This Week's Activities

February 1-8

This Week and Beyond at St. Brice's

Thinking About Lent

This year Lent comes up quickly – Ash Wednesday is just around the corner, on February 18. Whether the whole practice of Lent is new to you, or a familiar routine, our prayer is that this year, we will each come to know, not just more about Jesus, but to know God as God has revealed himself in Jesus in a new and life-giving way.

Wednesday

10:00 – BCP Morning Prayer

5:00 – Supper Club (bag supper and Bible Study)

Sunday

10:30 – Worship Service

"Looking Ahead to Lent"

Who does this Jesus say he is anyway?

The I AM's of Jesus

12-ish LINGER LUNCH

Join us for a shared lunch – bring a dish to share if you are able. There will be a donation box for contributions to our church camp.

Sunday, February 8

1 pm-ish ANNUAL MEETING

Do you ever wonder how things get done here, and who does

A few weeks ago, we spoke about the way God seems to delight in a sort game of **Holy Hide-and-Seek** with us. For instance, we see John the Baptist watching for the Messiah to appear. Many folks seek the Messiah with John. Then Jesus comes to the Jordon to **find** John. John reveals Jesus as "the Lamb of God" and then John's disciples seek **for** Jesus. When they **find** him, they bring others along. Jesus decides to move north to Galilee, but before he does, he **seeks out** Nathaniel, who has been seeking for the Messiah. Later, Jesus will **find** two sets of fishermen brothers and invite them to come with him.

How often our life with God feels like this – sometimes we seem to find God – often in places that surprise us, and other times it seems as if God seeks us. We can look at it like the game that a parent may play with a beloved child. In truth, the parent knows where the tiny child is hiding, but plays the game for the delight of anticipation the child finds as he/she waits to be found. If the parent cannot see shoes peeking out from behind a curtain, the suppressed giggles will give the child's hiding place away.

Then the parent hides. Again, the parent is never unaware of where the child is, but the rhythm of the game is both full of delight and profoundly serious learning. The child learns to trust the parent and experience his or her own belovedness. They learn to trust the parent's faithfulness as they both seek and are found. And that learning is mixed with both delight and anticipation

Lent has always been so somber for me – anyone else relate? Like the learning in the child's game, the intent is profoundly serious. To reflect on Jesus' death and suffering – for each of us – is the most serious deliberation we can ever undertake. In this seeking to know more, we can experience some of the unmerited and unimaginable love of the Triune God – a grace that should delight us.

So what would happen if we held both the pain and the delight in a tension of anticipation this Lent? What if we, like the hiding child, waited with bated breath for Jesus to find us, and, as well, for him to reveal himself in places we don't expect?

I challenged you to look for a personal "Hiding Place" this Lent. It needn't be fancy or complicated, just a spot where you can have a little quiet (a corner of the bedroom, your car, or for young parents – even in the bathtub!). Gather a few things to help you out (we will talk about these as we go along) and substitute a little of the time each day that we spend "doom-scrolling", watching TV , playing games on our phones – you get the idea- for a time of letting God "find" you. If a "quiet time" is already part of your daily routine, can you add a few minutes, or be prepared to try something a little different?

During our Worship services, we will ask – who does Jesus say that he is? The Gospel of John contains seven places where Jesus declares an "I AM" – which his listeners would identify as his claim to be God. Each "I AM" offers an image that reveals something of who Jesus wants to be for us.

what? This (short I promise) meeting will help sort it out.

We will also look at where our money went last year, and what we need to support our ministries in the next year.

And we will elect the People's Warden and Deputy People's Warden (these aren't as scary as they sound - these two, with the Incumbent and two wardens appointed by the Incumbent -The Ven Joan at the moment- are the legal representatives of the congregation), as well as a group of individuals who have special interests in various ministries of the church and act as a board that advises the Incumbent and Wardens.

If you consider St. Brice's your church home (meaning you come on a fairly regular basis - at least several times a year), are over 18 and

Lent is an invitation – an invitation to discover so much about God and about ourselves. Are you up for this? We pray you will be part of this adventure. Promise – you will know Jesus better in a couple of months. He wants this for you – because you are his beloved!

LOOKING AHEAD

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar:

Saturday February 21, 3 pm – Instructed Eucharist

This presentation will walk us through our Eucharistic Worship Service with pauses along the way to explain why we do what we do at each step. You will gain a deeper understanding of the "why's" and a richer experience of worship going forward.

Visitor/Listening Workshop – Friday April 17 – 7 pm

Saturday April 18- 10 am

Are you interested in visiting with some of our folks who are homebound, in care homes or hospital, and possibly bringing them communion? (This is not a commitment to do so – just an exploration of the possibility!). Or do you sometimes wish you knew what to say in difficult conversations? How to actually listen effectively?

contribute in time/and or money - you are eligible to vote, And, if you just want to find out more of who we are - you are welcome to come along!

A light lunch will be served following the service and just prior to the start of the meeting.

Then this is the workshop for you! Led by Rev, Jay – well known to many of us- and Benjamin Paul, an experienced social worker – you will have an interesting and valuable learning experience. Details to follow.

"**Can you help?** A parishioner is looking for a one-bedroom apartment. If you have or are aware of possible accommodation, please check with the office for more details."