



MARCH 2022

## The MESSENGER

### MISSION STATEMENT

*So that ALL may know and serve God, our mission is to let the love of Christ shine brightly in our daily lives by being a welcoming, nurturing, and supportive community grounded in God's Word and Sacraments*

Sunday morning service at 10:30 am

### FROM THE INTERIM VICAR - REV. BILL FULTON



Maybe I'm crazy, but I like the season of Lent. I like the austerity, the restraint, the plainness of Lent. No flowers on the altar, no alleluias, hymns we don't sing any other time of year, Bible readings that get under your skin.

Maybe it's because we're always being urged to do more, buy more, eat more, experience more. The world around us always says, "More, more, more."

Sometimes it's a relief to hear a word of restraint. Do less, eat less, consume less. Slow down, read a book, call a friend, live more simply.

The feeling I have about Lent is the feeling I have after cleaning out a cluttered closet. It's a relief to be free of the clutter and chaos. Lent is a time to clear out the closets of our minds.

The Church, in its wisdom, has set aside the season of Lent as a time of restraint. The Church gives us six weeks of reflection to prepare for the joy of Easter.

On Ash Wednesday, we'll mark the beginning of Lent with the imposition of ashes on our foreheads. Yes, it's a bit strange, and yes, it's a bit messy. The Litany of Penitence is, well, penitential. But what better way to begin the season of restraint?

Hope to see you there.

*Bill*

*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ecclesiastes 3: 20*

*Ash Wednesday service and imposition of ashes  
Wednesday, March 2nd at 1:00 p.m.*

**St. Germain Episcopal Church**

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**The Rev. Bill Fulton, Interim Vicar**

**Bishop's Committee**

Donna Lu Mann, Bishop's Warden

Kathryn Jasper, People's Warden

Andy Makar

Jerry Jasper

Kim Elderkin

Patricia Lakeman

Skip Hash

Donna Wessel, Treasurer

**We are an inclusive, welcoming  
community of faith and**

**EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME HERE!**



**Please visit our Facebook page  
St. Germain Episcopal Church**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**JANUARY 2022**

YTD

Operating Revenues 2,019.00

Operating Expenses 2,567.00

Net (548.00)

Non Operating Revenue

Grant 1,584.00

Building Fund -

Other -

Net Net 1,036.00

**SOUL PURPOSE OUTREACH**

**JANUARY 2022**

Discretionary fund 500.00

Chaplains on the Harbor

Community Lifeline

Hood Canal Food Bank

Hood Canal Lions

Humane Society-Mason County

Quixote Communities

**YTD Donations 500.00**

**PAWS FOR THE SOUL**

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.*

**We are collecting donations for our pet food pantry.  
Drop off at church on Sundays or call 360-877-9879 to  
make arrangements.**

- Dry Cat Food
- Wet Cat Food
- Dry Dog Food
- Wet Dog Food
- Litter
- Treats

## SEARCH FOR THE NEXT VICAR UPDATE

The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Olympia will function as our Transition Consultant to work with our Profile Committee to develop a simplified Parish Profile (3-4 pages of who we are and hopes for the future) and recruit 1-2 suitable candidates for Vicar from within the Diocese of Olympia. The Bishop's Committee will have the authority to (if a single candidate) accept/reject or (if multiple candidates) select a nominee for Vicar, whom the Bishop would appoint.

### Work of the Bishop's Committee

- During Transitions, the Bishop's Warden of the congregation becomes the legal representative and decision-maker.
- The Bishop's Committee will complete the Office of Transition Ministry Portfolio. This portfolio captures basic information about the congregation as well giving the congregation an opportunity to share how they do ministry in the form of several essays. Priests applying for jobs will fill out a version of the same portfolio.
- The Bishop's Committee selects and charges a small task group (3-4 members, to include one BC member) called "the Profile Committee" to assist in the congregation's "self-study" or asking people what they love about St. Germain's and what their hopes are for St. Germain's future.
- The Bishop's Committee receives updates from the Profile Committee. After the Profile has been approved by the Bishop, the Bishop's Committee will receive and accept the simplified "Parish Profile."

### **HOW WE ALL CAN BE A PART OF THE EXCITING NEW CHAPTER IN THE LIFE ST. GERMAIN**

- Pray for the church, her members and the Vicar who will be called.
- Come to church!
- When the Profile Team invites you to share or talk, make yourself available.
- Continue sharing time, talent, and treasure with the church and to community outreach.

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty days of Lent. Christians have been preparing for the celebration of Easter by walking through a "Holy Lent" since ancient times. This is patterned after Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

Lent is a season of repentance, fasting, and self-reflection. Of course, all of this happens with the sure knowledge of God's love and grace to us through Christ. Lent and Ash Wednesday are in no way about *condemnation*. They are a time in which human beings, given a pronouncement of forgiveness and absolution through Christ, can be honest with God, with ourselves, and with each other. With the terror of judgment removed, we can speak the truth.

**Ash Wednesday** is the day in which Christians gather to receive the imposition of ashes. Ashes on the head have signified repentance from biblical times. Job said, "I repent in dust and ashes." Ashes are the result of burning. They remind us that we are living in this mortal world, this fallen world, and that we are made from dust, when all else is burned away. We are mortal and will return to our maker. We believe that through the death and resurrection of Christ we can be forgiven and "boldly go before the throne of grace." We feel the pain of sin and brokenness. Ash Wednesday and Lent remind us that we still live in this fallen world, and that we are a part of that fallenness. No one is free of sin. It gives us permission, in fact it calls us, to acknowledge the reality we see within ourselves, and around us.

*(Greg Goebel, Anglican Compass)*

Early Christians observed "a season of penitence and fasting" in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha. The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning "spring," the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly. In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. *(BCP, p. 265).*

Remember to pick up your copy of Forward Day by Day in the parish hall  
or visit their site at: [forwardmovement.org](http://forwardmovement.org)

Visit the Lectionary Page for daily readings

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2022.html>