

The Rainbow



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner *By David M. Kersey*

The Episcopal Church Men (ECM) are sponsoring the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake Dinner on February 25, 2020, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from any Episcopal Church man. The current incarnation of the pancake dinner was begun by the Men's group in the early 1980s headed by Alan Goodykoontz, Ralph McCue, Don Kersey, Sr., (father of Don Kersey, Jr. and David Kersey), Robert M. Richardson, Sr., (father of Peter Richardson), and Carl Thomas (father of Tripper Thomas). The pancakes and syrup are made from scratch pursuant to recipes from Mrs. Silvernail's Cookbook published near the turn of last century. So there is much history and legacy surrounding this annual event. Please come and join us as the food is always good and the fellowship better.



Heating and Cooling Project *By Peter Richardson*

The Vestry voted last year to remove the radiators in the Sanctuary, Rowley Hall and Kitchen because of leaks in their supply lines. They will be replaced with ductless heating and air conditioning units.

Those units will use electricity and that change required an upgrade in the electrical service to the Church. That work is expected to be completed in January.

The existing radiators along one side of the Nave and one side of Rowley Hall have been removed. The installation of the heating and air conditioning units on that side of the Nave and that side of Rowley Hall is expected to start during the first week of February.

The existing radiators on the other side of the Nave and the other side of Rowley Hall will be left in place for the remainder of the heating season. They will be removed at that time and replaced with heating and air conditioning units.

All of the heating and air conditioning units will be connected to six condensing units that will be installed outside of Rowley Hall on the Tazewell Street side of the Church.

The heating system in the rest of the Church will continue to be the existing radiators and they will continue to be connected to the furnace.

Reflecting with Father Chad

February, as it plays host to Valentine's Day, is a month for love. But as the singer Haddaway asked us back in the 90's, "What is love?"

Over the centuries the definition of love has changed a lot. Much like how the Inuit have 52 words for snow, those cultures who are philosophical about love have many words to describe it. The Greco-Roman world that Jesus was born into knew four types of love: *eros*, *storge*, *philia*, and *agape*.

Eros is a romantic love. In the classical world, this type of love was generally considered a kind of madness or "theia mania," that is, "madness from the gods." It was personified by the Greek god Eros, who most of us know by his Latin name, Cupid.

Storge (pronounced *store-gae*) is familial love. This is the love between children and parents, but can also be found between extended family as well.

Philia is sometimes translated into English as friendship, brotherly-love, or affection. In truth, the idea goes much deeper in Greek thought. It was described as the love of another as another as you love yourself, or as Aristotle put it, "the feelings of another oneself." The Greeks considered it the opposite of "phobia," or fear.

The final form of love is "agape." This was considered the highest form of love and was often talked about as the ideal, meaning it was more theoretical than realistic. It was a perfect love that was selfless and total. It has a counterpart in Arabic, being "ishq," or the "lustless love." This title for love is used repeatedly by the authors of the Bible to describe the love of God toward humanity.

When the author of the Gospel of John wrote the sentence that would become known as John 3:16, he wrote the following: *Houtos gar egapesen ho Theos ton kosmon, hoste ton Huion ton monogene edoken, hina pas ho pisteuon eis Auton me apoletai all' eche zoen aionion*. "Egapesen" being the past tense of "agape." The author was talking about this form of perfected love.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love (agapeseis) your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love (agapate) your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love (agapeste) those who love (agapontas) you, what reward have you? (Matthew 5:43-46)

Agape was used widely by Biblical authors as the word that specifically denoted "Christian love" or "charity" (1 Corinthians 13:1-8), or even God himself (1 John 4:8, Theos agape estine, "God is Love"). The term "agape" was used by the early Christians to refer to the self-sacrificing love of God for humanity, which they were committed to reciprocating and practicing towards God and among one another.

"Agape" has been expounded on by many Christian writers in a specifically Christian context. Tertullian, in his 2nd century defense of Christians, remarks how Christian love attracted pagan

notice: "What marks us in the eyes of our enemies is our loving kindness. 'Only look,' they say, 'look how they love one another.' " C. S. Lewis, in his book *The Four Loves*, used "agape" to describe what he believed was the highest level of love known to humanity – a selfless love, a love that was passionately committed to the well-being of the other.

There is a wonderful hymn that most of you have probably heard called, "They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love." Our question, my brothers and sisters, in this season of love is simple: How do we show forth love? Not just any kind of love, but the agape love that we are told comes from God and resonates between us as members of the Church?

One of the simplest ways, and indeed the way we are instructed by Holy Scripture to share the Good News, is to be an example of love in this broken and hurting world. We must love and give of ourselves and, by doing so, point toward that agape of God so that others might come to the knowledge of His care. Loving beyond measure is how we transform ourselves, our community, and our world.

While we may not always achieve the right actions of "agape" love we can still strive toward that goal. It is in our practicing of perfect love that we can find perfect submission to the one who first loved us.

May the love of God be with us all evermore. Amen.



Bea's Musings

In this month of Valentine's love, *The Rainbow* shares some of Bea Paine's musings about Love:

Love, Lord, is the gift you gave and the gift we give honoring you.

Love is the overflowing result of one person in true fellowship with another.

Love at first sight is easy to understand. It's when two people have been looking at each other for years that it becomes a miracle.

If you can always love, you will never grow old.

If we love each other, God remains in us and His love is made perfect. (from 1 John 4:12)

Many people will live this day through without a single person saying to them: "I love you."

You can change your home by starting the day with each member of the family saying, "I love you."

Thinking of many ways God is trying to say to you, "I love you": God says "I love you" through the beauty and inspiration of nature. In a garden, in a sunset, here in this place, in the beautiful sunshine. God says "I love you" through persons, a friend, a minister, a doctor, a servant, a companion, a father, a mother, a child. God says "I love you" through His word, His Son, His spirit, His salvation.

Will you listen? God is loving you now!

Chili Cook-Off Spices Up Union Mission *By Mimi Merritt*

Christ Episcopal chefs turned out in full force January 22 for the third annual Chili Cook-off at the Bluefield Union Mission. The winners' crockpot concoctions were not too spicy, not too bland, but just right.

Taking first place this year in a field of 16 entries was Shirley Ofsa. Second place winner was Gray Kiser, and in third place was Jennifer Slater. Judges were the Union mission staff.

The 16 crockpots – along with cornbread, dessert and beverages provided by the Union Mission – fed more than 70 people, leaving enough for lunches for the rest of the week.

MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORTS

FOOD PANTRY

- January 16th
- Grocery Shopper – Don Kersey
- Numerous Food Baggers and Workers
- 100 bags prepared
- Refreshments: Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins
Linda Thomas
- 65 Kerosene Vouchers Awarded

UNION MISSION

January 8th
127 meals of BBQ, coleslaw, baked beans and dessert were served
Volunteers from Episcopal churches in Bluefield, WV, Pocahontas, VA and the Congregation Ahavath Sholom



Christ Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes January 15, 2020

PRESENT: Becky Beckett, Linda Ammar, Alyson Bowling, Elizabeth Clement, Frank Dragotto, Tom Coughlan, David Kersey, Donald Kersey, Peter Richardson, Rev. Chad Slater
Absent: Delia Kersey

The Vestry held its regular meeting on January 15, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Reverend Slater called the meeting to order and declared the presence of a quorum. He then provided the opening devotion from page 838 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Treasurer's Report Frank Dragotto provided the Treasurer's Report. The Columbarium Account has a balance of \$23,978.93. Because of low activity, that account regularly goes "delinquent". It is a non-interest-bearing account. Discussion was held regarding whether that account should be transferred to a CD or other type of account. It was decided that the interest available was not worth the effort involved in transferring it to a different type of account. The Profit and Loss Statement for the end of December was presented at the annual meeting, held after the regular service on January 12, 2020. The 2020 budget was also distributed and approved at the annual meeting. Upon motion of Donald Kersey and second of Linda Ammar, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Heating and Cooling Project Peter Richardson is acting as Project Coordinator / Clerk of the Works, for the heating project. He reported that the electrical upgrade has already begun with the addition of industrial breaker boxes being bolted to the side of the church on Tazewell Street. In preparation for installation of the exterior condenser units, the landscaped area outside of Rowley Hall was excavated and a 47 inch by 28-foot concrete pad was poured. The Vestry approved the quote for that work. However, due to unanticipated work on the unground downspout drain and modifications to the form, after inspection by Travis Odle, the invoice was slightly larger than anticipated, \$3,306.25. Upon motion of Frank Dragotto and second of Alyson Bowling, the Vestry unanimously approved payment of that invoice. The church has received the initial bill from S&R in the amount of \$48,625.00, as the first installation on the heating and cooling system. Upon motion of Frank Dragotto and second of Tom Coughlan, the Vestry unanimously approved payment of that invoice. David Kersey is acting as Fundraising Chairman for the project. He reported that, to date, the church has received donations in the amount of \$57,581.48 in cash and has had an additional \$4,500.00, pledged for a total raised amount of \$62,081.48. Forty-Three separate units have contributed to the project. After discussion, it was decided that we would not continue to actively solicit donations, having exceeded the target of \$60,000.00.

Committee Assignments & Qualifications Rev Slater exercised his discretion to make the following assignments:
Senior Warden: Becky Beckett; Junior Warden: Tom Coughlan; Communications: David Kersey;
Education: Elizabeth Clement Evangelism: Delia Kersey; Finance: Frank Dragotto; Outreach: Donald Kersey;
Parish Life: Linda Ammar Worship & Spirituality: Alyson Bowling

Warden's Reports Senior Warden – Senior Warden Beckett recommended that each committee chair solicit committee members and to involve members in committee decisions. It was agreed that sign-up sheets would not be placed outside the Narthex, rather church members would be solicited in a blast e-mail. It was recommended that each committee chair schedule and announce a committee meeting before March 15 and to interact with those persons who appear for the meeting.

Junior Warden's Reports Junior Warden – Junior Warden Coughlan had no report.

Vestry Committee Reports Communications – David Kersey had no report. Education – Elizabeth Clement reminded the Vestry that we now have a full-time nurse attendant and one volunteer on each Sunday. We regularly have two or more children in the nurse during Sunday morning service. Evangelism – Delia Kersey was absent.

Finance – Frank Dragotto had nothing else to report. Outreach Commission– Donald Kersey reminded the Vestry that Food Pantry is scheduled for Thursday morning, January 16, 2020. Parrish Life – Linda Ammar had no report.

Worship & Spirituality- Alyson Bowling reported on potentially hosting a Divorce Care Program but emphasized the program would need to be a group effort with several volunteers. This would be a 52-week program and there would be a cost of \$600 for 25 packets. It was agreed that this program would be announced during regular church service and interested members asked to contact Alyson.

Rector's Report Reverend Slater reported that Wanda Myers had died. Her funeral will be held on January 25, 2020, at the church and interment to follow in the Columbarium.

The church hosted 104 worshippers on Christmas Eve, 40 at the 5 p.m. service and 64 at the 11 p.m. service. The harpist was excellent.

The December 29, shared service with the Lutheran Church had 102 worshippers attend. It was an excellent worship experience and both churches received positive coverage in the local press. Reverend Slater thanked all who attended and helped with that service. Canterbury Club at the Becketts had an attendance of 51 persons with a similar attendance at Canterbury Club hosted by Linda Thomas and Norma Mahood-Bay in January. Reverend Slater will be absent on February 2nd and Mark Seitz will be conducting the service that Sunday. Reverend Slater will return for the February 9th service. Canterbury Club will be held that day at the Moirs'. Kristen Kersey will be wed in the church on Saturday, February 15, 2020. The Columbarium Committee will meet on January 22, 2020. Reverend Slater is considering a video bible study for Sunday mornings this spring, which would be between 10 and 20 minutes in length, followed by discussion. He also has different programs under consideration for the Lenten season.

New Business None.

Old Business None.

Closing Prayer Reverend Slater closed the meeting with a prayer. Upon motion of Alyson Bowling and second of Tom Coughlan, the meeting was unanimously adjourned
Submitted by David M. Kersey, Recorder

PRAYER LIST

Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby, Miffi Williams, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Victor Bowman

BIRTHDAYS

February 3	Missy Thomas	February 13	Jim Justice	February 19	Jim Pulse
February 4	James Patrick Paine	February 16	Tyler Harris	February 22	Margaret Anne Marra
February 10	Nathaniel Taylor	February 17	John Wimmer	February 22	Rick Wilkinson
February 13	Lucy McCue Dancer	February 19	Denise Melvin	February 25	Kay Sudduth

February 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple 10:00 Holy Eucharist	3	4 St. Cornelius, the Centurion	5	6	7	8
9 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist 6:00 Canterbury Club at the Moirs'	10	11	12 3:00 Serve dinner at Union Mission	13	14 St. Valentine's Day	15
16 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist Bag groceries after church for Food Pantry	17	18 10:30 DOK Meeting Hobson Library	19 7:00 Vestry Meeting	20 9:00 Food Pantry	21	22
23 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	24 Saint Matthias the Apostle	25 5:30 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	26 Ash Wednesday Services at 8:00 a.m., Noon, & 7:00 p.m. 4:30 Serve Dinner at Union Mission	27	28	29 Leap Day

The following people have graciously offered to donate flowers for the month of January:

- February 2 Denise Melvin
- February 9 Kathy Burge
- February 16 Betty Nash and Charlie Blevins
- February 23 Altar Guild of CEC

Altar Guild for February:

Sandy Moir, Betty Nash, Elizabeth Sudduth

Canterbury Club on Sunday, February 9, at the home of John and Sandy Moir, 604 Mountain View Avenue, Bluefield, West Virginia, at 6 p.m. Come and bring a side dish and your favorite beverage.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



FEBRUARY 2020

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