



Reimagining Our Church



L. Brandon Photo

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of The Epis-

copal Church, and the Rev. Gay Jennings, president of the House of Deputies of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, will join in the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the reorganization of the diocese on Saturday, February 8. "Reimagining Our Church" will begin at 9:30 am and end with Eucharist at 3 pm. Teens and young adults especially are invited to participate. The \$25.00 fee includes lunch. Please register at <http://bit.ly/1gh7CoA> by Monday, February 3.



ENS Photo

Participants will take part in the church-wide Engagement Process of the Task Force to Reimagine The Episcopal Church, established by General Convention 2012.

A 40-day-long blessing

Rayford B. High, Jr.

If you haven't heard, Lent is late this year. Ash Wednesday is March 5! But however late its arrival, Lent is always a 40-day-long blessing. It is wonderful to be offered a daily opportunity to reflect on and renew our relationship with the God who made us, who forgives us, who accepts us and who deeply loves us. Yet, for many of us busy-ness too often keeps us from making room in our lives for prayer, reflection, service to others and discernment.

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Burning palms from last year's Palm Sunday for ashes
Judy Cariker Photo

So, if we would make that bit of room daily for reflection and renewal, we might think about questions like these:

What are the things we have done that we might re-

gret? What are the things left undone that weigh on our hearts? Is there some new ministry to which we – lay or ordained – are being called? Are we entering a new stage in our lives for which we need time to prepare mentally, physically, and/or spiritually? Are there things for which we need to ask forgiveness? Are there things we need to forgive and let go? What are the sorrows that need healing, and what are the joys for which we need to give thanks?

The gospel for Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21) offers basic guidance and instruction on how to structure our time of prayer, reflection and discernment. Consider the instructions in these verses:

6:1 “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your father in heaven.

6:6 “But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees will reward you.

6:17 “But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and

What things do we need to forgive and let go?

your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

I need Lent and I am looking forward to it in a few weeks. It is “soul time” for me: to re-focus, re-direct my life away from me to Thee. May I suggest using “Forward Day by Day,” reflecting on the daily meditations and reading the scriptures as a good start? Thank God for Lent!

However you structure your prayer and reflection time this year, please know you and your family are in my prayers as we prepare for the coming of Lent.



Lasting Memory Photography

Building healthy communities

Demi Prentiss

You are invited on April 4 and 5 and again June 20 and 21 to meet with Peter L. Steinke, Lutheran pastor and Alban Institute consultant whose books have made systems thinking accessible to congregations and provided leaders with tools to shape vital healthy communities of faith.

The workshops will use principles drawn from the work of family-systems expert Edwin Friedman. Steinke’s most recent book is “A Door Set Open: Grounding Change in Mission and Hope.” More information about the workshop schedules and content will be available soon on the diocesan website, along with registration information.

Ashes to Go



Drive-Thru Ashes at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller
Susan Kleinwechter Photo

On Ash Wednesday, March 5, the Rt. Rev. Rayford B. High Jr. and several congregations will offer variations on “Ashes to Go,” an Ash Wednesday ministry in which ashes are taken to the people. These ministries are in addition to the traditional Ash Wednesday services.

Bishop High will be offering ashes to go in downtown Fort Worth from 11 am to 1 pm to people on their lunch breaks. The specific location will be announced on the diocesan website.

The Rev. Curt Norman, rector of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 595 N. McIlhaney, Stephenville, said that while plans are not yet finalized, “We’ll be on the Tarleton campus leading an ecumenical Ashes to Go.” St. Luke’s has offered Ashes to Go at Tarleton

State University for the past two years.

St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, 223 S. Pearson Lane, Keller, will be offering Drive-Thru Ashes twice on Ash Wednesday during commuting rush hours – 7:45 to 9 am and 4:45 to 6 pm. Drivers will be invited to pull into the St. Martin parking lot to receive ashes and then be on their way to work, school, or back home. This is expanded from the afternoon offering of ashes last year.

St. Alban’s Episcopal Church worshipping at Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main, Arlington, TX, will be offering Ashes to Go on the University of Texas at Arlington Campus from noon till 2 pm near the library. The UTA Shorthorn did a video about the Ashes to Go offering on campus last year. View it at <http://bit.ly/KtVvE>.

St. Luke’s in the Meadow Episcopal Church, 4301 Meadowbrook Drive, Fort Worth, will offer Ashes to Go in English and in Spanish from 7:30 to 8:30 am at the intersection of Somerset and Meadowbrook for commuters and for parents dropping children off at Meadowbrook Elementary School and Meadowbrook Middle School.



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