And those of us who confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior are invited to radiate that light. That is both the declaration and the invitation that is Epiphany!

As we journey towards Ash Wednesday, we are being prepared to respond to that invitation. We are asked to make ourselves vulnerable—to open ourselves up—to acknowledge those evil forces that separate us from God. It is that separation that dims the light of Christ within us.

The 40+ days of Lent gives us the space and opportunity to discern those things, behaviors, and excesses we must shed; but also those causes we must take on and how that is reflected in the living of our lives. We are invited to prayerfully reflect both individually and within community of how we might draw nearer and remain nearer to the One who is the “world’s true light.”

— The Reverend Joyce Corbin Cunningham, Interim Associate Rector
We’ll be lifting our voices with our siblings in Christ from all around the diocese on Saturday, February 15 when we host the Diocese of North Carolina’s celebration of the Feast of Blessed Absalom Jones.

Please join us for a festal celebration of The Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m. in the church followed immediately by a reception in Shepherd’s Hall. Bishop Sam will celebrate at the Eucharist and The Rev. Marion Robinson, pastor of St. Matthew AME Church, will preach.

All are welcome!

**WHO IS BLESSED ABSALOM JONES?**

Absalom Jones (1746-1818) was born into slavery in Sussex County, Delaware on November 6, 1856. During the 72 years of his life, he grew to become one of the foremost leaders among persons of African descent during the post-revolutionary period. In 1770, he married Mary Thomas and purchased her freedom. It was not until 1784 that he obtained his own freedom through manumission.

In Philadelphia, Jones met Richard Allen, who became a life-long friend. In 1787 they organized the Free African Society as a social, political and humanitarian organization helping widows and orphans, and assisting in sick relief and burial expenses. Jones and Allen were also lay preachers at St. George’s Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where their evangelistic efforts met with great success and their congregation grew ten-fold. As a result, racial tensions flared and ultimately they led a historic walk out from St. George’s. In 1792, under the dual leadership of Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, “The African Church” was organized as a direct outgrowth of the Free African Society. Both Jones and Allen wished to affiliate with the Methodists, but the majority of the congregation favored The Episcopal Church.

Richard Allen withdrew with a part of the congregation to found Bethel Church (later, Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church). The African Church became The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas with Absalom Jones as its Lay Reader. Jones was ordained Deacon in 1795. In 1802, Jones was ordained by Bishop William White as the first African American Episcopal Priest.

Absalom Jones died on February 13, 1818. The February 13th Absalom Jones Feast Day was added to the Episcopal Church Calendar in 1973, and 2020 marks the first year that the AME Church officially is celebrating the Feast of Absalom Jones.

Blessed Absalom’s ashes are enshrined in the altar of the Reverend Absalom Jones Chapel of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, and a memorial stained glass window commemorates his life and work.

—Adapted from the website of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.
“LEAP OF FAITH” COALITION BUILD
The annual Episcopal Build is coming up in March! We kick off with the wall build on February 29, and Good Shepherd's build day is March 14th. We'll also be providing lunch that day. Click the logo on the above for more details and registration info. Questions? Contact Don Blankenship at creative-trimwork1@gmail.com. Want to help with lunch? Contact Karen Boyne at karenboyne@hotmail.com.

DISMANTLING RACISM: RECLAIMING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISE
Racial healing and reconciliation are fundamental to our ongoing spiritual formation. Please join us on Saturday, February 22 at Raleigh’s Church of the Nativity for this interactive workshop designed to deepen our spiritual commitment to dismantle racism as participants in the Jesus Movement. Through presentations, prayer, story sharing, videos and small group discussion, we will explore how the sin of racism impacts all of our lives. We will ground our work together biblically and sacramentally by renewing our baptismal vows—to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of all human beings—and end with Holy Eucharist. This workshop is one step in our ongoing and sustained journey to Becoming Beloved Community. Click HERE for full details and registration information.

THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY PROMISE TEAM
Good Shepherd partners with our friends across Morgan Street at First Presbyterian Church in shared ministry, bearing the light of Jesus by way of providing radical hospitality to some of our neighbors at pivotal moments in their lives.
Our 2020 Family Promise dates are:
— March 23
— June 8
— September 14
— November 30

We want to take a moment to give a great big CGS shout out to all the folks who put themselves out there several times during the year in 2019 as living witnesses of love in truth and action by serving some of our neighbors transitioning from temporary homelessness by sharing meals, transportation and fellowship
If you’d like to get involved, that March date will be here before we know it. Contact Caryn Meade at caryn-meade@yahoo.com or Marguerite Sullivan at 919-851-7241.

Thank you.

Family Promise
Celebrating 25 Years of Service

This month we recognize our FAMILY PROMISE TEAM.
This month I would like to recognize the volunteers who provide transportation, food, entertainment and overnight residency for our family promise collaboration with our neighbors across Morgan Street at First Presbyterian. These people drive a van to pick up four families at the Day center on Method Road. They bring them to First Presbyterian where they are housed and fed for the night. The next morning they are transported back.

These caring and faithful individuals led by Marguerite Sullivan and Caryn Meade are: Maggie Fyle, Jan Harris, Martha Hays, Kim Johnson, Vive Kershaw, Matthew Kershaw, Heidi LeCount, Carolyn McCoy, Gerard McNeil, Melissa Edwards Smith, Terry Sullivan, Tara Sumanaseni, Karen Somerville, Lynda Terrell-Rea, Patricia Walence and Lynn Wiss.
Thanks to ALL of you that do things for others with no thought of anything in return!! You don’t know how you have touched others hearts and changed their lives for the better.

Joe Aldridge
Volunteer Coordinator
**YOUTH SUNDAY AT GOOD SHEPHERD**
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

Join us on Sunday, February 23 as we celebrate the young people of Good Shepherd at Youth Sunday. Evan Meade will preach at both worship services that morning, and the liturgies will be planned and led by members of our Episcopal Youth Community. With that Sunday also being Last Epiphany, we couldn’t ask for better themes and imagery as a liturgical backdrop for the day on which we honor these young people who currently are experiencing such transformational moments in their lives.

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

Mark your calendars now for our annual summertime EYC mission trip. We’ll be heading down east again to serve our neighbors during the week of June 21-26. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

**BISHOPS’ BALL**

Bishops’ Ball, a long-standing beloved diocesan youth gathering, is slated for the weekend of February 28-March 1. Registration is open. This year’s theme is “Leap For Joy.” For all the details, click HERE. You also may click HERE for registration.

**EPISCO-PALS**

We’re calling all 3rd through 5th graders and families to come join us in Shepherd’s Hall on March 1 for our next gathering of Episco-PALS! We’ll enjoy fellowship time preparing our own sandwich lunches before making additional sandwich lunches with extra care for our neighbors to enjoy the next day during their lunches at The Shepherd’s Table.

Donations on are welcome to help defray the cost of lunch and outreach ministry.

Please contact Meredith Swindell at mlswindel@aol.com to RSVP.
GROW THE LIGHT IN THE WORLD: FORMATION AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Lenten Day of Reflection
Please mark your calendar and plan to participate in a special Lenten Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 14 from 9:00 until 3:00 in Shepherd’s Hall.

The Lenten season is a time for personal reflection and redemption to God’s purpose for us. The Lenten Day of Reflection will be an opportunity to set aside time for study, prayer, worship and reaffirmation. Mother Joyce Cunningham will lead our focus on this special day. Plan to attend and feel free to bring guests.

Registration opens on February 17. Please register to attend no later than Tuesday, March 10 so that we can prepare. The Daughters of the King are sponsoring the event and will provide a continental breakfast of coffee, tea and pastries as well as a light lunch.

Questions? Contact Christie Barbee at 919-345-1494 or cbarbeec323@gmail.com.

Grapes & Grains First Communion Class
Grapes and Grains, our preparatory class for children approaching their First Communion, begins this year on the Third Sunday in Lent (March 15) and runs through Palm Sunday (April 8). The class instructs first and second graders who are baptized or will be baptized on Easter on the meaning and mechanics of The Holy Eucharist. Those completing the class will make their First Communion on Easter Sunday (April 12). The class meets on Sundays during the 9:00 a.m. Christian Formation hour. Click HERE to register. Questions? Contact Maggie Fyfe at mms9t@virginia.edu.

VBS at CGS: June 22-25
Children will participate in a "Wilderness Escape," learning about Exodus. For age 4 through 5th grade. June 22-25. Online registration coming soon! Questions? Contact Maggie Fyfe mms9t@virginia.edu

CHRISTIAN FORMATION AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday Bible Study
Rev. Nancy’s Bible Study group meets every Tuesday with two opportunities for you to join in the conversation: 10:30 a.m. in room 403, and 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. All are welcome!

Wednesday Men’s Bible Study
A great way to start the day for early risers or those among us who live and/or work downtown! Join us each Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. in room 403 of the parish life center for prayer and thoughtful conversations on scripture. All are welcome!

Sunday Morning Bible Study
The Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study group, led by Debbie Moyer, meets in room 404 every Sunday during the 9:00 a.m. formation hour and follows the same meeting schedule as Children and Youth Sunday School. All are welcome!

Breakfast Club
Looking for a casual way to connect? Join the Sunday Breakfast Club! All are welcome to share breakfast, conversation, and a short Bible story. We meet a little after 9 on the second floor of the Parish Life Center in room 304. If you’d like to know more, please stop by Sunday morning or contact Maggie (maggie_puryear@yahoo.com) or Jason Puryear (jason.puryear@gmail.com)

Children’s & Youth Sunday School
Come join us each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. on the second floor of the Duncan-Giersch Parish Life Center. Click HERE for the Sunday School registration page.

EYC at Good Shepherd
Episcopal Youth Community meets each Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, fellowship and a wide range of activities throughout the year. Click HERE to learn more and view our EYC calendar.

Midweek Eucharist and Healing Service
Join us in the chancel each Thursday at 12:05 p.m. as we gather for this quiet and contemplative time together at the Lord’s table. All are welcome! No exceptions!
LET IT SHINE! LET IT SHINE! LET IT SHINE!

A GOOD YEAR-END FOR 2019 BODES WELL FOR 2020!

As the old financial year closed, we were elated to report some of the highlights:

Revenue from Pledging units and general offerings exceeded the amounts budgeted at the beginning the year. (Total Rev.-$769,793)

Expenses for the year came in 10% under budget. ($731,584)

The combination of the items above allowed us to withdraw only one fourth of the potential 2019 draw from The Endowment Fund Trust, thereby allowing the unrestricted fund balance to recover for a rainy day.

The Sure Foundation Campaign successfully met its goal of allowing payments on the Duncan-Giersch Parish Life Center to reduce the balance and interest payments, fund youth and children’s minister positions (search underway) and provide a modest reserve for a budgetary shortfall.

FROM THE MARY BETH FEE CENTER FOR PASTORAL CARE

PASTORAL CARE SURVEY

On Monday, February 3rd, you should have received an email with a link to our pastoral care survey. We are encouraging each member of your household 16 years of age or older to each complete the survey. The Mary Beth Fee Center for Pastoral Care is the hub for all pastoral care at Good Shepherd. Pastoral care is a parish-wide effort, and we urge you to discern how God is asking you to lend your gifts to these most important ministries. We would like you to complete the short survey as part of that discernment. The survey will close on Shrove Tuesday.

Questions? Email me at lynn.wiss@cgs-raleigh.org or call me at 919-831-2005. If you do not receive email, let me know and I will send you a hard copy of the survey.

Thank you.

Lynn Wiss,
Pastoral Care Coordinator

A successful Stewardship Campaign which allowed a thorough and thoughtful budgeting process directed toward a balanced budget for 2020. That process was complete by the first meeting of the new Vestry.

So, on behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to thank each and every one of you who have contributed to, and engaged in, this extremely heartening year for our Parish. And especially … to our new and inspirational Clergy, the Search Committee which did such a great job, our parish staff, our vestry, finance committee … and particularly Randy Coupland and Caryl Fuller (without whose unselfish time and expertise much of this would not have occurred as it did) … the Blessings of our God Almighty be with you this year and always!

Duke Fentress, For the Finance Committee

PASTORAL CARE CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

To ensure notification of pastoral care needs is directed efficiently and appropriately, we have established two phone numbers to be used according to need.

For non-emergencies—such as a sick family member or friend, a hospital admission or a surgery—please call 919-831-2005. If there is no answer, leave a detailed message with the date of admission (if applicable), a contact number and any other information you may feel is relevant. Lynn Wiss, our pastoral care coordinator monitors this line throughout the day. You also may use this line for needs such as pastoral visits, meals, therapeutic dog visits, births/adoptions, etc.

For PASTORAL EMERGENCIES requiring immediate attention—such as last rites, abuse situations, etc.—please call the pastoral emergency line at 919-831-2008 where you will leave your name and contact number. These messages go directly to clergy, ensuring a prompt response.
WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED: FELLOWSHIP NEWS

AMAZING GRACE
The next gathering of the Amazing Grace Supper Club will take place on Saturday, March 7 at the home of Martha Hays (4631 Manassa Pope Ln., Raleigh, NC 27615) and co-hosted with Phyllis Vail. Martha and Phyllis will provide the main course. All you need to do is show up at 6:30 p.m. with the side dish, dessert and/or beverage of your choice. To RSVP, contact Martha at 919-819-7212 or marthashays@gmail.com.

CGS CHILI COOK-OFF
Wondering where the Chili Cook-Off is? Don’t worry! It’s coming, but we’ve pushed it back a bit this year to April 19. Be on the lookout during Lent for sign-up information. Will the Fyfes be able to defend their title as CGS Chili Champs? Or will a dark horse emerge from the pack to claim victory? We can hardly wait to find out!

COMMUNITY NOTES: NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

SUMMER CHOIR CAMP AT CHRIST CHURCH
Our neighbors across Capitol Square at Christ Church are inviting all rising 4th-6th graders to join in on a week-long Choir Camp, happening the week of June 15-19. Cost is $40 for the week and includes lunch and a daily cultural arts field trips to some of the downtown museums. If you or your youngsters are interested, Christ Church’s Organist and Choirmaster, David Jernigan (djernigan@christchurchraleigh.org), is happy to answer your questions and get you looped in.

FAITH IN ACTION: ADVOCATING FOR EFFECTIVE CLIMATE POLICY
Thursday, February 20, 7-9 PM Benson Memorial United Methodist Church, 4706 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC
Are you concerned about global warming and ready to act? You are invited by Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle and Campaign Nonviolence to discover how people of faith can affect climate policy. First the Creation Care Ministry Team of the United Methodist Church NC Conference Creation Team will discuss how an individual church can join together with other churches to influence policy. Then leaders of NC Policy Watch, 350 Triangle, and the NC Conservation Network will give an update on climate issues at the local level in the Triangle and at the state level. For more information and the complete agenda go to www.interfaithcreationcare.org.
LENTEN PREVIEW

ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 26

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes in the Church

- 7:00 a.m.
- 12:00 noon
- 7:00 p.m.

Ashes on the Square

Immediately following the noon Ash Wednesday service in the Church and again during the evening rush as the end of the workday, we’ll go two-by-two to stations on Capitol Square where we’ll offer Imposition of Ashes to our neighbors and invite them to share with us in a Holy Lent. Would you like to get involved with Ashes on the Square? Contact Kirk Royal at kirk.royal@cgs-raleigh.org.

LENTEN BOOK STUDIES

We’ll be getting on board with the diocesan-wide Lenten Book Study. As part of our ongoing commitment toward Becoming Beloved Community, all people and communities of the Diocese of North Carolina are invited to read Howard Thurman’s Jesus and the Disinherited or Debby Irving’s Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race during the season of Lent. Both books invite self-examination and reflection about how racism continues to work against the dream of God and our call to love others and strive for justice and peace among all people. More details coming soon!