

# VILLAGE EPISCOPALIAN

March — April 2023



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## AN INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

*A Column by The Rev. Dr. Keith Hearnberger, Rector*

On Ash Wednesday, priests across the church invited Episcopalians to the observance of a holy Lent with the following words from the Book of Common Prayer:

*"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." (BCP, p. 265)*



How is God calling you to keep a holy Lent? How will the above invitation, issued to every faithful Episcopalian, take shape in your particular life? Here are a few suggestions:

- Make Saturday/Sunday worship a priority. It's not optional. It's our duty and delight to worship God week after week. And I invite you to call someone you haven't seen in worship in a while. Call on friends who are looking for a church family. Ask them to join you!
- Pray and read the Bible every day. One way to do this is to join Episcopalians (as well as myself) from across the country at the Forward Movement Website: [Daily Prayer: A Resource of Forward Movement \(https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/pray\)](https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/pray). This website has the entire daily office that is both in print and read aloud that can be accessed from any web browser. There is even an App that can be installed where it plays automatically every day.
- Give alms to those in need. Consider a donation to our music ministry, my discretionary account, or the SEFT (Syrian Relief Fund).
- Fast from something to take something on. For example, use the money you would spend on a self-pleasure for a local charity or our music program at Holy Trinity. Or you could use that time normally spent in front of the TV to read a book by C.S. Lewis.
- Participate in our mid-week Lenten Eucharist, Lunch with the Rector, and Bible Study following lunch that will continue to cover the Gospel of John led by David Kalvedge.

The purpose of Lent is not to beat ourselves up. Rather, it's to realize more fully how much we depend on God moment by moment and to grow closer to God in relationship. A holy Lent, rightly observed, shows us how much God loves each and every one of us — so much that he gave his only Son that those who believe on him would not perish, but have everlasting life. Finally, as we all journey through the wilderness of Lent towards the Great Paschal feast that is Easter, please check the Weekly Reminder emails and the service bulletins for dates, times, and details about upcoming events during Lent and Holy Week.

I remain yours, faithfully,  
Fr. K+



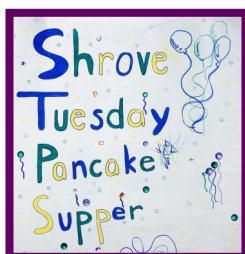
# DID YOU KNOW?

20+C+M+B+23



The custom of “chalking the door” during Epiphany is an old tradition that began in Eastern Europe. The custom echoes the Passover when the Jewish people sprinkled lamb’s blood over their doorways as an invocation of God’s blessing for their household. During Epiphany, the village priest went to every home in his parish with specially-blessed Epiphany water and chalk. When he entered each home, he prayed special prayers and blessed every room in the house. Before leaving the home, the priest then chalked the lintel of the door with the year and the initials of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The Magi’s initials also stand for a Latin house blessing, “*Christus mansionem benedicat*” which means “May Christ bless this house.”

Today, because the size of parishes have increased and most priests cannot visit every home, the head of the household is permitted to perform a basic Epiphany house blessing using specially-blessed holy water and chalk provided by the parish. This year, because he is new to Holy Trinity, Fr. Keith visited the home of every parishioner who requested a blessing in order to get to know us better. Next year, the plan is to make specially-blessed chalk and copies of the house blessing liturgy available for every household to “chalk their doors.”



## SHROVE TUESDAY

Also known as Fat Tuesday and Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and the fasting of the Lenten season leading up to Easter. Shrove Tuesday is observed by participating in confession and absolution, the ritual burning of the previous year’s Holy Week palms, finalizing one’s Lenten sacrifice, and by eating pancakes and other sweets before Lent begins.

The word “shrove” is a form of the English word “shrive” which means to receive absolution for one’s sins after confession and fulfilling the resulting penance. Pancakes are connected with Shrove Tuesday as a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar before the 40 days of fasting.

For the first time in many years, Holy Trinity held a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Music filled Sifford Hall and the delicious aroma of bacon and eggs and pancakes with syrup was everywhere. Over 80 attendees enjoyed the good food and drink, laughter, and good fellowship.



## BURNING THE PALMS

After the pancake supper, Fr. Keith and Deacon Brenda led the short service to burn palms leftover from previous Palm Sunday processions. The flame to burn the palms came from the Paschal Candle with the help of a fireplace lighter and a piece of paper because the wind was blowing. The burned ashes are used to mark the foreheads of the faithful on Ash Wednesday.







## KING CAKE



King Cake, also called a Three Kings Cake, is associated with Epiphany which celebrates the arrival of the Magi (Three Kings) who delivered gifts to the Christ Child. The shape, size, and ingredients of the King Cake are variable, but in all of the cakes, a small figurine representing the Christ Child is hidden inside. Today, the figurine is usually a “baby.” After the cake is cut, whoever gets the “baby” wins a prize. At Holy Trinity’s Mardi Gras lunch, there were many King Cakes and thus many “babies.” Per Fr. Keith, whoever gets a “baby” is obligated to purchase the King Cakes for next year’s Mardi Gras feast. Ask the Masons how that worked out for them this year.

## ALLELUIA!



Alleluia (sometimes written “Hallelujah”) is rooted in a Hebrew expression that means “praise the Lord.” It is used in church services as a word of exclamation and praise. Because of the solemnity of the Lenten season, “Alleluia” is not used during the 40 days of reflection and sacrifice between Passover and Easter. “Alleluia” is “buried” during Lent. During the Easter Vigil, the priest intones the “Great Alleluia” and, on Easter morning, as Christians joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, “Alleluia” appears in many songs, liturgies, and services, usually in sets of three. “Alleluia” praises are then used until Lent comes again.

Holy Trinity celebrated Mardi Gras at its services on February 19th, the last Sunday before Lent. During the service, Fr. Keith called the children in the congregation to come up to the front. He sat with them and talked about what is coming. Although the little girls associated this season with the coming of the Easter bunny, they did join Fr. Keith and the congregation in saying the last “Alleluias” until Easter.

## THE ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY

The practice of marking worshippers' foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross is one of Christianity's most visible rituals. The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are meant to represent dust. When receiving ashes on their foreheads, parishioners hear the words: “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” This is a reference to what God says to Adam when exiling him from the Garden of Eden. Also, in the Christian Bible, Adam is literally formed from dust. On Ash Wednesday, the saying is a reminder to be humble in the face of mortality.



The first Ash Wednesday ceremonies were likely held sometime in the 11th century AD. The practice is never mentioned in the Bible, but there is a verse in the Book of Daniel that links fasting to ashes. Some scholars believe this is the origin of the Lenten practice.

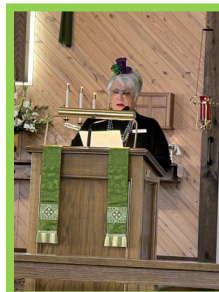


# ~LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER~

On Sunday, February 19th, Holy Trinity celebrated Mardi Gras in style. The 10:30 a.m. service was the Annual Jazz Mass. The HT Choir and guest musicians sang and played favorite hymns and then led everyone out of the sanctuary swinging their beads, playing the tambourine, and singing the traditional "When the Saints Go Marching In." Then the celebration really got started in Sifford Hall which was decorated for Mardi Gras by some very talented parishioners. Everyone enjoyed gumbo, rice, cheese garlic grits, Cajun brunch casserole, French bread, King Cake, and their beverage of choice.



Decorations



Readings, homily, and Vestry installation



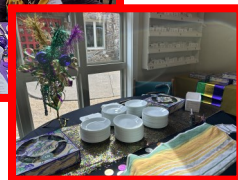
HT banners leading the procession and recession



HT Choir and the guest musicians



A very lively party!





## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU



The Mardi Gras festivities were a tremendous success thanks to everyone who participated, contributed, and spent their time and talents to ensure this success. We have a large team of women and men who organize, decorate, cook, serve, clean up — whatever is needed — in order to put on our various activities. There is not room in this VE to list or picture them all. Thank you all!



LaVonne Speak wanted to thank everyone who helped to decorate Sifford Hall, especially Gerry Brown and Leslie Keyser. They had many creative ideas and went up and down the ladders for LaVonne to implement them. Gerry also provided the two beautiful Mardi Gras wreaths and many more decorations from her wonderful creations.



## GOODBYE, KELLY!

On Saturday, January 28th, Holy Trinity said “Goodbye” to Kelly Hardin, our office assistant. At the service, Fr. Keith presented Kelly with a gift from the congregation and then invited everyone to enjoy cake and coffee in her honor in Sifford Hall after the service.

Holy Trinity would like to thank Kelly for her dedication and hard work on our behalf and to wish her well in her next endeavors.



## A JOYOUS OCCASION



HT congregant Martha McAlister shared this photograph of her with her son Fr. Jett McAlister taken immediately after his ordination on January 26th. The ordination was held at Christ Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Martha received a special blessing from her newly-ordained son.

Christ Church is an Anglo-Catholic parish of the Episcopal Church. Therefore, the ordination service included a High Mass where both the Lord's Prayer and Nicene Creed were chanted. At the service, Martha vested Jett with both the Stole and Chasuble. The following Sunday, Jett was the Celebrant for Holy Communion for the first time.

After the ordination and reception, Martha went with Fr. Jett, her sister and brother-in-law, and many of his friends from Yale's Berkeley Divinity School to one of their favorite watering holes to continue the celebrations. There were seven “collars” at the table.

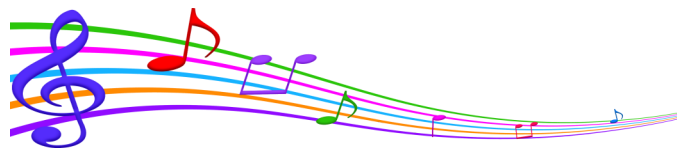
## ADULT FORMATION CLASS

On Sunday, February 26th, Holy Trinity held its first Adult Formation Class since the pandemic began in March 2020. The class was well-attended, but it is not too late to participate. The group is reading and discussing two books about the faith and writings of Mr. Rogers. If you would like to sign up, contact Fr. Keith or Kay Cantrell or call the church office. The next session will be March 26th at 9:15 a.m.



# MUSICAL NOTES

*A column by Dr. Joshua Brown, Music Director*



Holy Trinity has had a number of exciting developments in the music area over the past several weeks. A number of visitors sang with us, and we look forward to more joining their voices with the choir soon. Now is a great time to consider giving choir membership a try. With Lent and Easter and Father Keith's installation service, there is no shortage of great music-making opportunities. If you are interested, let me know at [josh@holytrinityhsv.org](mailto:josh@holytrinityhsv.org).



The choir did a fantastic job with the performance of the Jazz Mass. We had our normal set of instrumentalists: trumpet, drums, flute, and bass, and Janet Moore played the TAMBOURINE!!! What a fun experience that was for all involved! We look forward to the incredible music that awaits us on Easter Sunday and at Father Keith's installation service this spring. Brass, tympani, choir, and organ will create the music for these celebrations.

Our final performance of the Arts Series for the year is coming soon. Hot Spring Village's own Thomas Sinclair will present a piano and organ recital on March 19th at 3 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. The program will include compositions by Beethoven, Prokofiev, Liszt, Boëllman, and Chopin. At the age of 13, Thomas Sinclair has garnered significant acclaim as a pianist both through recitals and competitions throughout the country. You will not want to miss this exciting final performance of the 2022-2023 Holy Trinity Arts Series! Bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you there!



It is an exciting time at Holy Trinity!

Josh



Josh and the Holy Trinity Choir



Guest Musicians: Michael Holdiness, percussion; Byron Yancey, string bass; Jim Kelly, trumpet; and Shelley Martin, flute/saxophone

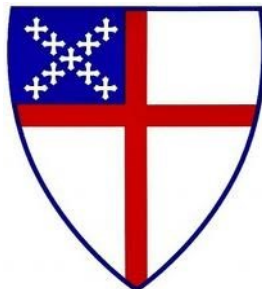




# JOYFUL EPISCOPALIANS



On January 24th, Robbin Siener manned the HT booth at the HSV POA's Newcomers Meeting.



On February 25th, Care Group 2 met in Sifford Hall for a meet and greet with Fr. Keith.



These lovely ladies — Anne Kiessling, Linda Holt-Monson, and Sandy Donnolly — were all smiles at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.



Sr. Warden Susan Read and Jr. Warden Bill Monson officially retired from their offices at the Annual Meeting. Thank you, Susan and Bill.



Fr. Don Brown and Linda Holt-Monson enjoyed the fun, music, and good food at the Pancake Supper.

## LENT BEGINS

Betty Haygood and her friend the Jester greeted everyone at the Mardi Gras Festivities after the Jazz Mass on February 19th.



# THE ANNUAL MEETING

January 15, 2023



Fr. Keith and Sr. Warden Susan Read



The head table



Fantastic attendance



Delicious turnovers

If you have something of interest, photographs, activity or event notices to be included in the *Village Episcopalian*, please send them to Kay Cantrell, Editor, at [kayscats@aol.com](mailto:kayscats@aol.com).

## HOLY TRINITY BIRTHDAYS - MARCH 2023

Norinne Nelson (3/4)  
Joe Shay (3/12)  
Linda Holt-Monson (3/14)  
Rick Ellis (3/16)  
Craig Welle (3/16)  
Carl Bressler (3/17)

Sandra Powers (3/22)  
Barb Zavrel (3/25)  
Jerry Hill (3/27)  
Steve Gladden (3/28)  
Rick Markell (3/28)  
Joyce Smith (3/29)



Betsy Ross (aka Susan Read) celebrated Benjamin Franklin's 317th birthday at the DAR's January meeting. Jimmie Weber portrayed Dr. Franklin.

## HOLY TRINITY ANNIVERSARIES - MARCH 2023

Ron & Trish Knocke (3/2)  
Scott & Jill Stevens (3/6)  
Gordon & Kate Hager (3/18)

Noel & Janet Moore (3/21)  
Don & Juanita Langston (3/23)  
David & Damon Schleuse (3/24)



## HOLY TRINITY BIRTHDAYS - APRIL 2023

Sharon Stewart (4/4)  
Tom Wachtel (4/6)  
Gail Jones (4/8)  
Janet Rice (4/9)  
Ron Devish (4/11)  
Winford Blackburn (4/13)  
Laurie Johnson (4/13)  
Larry Siener (4/13)  
Wayne Dyer (4/14)

Patty Bridges (4/21)  
Gail Grande (4/21)  
Anita Kane (4/24)  
Nancy Mayerhofer (4/25)  
Dick Kiessling (4/26)  
Anne Bowes-Burrall (4/27)  
Nancy Arterburn (4/30)  
Don Walczyk (4/30)

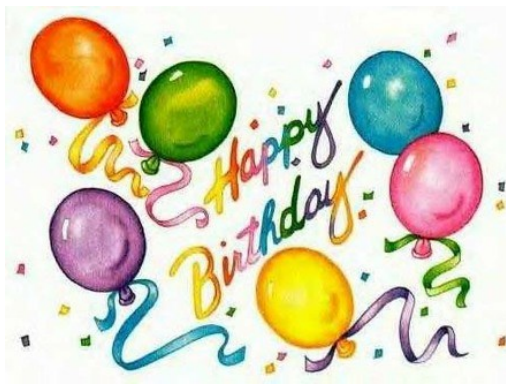
## HOLY TRINITY ANNIVERSARIES - APRIL 2023

Jon & Gini Jacobson (4/6)  
Dave & Irene Keith (4/12)  
Jack & Sharron Hord (4/17)

Tom & Brenda Potter (4/26)  
Larry & Robbin Siener (4/27)



Fr. Keith led the "Birthday Song" for Brian Kroll, Nancy Holst, and Kate Hager at the January 15th service.



When he visited Holy Trinity on February 12th, Fr. Dee Stayton led the "Birthday Song" for Carol Dyer and Maggie Ferriman.