

# FEBRUARY



~photo by Ann Dean

## LENT IS COMING!

### EXCERPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY CHRISTINE HIDES

*A website I use as the DRE had an article that focused on preparing kids for Lent by focusing on 4 key ideas:*

#### 1. Lent is a SEASON in the church year.

"Lent is the time of 40 days plus six Sundays during which we get ready for Easter. During Lent we use the church color purple for getting ready."

#### 1. Pretzels remind us to PRAY

"At church we will make pretzels. A long time ago people would fold their arms in prayer like a pretzel."

They also didn't eat eggs or butter during Lent, so they made a special treat that doesn't use eggs or butter that is shaped like arms folded in prayer to remember to be prayerful during Lent."

#### 3. Ashes Connect Us ALL

"Wednesday is the first day of Lent, called Ash Wednesday...On Ash Wednesday we put ashes on our foreheads to remember that we, and all things, are made of the same dust."

#### 4. We Put Away The ALLELUIA

"Children are very interested in 'special rules,' and they also love words. So it's always fun to remind them that we do not say Alleluia in Lent...That way, when we use it again, it will be extra special."

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SAINTS!



*Read a story of  
friendship and  
meditation at  
the altar by Liz  
Landers...*

# ALTAR GUILD WITH FRIENDS

BY LIZ LANDERS

Over thirty years ago, when my children were still quite young, I was looking for a way to get involved at All Saints. Involved, but not TOO involved. After all, I was a working mom with 2 young kids at home and I didn't have a lot of free time. A friend of mine at All Saints, who had a son the same age as my son (my youngest, her oldest), asked me if I would like to be her Altar Guild partner. Her previous partner was moving away and since the Altar Guild works in teams of two or three, she needed to flesh out her team.

Worship has always been important to me and knowing that it was a fairly tame time commitment, I said yes. I have never regretted it.

Typically we would set up on Saturday mornings. Sometimes we would bring our sons with us and they entertained themselves while we set up for Sunday services. Other times (I admit, my favorite times) we left our kids with their dads and actually were able to have an uninterrupted conversation with each other.



I looked forward to those Saturdays as they were some of the only "adult time" I got. As our sons got older and started preschool, we also sometimes set up on Fridays while they were at school. Again, we could have an uninterrupted conversation, and even go out for coffee or a meal before or after we set things up.

Over the many, many years we continued to work as an Altar Guild team and also became very good friends. Setting up the altar was a quiet, unhurried, sharing time and although my friend has moved out of the area, we remain good friends.

There were some funny incidents over the years of doing altar guild, but those only added to my enjoyment. There was the time my two or three year old son was with me when we stepped up onto the altar. He noticed that the sanctuary candle that is suspended over the consecrated elements stored in the tabernacle (which should ALWAYS be lit) had gone out and in a loud and worried voice he exclaimed, "Mom, God is dead!".

Being on the altar guild is not a huge time commitment. Each team is "on" for 2 weeks at a time which typically consists of setting up for 2 Wednesday noon services in the chapel and the 2 Sunday services in the main church, so a bit of time on a Friday or Saturday for set up, then resetting up after the 8am and cleaning up after the 10am services. The number of teams we have determines how many weeks go by before any given team is "on" again.

We would really welcome anyone to come and give us a try and see if it feels like something you might be interested in doing, perhaps with a friend or two so you have time to chat.



# CLASSROOM UPDATES

## The Discover Class: PreK

The Discover Class has been having some fun with Playdough! As we get to know each other, we are making things together and having fun! We welcome all kids aged 3-5 to come and join us for play, song and friendship.

## The Explorer Class: K-2nd

In the past few weeks the Explorer class has been continuing with the felt stories about Jesus and the teachers as well as baptism. The kids have begun to help put up the felt pieces for some of the bigger stories and seem to truly enjoy getting involved! We have also continued doing crafts every other week. Crafts should be coming home as new crafts are done since we like to display them in the room. Also, make sure to see who's craft appears in the display box outside of the parish hall every few weeks! The teachers continue to enjoy teaching your children and thank you for letting us spend that time with them each week!



## The Wonder Class: 3rd-4th

In Godly Play, we always spend late January and February "opening" parables. These stories, given to us as gifts by Jesus, can be very tricky to understand. Godly Play teaches that sometimes we have to enter a parable many, many times to really understand it. Although these stories are often short and seemingly simple, they have many layers and it's wonderful to experience them and wonder with our students. Before we know it, we will be walking through Lent together and sharing the story "The Faces of Easter." This is a series of seven vignettes that retell Jesus' life and journey toward the cross as we prepare to come close to The Mystery of Easter. Wishing you all a blessed and fulfilling Lenten season.



## The Weavers: 5th-6th

For the month of February, the Weavers have been talking about John the Baptist and his parents. What joy and some pain Elizabeth and Zechariah must have had with John's birth. How Jesus and John were cousins and how much fun that must have been! We also did a service project of prayer squares to be given to people in hospitals to let them know our community is thinking of them and praying for them. Next month we will discuss the first people in Jesus' ministry and how they can be examples to us in our lives today.

## The Connect Class: 7th-8th

The Connect Class has been studying the Parables and is currently creating a stained glass window representing the lessons they have been working on. The images are drawn and we are now in the painting phase. We hope to display the new window as part of the upcoming renovation of the basement level.





## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

DINNER STARTS AT 5:30 IN THE PARISH HALL  
\$5 PER PERSON/\$20 FAMILY CAP

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH**



## ASH WEDNESDAY

7:30 AM Ash Wednesday Service Chapel  
12:00 PM Holy Eucharist w/ashes  
7:00 PM Combined Ash Wednesday Service @ Trinity  
Lutheran



## BCH CAMP

*Barbara C. Harris Episcopal Camp • Greenfield, NH*

**CAMP TALK: SUNDAY MARCH 8TH  
DURING COFFEE HOUR!**

## LENTEN PRETZEL MAKING

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST AT THE 10AM  
SERVICE



WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS OF DOUGH! IF YOU CAN  
HELP, PLEASE BRING DOUGH TO THE KITCHEN ON THE  
MORNING OF THE 1ST. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

# Lenten Calendar:

PICKUP IN THE NARTHEX ON MARCH 1ST

