

Church of the Holy Spirit News & Notes

February 2015—Volume 18, #2

Advocations – February 2015

Dear Friends,

You've probably seen or heard the announcements about the "Fire Church" service that's kicking off on February 15. I've heard that there's some confusion about what this is and why we're doing it, so let me try to explain.

One of the most successful experiments undertaken in recent years by folks in the "emerging church" movement – those who are reinventing Christian faith and practice for the 21st century and beyond – is variations on the theme of "dinner church". This is an experience where worship, fellowship and learning are inseparable: a group gathers to cook a meal, blesses bread and wine at the same time as actually eating dinner, reads scripture, preaches, and discusses God's word over the meal. It is innovate but also ancient – the format and order of service are modeled on the oldest Christian liturgical documents, dating back to the 2nd century. Dinner Church has an excellent track record in bringing younger people and those who would not feel comfortable in a traditional Sunday morning service, into an experience of genuine Christian community.

I'd been mentioning it occasionally to the Vestry as something we could do once we were in our shiny new building, and finally they challenged me to just do it now – so we are! As for the fire element, I was talking to the PSU student who's helping me start and grow the group (who has experience with youth ministry in the UCC and Episcopal churches); we were joking about how the way to get youth and young adults interested in attending church is to set things on fire, which is also a core competency of the Anglican tradition. Another student who was within earshot said enthusiastically, "I'd go to church if there was fire!" So we decided to go with it, and to create a fire ritual to do each time Fire Church gathers at Griswold Hall. Fear not – the fire will be carefully contained, either in the small barbecue grill we use on Shrove Tuesday, or in a fire pit that a parish member has volunteered to build for the purpose. I've already had one encouraging conversation in the coffee shop with someone who was interested, since I started (just this past Friday) leaving quarter-page flyers advertising Fire Church on all the tables.

If this experiment takes off, of course we will face the same challenges we already do with Family Worship, as far as understanding ourselves as one congregation despite meeting in different times, places and formats. We definitely have work to do on that front, and if anyone has any concrete ideas to address it – or any questions about the whole concept – please get in touch! And in the meantime, plan to give Fire Church a try to support this fledgling effort!

Peace, Grace+

P. S. If you're interested in checking out the original "Dinner Church," go to www.stlydias.org.

Stay connected with CHS!





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Church of the Holy Spirit

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Vestry Members

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Joan Bowers

Junior Warden (property issues)

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Lent is Coming Soon!

Lent begins sooner than you think - on February 18! The annual Shrove Tuesday dinner will be held on Tuesday, February 17, at 6:00 in Griswold Hall. The Ash Wednesday service and chowder lunch will take place at noon on February 18 in Griswold Hall. The evening service on Ash Wednesday will be held jointly with Plymouth Congregational UCC, in their sanctuary at 7:00 PM. We're still working out the details for the ecumenical Lenten program, but the current plan is to hold it again on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:00 PM, with dinner and a program focused around spirituality/faith and the arts. I'm planning it primarily with Ashley Bowler, the new student pastor at Plymouth United Methodist Church, and we're excited! Make sure also to pick up your copy of Episcopal Relief and Development's Lenten meditations (available now in the church); the Lenten calendar (arriving soon) and the book of devotions and practices that I'm preparing (to be ready by the Sunday before Ash Wednesday).

Family Worship - Spring 2015

Family Worship is back for 2015, and we're looking forward to a great season with lots of participation and energy! Our next session will be on February 11 at the Holderness School, beginning with dinner in Weld Hall.

All sessions are Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 and consist of dinner, followed by a short Bible story and activity. All are welcome! We hope to see you there --and bring your friends! Questions? Please contact Grace at holyspiritrector@gmail.com.

Here is the spring 2015 schedule!

February 11 – Jairus' Daughter

February 25 – Parable of the Sower

March 11 – Mustardseed and Yeast

March 25 – Lazarus

(April 2: Parish Maundy Thursday Dinner – Cross & Resurrection)

April 15 – Easter Week

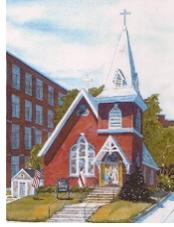
April 29 – Stories of Peter

May 13 – The Prodigal Son

May 27 – Conversion of Paul

June 10 – Adventures of Paul

June 24 – The End of the Story (and the Beginning)



News & Notes

ECW News

The next ECW meeting will be on February 5th at noon in Griswold Hall. We will be making Valentines to brighten up the day for folks we haven't seen in a while! Bring a dish to share along with your creative thoughts to celebrate midwinter!

Nursery Volunteers

This fall we have had very little response from existing nursery volunteers or interest from new people willing to be trained through the Safe Church program to help with our young children on Sunday mornings. As a result, we have been in violation of Safe Church standards (that two adults should be present at all times with children in church) on a regular basis for several months now. Currently, unless a nursery volunteer is present in the undercroft when the 9:30 service starts, Nancy will be bringing the children upstairs and sitting with them throughout the service. This will work fine with our usual child population, but it would still be much preferable to have a separate nursery group in order to be hospitable to new families who may bring infants or toddlers to church. If you are interested in pursuing Safe Church training (which has been greatly streamlined and simplified in the last couple of years) please contact Grace, Melissa, or Susan McKimens.

Fire Church Begins February 15!

Fire Church is a new spiritual community that gathers around a meal and a hearth. We are progressive, radically welcoming, and authentically seeking. Though Fire Church is envisioned as a "new way" of doing church that will be appealing to those who might not attend a Sunday morning service, current CHS members are of course warmly invited to be part of this experience!



We plan to hold our first service on February 15 in Griswold Hall, from 5:30-8:00 p.m., including dinner and a ritual around the fire. Invite your friends!! Let them know this is happening!

Episcopal Journal

Starting in February, Holy Spirit will be receiving copies of Episcopal Journal to share with parishioners. Individual members will no longer receive copies mailed to their homes. If anyone would like to continue receiving a personal copy of Episcopal Journal, you can subscribe for \$36/year by calling [800-691-9846](tel:800-691-9846).

February Celebrations

Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Peter Burson | Sharon Smith |
| Angie Criscuolo | Dean Sherman |
| Nancy Plantinga | Fred Moran |
| Dick Osborne | Wesley Lambert |
| Phoebe Griswold | |

Anniversaries

Jim Ciemniowski & Debbie Triolo

The Postcard Ministry Needs YOU!

We are looking for volunteers for postcard ministry for November and December. You only need to do one month, and it's easy and fun! We are also running very low on cards to send, and would appreciate donations of cards. Please put donated cards in the "Postcard Ministry" box at the back of the church. To volunteer, please contact Kathy Lennox at 536-4779.

February 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|---|--|--|-----|---|
| 1 8:00/9:30 Eucharist- CH | 2 | 3 | 4 Healing Service- 12:30pm-CLC Choir practice-7pm- CH | 5 ECW Meeting-12pm- GH **Come and make Valentines!*** | 6 | 7 |
| 8 8:00/9:30 Eucharist- CH | 9 | 10 Vestry Mtg-7pm | 11 Family Worship- 5:30pm-HS | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 8:00/9:30 Eucharist- CH Fire Church-5:30- 8pm-GH | 16 | 17 Shrove Tuesday Din- ner-6pm-GH | 18 Ash Wednesday Ser- vice/lunch-12pm-GH Evening service-7pm- PCUCC Choir practice-7pm- | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 8:00/9:30 Eucharist- CH | 23 | 24 Lenten Program-5:30- 7pm-TBD | 25 Family Worship- 5:30pm-HS | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| <p style="text-align: center;">A Prayer for the Season</p> <p>O God, you are always creating us anew: Pour your blessing on this congregation of the Church of the Holy Spirit. Lead us in the path you would have us walk. Show us how to grow in love and honesty as a community of faith. And reveal to us the ways you are calling us to serve, in this place and at this time; that whatever we build may be built to your glory alone. Amen.</p> | | | | | | <p>Regular events: Morn Prayer: 8:30am T-F-CLC AA: 7am M-F-GH 7pm W-GH</p> <p>Al-Anon: 7pm M-GH NA: 7pm Th-GH</p> |