

# CHRIST CHURCH

EPISCOPAL PARISH



FEBRUARY 2018  
CHRONICLE



Fr. Daniel's First Sunday, January 28

On the morning before my first Sunday at Christ Church Eureka, I had a chance to visit Fr. Doug Thompson on a day that turned out to be his last. Although Fr. Doug was fading, we shared a brief moment in which he looked into my eyes and I into his. He asked, “Who?” And I responded, “Hello, Fr. Doug. My name is Fr. Daniel and I am the new rector at Christ Church Eureka.” I sensed that he heard me and understood me.

In biblical times, people understood the act of seeing as the result of light coming forth from one’s heart and then shining through the lamp of the eyes.<sup>1</sup> For a brief moment, I felt I caught a glimpse of Fr. Doug’s inner light shining forth from his heart, through his eyes and into mine.

During my visit, the Rev. Anne, Nellie and I prayed together, and then Nellie read these illuminating words from “Forward Day by Day”:

Light is not a tree—nothing can chop it down. Light is not a building—nobody can demolish it. Light is a moving target travelling across space at 186,000 miles per second. Light also travels across town or across room whenever we reach out to soothe someone’s hurt or need with love and kindness [ . . . ] When we reach out to someone in a moment of darkness, we bring light. They carry that light within them wherever they go. Even after we too are gone, our light of love remains.<sup>2</sup>

Fr. Doug was clearly a bearer of divine light as he reached out to soothe the hurts and needs of so many souls during his rich life and ministry. Although Fr. Doug passed away that evening, the light of his love persists and I personally felt his light continue to permeate during my first Sunday at Christ Church. For example, the psalm assigned for my first Sunday was Psalm 111, but someone accidentally inserted Psalm 121 into our worship booklet. This turned out to be a very “happy accident” since Psalm 121 was actually the psalm that Fr. Doug requested to be read at his memorial service. Also, I felt spiritually compelled to hang my chasuble over the altar rail during the Liturgy of the Word at both worship services, which, I found out later, Fr. Doug used to do.

I am writing this reflection on the day before we celebrate Fr. Doug’s life at Christ Church, which also happens to be the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord or Candlemas (Feb 2). The Gospel reading for Candlemas is Luke 2:22-40, which includes the Song of Simeon: “Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised; for these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.”<sup>3</sup>

Fr. Doug clearly manifested in his life the same glorious Light, which Simeon saw; and like Simeon, Fr. Doug now enjoys God’s promises of rest, refreshment and peace. I trust and pray and look forward to the many new ways that this same Light will continue to live on and grow within our hearts and within our community.



<sup>1</sup>This is partly why Jesus’s identity as “the Light of the World” is proclaimed during the healing of the man born blind in John 9. See Britt Leslie, *One Thing I Know: How the Blind Man of John 9 Leads an Audience Toward Belief* (Eugene OR: Pickwick, 2015), 116 – 153.

<sup>2</sup>Ken Woodley, *Forward Day by Day* (Cincinnati OH: Forward Movement), Jan 22, 2018.

<sup>3</sup>This version of the Song of Simeon is from the Compline service in the Book of Common Prayer, p. 135.



## Program for Lenten Soup Suppers

(Tuesdays at 5:30 PM, followed by

Compline at 7 PM)

### *The Theodical Spirituality of the Gospel of John*

In this Lenten study, we will see how the Gospel of John offers a potentially transformative response to the question of suffering and the human compulsion to blame. The disciples' question in John 9:2 ("Who sinned, this or his parents, that he was born blind?") invites the reader to bring his or her own question of suffering to the Johannine Jesus, whose response continues into the healing narrative (9:3-7), the interrogation narrative (9:8-41), and the Good Shepherd discourse (10:1-21). The Gospel does not offer a theodicy but rather a *theodical spirituality*, an experience of praying the question of suffering and remaining open to a divine response. Jesus's response consists of three sets of symbols that each include two supporting dichotomous symbols (day/night, vision/blindness, sheep/wolf) and a core symbol (light, judge, shepherd) that subverts the dichotomy. Jesus's response reveals the scapegoat mechanism in which an innocent victim is blamed by violent victimizers. However, rather than blaming the victimizers, Jesus continues to engage with the characters who appear to be villains. In the Good Shepherd discourse, I argue that the reader is invited to identify with the symbol of the wolf and thus bring his or her compulsion to blame to the Good Shepherd. By responding to the human compulsion to blame with self-giving love and forgiveness, the Good Shepherd potentially disarms and transforms the reader. Just as the light of the world subverts the dichotomy of day and night by transforming them into one continuous day so too does the Good Shepherd subvert the dichotomy of the sheep and wolf by welcoming them both as members of his beloved flock. In this way, the reader is invited to bring to the Johannine Jesus his or her own violence, resentment and wolfish rage regarding the question of suffering and to experience the theodical spirituality of the Fourth Gospel.

Feb 20<sup>th</sup>: Introduction: What is Theodicy and Theodical Spirituality?

Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: Fruitful Ways of Reading the Gospel of John

March 6<sup>th</sup>: Blaming the Victim: Day, Night and Light (John 9:1-5)

March 13<sup>th</sup>: Blaming the Victimizer: Vision, Blindness, and the Judge (John 9:6-41)

March 20<sup>th</sup>: Blaming God: The Sheep, the Wolf, and the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-21)

March 27<sup>th</sup>: Conclusion: Claiming and Reclaiming Christian Theodical Prayer

# Lenten Schedule

## Shrove Tuesday: February 13

5:30 p.m. Pancake Supper in Lewis Hall

## Ash Wednesday: February 14

Noon Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes



## Stations of the Cross: Fridays in Lent

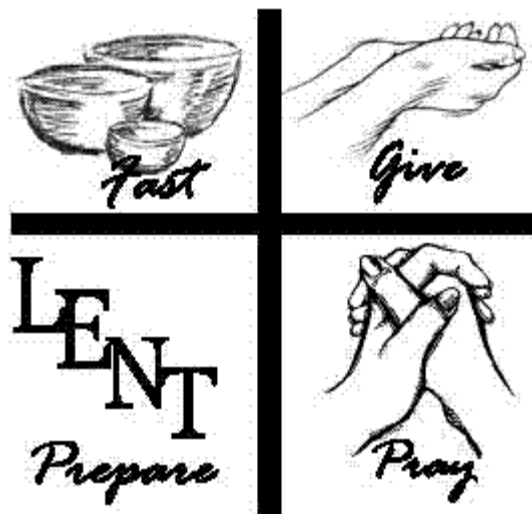
11:30 a.m. beginning February 16 and continuing through Good Friday, March 30 in the chapel

## Soup Supper and Compline: Tuesdays in Lent

February 20 through March 27

5:30 p.m. Soup Supper in Lewis Hall

7:00 p.m. Compline in the chapel







## Transfiguration House Update

On Wednesday, January 24th, on what would turn out to be a stormy Humboldt night, Father Daniel and his wife Ashely arrived in Eureka at the Transfiguration House, their new home. It is hard to imagine how exhausted they must have been! After packing up all of their belongings and driving five hours, most of which was in the dark and the rain, they arrived in good spirits and ready to face the next day of unpacking and settling in. I am sure they have been very busy ever since making the Transfiguration House their home.

As most of you know, Christ Church purchased the Transfiguration House last year from the Sisters of the Transfiguration to be used as a rectory. Lyn Klay, Mother Lesley, the Bishop's office and others spent many hours navigating the paperwork, coordinating inspections, getting bids and all the other details it takes to buy a piece of real estate. Once the sale was final, these same people and the vestry began the task of deciding what projects to complete before we welcomed our new rector.

Some of the projects that were completed before Father Daniel and Ashley moved in include: new carpet in the upstairs hallway, three bedrooms and bonus room, removal of wallpaper and fresh paint in the front entry, stairwell and upstairs hallway, removal of wallpaper in the front bedroom, installation of hardwood floor in the front room and dining room and refinished existing hardwood to match, a minor plumbing repair in one of the upstairs bathrooms, window cleaning and power washing of the outside of the house and some minor termite repair work that will start soon weather permitting.

From the upstairs bonus room, which has many windows, you can see all the way to the bay. On a clear and beautiful recent afternoon, I looked out that window and realized just what a treasure the house is to our church and I hope Father Daniel and Ashley enjoy spending time looking out this window and over the community they have come to make their home.

## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

“Why, what’s the matter ,  
That you have such a February face,  
So full of frost, of storm, and darkness”  
Shakespeare, Much Ado About Nothing

The word February is believed to have been derived from the name “februa” from the “Roman Festival of Purification “. The Romans regarded February as the start of spring. It’s the time of the “ Ice Moon “ according to Pagan beliefs. It’s also known as “ Sprout Kale “ by the Anglo Saxons in relation to the time kale and cabbage are ready to be eaten.

Having only 28 days in non- leap years, February is known in Welsh as “ y mis bach” or the little month. The original Roman calendar did not include February, but after a few hundred years the 365-day Julian calendar was introduced by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C. and it included February.

Little as it is February has more holidays and celebrations than any other month, including of course, St. Valentine’s Day and this year Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.

St. Valentine is widely recognized as a third century Roman saint commemorated on February 14, and since the high middle ages is associated with a tradition of courtly love. St. Valentine is commemorated by the Anglican Communion. Valentine is included among those saints whose names are revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God.

Ash Wednesday starts our 40 day period of Lent. Here at Christ Church we have just begun a new year with a new priest, Rev. Dr. Daniel De Forest London, who joined us with his lovely wife, Dr. Ashley Bacchi. We have three new Vestry members : Lynne Bean, Royal McCarthy, and Christina Strevey. It is the Vestry’s job to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation by word and deed. It is everyone’s job to sincerely welcome Fr. Daniel and Ashley. As your new Senior Warden, I am delighted, excited, and humbled at the bountiful projects possible at Christ Church. Anything is possible with God’s help.

“ The February sunshine steeps your boughs and tints  
the buds and swells the leaves within.”  
William Bryant

Helen Taylor, Senior Warden



I'M BACK!!

Hi, I have been blessed to be re-elected as Christ Church's Jr Warden for a second year. And wow, have we hit the ground running. Paul Gossard posted a couple of signs for us.



One regarding "No Dumping" and one for the chapel's G St. door. Thank you Paul. Also, Dan Phillips installed a key box for us. And he will be checking on the leaky kitchen door. Thank you Dan. Very soon, Peg Gardner, Irene Hannaford and I will be updating the "Christ Church Wishlist for 2018". I'm looking forward to it ladies. We've been keeping our awesome Sexton John Hammond busy as well. He recently painted over some graffiti on the fence facing the parking lot and he cleans up after us every Sunday. Thank you John.

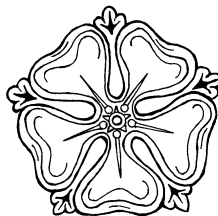
I also want to take a moment and welcome Fr Daniel and his lovely wife Ashley to Christ Church. As a Vestry member, I am really looking forward to working with Father Daniel to help keep Christ Church moving forward. If his first Sunday is any indication, things are going to be moving seamlessly.

I also want to take a moment a share a memory of our beloved Father Doug Thompson. Father Doug was a wonderful man and priest. He presented me with my first bible when I graduated from Eureka High School. A few years later he presided at my wedding. He also baptized both of my children. I have an adorable picture of Father Doug holding my son Spenser, when he was 20 months old, after his baptism. So precious! I also had a chance to talk with Father Doug a few years ago and the diocesan convention in Redding. We had a wonderful heart to heart talk. I will not soon forget his kind words that day. If I remember correctly, we even ended up giving each other a hug. Thank you Lord God for sharing Father Doug with us. He will be missed.

So that is all for this month. Have a wonderful month and we'll chat again next month.

Most sincerely,

Heidi Erickson  
Jr Warden



## Music During the Season of Lent

Wednesday, February 14, marks the beginning of the Lenten season, as we gather in humility to be marked by the sign of the cross, with ashes placed on our foreheads. Ash Wednesday can be a somber day of reflection on what needs to change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian. Beginning with the first Sunday in Lent (February 18), there will be some changes in our corporate worship services, perhaps more noticeable at the 10:30 service with the changes in music.



Our service on Lent 1 begins with the Great Litany, a penitential marker to the beginning of Lent. The cross in procession will be veiled until Easter and we will have said 'goodbye' to our *Alleluias* until Easter. Our worship will conclude with the Blessing and Dismissal. There will not be a closing hymn. The choir and altar party will process out in silence, and there will be no instrumental closing voluntary. Some of us may find this silence discomfiting and jarring. It is a dramatic change. Each of us will find our own purpose for this silence, as we prepare to go back into the world to do God's work.

Our service music during Lent will be based on Plainsong. Plainsong, or plainchant, is a body of chants used in the liturgies of the Western Church. It is monophonic, that is, it consists of a single melodic line. Its rhythm is freer than our hymns (which for the most part are in strict meter). They are simple, melodic, and sung in unison. Chanting these simple settings together one body may heighten our sense of community as we worship together.

The settings for the Psalms are based on adaptations of the eight original psalm tones. The intent of the setting is "to provide a melodic formula subservient to the text and simple enough for any congregation to sing" (*The Episcopal Musician's Handbook*). Please join the choir (between 10:00-10:15 am) on February 18 and 25 as we learn and practice chanting together the Psalm for the day.



## Lenten Music Series

Beginning on Friday, February 23, a series of one-half hour long music programs will be offered from 12:15 to 12:45 in the sanctuary on each Friday during Lent. These musical offerings are free and open to the community. Programs will feature organ and other instrumental music, and will be offered by local musicians.

The series is offered as an opportunity for personal reflection, meditation, and celebration of this holy season. A printed program of the music will be provided and those who attend are invited to arrive and leave quietly. Come hear beautiful music for the organ and other instruments, shared in the spirit of the Lenten season.



## NOTICES AND LAY MINISTRIES

### Lay Ministries

Lent begins on February 14 which means we'll celebrate Easter on April 1 – this is one of my favorite times of the year. There are many opportunities for all to experience this season by joining one of our Lay Ministry teams – try something new this year and call one of the following leaders:

Coffee Hour Hosts  
Nursery and Sunday School  
Eucharistic Visitors  
Contribution Counters  
Ushers and Greeters  
Acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers  
Announcers  
Lectors and Intercessors

Contact:

Anne Pierson	Acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers	442-2025
Sanford Pyron	Announcers	444-0968
Lynne Bean	Coffee Hour	822-6086
Bob Hines	Contribution Counters	445-8974
Elizabeth Harper-Lawson	Eucharistic Visitors	445-1726
Marty Vega	Lectors and Intercessors	443-9782
Vickie Patton	Nursery and Sunday School	443-1825
Susan Whaley	Ushers and Greeters	445-2924

Marty Vega

### Quilters Plus & ECW Plan a Big Day - Wed., Feb. 7

Join Quilters + and ECW for all or part of Wednesday, February 7th in Lewis Hall. Quilters will gather about 9:30 a.m. until noon. Beginning at noon, ECW will gather for their usual potluck luncheon and a time for fellowship. Because Ash Wednesday falls on the second Wednesday, February 14, it was decided to move ECW to the first Wednesday in February. Hope to see you there! All are welcome!



The Christ Church Bells Ready to Ring

Courtesy of John Patton



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Madeline Musante	February 3	Haley Hogan	February 4
Jannetje Vrieze	February 10	Barbara Walser	February 11
Nathan Frey	February 14	Royal McCarthy	February 15
Catherine & Barratt Mace	February 15	Sara Hines	February 16
Jean Guthrie	February 21	Dan Vega	February 21
Sanford Pyron	February 27	Rohn Selfridge	February 27

## **Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl for Kid's Sake**

It's that time of year again to lace up our bowling shoes and roll on down to Harbor Lanes to participate in the NorthCoast Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl for Kids sake annual fundraiser.

We are looking for anyone that likes to bowl to join our team. Even if you're not the world's most awesome bowler, you can still come and join us for a lot of fun. and help us to raise money for a terrific cause. The money raised helps provide children in need of a mentor or a "big brother or big sister" to spend time with them.

This year we have one new team member, so far. Jim Hendry will be joining Christina Strevey, Spenser Erickson and myself as we "bowl for kids sake".

Please join us on March 3rd, check in time is 12:15 and bowling begins at 12:45. We always appreciate our fans. Last year, though she wasn't able to bowl, Anne VanZandt helped us raise money and cheered us on. My dad, Earl usually wonders on down to watch us too.

If you have any questions, would like to join us or would like to donate to our team, please see either myself or Christina Strevey, and we we'll be happy to answer questions or welcome you to our bowling team.

Thank you,

Heidi Erickson

## **Food for People**

Just another note from Food for People. Again, I wish to thank all of you for giving and giving all through out the year. I checked and for the year 2016 we collected 768 pounds. In my heart I feel we did more than that in 2017 and I am waiting for the news. You sent all sorts of non-perishable items and along with many can openers. I must say the can openers go like crazy and the ones I have seen donated are very good ones, very colorful and cost way more than any one other item. a special thanks. Lets keep it up and I feel honored to be able to be the one that sees that the donated items do get to Food for People.

Thanks, Bev Olson

## **Bishop Search Process**

Bishop Search Listening Session: The Search Committee has set up times to hear publicly from people in the diocese. Discussions will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon. Light refreshments will be served. There is no cost to attend. The session in our area will be at St. Alban's, Arcata on February 24. You are asked to register so that hosting congregations will know how many to expect. The link to registration forms is on the diocesan web site.

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					2 <i>Presentation of our Lord</i>	3
4 5 <i>Epiphany</i> 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist 10:40 Sunday School	5	6	7 9:30 Quilters...Plus Noon ECW Potluck 5:30 Choir Practice	8	9 Foster Friday	10
11 <i>Last Epiphany</i> 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist 10:40 Sunday School	12	13 5:30 Shrove Tuesday Dinner	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Noon Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist	15	16 11:30 Stations of the Cross	17
18 <i>1 Lent</i> 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist 10:40 Sunday School 12:30 Vestry	19	20 5:30 Soup Supper 7:00 Compline	21 5:30 Choir Practice	22	23 11:30 Stations of the Cross	24 <i>St. Matthias the Apostle</i>
25 <i>2 Lent</i> 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist 10:40 Sunday School	26	27 5:30 Soup Supper 7:00 Compline	28 5:30 Choir Practice			





The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner  
*Bishop, Diocese of Northern California*

**Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Daniel London  
*Rector*

The Venerable Pam Gossard  
*Deacon*

The Rev. Anne Pierson  
*Deacon*

Merry Phillips  
*Organist and Music Director*

Dr. Douglas Moorehead, *Organist Emeritus*

John Hammond, *Sexton*

Shirley Curtis, *Administrative Assistant*

**Vestry**

Helen Taylor, *Senior Warden*

Heidi Erickson, *Junior Warden*

Lynne Dougherty Bean, Julie Cairns, Heidi Erickson, Irene Hannaford

Royal McCarthy, Jackie Moore, Christina Strevey,

Helen Taylor, Gail Freeman *Asst. treasurer*

Bob Hines, *Treasurer*, Peg Gardner, *Clerk*

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