



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE

The Eagle

St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette, Ind. | March 2022



From the Rector

I've talked about this any number of times, but it remains my favorite image for our Lenten journey. There is an old Jewish practice of carrying two scraps of paper, one in each pocket. One scrap is supposed to read "I am but dust and ashes," recalling God's pronouncement to Adam in Genesis 3. The other scrap reads "the world was created for me," recalling a line from the Talmud, one of the great Jewish wisdom texts. I love the idea behind this practice because I need both pieces of paper. Some days, when things are going well, I can feel full of myself. Look at all I have accomplished. Look at how well things are going. It is helpful to have that reminder — that little piece of paper in my pocket — that "I am but dust and ashes." Other days, I look at the paperwork and the bills piling up on my desk, I look at the missed opportunities and the failures, and I can't help but think I am a fraud just waiting to be exposed. My "accomplishments" are all just smoke and mirrors. So, I need that other scrap of paper to remind me that I was created in the image of God, that I am loved beyond all measure and deserving.

It's a human tendency to get caught up in one or the other. It's easy to focus on all the ways we miss the mark, to "acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness," to believe that we are not "worthy to gather up the crumbs beneath thy table" (as we say in some of our prayers). But we are also "good." God said as much when he created human beings and gave us stewardship over his good creation. We even pray sometimes that through Christ "we have been made worthy to stand before" God, or as Paul puts it, that we are set right with God by grace through faith. If we lose the tension between these two ways of being, we have lost the game. We have to recognize the ways we fall short — our sins, our failing, our brokenness, our trespasses or debts, whatever we call it — before we can repent and return to God. We must recognize that there is a problem. But we must also remember that God loves us. We must remember that God holds us as the apple of his eye. We must remember that God comes to heal and to mend, to build up and to replenish. We must remember that God loved (*continued on page 2*)

(continued from page 1) the world so much that he sent Jesus — his own Word made flesh — to show us the way to abundant life.

If you are like me, you need both pieces of paper. If you are like me, you need to be reminded that you are dust, that you are sinful, that you are frail and broken. But like me, you also need to be reminded that you are God's beloved child, that God is always ready to do more for you than you can ask or imagine. Sometimes, in some seasons of our lives, we need the one scrap more than the other. If you are so bogged down in the past, so beaten down by the weight of sin, so tired of being oppressed or abused, so tired of pain and disappointment, you may begin to feel wholly and utterly unworthy of anyone's love and care. You may believe that you are the victim of a cruel world or a "sinner in the hands of an

angry God." Perhaps you want to hold on to that one piece of paper awhile, the one that reminds you that the world was created for you, that you are God's beloved child. Or, and this is a temptation for many of us, you may so full of yourself, so self-centered, so oblivious to the needs of others, that you would do well to remember your mortality and to remember that God demands justice, mercy and humility. Either way, we shouldn't let go of the tension. We should keep both pieces of paper in our pockets ready-to-hand.

This Lent, sisters and brothers, spend time remembering who you are and what you are. You are "dust and ashes" and "the world was created for you." Keep hold of that tension. Hold on to both pieces of paper. Walk humbly with the God who loves you and is always ready, waiting for your return. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Upcoming Youth Events

The Greater Lafayette Episcopal Youth Group will meet for fun events beginning in March. These events will be opportunities for the youth to reconnect with one another and with God.

Sunday, March 13, 2-4 p.m. — Bowling at Rack-n-Roll in the Purdue Memorial Union
Sunday, March 27, 2-4 p.m. — Youth Group Olympics at St. John's
Sunday, April 10, 2-4 p.m. — Regular Meeting at Good Shepherd

More information can be found at www.stjohns-laf.org/youth. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*



ASH

WEDNESDAY

at ST. JOHN'S, LAFAYETTE

MARCH 2ND

@ 12:00 (noon) at First Baptist

@ 7:00 p.m. at St. John's

Holy Moly Bible Study for grades K-5

9:30 a.m. Sundays

Beginning March 6

In-person Christian Formation for children Kindergarten through fifth grade will be meeting in the larger of the Godly Play rooms on the second floor beginning Sunday, March 6, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. We will be doing the Holy Moly study of the Bible that includes a short video, reading the Bible story and making a craft that engages the biblical story.

Katie Elder and Gretchen Freese are so excited to welcome the children. We are hoping to bring Godly Play back in the fall for our younger children if we can get more volunteers trained.

If you would like to help with our Sunday Christian Formation program this spring, please let Gretchen know. We could use a few more people to help with telling the story or being door keepers.

If you would like to be trained for Godly Play, please let Gretchen know as she is looking at possible training dates. — *Gretchen Freese, gretchen@stjohns-laf.org*

Ash Wednesday

Noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 2

Ash Wednesday services will be held on Wednesday, March 2, at 12 noon and 7 p.m. The noon service will be at First Baptist Church (on the corner of Seventh and North streets) with members of other churches from the Centennial Neighborhood. The 7 p.m. service will be at St. John's and include the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist. The imposition of ashes will also be available at other times throughout the day. More information will be forthcoming. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Shrove "Sunday" Pancake Supper for Children, Youth and their Families

5-7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27

While we're not quite ready to have the larger, full-capacity Mardi Gras party yet (here's praying for 2023), we will have a smaller Shrove "Sunday" Pancake Supper for the children and youth of the parish, 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27. In addition to pancakes and sausage, we will also spend time learning about the season of Lent and preparing snacks for healthcare workers in our local hospitals. Look for more information in the church bulletin and weekly emails. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

The Rite of Reconciliation

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that the ministry of reconciliation, which Christ has given to the Church, "is exercised through the care each Christian has for others, through the common prayer of Christians assembled for public worship, and through the priesthood of Christ and his ministers declaring absolution."

The Rite of the Reconciliation of a Penitent (also known as "confession" in some traditions) is available for all who desire it and is not restricted to any particular time or season. However, the season of Lent, a time specifically dedicated to self-reflection and penitence, is an especially appropriate time to seek reconciliation with God, one another, and with ourselves.

While the Anglican approach to the rite of reconciliation has always been "all may, some should, none must," it can be a powerful reminder that, despite our failings, we are forgiven and loved by God.

If you would like to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, please contact the church office and ask to speak with a member of the clergy. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

10 Rules for Respect

Every now and then, it's good to revisit some important ground rules for our common life. The following are "10 Rules for Respect" that I have published in the Eagle a few times over the years. I am offering them again, not because anything specifically prompted me to do so (we will discuss them at our upcoming vestry orientation, so they are fresh on my mind). Over the years, I have found them very helpful. These "Rules for Respect" find their expression in various places in Scripture such as Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (6:1-11) or Matthew's Gospel (18:15-20). This particular list comes from Pastor Charles Christian via my friend Heidi Haverkamp. These rules — or rather, the rule of life they embody — can help us maintain healthy relationships as the body of Christ.

1. If you have a problem with me, come to me (privately).
2. If I have a problem with you, I will come to you (privately).
3. If someone has a problem with me and comes to you, send them to me. I promise to do the same for you.
4. If someone consistently will not come to me, say, "Let's go to Bradley together. I am sure he will see us about this." Again, I promise to do the same for you.
5. Be careful how you interpret me. On matters that are unclear, do not feel pressured to interpret my feelings or thoughts. It is easy for us to misrepresent one another. Please, give me the benefit of the doubt and/or ask me about it.
6. I will be careful how I interpret you, give you the benefit of the doubt, and/or ask you about it.
7. If it's confidential, don't tell. If you or anyone comes to me in confidence, I won't tell unless a) the person is going to harm himself/herself, b) the person is going to physically harm someone else, c) a child has been physically or sexually abused. I will expect the same from you.
8. I will not read or respond to unsigned letters or notes.
9. I do not manipulate. I will not be manipulated. Do not let others manipulate you. Do not let others manipulate me through you.
10. When in doubt, just say it. The only dumb questions are those that don't get asked. If you have a concern, pray about it, and then (if led) speak up. If I can answer your question without misrepresenting something, someone or breaking confidence, I will.

As always, please don't hesitate to come to me with any concerns. I cannot promise that I will always agree with you or give your concern the attention you desire. But I will always listen to your concerns, and I will appreciate your honesty. I will always try to do the same for you. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Sabbath: Rest and Resistance

Adult Formation during Lent

Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. service beginning March 6

One of the Ten Commandments is that God's people are to "remember the Sabbath day and to keep it holy." Sabbath rest is modeled off of God's day of rest during creation and is a reminder that both God and human beings are more than their productive capacity.

Sabbath is a call to rest, to re-engage, to remake ourselves. But Sabbath is also a call to resist the forces that dehumanize us and others, a call to justice.

Rabbi Michael Harvey will join us on March 6 to get the conversation started. Each Sunday will include concrete ways that we can incorporate Sabbath rest and resistance in our lives. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

From the Curate

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health,
just as it is well with your soul. III John 2

Here in Lafayette, a great deal of snow has fallen, and there may be more ahead. In jest, I shared with a friend that I may not know how much I can bench press, but I can tell you how many cubic feet of snow I can remove in an hour! Perhaps you feel the same way! The season of winter has a special beauty all her own. The leafless, barren trees, ice covered ponds, the frigid air and the shortage of daylight tends to keep us closer to our homes and within the warmth they provide.

There are myriad ways to measure the many seasons that mark our lives based on experiences, chronology and faith. As our liturgical calendar brings us ever closer to Lent, we are offered time to consider our ways and the ways of the world around us. What have we done well with the time we have been given? What do our family and friends need from us? What are we willing and able to give? Where might God be calling us to stretch? Where do we dream of change and where do we struggle and need assistance?

Soon it will be March 2, and Ash Wednesday will usher in the season of Lent mirroring the barrenness of winter. Lent offers space for reflection, recognizing the brokenness in ourselves, and the need for God and each other. For now, I invite each one of us to set aside 15 minutes once or twice a week for reflection to prepare our hearts and our homes to be able to keep a holy Lent. The habit of fasting in Lent is one spiritual discipline that may enable you to hear the Spirit's call more clearly. For others, it maybe giving up something that distracts you from being present to your family or hinders development of your gifts. We'll talk more next month once Lent is upon us. Until then, I pray that you will prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers. — *Andrea Arsene, andrea@stjohns-laf.org*

Christian Initiation: Baptism and the Catechumenate

Baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the Church and Christian community. For parents considering having their children baptized, the next baptismal feast is the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 16. Sundays during Easter Season or the Feast of Pentecost on June 5 are also appropriate days for baptism.

The catechumenate is an ancient Christian practice of formation and preparation for adults wishing to be baptized. While we have always had times of formation for those preparing for baptism at St. John's, the catechumenate provides a public, liturgical and formational process within the Christian community that connects in a profound way to the personal process of entering into the life of the Church. Traditionally, the catechumenate takes place during Lent, culminating with baptism at the Easter Vigil.

If you are interested in baptism or the catechumenate, please contact the church and ask to speak with a member of the clergy. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*



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Deadline for the April Eagle is
Monday, March. 14. Submit items to
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