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 St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 906, High Springs, Fl 32655

 <http://www.stbartshighsprings.org/> [www.facebook.com/stbartshighsprings](http://www.facebook.com/stbartshighsprings)



 February 2024 Vol. XV, Issue

The first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers at Ash Wednesday services. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality, and may be imposed with the sign of the cross. Ash Wednesday is observed as a fast in the church year of the Episcopal Church. The Ash Wednesday service is one of the Proper Liturgies for Special Days in the BCP (p. 264). Imposition of ashes at the Ash Wednesday service is optional.

*This year Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on February 14th.*

Early Christians observed “a season of penitence and fasting” in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265). The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly. In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Today Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited “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).



**Editor’s Note**

. We hope you are enjoying the Newsletter and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

**Deadline for next issue is** **February 21st. Articles gladly accepted earlier.**

Contact: Annette Jones - (386) 454-8585 pgrscoot97@aol.com

 In this newsletter you will find Bible verses about love:

A new commandment I give to you, that you [love one another](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/love-one-another-bible-verses/): just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. - [*John 13:34-35*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/john/passage/?q=john+13:34-35)

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 From our Senior Warden... *Carol Griffin 386-497-2292*

Love is Patient

Patience is one of the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22) that I am struggling with in my life right now. I was answering an email this past week, and asked “is there anything you need?”; their response was “I don’t need anything but patience if you have some to lend”. I wrote back to say patience was never my strong suit so I couldn’t be of much help. But in reality, I can “give patience”; not in the way this individual wanted it, but by being patient in dealing with others. Being patient can be extremely challenging and often depends on your current situation and pressures going on in your own life. However, your patience with others can be a gift to them and just what they need at that point in time.

Right now, Hugh is still in the recovery period of his back surgery. I know this is a difficult time for him, especially since he is not a person that can “sit still”. He has his routine that includes working out every day (3-4 times a week at the fitness center in Gainesville) and attending UF sporting events during the week. The doctor advised no workouts, other than light band work, for 9 weeks, an eternity for him. This has not been easy for him, additionally sitting and especially standing and walking is uncomfortable and consequently he has not attended any sporting events in weeks. Thankfully some have been televised, but after what seems like weeks-on-end, I am tired of hearing my name and the request “I dropped something, can you pick it up?”.

In my heart, I know he would do the same for me and did after my stroke, but that doesn’t eliminate the annoyance. This ultimately leads me to frustration with myself, for not having the “grace” to “just do it”. In my childhood, one of the most remembered phrases spoken to me was “patience is a virtue” I learned patience over the years especially in dealing with Jane during her health issues. My most frequent prayer during that period was for patience.

I am a work in progress but also know that with love and prayer you can overcome the impatience and frustration that interferes when dealing with others. It also reminds me of the wisdom of Francis de Sales who said “Have patience with all things, **but chiefly have patience with yourself**.” (Emphasis added)

“Now may the God of patience and comfort **grant you to be like-minded toward one another**, according to Christ Jesus, **6**that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6 (NKJV) (Emphasis added)

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Our DOK Godwink – January 6th 2024

The first DOK meeting of this New Year began with a beautiful Brunch for DOK members and the women of St. Bart’s. We discussed our accomplishments during the past year and what we wanted to do in the coming year. We were looking at other ways we could serve the needs of the community. Becky discussed a personal encounter she recently experienced that brought home the needs within the community. This expanded into ideas (and experiences) from all members relating to what DOK could/should attempt to accomplish in 2024.

Suddenly, the door opened and in walked a tall woman with golden hair. My first thought as I looked up was that she had walked right out of a Jane Fonda workout video with her leggings, oversized sweatshirt and big hair. She started asking questions, “Is this a church?”, “is this and AA meeting?”, “is there someone in charge?”. Unfortunately, she had caught us by surprise and it wasn’t until later when we realized that we were all thinking the same thing – is this for real? Actually, when she initially walked in a number of people looked at Ruthann thinking this was a staged event and a planned part of the meeting. Here we were discussing the number of people in need and what we could/should do to help and it was as if God was saying “You are talking the talk, are you going to walk the walk?”.

We were dumb-founded and it took us awhile to respond. Finally, our visitor “woke us from our stupor” by telling us her story and need to get back home to Arizona. This was a long-detailed story of her travels to and in NY (particularly NYC with all its toll bridges, that depleted her cash), south to a funeral that had precipitated the trip. Her mother was waiting in the car. We asked her if she would mind waiting outside while we discussed what we could do to help them. As soon as she left, everyone reached for their purses and contributed what they could. While this was still happening, I told them I was going out to invite them back in for some lunch. At the car, I met her mother, Ann, and learned that “my Jane Fonda” was named Star. They had a Bible on the dashboard and as I was approaching the car and looked down at Ann in the passenger seat, she was reading her daily devotionals. Star made introductions, we talked briefly, I invited them in for lunch (which they declined due to dietary reasons) then Becky came out with the cash she had continued to collect after I stepped out. We both handed them the money we had collected (we have no idea how much was collected as all gave from the heart). Ann especially, was very touched and we discussed how amazing God was and how He had brought them to us at just the right time – a “Godwink”. Ann asked if she could read us some of her poetry. She picked up one of those composition books and it was filled with her writings, a journal and poetry. She proceeded to read us two of her poems. They were lovely and filled with the spirit and love of God. Becky and I both knew they were “for real”. We sent them on their way with prayers for safe travels and returned to our meeting to discuss our very own Godwink, knowing He had revealed His presence to us that meeting.

If you are interested in learning more or considering joining DOK in Service and Prayer For His Sake (FHS), please join us for our next meeting as outlined in Ruthann’s DOK News Update in this Newsletter.

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Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

 *~1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

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 The Daughters of the King meeting  in January  was a brunch, fellowship, celebration of the New Year, our order, and each other! Our brunch ended with a surprise visitor!  See  Carol's  article for the whole story!

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 3rd at 9:30.

Looking forward to projects coming up in 2024! We are even planning on having fun !

PLEASE NOTE:  ALL women at St Bart's  are invited to join in,  attend all meetings and activities of D.O.K.  Everyone is more than welcome to attend !  The more the merrier!

Love and prayers  for our church family!

For His Sake,

Ruthann

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If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ~*John 14:15*

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**![MC900336048[1]]() Angels Without Wings ![MC900336048[1]]()**

This is a couple who serve our church in many ways – He as a lay reader, chalice bearer and in many other ways when needed. She, on the altar guild, as a liaison from Cursillo and Ultreya, and where ever asked or when she sees a need.

**Our Angels without Wings for February are……Alex and Kalynn Matisco**

 **![MC900436393[1]]() February Birthdays Anniversaries in February ![MC900412450[1]]()**

 Feb 7 – Ben Hill 7 – Denise & Gino Paparella

 11 – Calvin Hencin 23 – Debra & Michael Wright

 16 – Annette Jones

 26 – Denise Paparella

 **Congratulations to Each of YOU! If your name does not appear here, please contact your Editor to have it added for next time.**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,

and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. *~*[*1 John 4:7*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-john/4-7.html)



  **Lessons for February** 

**February 4th:**  Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-12,21c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark !:29-39

  **11th:**  2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

**February 14th: Ash Wednesday** Joel 2:1-2,12-17; Psalm 103; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

 **18th:** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

 **25th:** Genesis 17:1-7,15-16; Psalm 22:22-30; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38





 Hostess List for February

Feb 4 – Kitchen crew Feb 11 – Nancy D/ Trish

Feb 18 – Peggy/ Susan B Feb 25 – Lani/ Nancy B

**If you would like to volunteer to provide a light snack and drink, please contact Nancy Brewer 386-496-3445**

Episcopal Edibles

Wine and Cheese Strata

Submitted by Ruthann Swanson

1 lb. French bread, cubed 1 – 8 oz. pkg. fresh mushrooms, sliced

½ tsp. oregano ¼ cup melted butter

1 1/2 cup sour cream 2/3 cup dry white wine

¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese 2 cup chopped ham

1 cup Swiss cheese, grated 1 cup Jack cheese, grated

Dash – hot sauce ½ cup green onions, chopped

6 eggs 2 cups milk

¼ tsp. brown mustard salt & pepper

 Fresh herbs, for garnish

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Arrange cubed bread in greased 9 X 13 casserole dish.

Sauté mushrooms and oregano in butter. Layer over bread.

Pour wine over bread.

Layer ham, cheeses, and onion on casserole.

Combine eggs, milk, mustard, salt and pepper, and dash of hot sauce. Pour over top of casserole.

Bake for one hour in 350 degree oven.

Take out of oven and let set for 10-15 minutes.

Spread sour cream over top.

Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Put under broiler for 2-3 minutes.

Garnish with herbs and serve!

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So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

 *~*[*1 Corinthians 13:13*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-corinthians/13-13.html)

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, *~Ephesians 4:2*

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**![C_Chalice_Celtic_Cup[1]]()Chalice Bearers Lay Readers ![MC900391134[1]]()**

**February February**

 **2/4 - Neil Boyle 2/4 – Alex Matisco**

 **2/11 – Alex Matisco 2/11 – Debra Wright**

 **2/18 – Annette Jones 2/18 – Sam Tift**

 **2/25 – Stephanie Hencin 2/25 – Cherie Harris**

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Let all that you do be done in love. *~1 Corinthians 16:14*

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**![MC900384256[1]]() Sunday School Teaching Schedule for February ![MC900384256[1]]()**

 Feb 4th: Pete & Jane Feb 11th: Diane & Diana

 Feb 18th: Stephanie & Becky Feb 25th: Pete & Jane

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For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him

 should not perish but have eternal life. ~[*John 3:16*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/john/3-16.html)

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another with love. *~Ephesians 4:2*

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A PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

Love divine,

All love excelling,

Joy of heaven,

To earth come down;

Fix in us

Thy humble dwelling,

All Thy faithful

Mercies crown!

 Charles Wesley (1707-1788)