 1 became his feast day. One other note about him--some of you may recall that one of our former rectors, Robert Anthony, is of Welsh descent and would always remind us of St. David as his day approached.

2. Also spelled AEthelred, he was an early king of England, ruling during the time of the first millenium, from 978-1016. It caught my interest because I wondered how he acquired the name "the Unready" in a time when names were usually much more positive sounding. As it turns out, in the Old English usage, it meant "poorly advised," and was a play on his own name, which meant "well advised" or "noble counsel." He was born in 966, and was around 10 when his father, King Edgar, died in 975. His half-brother, Edward, only a few years older, ruled for 3 years until he was murdered (and became known as Edward the Martyr), and then at age 12, Ethelred became king, on March 18,978, hence his inclusion here in March trivia. At such a young age, he did need advisors for awhile, until he grew up and could assume the role for himself. The main problem, for which he acquired the attribute of being "poorly advised," was how he dealt with the continuing problem of the invading Danes. There was mistrust of him and how he came to the throne, so a unified defense against the Danes was difficult to achieve. In fact, the Danish king actually ruled for two years (1013-14) until his death, when Ethelred then took back the throne, until he died in 1016. Despite this, he is still one of the longest reigning of the Anglo-Saxon kings, and is said to have come up with a means of judgement which would later evolve into what we know as the jury system of hearing appeals. The other take-away for me in this question, is this-- if we were to have names as they did back then, what might we be known as? Something to think about as we approach Lent.

Please help us keep our prayer list current! Please take a look and send any updates to the Christ-Church@verizon.net Please also contact us if you would like to be placed on the Thanksgiving List of Healing. Thank you,
The Pastoral Care Commission.
2020 Lenten Series

"Signs of Life" Why Church Matters

Schedule

Wednesday, March 4
"Light"

Wednesday, March 11
"Water"

Wednesday, March 18
"Food"

Wednesday, March 25
"Shelter"

Wednesday, April 1
"Community"

Christ Church
7 Elm Street, Westerly, RI
(401) 596 - 0197
email: christ-church@verizon.net
www.christchurchwesterly.org

6:00 PM - Simple Soup Supper
6:30 PM - Evening Prayer
7:00 PM - Program Begins

All Welcome Free of Charge

RSVP to the office is recommended but not required.
CHRIST CHURCH OUTREACH WARM DINNERS

To better organize and make it easier for the congregation to help donate goods and services for the WARM Outreach dinner, we are starting a perpetual meal supply list. (see list below for Feb). We will be collecting needed food items all month long from which one of 4 rotating meals can be made on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We hope this will make it easier for you to shop throughout the month to help contribute to this worthwhile program.

Please place requested items in the WARM basket found in the kitchen at any time during the month. Frozen items can be marked “WARM” and placed in the large freezer.

We will also need two people to bake desserts on a rotating basis.

For more information or to volunteer contact Gail Lansing at 978-417-6224 glansing8@gmail.com or Tammi Dunlap 860-304-5179 ma24qtz@aol.com Thank you!

March Supplies Needed: *Vegetables - canned or frozen (please put in the freezer) *Diced canned tomatoes *White rice (not instant) *Spaghetti sauce
St. Patrick’s Day
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
ALL ARE WELCOME

Sunday
March 15th
from 5:30-7PM

Christ Church
Parish Hall

CELTIC ENTERTAINMENT

$15 per person includes dessert
$7 alternate children’s menu available
Beer and Wine sold

Walt Barrass, Celtic musician, will delight the audience during dinner.

A candlelit service of Celtic Evening Prayer in the church
at the conclusion of dinner. Please join us.

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

PRESENTED BY

DJ TRIVIA
TRIVIA NIGHT
@ CHRIST CHURCH WESTERLY

7 ELM STREET, WESTERLY, RI
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
$12.50/ EACH OR $100/ TEAM
OF UP TO 8 @ THE DOOR

RSVP: 401-596-0197 or
parishadmin@christchurchwesterly.org
Service Hours
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Holy Eucharist spoken service
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist spoken service
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Choral Eucharist
w/Children’s Chapel and Nursery Care
Wednesday 7:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 10 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 10:45 a.m.
Bible Study

COME JOIN US!

7 Elm Street | Westerly, RI 02891
401-596-0197
christ-church@verizon.net

Christ Episcopal Church

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

STAFF
George Kent, Organist & Choirmaster
Jacquelyn Smith, Parish Administrator; Wedding Coordinator
Dorothy Adams, Office Assistant
Kristy Allardyc, Director of Christian Formation
Madeline Therrien and Sarah Poole, Childcare Coordinators

VESTRY
Betsey Rice, Senior Warden
Caswell Cooke, Jr., Junior Warden
Sarah Starkweather, Clerk
Stephanie Blanchette, Treasurer

Fred Allardyc
Barbara Capalbo
Mike Evering
Katherine Hoxsie
Lisa Kitchen
Paul Kuhn
Doug Lawrence
Emily Mugge
Natalie Pukas
Thomas Quaratealla
Richard Roy
Molly Schonenberg