

Sustained and Forgiven

By Devin McGinnis

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

These are the words that start the season of Lent. As we pilgrimage through these weeks we wait, we fast, we prepare, and not one Alleluia escapes our lips.

I have been apart of the Anglican tradition for two years now. Ever since joining the Anglican Church Lent has been difficult. It is not that I do not understand Lent, indeed, it is because I now understand the meaning, the gravity, the purpose, that Lent has become hard.

For forty days we fast in preparation for the great feast of the resurrection. We fast, we remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We remember our baptism. We remember that we have renounced the Devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God. We remember that we have renounced the empty promises and deadly deceptions of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God. We



Rembrandt, Harmenszoon van Rijn. *The Return of the Prodigal Son*.

remember that we have renounced the sinful desires of the flesh that draw us from the love of God. Further, we remember that we have turned to Jesus Christ and confessed him as our Lord and Savior.

We remember that we have joyfully received the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. We remember that we have promised to obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of our life. We remember these, but then we also remember that we continue to sin—that we are dust and to dust that we shall return.

We remember these by fasting, by reminding ourselves that wine, tobacco, whiskey, or food cannot be what we turn to—that they are not what we await, that they do not sustain us. We fast to remind ourselves that man does not live by bread alone. We fast during this weary and heavy season of preparation.

However, we are sustained. We break our fasts on Sunday and we are sustained by Christ in bread and wine. We commune with Christ, we take and eat. We take and eat because we cannot fast when the bridegroom is present

"While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom cannot fast, can they?" (Luke 5:34).

We come weary and we are bidden to take, eat, and rest. We are dust and we are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under his table. But He is the same Lord, who always delights in showing mercy. We take, we eat, we are fed with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, and we are assured in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of the Son, and heirs of His eternal Kingdom. Our faith is strengthened and the Words of promise are spoken to us—the forgiveness of sins

In the words of St. Chrysostom, from his Paschal Homily:

"You that have kept the fast, and you that have not, rejoice today for the Table is richly laden! Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one. Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith. Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!"

Today at CTR



FORUM SERIES: 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall The Reverend Tom Haugen, Chaplain of Gordon College, discusses "The Spiritual Questions of Our Student Neighbors" with Fr. Tim.

THE ANCHOR: Junior High Youth group today at the Keifer home from 2-4pm. Snacks, games, Bible Study. Contact Fr. Brian for info, brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org.

This Week at CTR

PRAYER ROOM OPEN THROUGH LENT: The Baptistry will remain open for prayer (as it was during the Lenten Prayer Vigil) at the following times: Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 noon; Wednesday 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 12 noon every Friday during Lent. Stations of the Cross is a guided meditation through Christ's passion, from his trial to his burial. As we follow the cross around the church, we stop at each of the fourteen stained glass windows that tell the

story, with relevant Scripture readings and prayers corresponding to each image. It is held at noon on Fridays during Lent, the hour when Jesus hung on the cross, and lasts around a half hour.

**Annunciation
Choral Evensong
& Blessing of Pregnant
Women**

**Tonight
5pm**

Christ the Redeemer Choir will
sing music by Richard Ayleward,
Grayston Ives, and Arvo Pärt

Upcoming Events



ANNUAL EASTER POTLUCK: Our annual dinner will be held at 1:00 in the Parish Hall on Easter Sunday following the 10:00 service. There will be appetizers available at noon, and dinner will be served about 1:00. All

are welcome to attend—singles, couples, students, and families—or anyone who wants to enjoy a nice dinner with fellow parishioners without preparing the entire meal themselves. The church will provide lamb and ham, but we will need culinary contributions from those attending, such as vegetable dishes, potatoes, salads, rolls, desserts, or drinks. To let us know how many are attending and what food you will be bringing, please contact Becky Cottingham, rebeccacottingham@hotmail.com or call 978-526-7412.



WOMEN'S SPRING BRUNCH: Join us Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Jennifer Keifer will join us as the speaker with a follow-up to the story she and Eric shared at the 10 o'clock Keep Calm and Love your Neighbor forum on Sunday, March 19th. (If you missed that segment, an audio recording is available on our website). Sign-up on line at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084dadac2daaf85-ctrwomens> to bring a food item to share let us know if you are bringing a guest. Child care is available upon request. Any further questions contact Kim Ober, kimwober@msn.com.

YOUTH NIGHTS: Wednesdays, April 26 and May 24 from 5:30pm - 7pm, grades 6 and up. Bring your friends to play games, hang out and eat together. For more information contact Fr. Brain, brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org.

LA VIDA PARENT-CHILD TRIP: This summer with Fr. Tim. La Vida, the outdoors education program of Gordon College, is offering a parent-child backpacking trip this summer in the Adirondacks, led by experienced La Vida staff and with Fr Tim as chaplain. Dates are July 29 - August 5, and the cost is \$1100 per pair. If interested, please contact Fr Tim, tim.clayton@ctr-anglican.org.

Regular Events at CTR

TUESDAY:

Weekly Bible Study: Meets in the Sacristy on Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact Richard Thorndike, 978-922-3618, for more information.

WEDNESDAY:

Seraphim Choir (grades 4 +), Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15p.m. Contact Dan McKinley dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.

Cherubim Choir (grades 1-3), Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00p.m. Contact Cyndi Kreyling kreylingc@gmail.com.

THURSDAY:

Moms In Prayer International.: Thursdays during the school year from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. For more info, contact Flora Lee, floraisabella@gmail.com or 978-626-1179.

Women's Bible Study: A weekly Bible study for women of all ages. Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Contact Kim Ober, kimwober@msn.com, with questions or to request materials.

Choir of Christ the Redeemer, for adults and high school students, rehearses in the church, 7:15 p.m. -9:15 p.m., Thursdays. New members are welcome and needed. Contact Minister of Music Dan 978-774-3163x105; dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.



Youth Night (catchy name soon to come) was on Wednesday this week. Mark you calendars for next two coming up: Wednesday April 26 and May 24, from 5:30pm-7pm. Grades 6 and up.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
LOVE
YOUR
NEIGHBOR**

**Sundays 10 a.m. in the
Parish Hall**

2 April

**A Life Loving Neighbors in
New England**

Bishop Bill, born and raised in Pea-
body, and a New Englander ever since.

23 April

**Caring for our Young
Neighbors in Need**

Fr. Brian and his team discuss the
needs of vulnerable children in our
area and how we can best serve.

The Diocese of South Carolina votes to affiliate with the Anglican Church in North America

The following news was originally written by Mary Ailes and published on The Anglican Church in North America website, March 11:

The Diocese of South Carolina voted today to affiliate with the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). The vote, which was held during their 226th Convention, was unanimous in both orders (clergy and laity).

"I cast my vote to affiliate with the ACNA with eager and expectant faith," said the Rt. Rev. Mark J. Lawrence, the 14th Bishop of South Carolina during his address to the convention. "I believe God has called us to this and I believe we will find a deeper richness in our vocation, fuller fellowship in the Spirit, a more zealous thrust in mission."

"But most of all, I believe a door will be opened, the fresh winds of the Spirit will blow, and a caged eagle will soar," Bishop Lawrence said.

"I am thankful for Bishop Mark Lawrence, for his steadfast and Godly leadership, for his friendship, and for his humility throughout this entire process," the Most Rev. Foley Beach, Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America, told the more than 350 convention delegates and clergy meeting in convention at St. Paul's Church in Summerville, SC.

"As the Diocese of South Carolina you are known for your generosity to the wider Church through the Mere Anglicanism conference and the Anglican Leadership Institute," said Archbishop Beach. "Your witness in mission, in scholarship, and steadfast commitment to the historical teaching of the Bible is commendable."

"You are bringing with you many gifts that will further strengthen our Province, and the larger Anglican world," Archbishop Beach said.

The Anglican Church in North America will formally receive the Diocese of South Carolina at the Provincial Assembly in June.

Established in 1785, the Diocese of South Carolina was one of the nine original dioceses of The Episcopal Church in the United States that organized after the American Revolution. Following the attempt by the Episcopal Church to remove Bishop Lawrence in October 2012, the Diocese immediately disassociated. That decision was reaffirmed by the Diocesan Convention in November 2012. In doing so, they joined four other Episcopal dioceses that also voted to disaffiliate from the Episcopal Church: the Diocese of San Joaquin (CA), the Diocese of Pittsburgh (PA), the Diocese of Quincy (IL), and the Diocese of Fort Worth (TX).

In 2014, the Diocese of South Carolina accepted provisional primatial oversight from the Primatial Oversight Council of the Global South Primates of the Anglican Communion. At the 223rd Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina, the Task Force for Provincial Affiliation was established to explore the possibilities for a new affiliation for the diocese.

The Task Force considered different possible affiliations as well as non-affiliation, but ultimately focused on the possible affiliation with the Anglican Church in North America.

The Diocese of South Carolina entered a season of prayer and discernment that included deanery meetings that brought together the laity and the clergy from across the diocese for regional and parish conversations. This was followed by the presentation of a resolution to vote on officially joining the Anglican Church in North America at the next convention, which was held today.

The Diocese of South Carolina includes 53 active churches, with 22,149 baptized members and 142 clergy. The average Sunday attendance is 9,085. They will become the largest diocese in the Anglican Church in North America.

Mary Ailes is the Director of Communications for the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic.