

LENT and HOLY WEEK

- April 7 8/9:30 am Lent 5: Practices of Prayer
- April 14 8/9:30 Palm Sunday: Procession of Palms, Dramatic Reading, Breakfast
- April 18 6:30 Maundy Thursday Agape Feast and Prayer Liturgy (Dinner provided)
- April 19 6:30 Good Friday Liturgy
- April 20 5:00 Easter Vigil at Church of Our Saviour, Somerset
- April 21 8:00 and 9:30 Festival Easter Services



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Women's Retreat Half-Day

A Lenten retreat morning will be held for women at Christ Church, Swansea on Saturday, April 6th from 9:30 through lunch.

The topic will be **"Mary and Martha"** and will focus on who we are and where we find God in our lives. The story of Luke 10:38-42 about sisters Mary and Martha will provide the context for the retreat.



A light lunch will be provided. There is no cost for the program. Please RSVP to facilitator Sue Correia, Deacon in training, at .

Sue is being sponsored for ordination to the diaconate by CHS and will be ordained on June 1st in Boston.

Palm Sunday Breakfast

On Palm Sunday April 14, 2019, the meals committee will be offering a Palm Sunday Brunch after the 9:30 service. The brunch will include a variety of food such as two different type of scrambled eggs, sausage, CHS special home fries (Gayle Velozo style), assorted muffins and pastries, fruit and coffee and juice.

We are grateful that we can offer such a meal on a very Special Holy Day. Ticket prices are as follows: \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children. Tickets are available through Gayle Velozo () or Dawn Owen () or at coffee hour.

Please offer to help setting up, cooking, or cleaning up—many hands make light work and lots of fun!

Thanks so much to Brian and John, Gayle and Dawn, who put on a delicious Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!



From the Warden

Spring has sprung! Thank God! I think we can all use a little sunshine and warm weather. In this church season of reflection and preparation the Vestry has been looking at the year to come. We have decided to let some things go, for this year anyway, and continue others and add in a couple new things.

We have decided not to hold our annual Spring Fever Festival. Our website is currently unavailable which is where we register vendors and do some advertising We have no chair person for the committee, and some leadership are dealing with illness or are busy with search committee duties. We do hope to resume again next year and would welcome any new ideas! If you are interested in being involved next year please see me.

A new addition this year will be a **garden club**. We are hoping to plan some sprucing up around the church and have a work day pre-planned for **Saturday May 4th**.



A **Christmas in July work party** is planned for **Sunday July 14th**. Why Christmas in July. We realized this year that we always get to the Christmas season and discover we could use a little maintenance and cleaning or upgrade to our Christmas decorations but by then it is too late. This will be a day that we will meet share a meal and do some planning and cleaning.

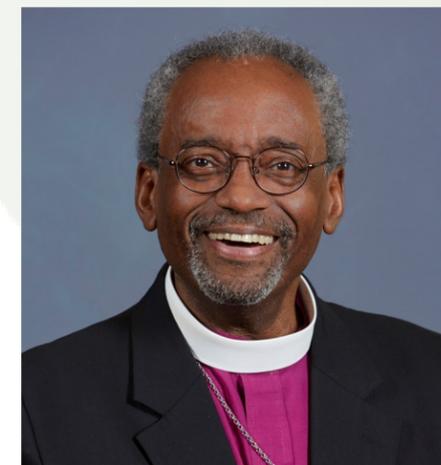
On **Saturday August 3rd** we will hold our annual **Free Summer Carnival**. St. Nicholas Day with free Breakfast & gifts with St. Nick will be held December 8th.

More information on each of these events will be coming soon. Please contact me if you have any questions and I can help you out or direct you to someone with more information. Mark your calendars now!

Amber Vieira
Co-warden



Presiding Bishop's Visit



COMING TO NEW BEDFORD APRIL 28TH

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will be spending April 27-29 in the Diocese of Massachusetts. He will spend time with youth on Saturday morning and attend a rally in Boston on Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday, April 28, he will be at Grace Church, New Bedford from 3-4 pm, as a part of a panel discussion about how inclusive the Episcopal Church is. If you are interested in going, speak to Pastor Lise about car-pooling together.

Where Is CHS in the Transition Process?

The first formal step of the transition process is wrapping up: that is, the comprehensive transition review that the Diocese requires. Dave Higginbottom did a huge amount of work to prepare financial records for inspection by Del Glover, the diocesan financial consultant assigned to CHS.

While there are a few suggestions for improving practices, basically the review was positive and showed CHS to have good financial practices and stability. Thanks, Dave and Del!

The wardens and vestry will be discussing next steps and timing of the search process in the April vestry meeting.

The Multi-Parish Retreat is Coming!

St. Luke's, CHS, Church of Our Saviour (Somerset) and Christ Church (Swansea) will be getting together from October 25-27 this year to have fun, deepen our faith, and deepen relationships. The cost is \$125-\$245 for the weekend and car-pooling will be available. Get a registration form from Pastor Lise—sign up by June 9 and save \$25!

Great for families, great for singles, great for the young and the mature. Held at the beautiful Barbara C. Harris Camp in Greenfield, NH, there will be something for everyone. Mark your calendars now and sign up soon!

May 5th Paint Party Fundraiser for Retreat

What: Fun! Fellowship! Art! Food!
 Where: Christ Church, Swansea
 When: May 5th (Sunday), 2-4-ish
 Who: Members of St. Luke's, CHS, COS, Christ Church



Really?? Yes! Come paint, eat, schmooze, have a great time! The Paint Ladies will provide everything! From the \$40 pp cost, \$15 or \$20 will go to support the retreat!

Save the Dates:

- May 4 Garden work day at CHS
- May 5 Paint Party Fundraiser for 4-parish retreat, 2:00, Christ Church, Swansea
- June 1 Ordination of Sue Correira to the Diaconate, 138 Tremont Street, Boston
- June 8 Church of Our Saviour, Somerset annual Yard Sale to benefit 4-Parish Retreat
- June 9 Early Registration deadline for 4-Parish Retreat (\$25 off!). The retreat is October 25-27 at the Barbara C Harris camp in NH.
- July 14 Christmas in July work party!

Office Hours and Contact Info

The regular church office hours (when Missy is in the office) are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10-2 and Friday from 10-12. Pastor Lise is usually in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays as well. She can be reached at chsrev@gmail.com or 774-xxx-xxxx. Her days off are normally Mondays and Fridays, but do call for pastoral emergencies.

ON-GOING PROGRAMMING CALENDAR

<u>Sundays:</u> 8:00 am Said Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Sung Holy Eucharist	<u>Thursdays:</u> 3:30 pm Scripture Study/Prayer Gp
<u>Mondays:</u> 11:00 CFR Community Soup Kitchen 6:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<u>Fridays:</u> 11:00 am GFR Community Soup Kitchen
<u>Tuesdays:</u> Evening Women's Recovery Group	<u>Saturdays:</u> 10:00 am-noon Thrift Shop 11:00 am Saturday Kitchen (second and fourth Saturdays)
<u>Wednesdays:</u> 10:00 am-noon Thrift Shop	



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The Messenger

THE SORT-OF MONTHLY LETTER OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"COME, DISCOVER AND SHARE CHRIST'S JOY!"

April
2019

Jesus said,
 "The time has come for the Son of Man to be given his glory.
 I tell you for certain that a grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain unless it dies.
 But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat.

—John 12:23-24

Fallow Time, Growing Time

Today I saw the first crocus blooms of the season. With longer days and warmer weather, plants are starting to venture up and out for a new season.

When I came to Fall River late in November, the trees were bare, gardens dead, grass brown. It was the fallow time of year. I look forward to seeing what Fall River looks like when it is green and alive!

But that fallow time, dead time, is so important for plant and tree life. It's also immensely important for human and organizational life.

In the Gospel of John, the moment comes when the "Greeks" (non-Jews) ask to see Jesus, and Jesus declares that now the time has come for him to be "given his glory." He means it's time to die.

And he uses the image of a seed, which stays a single seed unless it goes into the ground, dies, is buried, and it transformed into a new plant and produces much more wheat. He connects directly with his hearers, who understand growing cycles.

Everything living has a life-cycle, which includes death. Plants grow, produce fruit, die, go to seed, and then can be resown, and produce more fruit. People are born, grow, may have children, age, and die. This is the normal order of things.

PASTOR LISE'S ARTICLE PG. 1
 LENT AND HOLY WEEK EVENTS PG. 2
 WARDEN'S NOTES, PB VISIT PG. 3
 COMING EVENTS, 4-PARISH RETREAT PG. 4

Even organizations and churches ebb and flow, grow and die. People come and go; things change, stall, head in new directions. What once worked or seemed important may not be now, or we may not be able to do what we once did.

Where are you in your life journey? What needs to be let go of, so that you may continue to grow and live fully? Jesus assures us that we need to let go of less-important things so that we can receive life-giving more important things. Letting go (of a house, or a relationship, or something you can no longer do) feels like death, but it is necessary for life—something new, something suited to now.

Church of the Holy Spirit is also in a fallow time, a time of sorting and waiting. That's what transitions are for. Instead of doing an Easter Vigil, we will join with Church of Our Saviour this year; we will skip the Spring Fever Festival this year as well. It's OK to take time off! All of this will be providing needed fallow time to prepare for next things—the seeds that will turn into the next fruitful plants.



—Pastor Lise