



## RECTOR'S LETTER

### Dust!

*Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.*



But ponder this: the dust that is us joins us to one another as surely as it joins us to the prehistoric life that greened or roamed the earth before us. By our dust, we are joined to the stars exploding beyond us and the cosmos itself. In the words of Thomas Berry, a “Wild Church” enthusiast (see Adela Germano’s book review later in this newsletter), the “the universe, by definition, is a single, gorgeous celebratory event.”

The dust that is us is inseparable from that event!

The Great Litany and the Prayers of the People in our Prayer Book k the practice of Lent itself—is evidence that we are highly sophisticated dust, capable and conscious of helping or harming our inter-relatedness. The ashes on our foreheads are not a sign of curse but of reassurance that it is safe to die, that our origin and ending is always in God. At the cellular level, our bodies are dying and being born almost simultaneously, every minute, every day. Our bodies know that they enter into the world dying, that they are made up of birth and death.

We are not immortal. In a culture that turns its face from death and dust—that spreads plastic grass around the earthen graves we dig—there is healing in the ashen cross drawn across our foreheads: we *know* that we are mortal, but we forget that our mortal bodies contain the memory of birth as surely as they recognize the death that is part of their making. What if we saw Lent as an invitation to live in our bodies instead of denying them? To live in the desert as one with the dust of this fragile earth, our island home?

See you in church,

Ruth†

## LENTEN SERVICES

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** March 5, 6:30 p.m.  
Sung Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

## HOLY WEEK

**Maundy Thursday,** April 17, 7 p.m.: Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, & Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday,** April 18, 12 noon:  
Veneration of the Cross and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

March 4 | 4-6 p.m.



Join Chef Jeff Wilson for his famous buttermilk pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. Cost: \$10 for adults; free for kids under 12.

Proceeds benefit Bellefonte Youth Centre.

## PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

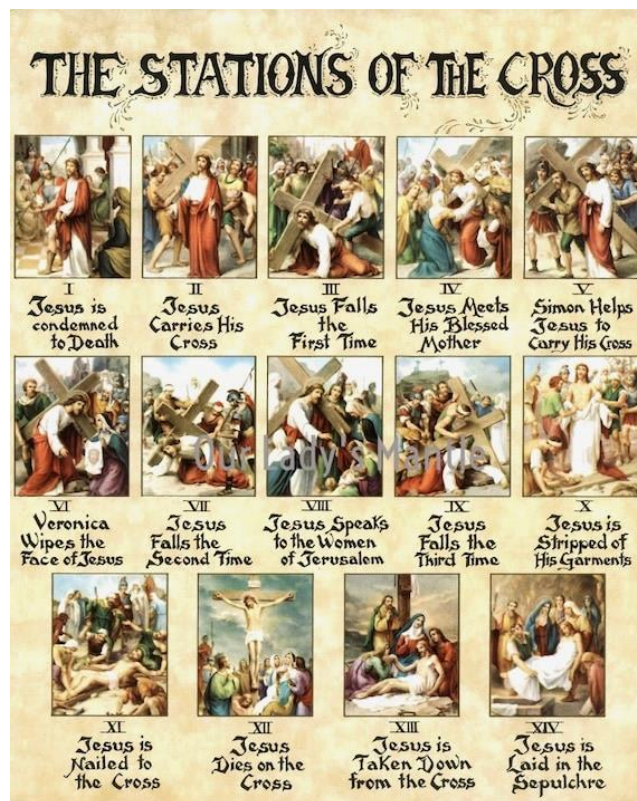


It's time to update our parish photo directory. If you did not have your picture taken last year or if you began attending Saint John's *after* our last

update to the photo directory, now is the time. Following the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. masses on **Sunday, April 27**, and **May 4**, Peggy Jackson and Deb Cree will be taking pictures at the back of the church. Due to privacy concerns, we do not publish the directory on our website. However, you can access the most recent version at <https://stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-Parish-Directory-Members-Communicants-and-Visitors.pdf>. If your picture isn't included, just find our photographers and say cheese!

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 5:30 p.m.



The devotion known as Stations of the Cross is an adaptation to local usage of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem. We offer Stations of the Cross at Saint John's each Friday in Lent at 5:30 p.m.: **March 14 - April 11.**

## HELP THE ALTAR GUILD PREPARE FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

April 12-18, 2025



Altar Guild will once again polish and decorate in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. If you can lend a hand on any of these dates, we would greatly appreciate it! Please contact Peggy Jackson ([jimpegjacks@gmail.com](mailto:jimpegjacks@gmail.com)) with questions or to assist.

Sat. 4/12, 10 am: polish silver and most brass, decorate with palms, put veils on crosses. Coffee and food will be provided.

Wed. 4/16, afternoon or evening: decorate Altar of Repose.

Fri. 4/18, after the Good Friday Mass: move flowers, finish decorating, change candles.

A form can be found at the end of this newsletter for you to contribute to our Easter decorations and to honor or remember loved ones.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 15 | 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER  
March 15 4-7 p.m.  
TAKE-OUT ONLY



Corned Beef, Cabbage,  
Potatoes, Carrots,  
Dessert & Beverage

\$20 adults / \$15 kids under 10  
St. John's Episcopal Fellowship Hall  
198 W Lamb St., Bellefonte Phone 814-355-0497

Save the date and spread the word for our popular Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner. The meal will again be take-out only this year. Although beef prices have substantially increased, we will hold the price at \$20 (\$15 for kids) for a full dinner. Meals include vegetables, a soft drink, and a dessert. All proceeds go to fund and sustain our church's operating budget for the year. In the coming weeks, a sign-up sheet for volunteers and dessert donations will be posted in the back of the church. Thank you for your support.

## RETURN OF MONTHLY FEAST DINNERS!

1st Thursdays: April 3, May 1, and June 5 (break for summer). More information to be provided in weekly emails.

## COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. Mass



**We are always seeking coffee hour hosts.** Coffee is provided by the church; you are asked to provide cold drinks and *simple* snacks (cookies/crackers, etc.). No need to prepare special foods.

The sign-up sheet is on the lectern in the back of the church. Coffee hour will be held only on those Sundays when someone signs up to host.

You can download the guidelines from <https://stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.org/coffee-hour-instructions>.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with coffee hour; this is a vital ministry of fellowship and hospitality and a weekly opportunity to renew our church family friendships.

## AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



**Philip Ruth** received the JACQUELINE J. MELANDER AWARD in January “for the outstanding and long-term commitment to

historic preservation activities in Centre County as an architectural and public historian.” He was recognized for leadership in several local historical organizations, including the Bellefonte Historical Architectural Review Board, the Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association, and the Roland Curtin Foundation. A video recording of the event is available

at <https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/GNduNoua2rBThhw6N4PRP9OCSPf6B2ru/media/929186?autostart=false&showtabsearch=true>

**David Cree** has been elected into the Pennsylvania Music Educators (PMEA) Hall of Fame for 2025. During his career, he served in many official capacities at the mid-east, state, and local levels, including state president, All-State Coordinator, festival coordinator, and adjudicator. The PMEA Hall of Fame was established in July 2008 to honor music educators who, by virtue of their contributions, are recognized as being the most highly regarded professional leaders in music education in Pennsylvania.

**Genavieve Clayton** participated in PMEA District Orchestra (cello) and District Choir

(placing first on Alto 1). She will be singing in the American Choral Directors' Association National Choir in March in Dallas, TX.



Following rave reviews from her



younger sister, 15-year-old **Lucia Harwood** accompanied her grandparents, Kathryn Grossman and John Harwood, to Paris in mid-February. More rave reviews followed, including for all the great sauces that accompanied her meals. Thanks to lots of walking (40 miles in one week), our appetites were terrific! Lucia loved everything about the city and hopes to return for a study program once she's in college.

**Madeleine Christopher** has been selected to study at the Chatauqua Opera Conservatory this summer. The festival will stage three operas: Manuel de Falla's *La Vida Breve*, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Damien Geter and Lila Palmer's *American Apollo*.

**Fr. Ted Christopher** and **Fr. Rob Jones** (both of whom have celebrated at St. John's) will split a new appointment at St. John's

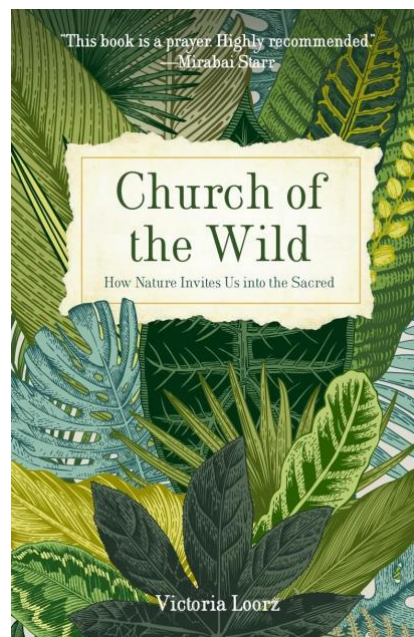
Huntingdon, and Ted will continue to serve at St. Andrew's.

Episcopal Campus Ministry is going well, and Fr. Ted is especially happy to be working with some Penn State singers to provide special church music opportunities throughout central PA. They have sung in Lewistown and Huntingdon as well as at Penn State, and they hope to continue with more services in the coming year.

### READ ANY GOOD BOOKS?



So many books, so little time . . . Thanks to Adela Germano for sharing her current read, *Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us into the Sacred*, by Victoria Loorz.



A dear friend of mine urged me to read this shortly before she passed from cancer. Like me, she found that some traditional institutions of faith leave us longing for a

deeper spirituality. The author writes how she copes with an unraveling vocation, identity, and planet, by turning to the sanctuary of the natural world, eventually cofounding the Wild Church Network and Seminary of the Wild. So far I've really

enjoyed this book’s eco spiritual lens on the Bible’s teachings. And I’m inspired by the call to deepen my commitment to a suffering earth by falling in love with it—and calling it church.

### FOOD BANK COLLECTION



The following specific items are requested:

**MARCH:** Canned tuna, sugar, mayonnaise, jelly, canned chili, applesauce,

sides (boxed/packets of noodles, rice, mashed potatoes au gratin potatoes, Spanish rice, butter/herb noodles, etc.)

**APRIL:** Spaghetti sauce, pickles, canned pasta, canned fruit, salad dressing, parmesan cheese, sugar, cleaning supplies (paper towels, dish soap, 409-type spray, window cleaner, laundry detergent, etc.)

**MAY:** Ketchup, mustard, barbecue sauce, mayonnaise, relish, canned pork & beans, canned pasta, boxed pasta salad.

Personal care products (soap, deodorant, toothpaste, tampons, shampoo, etc.) are always needed. Please drop your donations next to the baptismal font in the back of the church. Thanks to Charlotte Zmyslo and Scott Mauger.

### BIRTHDAYS

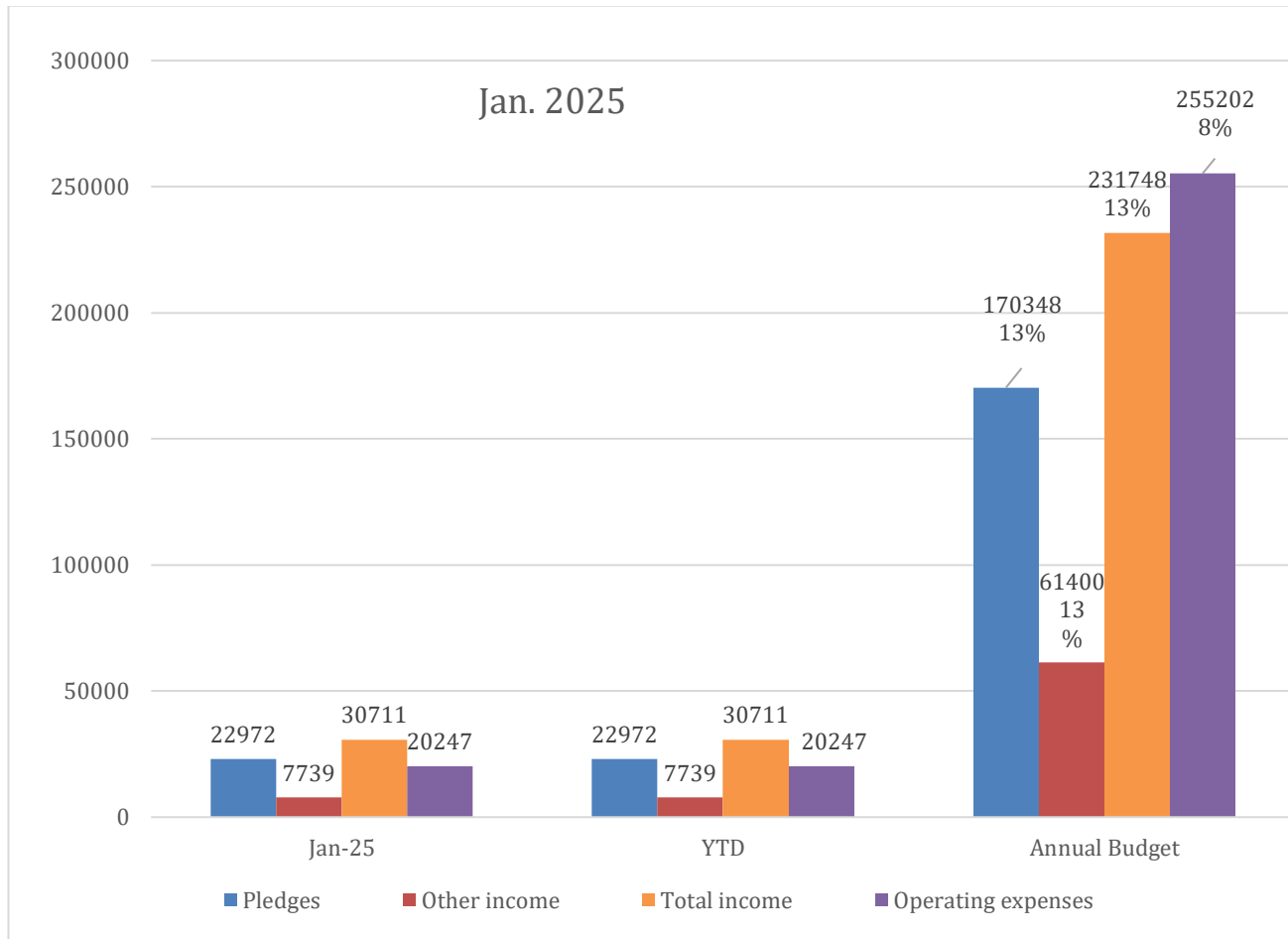
Kay	McClellan	3/9
Mary K.	Jones	3/10
Rebecca	Clayton	3/13
Betha	Christopher	3/28
Alex	Dyakiw (RIP)	3/29
James	McKelvey	4/4
Sara	Witmer	4/4
Philip	Ruth	4/7
Myrna	Alterio	4/9
Steve	Dillon	4/9
Mitchell	Holland	4/9
David	Allen	4/12
Susan	Christy	4/20
Father Kevin	Barron	4/24
George	Salvaterra	4/24
Genavieve	Clayton	5/3
Bette	Shugert	5/3
Elizabeth	Helms	5/7
Father Kevin	Lowe	5/8
Bobbie	Salvaterra	5/16
Erik	Clayton	5/28
Jeffery	Wilson	5/30



**FINANCIAL**

	Jan-25	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	22972	22972	170348	13%
Other income	7739	7739	61400	13%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>30711</b>	<b>30711</b>	<b>231748</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>20247</b>	<b>20247</b>	<b>255202</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>10464</b>	<b>10464</b>	<b>-23454</b>	

*Numbers do not include investments, savings, or checking acct balance.*



Vestry members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Alex Germano (Jr. Warden), Bobbie Salvaterra, David Allen, Tim Robinson, Andy Youstic, Steve Dillon, Kathryn Grossman, Peggy Jackson

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PALM SUNDAY

April 13 | 9:30 a.m.

(Combined Service with Music  
and Coffee Hour)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17 | 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18 | 12 noon

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

April 19 | 7:00 p.m.

EASTER DAY

April 20 | 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.



## EASTER FLOWERS & DECORATIONS



Saint John's Altar Guild is receiving contributions to assist in decorating the church for Easter. Please use this form for making your donations. All forms and donations should be returned to the parish office no later than **April 11**. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Episcopal Church and should be clearly marked "*Easter Decorations*" on the memo line.

You can also make a donation online by visiting our giving page and selecting "Easter Flowers" from the drop-down menu. You may type your dedication in the message box, or email the Parish Office with your dedication, which will appear in our Easter order of service.

**YOUR NAME(S):**

---

**IN MEMORY OF:**

---

---

**IN THANKSGIVING FOR:**

---



# Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>Reflections from "Living the Way of Love"</b> by Mary Bea Sullivan (Church Publishing, 2019). Used with permission.</p>		<p><b>Mar 5</b> <b>Bless</b> Notice the pattern of your breathing. Pray for awareness of blessings. Gen. 2:7</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>Worship</b> How does community help or hinder your growing in Christ? John 1:12-13</p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> How can you build pauses into the day to reflect on the work of the Spirit? John 15:5</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Rest</b> How might you connect with others in the spirit of renewal? 1 Kings 19:11-12</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>10</b> <b>Worship</b> What is most meaningful to you in worship? BCP, p. 281</p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>Pray</b> Go for a walk today and pray with your feet, each step with intention. Isa. 2:3a</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>Way of Love</b> Where do you see the seven practices of the Way of Love in this story? Luke 5:19</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>Bless</b> Who has taught you to live a Jesus-filled life? Who have you taught? 2 Cor. 4:16</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Go</b> Where can you go and intentionally provide kindness? Matt. 5:4</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Rest</b> How do you incorporate rest in your life? Jer. 6:16</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>17</b> <b>Learn</b> What passage of scripture is important to you Why? Isa. 40:8</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Rest</b> How do your creative outlets impact on taking rest? Gen. 1:1-2:4</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>Go</b> Where are you being encouraged to "show up"? Matt. 25:44-45</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Pray</b> Take 20 minutes in contemplative prayer today. Matt. 4:18-22</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>Bless</b> Intentionally smile at least ten times today. Phil. 4:4</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Turn</b> Today, intentionally listen devoutly to another. Mark 4:23</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>24</b> <b>Go</b> Where can you seek and serve Christ in someone unlike you? Jer. 30:22, 31:4-5</p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Turn</b> How might you share what brings you great joy with others? Rom. 12:6-8</p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>Rest</b> How can you incorporate rest from technology today? Matt. 11:28</p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>Learn</b> How is the Jesus who walked this earth beckoning you to meet him? Mark 10:46-52</p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>Worship</b> In your prayers today, what new words or thoughts touch you? Phil. 4:6</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>Pray</b> Try praying with Anglican prayer beads. Luke 18:1</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>4th Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>31</b> <b>Bless</b> What challenges are you facing today? Job 11:18</p>	<p><b>Apr 1</b> <b>Turn</b> Where do you find joy and passion? Luke 24:32</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Rest</b> What can you say "no" to so you can say "yes" to prayer, rest and joy? Lev. 23:3</p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>Learn</b> Practice lectio divina with this scripture. Luke 15:17-24</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>Go</b> Create a prayer representing how you seek to serve God and follow Jesus. Matt. 5:15</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> How do others experience the love of Christ through you? Gal. 5:22-23</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>5th Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>7</b> <b>Turn</b> What relationships do you need to mend? Isa. 55:8-9</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> How has this Way with God impacted your experience of God? John 7:38</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Learn</b> Slowly read this passage aloud. How does this speak to the world today? Matt. 4:18-22</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>Worship</b> What seminal moments have informed a need to return to Christ? Ps. 51:10</p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>Go</b> Where might God be asking you to take your great love into the world? Isa. 48: 6b</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>Pray</b> What are you thankful for? 1 Chron. 29:15</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b></p>
<p><b>14</b> <b>Pray</b> Listen to the daily office today at <a href="http://missionstclaire.com">missionstclaire.com</a> Ps. 55:17</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> Who can support you in living a Jesus-centered life? 2 Cor. 3:6</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Bless</b> When you reflect on financial giving, are your palms open? Matt. 12:43-44</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>Worship</b> How do you want to prepare people to remember you? 2 Cor. 1:3-4</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Turn</b> How did you turn back towards God's love when you made a big mistake? Luke 15:18</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>Learn</b> Who might you have a conversation with to learn about God? Ps. 119:105</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Easter Day</b></p>