

Voice of the Swan Newsletter
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The Holy Eucharist
Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Tuesday: 7:00 AM

***The
Staff***

Reverend Marion Phipps, Rector
Sue Campbell, Senior Warden
Stephen Wendorf, Junior Warden
Dick W. Rayner, Treasurer
Ash Emmanuel, Vestry Clerk
Karen Warner, Administrative Assistant
Cheri Walter, Altar Guild

**March Birthdays
Happy Birthday!!**

Denise McConnell	3 - 1
Jeffrey Maliszewski	3 - 3
Meg Swartz	3 - 4
Teresa Puccio	3 - 7
Joan Murrie	3 - 8
Elinor Bartlett	3 - 16
Alec Baumrind	3 - 16
Emma Rowe	3 - 21
Larry Wild	3 - 28
Michael Phipps	3 - 28

***March Anniversaries
Happy Anniversary!!!***

Marlene & Richard W. Rayner 3 - 14

Voice of the Swan

March 2017

Volume 20
The News Letter of St. Hugh of Lincoln
Church Number 3

Dear Parish Family,

I recently came across this quote by Frederick Buechner: "One life on this earth is all that we get, whether it is enough or not enough, and the obvious conclusion would seem to be that at the very least we are fools if we do not live it as fully and bravely and beautifully as we can." There is such truth in this simple statement, and I find myself challenged by these words as I ponder them. I'm currently enjoying a visit with my Dad and much of the rest of the family as we gathered in Florida for my niece Madeline's wedding to her beloved Adam. As I think about these two joining their lives together, full of hope and promise, I pray they will live "as fully and bravely and beautifully as they can." Life is a precious gift and so often we can get bogged down in its day to day demands that we can miss the wonder of it if we're not careful. With Lent just around the corner, I wonder if I might approach Lent from a place of fullness and beauty? This almost seems like a contradiction of the somberness of this penitential season where there is issued this invitation:

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer." (BCP p.265)

As many of you know, I struggle with Lent and each year I wrestle with what to give up or take on to make it a meaningful and God honoring season. During my childhood and early adulthood, I loved Lent and its discipline and opportunity to draw nearer to God. I'd give up something and/or add on some spiritual disciplines and by the time Easter came around I found myself closer to God than when Lent had begun. After a while, that stopped working and the challenge was to find some practice that would draw me nearer to God. I felt pressure to do something better than I had done the year before. I discovered that this trying to one up myself made Lent more about me than God. I talked to my spiritual director about it and another time I spoke with one of the nuns when I was on retreat at the Cenacle. She suggested instead of giving up something for Lent I ought to ask God what He was going to do for me for Lent! That sounded so strange to me at the time, but when I came across this Buechner quote to "live it (life) as fully

and bravely and beautifully as we can" I found myself revisiting the idea of approaching Lent with an open heart and mind about the possibilities of what God might want to do for me this Lent.

How might I live more fully and bravely and beautifully? How might you? What does God want to do for you this Lent? Do you have any plans for how you want to approach Lent this year? Perhaps there is sin that needs tending to. What sin is separating me/you from God? Is there an area of your life you wish to get right with God? Confession can be good for the soul. In the Episcopal church the official stance on making a confession to a priest is "all may, some should, none must." Whether you want to talk to me or not, I remind you that God's word tells us "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) However we choose to approach Lent this year, I pray that Lent will be a meaningful season for us all!

In God's Love,

Marion+

Senior Warden's Notes

Another Lenten Season is upon us!

On February 12th, we celebrated our 50th Valentine's Day as a parish with a "Rejoice In Love" themed coffee hour following the 10:30 service. Thanks to Juanita and Larry Brook for putting that event together. Shrove Tuesday was February 28th, and Mike Phipps and Rudy Gebala provided us a feast of pancakes and sausages. During the February Vestry meeting, we welcomed four new members and began discussing plans to meet new parish health and safety goals, and to create a committee to explore long-range plans for building expansion at St. Hugh. Note that monthly Vestry meeting minutes, once approved, are available on the Vestry bulletin board in Wiedrich Hall.

In March, we will be welcoming the newest members of our parish. All are invited to take part in the March 12th Chili Cook-off and New Member Welcome Day. Bring your best recipe, sample each chef's contribution, and vote for your favorite. This is a fun event for everyone, and a wonderful opportunity to bring friends, family, and neighbors.

March also begins the Lenten season. Pick up this year's personal Lenten devotionals, available outside the Sanctuary. Marion is also offering a group series on Thursdays during Lent, along with weekly Stations of the Cross services. Lent is an opportunity for each of us to "reboot", and a time to rediscover the things in our lives that need the most attention. Please consider joining in these programs that Marion provides. They are designed to guide and inspire us to love God more deeply, and to love our neighbors.

Just a reminder to check your Wiedrich Hall mailbox... watch for information regarding the 50th Anniversary events coming up.

Contact me or church office if you ARE CPR certified or interested in BECOMING CPR certified.

Sue Campbell campbell.hspro@gmail.com

March News from Buildings and Grounds

Since Christmas our sign out front went out and we have been having difficulty getting it back up and running. While we discovered and solved a short circuit problem with a broken cooling fan inside the sign, we have yet to solve a technological matter. We have been trying to contact the sign's service representatives to solve this problem. Thank you all for your patience and understanding!

One of the B & G's 2017 goals was to explore the feasibility and costs to go to a card-swipe door lock system for the church. Some recent research indicated this would cost around \$1,000.00 per door. So, during the February Vestry meeting it was decided to just let this matter go; it is not a priority and too expensive.

In April we will be doing our annual Spring outdoor clean-up and yard preparation around St. Hugh, so look for a sign-up sheet to help coming out soon, usually around Earth Day. Our contracted landscaper will be adding mulch in the bedding areas around the church building as well.

Also in April, we plan to clean out and reorganize all the basement storage rooms. Ongoing St. Hugh ministries such as Altar Guild, Sundays School and so on, will have new designated areas in the cleaned-out rooms for their supplies.

Stephen Wendorf, Junior Warden

Easter Flowers

We are collecting for Easter Flowers beginning on Sunday, March 5th. Please remember someone special in your life or a special event and give flowers in their (it's) honor or memory.

**Sunday, March 5th is Prayer Partner and Food
Pantry Sunday at St. Hugh!**

**Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed
on Saturday, March 11th. Spring Ahead!**

Coming mid Month...

Watch for Time and Talent spreadsheets to be posted. Perhaps you'd like to sign up for an role in St. Hugh that is your strength.

Lenten Devotionals for adults and Lent materials for children are available on the table outside the sanctuary.

Shawl Ministry & RELICS

Since March 1 is Ash Wednesday, there will be no Shawl Ministry or RELICS meetings. If you attend the noon service, you may join us for lunch afterwards. (Brown bag).

Please join us for our April 5 meeting when our guest speaker is Randy Lemcke, who will share some inspirational insights with us.

Lenten Programs

Ash Wednesday services will be held on March 1st at 12:00PM and 7:00PM. There will be a Lenten film series held on Thursday's March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th and April 6th. There will be two time slots offered. The first will be at 12:00PM - 2:00PM with a brown bag lunch and an evening option that begins with a soup and bread supper at 6:30PM followed by the program from 7:00PM - 9:00PM. Traditional Stations of the Cross will be offered at 6:00PM on these same Thursday's in Lent. There will be a sign up for the programs so we will have a head count and to rotate who is bringing soup and bread for the supper. The films will be varied and thought provoking. I will get the schedule out when I get back. They include: Traces of the Trade, The Episcopal Church's Response to Slavery, 13th, Nick Vujicic: Inspirational Speaker, and possibly The Letters depending on time constraints. I will finalize the schedule with input from those who attend.

We have also ordered Living Well Through Lent, a daily devotional put out by Living Compass along with some children's resources.

Two years ago, Karen Warner advised the Vestry to start thinking about how we wanted to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the St. Hugh Parish. Well, here we are! In just a few short months, July 2nd to be precise, we will gather to mark the day of the first service as a Parish. Anniversaries are important in our society because they represent the culmination of a lot of hard work getting through the ups and downs of relationships. St. Hugh's 50th Anniversary is no different and we will mark that day with the importance and reverence that it deserves.

Around Palm Sunday, you will be receiving invitations to attend the July 2nd celebration at The Randall Oaks Country Club. We will reminisce, honor our pioneers, and look to the future. But, most of all, we will give thanks. As usual, we will eat. What better way to honor this day but to be in fellowship and break bread as a family. The details of this day are being ironed out as we speak and we can't wait to gather together, old and new, and celebrate this wonderful accomplishment.

A while back we sent out "Save the Date" magnets for everyone to put on the refrigerator as a reminder. Take a minute to read the "Save the Date" message for a quick reminder about the event. The cost of your reservation for the event will be LESS than \$30 for adults and UNDER \$15 for children. We want to see everyone there so please budget for your reservation now. This will be such a beautiful day in the life of the St. Hugh Parish.....please share it with us!

Mugs and ornaments are still available for purchase. Sales of these items are helping to defray costs for the 50th anniversary events we have planned for July and September.

The mugs are \$12 and are in Wiedrich Hall on the left side mailboxes. Please place your payment in the envelope for mugs and put in the office mailbox.

If you are interested in an ornament, they are \$18. Please place your payment in the envelope available on the same mailboxes and put it in the offertory plate or the mailbox on the office door. Once we have the payment, I'll put the ornament in your mailbox.

United Thank Offering Update

(by Catherine Balassie)

I was fortunate last month to be able to participate in the Chicago Diocese's grant selection process to determine the grant proposal that will be submitted to the national UTO committee from the Northern Illinois region. Each year there is a different emphasis in the selection process; the focus for the 2017 United Thank Offering grants is *The Jesus Movement* – evangelism, reconciliation, and following Jesus' way of creating loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God, each other, and all creation. The proposal selected by the Chicago team was from a church in Kankakee to establish an after-school study space, providing computer access and mentors, for kids that might not be able to use the library due to documentation challenges, which would be the first step towards developing a family services center in the church. The national team will evaluate this request along with those submitted by other dioceses in the U.S.; on average about a third of the proposals are funded. It was very interesting and energizing to learn about all the good work that gets initiated through the UTO grants.

While the UTO program is designed to promote thankful offerings daily throughout the year, it can be especially meaningful as a Lenten devotion. When we drop a coin in our UTO box in thanksgiving for a blessing, whether it be an answer to prayer or gratitude for a new day, we train ourselves to look for and recognize the many blessings in our lives. Our next ingathering of UTO offerings at St. Hugh will be shortly after Easter. UTO boxes will be available at church starting the first Sunday of Lent.

Saint Hugh Men's Group

The Saint Hugh Men's Group is a small group of men who meet together for mutual encouragement and support for growth in our Christian walk. Some

participants are current members of St. Hugh, some are former members, some have never attended St. Hugh. The format of the meetings is based on a book discussion (a book of the Bible, a study book, a pertinent book of mutual interest, etc.). The group meets (generally) every other Saturday morning, 7:30am – 8:30am in Wiedrich Hall. The leader of the group is Father Tom Atamian, former rector of St. Hugh. Father Tom is now an assistant baseball coach at Judson University, and is sometimes gone on Saturday mornings for games or practices, and at such times another member leads the discussion. The group is open to men of all ages who are interested in growing in their Christian walk.

Mom's Group

The St. Hugh Moms' Group has been on a bit of a hiatus as we all juggle the business of "mom-ing". With some new faces in the pews, it is important to St. Hugh to offer resources for any moms.

The purpose of this group has been to support moms through the many challenges they face while raising faithful little people. Meetings have consisted of discussions, support, planning, and fellowship and have been opportunities for friendships to form between moms and between their children. As we are regrouping, we are open to any formats or activities that anyone would like to try. Please share any ideas.

Contact Marion or Sue Campbell if you have interest in being a part of this ministry.

Sue: campbell.hspro@gmail.com.

Marion, Kim, Lindsay & Casey Gebala participated this day...

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Wow, your kindness and warm feelings for those in need never ceases to amaze me. As you know, we just concluded our sixth Dr. Martin Luther King drive and what a drive it was. Personally, and collectively, you must be proud of what we could do to help our fellow man in a time of need.

Thanks to your support, people are saying that the 2017 celebration is by far the best we have ever held. Like prior years, we started the weekend with a wonderful prayer breakfast on Saturday, followed by a splendid public

program on Sunday and concluded on Monday with a marvelous "Day of Service" for our youth.

In addition to all of this, we capped off the entire celebration with a very rewarding and inspiring Dr. Martin Luther King Food Drive. Because of your kindness, warm hearts and great work, we had another very successful MLK Food drive. In fact, it was a GIANT SUCCESS. We provided 8 local food pantries with an average of 1,500 pounds of canned goods, toiletries and household items. The financial donations this year was almost \$2,000. When you combine the 12,000 pounds of non-perishable items collected with the \$2,000 in donations, that will give us a total of 17,000 pounds or more. Pantries can buy food for around 20¢ - 40¢ per pound. For \$2,000 that is over 5,000 pounds in purchasing power. Wow, as I always say, Elgin truly is a great city.

Because of your great assistance, we are keeping the dream alive. Now the question really does become, "where do we go from here?" We are starting to think about and plan for next year. As for the food drive, the answer is simple, next year we must hit 10 tons of food. If for some reason you were not able to join this year, please add us to your calendar for 2018.

Again, on behalf of the Elgin Human Relations Commission and the Dr. King Celebration Committee, MANY THANKS for your wonderful support.

Sincerely,

Joe Wars

Joe Wars, Chair
Dr. King Food Drive
[847-742-2228](tel:847-742-2228)

cc: Danise Habun, Chair
Elgin Dr. King Celebration Committee

ELGIN GREAT BOOK SEMINARS 2017
<http://elgingreatbookseminars.com/contact.html>*

Join our Elgin Great Book discussion Group that meets on **the first Monday** of each month in our home: **535 Oakhill Road, Elgin, 7:00-9:00 pm**. Join us for **one, any, or all** of the **titles*** that interest you. We focus on Great Book and contemporary authors of the 20th century. Some readings include follow-up comparison-contrast discussion of film interpretations of the original story. *We make new friends as we learn from one another.*

RSVP: Victor and Pat Moeller, **224.856-5682** (one block west of Coleman School & Baker Hill Pancake House, Dundee, Hwy 25). victormoeller@comcast.net

March 6

Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House* & film clips
When does romantic love grow into mature love?

April 6

Anton Chekhov "*Heartache*" (**handout**)
Catherine Mansfield's "*Life of Ma Parker*." (**handout**)
How does a parent cope with the death of a child?