



Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale

2131 Mount Road, Aston, PA 19014

(610) 459-2013

January 2018

"We Gather Together"

January

A Project As We Move From Christmas to Easter: Bringing Some Additional Balance to Our Corporate Prayer Life

Q. What are the principal kinds of prayer?

A. The principal kinds of prayer are adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession, and petition.

--from *The Book of Common Prayer*, The Catechism: Prayer and Worship

Every week we come together for the worship of God at Resurrection Church, Rockdale. During our corporate [group] worship, we touch upon most of the principal kinds of prayer noted in the Catechism in the Prayer Book.

- Adoration and praise are included in the *Gloria* or other hymn of praise at the beginning of our worship.
- Thanksgiving and oblation [self-offering] are the main themes of the Eucharistic [Thanksgiving] Prayer and the giving of ourselves symbolized by the bread, wine, and money we offer.
- Penitence is the point of the Confession of Sin and Absolution.
- Intercession, petition, and thanksgiving are the main themes of the Prayers of the People.

So, we're good, right? Our Sunday worship checks all the boxes, covers all the bases, includes all the principal kinds of prayer for a balanced worship diet. We're all set, we've got it "Made in the shade."

IMHO [text-speak for "In My Humble Opinion"], both Yes and No. The Prayer Book, as always, offers us a balanced and complete approach to our worship together. The part we bring to the table is in some ways less balanced.

The Prayers of the People we use at 8:00 are directly from *The Book of Common Prayer*. Those we use at 10:00 are written each week to reflect the themes of the lections [Bible readings] each week. In each, we offer our own parish intercessions and thanksgivings, with some listed in the bulletin, and some offered silently or aloud by worshippers during periods of silence specifically for that purpose.

It's here that I think we can bring ourselves and our prayers into fuller balance. We pray for the sick, and a long list of names are read [I sometimes exaggerate this in my thoughts as "the Aston area

phone book.”]. We come to the thanksgivings section, and it’s almost total silence [“Crickets” as performers say]. Even when we remember the dead, those Christians who have gone before us, it’s rare to hear any names.

Is our life really the way this part of our prayers together makes it seem?

- Are we surrounded by only so much pain and suffering?
- Do we have so few things, people, and occasions in our life for which we are moved to give thanks?
- Are those who have gone before us not only dead, but forgotten, “Dead to us”? [Full disclosure here: I went to see the new Pixar Studios movie *Coco* the day before I’m writing this. I commend it to all as a great teaching tool for a greater understanding of what we mean in the creeds when we say, “the communion of saints.”]

Between now and Easter Season, I am asking all of us to examine our personal and corporate prayer lives and see if there is better balance to be achieved. I will be looking to see if we can reflect this in the following ways:

- We will start administering the intercessions for the sick in ways which reflect a continuing involvement by those asking for a name’s inclusion on the list. We may divide the list up with some names at one service, and some at another. We may pray for some of those chronically afflicted on certain weeks. We’ll talk about this after the new year begins.
- We will try to collect birthday, baptismal, confirmation, and wedding anniversary dates for our congregation, so that we may give thanks for these major spiritual anniversaries in our lives.
- We will look at commemorating those in our parish who have died in ways other than connected to the offering of contributions for altar flowers.

These are a few ideas I have. There are many other great ideas you will have. Let’s make one of the things we try to work on during Epiphany Season and Lent be a further balance in our prayer life and more fully reflects the great goodness of God to us and those we love. I look forward to hearing how you are working on this and what ideas you have for how we can do this more effectively together.

God is Good! All the Time!

--Fr. Wand

Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation: What? When? With Whom?

On Sunday, January 7, we will reaffirm our Baptismal Vows, the Prayer Book’s version of the promises we made (or were made for us by our sponsors [parents or godparents] when we were baptized. We do this on each of the four baptismal days every year (The Baptism of Christ in January, Easter [Eve or Day] in March or April, Pentecost in May or June, and All Saints’ [Day or Sunday] in November). We also do this every time someone is baptized in our parish, and when the Bishop visits.

This renewal of our Baptismal Vows happens so often because the Baptismal Vows are so central to our lives as Christians. They are at the heart of who we understand ourselves as the Church to be. They retell us each time that to be a baptized Christian is to be a saint, a minister, a part of the royal priesthood that is the Church.

This is also why the Renewal of Baptismal Vows at certain especially significant points in our spiritual journey has a profound meaning and prominence in our Church’s life. These times are when we make preparation and renew our Vows in the presence of the Bishop and receive the Bishop’s laying-on-of-hands and blessing. These times have special names to show their importance.

- **Confirmation**—This is the mature reaffirmation of our baptismal vows. We take on for ourselves the vows which we made or were made for us when we were baptized at an earlier age. Because this is an adult decision, it generally should happen when someone is in a position to be making other adult, life-long decisions for themselves. Our Church expects everyone to make their Confirmation at some point, almost always as part of their acceptance of adult responsibilities in other parts of their lives or later, when they are ready to make this commitment.

- **Reception**—When someone has made a confirmation-like reaffirmation of their Baptismal Vows in another Christian Tradition, we invite them to celebrate their decision to live out their Christian journey in the faith and tradition of our Episcopal Church by reaffirming their Baptismal Vows in the presence of the Bishop, who represents the whole Church. The Bishop lays hands on the head of the one being received, and welcomes them into the fellowship of this Church.

- **Reaffirmation**—Sometimes a person experiences a renewal in their Christian faith and life. This can come after a dry period in their Christian faith and practice, or may be a (sudden or not) deepening of their faith and experience of God in Christ. This, too, is a time for celebration and commemoration. This is a time to renew our Baptismal Vows in thanksgiving for what God is doing in our spiritual journey right now.

In our Diocese, the Cathedral offers opportunities around each of the Baptismal Days for those all our parishes to come together at the Cathedral for the celebration of baptism and the rites mentioned above (called together “The Initiatory Rites). I am inviting any who are interested in preparing for these rites to contact me by **January 14** so we can plan a program or preparation leading to the our attendance and participation in the Initiatory Rites as part of the Cathedral’s **Easter Vigil at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 31.** Please let me know if you would like to explore this further.

A Fun Thought for Lent—Wait! Is That Even Allowed?

Much good literature by Christian authors, suitable for promoting spiritual growth for all Christians, masquerades as children’s literature [The same is true for the “children’s sermons” that form part of the worship life in some parishes]. One well-known example of this are the Narnia stories written in the 1940’s by C.S. Lewis—probably the best-known of these is the first of the seven, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The Narnia tales are allegories, telling the truth of Christianity in the forms of adventures in imaginary far-off lands.

Another series of books was written in the 1960’s by Madeline L’Engle, a staunch Episcopalian and for a time before her death, the librarian at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Again, the first of the novels is by far the best-known. It’s title is *A Wrinkle in Time*. It was published in 1962 and immediately won the Newbury Medal as the most distinguished contribution that year to literature for children. Like C.S. Lewis’s novels, however, Madeline L’Engle’s works are edifying for adults (the older children of God) as well.

This March 7, a movie of *A Wrinkle in Time* will be coming out. This is an advance notice that I’ll be trying to organize a field trip to this movie, with maybe a pizza gathering afterwards. Date uncertain, but probably about the middle of March. It may be fun, but it will be spiritually beneficial, so it’ll be OK to do, even in Lent. More details later!

--Fr. Wand

January

SUNDAY	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THURSDAY	FRI.	SATURDAY
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 <i>Finance Meeting @ 4pm</i>	5	6 <i>ECW Meeting @ 10am Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm</i>
7 The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Christ <i>8am Rite I Eucharist 10am Rite II Eucharist—Children's Service</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Vestry Meeting @ 7pm</i>	12	13 <i>Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm</i>
14 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany <i>8am Rite I Eucharist 10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>Stewardship Committee Meeting @ 4pm American Legion Ladies Auxiliary @ 6pm</i>	19	20 <i>Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm</i>
21 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany <i>8am Rite I Eucharist 10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>Property Committee Meeting @ 6pm</i>	26	27 <i>Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm</i>
28 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany <i>8am Rite I Eucharist—Healing Service 10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School—Healing Service</i>	29	30	31	FEB. 1 <i>Finance Meeting @ 4pm</i>	FEB. 2	FEB. 3 <i>ECW Meeting @ 10am Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm</i>
FEB. 4 The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany: <i>8am Rite I Eucharist—Healing Service 10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School—Healing Service</i>						



DECEMBER
2017 Calendar

31 THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Counters: Rosemary Bezuidenhout and Marsha Litwin

9:00 AM RITE II EUCHARIST WITH MUSIC AND SUNDAY SCHOOL—HEALING SERVICE

Chalicer: Karen Warren

Reader (both) Rose Schwitters:

Intercessor: Debbie Ney

Altar Guild: All Staff



2018 Calendar

1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

3

4 Finance Meeting @ 4PM

5

6 ECW Meeting @10AM

Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @7PM

7 THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Counters: Jill Graham and Phyllis Russell

8:00 AM RITE I EUCHARIST

Chalicer: Janet Russello

Reader/Intercessor: Robin Krider

Altar Guild: TBA

10:00 AM RITE II EUCHARIST—CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Chalicer: Jude Winters

1st Reading: Marissa Cervantez

2nd Reading: Nikolien Bezuidenhout

Intercessor: Kylie Benditt

Altar Guild: TBA

8-10

11 Vestry Meeting @7PM

12

13 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @7PM

14 THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Counters: Jill Graham and Marsha Litwin

8:00 AM RITE I EUCHARIST

Chalicer: Helen Dunlap

Reader/Intercessor: Rick Dunlap

Altar Guild: TBA

10:00 AM RITE II EUCHARIST WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Chalicer: Marsha Litwin
Reader (both): Phyllis Russell
Intercessor: Joan Riccardi
Altar Guild: TBA

15-17

18 Stewardship Committee Meeting @4PM
American Legion Ladies Auxiliary @6PM

19

20 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @7PM

21 THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Counters: Barbara Krisack and Janet Russello

8:00 AM RITE I EUCHARIST

Chalicer: Janet Russello

Reader/Intercessor: Robin Krider

Altar Guild: TBA

10:00 AM RITE II EUCHARIST WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Chalicer: Pieter Bezuidenhout

Reader (both): Rosemary Bezuidenhout

Intercessor: Phyllis Russell

Altar Guild: TBA

22-24

25 Property Committee Meetings @6PM

26

27 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @7PM

28 THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Counters: Rosemary Bezuidenhout and Marsha Litwin

8:00 AM RITE I EUCHARIST—HEALING SERVICE

Chalicer: Helen Dunlap

Reader/Intercessor: Rick Dunlap

Altar Guild: TBA

10:00 AM RITE II EUCHARIST WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL—HEALING SERVICE

Chalicer: Phyllis Russell

Reader (both): Pieter Bezuidenhout

Intercessor: Rosemary Bezuidenhout

Altar Guild: TBA

29-31



1 Finance Meeting @ 4PM

2

3 ECW Meeting @10AM

Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @7PM

4 THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Counters: Helen Dunlap and Janet Russello

8:00 AM RITE I EUCHARIST—HEALING SERVICE

Chalicer: Janet Russello

Reader/Intercessor: Robin Krider

Altar Guild: TBA

10:00 AM RITE II EUCHARIST—CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Chalicer: Jude Winters

1st Reading: Marissa Cervantez

2nd Reading: Nikolien Bezuidenhout

Intercessor: Kylie Benditt

Altar Guild: TBA



OUTREACH: The Outreach Committee is up and operating for the new year. For further information about any service opportunities, contact **Leigh Oppelt (610)497-4576**. Leigh has offered leadership, and the congregation has strongly supported, several outreach programs during the holiday season. Outreach (like the rest of stewardship) is a year-round, 24/7/365 thing.



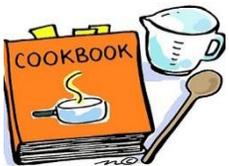
Faith Community Food Pantry: Collection bins in front of the choir seating to be collected each Sunday and delivered to the Pantry.

Please be sure to check dates, we can not accept expired food.

UPDATED NEEDS: **Cereal** (kid friendly brands, adult brands and oatmeal) — **Canned Foods** (Veggies, chicken, tuna, soups, chili, sloppy joes, Chef Boyardee, Spaghetti sauces, Alfredo sauces, Fruit) — **Boxed Foods** (Instant potatoes, pasta sides, rice sides, spaghetti/pasta, crackers) — **Drinks** (Kid friendly juices and adult) — **Others** (Cookies, rice crispy treats, any snack foods, pudding snack packs, peanut butter, crackers, apple sauce, PBJ filled cracker, cheese filled crackers) — **Paper Products** (Paper towels, toilet paper) — **Pet Foods** (cat, dog)..



PERFECT CLOTHS FOR SALE!!: Please help support our ECW fundraiser of selling perfect cloths. These cloths can be used for all types of cleaning. The cost is \$3/per cloth. If interested, please contact Karen Warren or Ernestine Franz.



COOKBOOKS HAVE ARRIVED: Cookbooks are a great gift idea. Each cookbook costs only \$10. To purchase or pickup your order, please contact Helen Dunlap.



WAWA HOAGIE SALE: Our Wawa Hoagie coupon fundraiser continues! We are selling coupons at \$3.50 each for a Wawa “shorti” hoagie, of which we keep a small profit from every sale. The coupons can be used at all Wawa’s and have no expiration date. If you are interested, please see Carolyn Watson.



Resurrection Pre-School

9 AM to 12 noon

5 day classes for 4 year-olds

3 day classes, M-W-F, for 3 year olds

Reasonable rates – Financial Aid available

Children must be toilet-trained.

Please call the office 610-459-2013 for more information and pricing.

Dawn Viscusi is the Pre-School Administrator.

Remember it is your word-of-mouth recommendation that supports our Pre-School.

The Mission and Goals of Resurrection Church

The mission of Resurrection Episcopal Church is to nourish the spiritual lives of our diverse parish family and to follow the example of Jesus through service to our community.

The Internal goal for Resurrection Episcopal Church is to grow stronger in faith, care for those who cannot be present, and unify as a family sharing in faith based activities.

The Resurrection Episcopal Church outreach goal is to become more visible and listen to the needs of the community by doing God’s work through service to others.



Vestry of Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale

Helen Dunlap, Rector’s Warden	610-485-5623
Marsha Litwin, People’s Warden/Secretary	610-485-5531
Rosemary Bezuidenhout, Treasurer	541-246-0780
Jill Graham	610-459-5854
Barbara Krisack	610-497-1603
Phyllis Russell	610-358-0258
Janet Russello	610-497-8894
The Rev. Thomas C. Wand	610-291-4362

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