



St. John's Episcopal Church

Ashfield, Massachusetts
Corner of Main and South Streets



February 2015

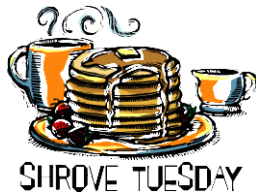


Ash Wednesday

*This year Ash Wednesday is February 18th.
St. John's will be holding Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
at 7:00 pm.*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

We will be having a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at 6:00 p.m. on February 17th at St. John's Corner.



Hail Thee, Festival Day!

Choir rehearsals for the Easter service will be held after services on March 1, March 8, March 15 and March 22. Everyone is welcome to come share their joy in the risen Lord.

Lenten Lunches: Nourishment for the Body and Soul

February 24 – March 24, 2015
Tuesdays, 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Several churches in West County will be hosting a Lenten Series discussing food as sacred and the act of sharing food as Eucharistic. A lunch of soup and bread will be shared and the clergy of each church will lead reflections.

- February 24 – Trinity Church – The Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
17 Severance St., Shelburne Falls, MA
- March 3 – Ashfield Congregational Church – The Rev. Kat Stevens
429 Main St., Ashfield, MA
- March 10 – Charlemont Federated Church – Cara
175 Main St., Charlemont, MA
- March 17 – Mary Lyon Church – The Rev. Richard Fournier
17 Upper St., Buckland, MA
- March 24 – First Congregational Church of Shelburne – The Rev. Will Sencabaugh
22 Common Rd., Shelburne, MA

Gather around the table of fellowship for simple soup, bread and reflection.

REDECORATING THE CORNER HOUSE PARLOR ROOM

We are searching for people willing to be on a committee to help us redecorate the parlor in the Corner House. It is in dire need of a facelift. If you are interested, please speak to Jane Wagener or Susan Todd. We would truly appreciate the help!

Thank you so much,
Jane: 625-2111
Susan: 628-3998

Free Materials Exchange

Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
Congregational Church, 429 Main St., Ashfield

Ashfield and Needles and Thread (ANTS) is hosting a free-for-all materials exchange of fabrics, notions, yarn, needles, patterns, tools plus ideas & encouragement!!

- 🧵 Clear out your clutter and inspire another's creativity!
- 🧵 Leave with the materials & ideas for some terrific new projects!
- 🧵 Enjoy connecting with others who share your interests as well as meeting new people who can teach you a new craft!

Everyone is welcome to come pick out materials whether they are making a donation or not.

Items that aren't adopted by 2:45 p.m. will ...

- A - return home with their donor
- OR
- B - become the property of ANTS to use or dispose of wisely.

Bring a pile to pass on! Bring a bag for your new materials! Bring your kids and friends!



Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers, A Few Ideas

- ✦ Try to go a whole week without spending any money.
If you have to, barter or beg a little to make it through.
- ✦ Create a directory of spiritual mentors and help people find them.
- ✦ Ask the next person who asks you for change to join you for a meal.

-Claiborne, Wilson-Hartgrove and Okoro, *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 126, 164.

Brother Martin of Erfurt

Brother Martin of Erfurt, or as we know him, Martin Luther, was born November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Saxony in the Holy Roman Empire, what we know as Eastern Germany. His was not a family of means, in fact they were peasants. He joined the Order of St. Augustine and earned a Doctor of Theology degree.

In 1517 he posted his infamous *95 Thesis* on the chapel door of the University of Wittenberg. These were meant to create discussion in the church and university addressing issues that he felt were a problem in the Roman Catholic Church. Some of these included:

- * sale of indulgences
- * sale of church offices
- * inadequate education in Christian doctrine, there were no seminaries to educate priests
- * frequent abuses of power within the church
- * political factions within the church that caused conflicts and resentment



Martin also believed that salvation was freely given it was unnecessary for people to feel they had to in some way earn or deserve salvation. There is no need to earn salvation when God has already given it to all people.

In October of 1518 Luther was told by the Papal Legate Thomas Cardinal Cajetan to recant his positions. Luther replied that he was unable to recant unless his mistakes were pointed out through the use of scripture. He also stated that because of biblical prophecy the papacy was the Antichrist and not part of the biblical church. Unsurprisingly in June 1520 the pope issued a bull threatening to excommunicate Luther. Luther received the bull in October and publicly burned it on December 10th.

In January 1521 Luther was excommunicated, in March he was summoned to the Diet of Worms and when he still refused to recant his positions Emperor Charles V placed him under an Imperial Ban. It wasn't until 1524 that he officially left the monastery. Martin Luther's criticisms of the church practices in his day were possibly the largest factor in the reforms made by the Council of Trent, where the sale of indulgences, financial abuses, and education of the clergy were all addressed.

In 1526 Luther published a *German Mass* and found himself organizing a new church which we know today as the Lutheran Church. He organized a new supervisory system for the church, developed a new form of worship service and, against the practices of that day, he wrote a simple catechism for the education of lay people; these are still in use today. He made the mass more of a celebration where everyone received the bread and the wine and the individual congregations were allowed the freedom to decide on the use of things such as vestments and candles. He translated scripture from Latin into the common tongue and composed many hymns; including *A Mighty Fortress is our God* (hymn 687 & 688 in *Hymnal 1982*).

While Luther had many revolutionary ideas and helped start a worldwide discussion on the practices of the Roman Catholic Church, he still stood by other more conservative teachings of the church. After reading a Latin translation of the Qur'an he wrote pamphlets stating his belief that Islam was a scourge sent by God to punish the Christians, destroy the antichrist (according to Luther the pope) and the Roman Catholic Church. He also believed that the Jews were blasphemers because they did not believe in the divinity of Christ; though he did preach kindness toward them and wanted to convert them to Christianity. As his attempts at conversion failed he grew increasingly bitter towards them and wrote several angry tracts against them. By 1533 some Lutheran pastors were preaching against Judaism, and suggested expelling the Jews from Germany.



Originally, Martin Luther posted *The 95 Thesis* to start a discussion to reform certain practices within the Roman Catholic Church. Instead, he founded a new denomination of Christianity and helped guide the foundation of many others, including the Anglican Church. Today Episcopal Church in the United States honors Martin Luther on February 18th, the anniversary of his death in 1546.

O God, our refuge and our strength: You raised up your servant Martin Luther to reform and renew your Church in the light of your word. Defend and purify the Church in our own day and grant that, through faith, we may boldly proclaim the riches of your grace, which you have made known in Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.



Quilting Classes

BASIC TECHNIQUES FOR HAND QUILTING

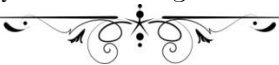
Learn all the steps to make a sampler quilt, from selecting the fabric to the final binding of the quilt.
You are invited to make a quilt of any size, from a wall-hanging to a bed quilt.

Classes start February 4, 2015
Wednesdays: 2:00 - 4:00 pm for 10 sessions
Course fee: \$100.00

Marilyn Berthelette
Teacher and award-winning quilter, including Best-of-Shows and several Viewers' Choice Awards.

Location: Sewing Studio at the home of Marilyn Berthelette
18 Highland Ave., Greenfield, MA 01301

Register by contacting:
Marilyn Berthelette (413)774-6748
myberthelette@gmail.com



Luther and the Ninety-Five Theses

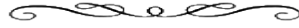


To most historians, the publication of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses marks the beginning of the Reformation. To Luther, they were simply a response to what he considered the blatant abuse of Johann Tetzel's selling of indulgences. Although written in Latin, the theses were soon translated into German and disseminated widely across Germany.

■ *Martin Luther, Selections from the Ninety-Five Theses*

5. The Pope has neither the will nor the power to remit any penalties beyond those he has imposed either at his own discretion or by canon law.
21. Hence those preachers of Indulgences are wrong when they say that a man is absolved and saved from every penalty by the Pope's Indulgences.
27. It is mere human talk to preach that the soul flies out [of purgatory] immediately the money clinks in the collection-box.
28. It is certainly possible that when the money clinks in the collection-box greed and avarice can increase; but the intercession of the Church depends on the will of God alone.
50. Christians should be taught that, if the Pope knew the exactions of the preachers of Indulgences, he would rather have the basilica of St. Peter reduced to ashes than built with the skin, flesh and bones of his sheep.
81. This wanton preaching of pardons makes it difficult even for learned men to redeem respect due to the Pope from the slanders or at least the shrewd questionings of the laity.
82. For example: "Why does not the Pope empty purgatory for the sake of most holy love and the supreme need of souls? This would be the most righteous of reasons, if he can redeem innumerable souls for sordid money with which to build a basilica, the most trivial of reasons."
86. Again: "Since the Pope's wealth is larger than that of the crassest Crassi of our time, why does he not build this one basilica of St. Peter with his own money, rather than with that of the faithful poor?"
90. To suppress these most conscientious questionings of the laity by authority only, instead of refuting them by reason, is to expose the Church and the Pope to the ridicule of their enemies, and to make Christian people unhappy.
94. Christians should be exhorted to seek earnestly to follow Christ, their Head, through penalties, deaths, and hells.
95. And let them thus be more confident of entering heaven through many tribulations rather than through a false assurance of peace.

Serving Schedule



<i>Date</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>
February 1	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Jim Wagener	Jane Wagener	ANNUAL MEETING
February 8	4 th Sunday after Epiphany	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Susan Todd	Jane Wagener	Addison Hall
February 15	5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Arianna Burch	Jane Wagener	Burch-Monds
February 18	Ash Wednesday	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Mariel Kinsey	Jane Wagener	-----
February 22	1 st Sunday in Lent	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Lynnette Sievert	Jane Wagener	Lynnette Sievert
March 1	2 nd Sunday in Lent	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Sue Craft	Susan Todd	Marilyn Berthelette
March 8	3 rd Sunday in Lent	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Marilyn Berthelette	Susan Todd	Clarence West
March 15	4 th Sunday in Lent	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Jim Wagener	Susan Todd	Bambi Phillips
March 22	5 th Sunday in Lent	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Kristen Wickline	Susan Todd	Sue Craft
March 29	Palm Sunday	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Hetty Startup	Susan Todd	Lou Ratté



Dear Lord, As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with You. AMEN.

February Calendar

1	10:00 am	Healing & Eucharist Service - 4 th Sunday after the Epiphany	
	12:00 pm	Annual Meeting	St. John's Corner
3	2:30 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry - Volunteers	
			Congregational Church, Ashfield
	3:00 - 6:00 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry - Distribution	
			Congregational Church, Ashfield
8	10:00 am	Eucharist Service - 5 th Sunday after the Epiphany	
10	10:30 am	Senior Center Outreach	St. John's Corner
15	10:00 am	Eucharist Service - Last Sunday after the Epiphany	
	12:00 pm	Vestry Retreat	
	1:00 pm	Free Materials Exchange	Congregational Church, Ashfield
17	6:00 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	St. John's Corner
	2:30 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry - Volunteers	
			Congregational Church, Ashfield
	3:00 - 6:00 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry - Distribution	
			Congregational Church, Ashfield
18	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	
22	10:00 am	Eucharist Service - 1 st Sunday in Lent	
24	12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lenten Lunch	Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls
29	10:00 am	Eucharist Service - 2 nd Sunday in Lent	
<u>Sundays:</u>		Eucharist - 10:00 am	St. John's Church
<u>Mondays:</u>		MotherWoman - 11:00 am	St. John's Corner
		Al Anon - 7:30 pm	St. John's Corner
<u>Tuesdays:</u>		Double Edge Theater Studying - 8:30 am - 10:00 am	
		Ashfield Community Playgroup - 9:30 am	St. John's Corner
<u>Wednesdays:</u>		Centering Prayer - 5:30 pm	St. John's Corner
		Double Edge Theater Studying - 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	
			St. John's Corner
<u>Thursdays:</u>		Osteoporosis Class - 9:30 am	St. John's Corner
		Double Edge Theater Studying - 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	
			St. John's Corner
<u>Saturdays:</u>		Double Edge Theater Studying - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	
			St. John's Corner





THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

"CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE"

Diocesan Prayer Cycle – February 2015

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Ministry to the Homeless | 1. Anglican Fellowship of Prayer | 16. St. John's, Athol - Rev. William Hobbs | 16. ONE Campaign |
| 2. The Rev. Tom Callard, Missioner for Hispanic/Latino Ministry | 2. United Thank Offering, Ms. Susan Howland | 17. Vicki Ix, Communications Missioner | 17. Ministering to people with Aids |
| 3. Grace Church, Chicopee – Rev. Donna Larson | 3. Episcopal Relief and Development Fund | 18. Christ Church, Fitchburg – Revs. Bennett and Carolyn Jones | 18. Church Innovations |
| 4. St. Mark's Church, East Longmeadow - Rev. Peter Swarr | 4. The Church Home Society, Boston | 19. Repose for the soul of The Rt. Rev. William Appleton Lawrence, III Bishop of Western Massachusetts Diocese | 19. Open Pantry Community Services, Springfield |
| 5. Good Shepherd, Clinton - Rev. Dr. William Bergmann, Dcn. Beatrice Kayigwa | 5. Church Without Walls, Springfield | 20. St. Barnabas' and All Saints', Springfield – The Rev. Charles R. Summers | 20. Ministering to people with Mental Illness and their families |
| 6. St. Christopher's, Chicopee - Rev. Scott Seabury | 6. World Mission | 21. The Commission on Ministry – The Rev. Nancy Strong, Chair | 21. Daily Bread Food Pantry, Milford |
| 7. St. Paul's, Holyoke - The Rev. Barbara Thrall, Dcn. Ann Wood | 7. Hospital Ministry Program, Boston | 22. Hampden Deanery - The Rev. Barbara Thrall, Dean | 22. North Berkshire Community Action |
| 8. Repose for the soul of The Rt. Rev. Thomas Frederick Davies, II. Bishop of Western Massachusetts | 8. Sherrill House, Boston | 23. All Retired Clergy | 23. St. Stephen's Table, Pittsfield |
| 9. Bishop's Chaplain to Retired and Clergy families – The Rev. Pam Mott and Rev. Dr. Richard Simpson | 9. Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless, Worcester | 24. St. Francis', Holden - Rev. Patrick Perkins and Rev. Karen Safstrom | 24. The Mission to Seafarers in North America & the Caribbean |
| 10. The Rev. Hilary Bogert-Winkler, Christian Formation Missioner | 10. Military Chaplains | 25. Trinity, Shrewsbury | 25. Tough Love Program, Amherst |
| 11. Trinity, Milford - Rev. Mac Murray and Dcn. Donna Kingman | 11. Seminaries of the Episcopal Church | 26. Christ Church, Rochdale – Rev. Dr. Molly Scherm | 26. The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Diocesan Missioner for Creation Care |
| 12. Trinity, Lenox - Rev. Michael Tuck | 12. National Episcopal Historians and Archivists | 27. St. Thomas', Auburn - Rev. David Hall | 27. Pittsfield Council of Churches |
| 13. St. Helena's Chapel, Lenox | 13. Church Musicians and Artists | 28. Grace Church, Oxford - Rev. Alfred TK Zadig Rev. George Warren, Rev. Julia Dunbar | 28. Greater Springfield Council of Churches |
| 14. Congregational Development Investment Team | 14. Mass. Council of Churches, The Rev. Laura Everett | | |
| 15. Central and West Worcester Deanery - The Rev. Janice C. Ford, Dean | 15. Episcopal Church Building Fund | | |

FOR YOU ARE
DUST
AND TO DUST
YOU SHALL RETURN



GENESIS 3:19

Contact Information

Phone: (413)628-4402

Mailing: PO Box 253
Ashfield, MA 01330

Email:
stjohnsashfield@verizon.net

Church Address: Corner of Main
and South Streets

St. John's Corner Address:
459 Main St.

Church Web Page:
www.stjohnsashfield.org

Secretary: Eleanor Dodson

Parish Nurse: Jane Wagener
(413) 625-2111 (home)

Vicar: The Reverend Eliot Moss
(413) 253-9242 (home)
(413) 695-4226 (cell)
moss@cs.umass.edu

Assisting Vicar:
The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Walters
(413)527-0652 (home)
(413)585-2797 (cell)
jwalters@smith.edu

Organist: Marilyn Berthelette
(413) 774-6748
myberthelette@gmail.com

Senior Warden: Susan Todd
(413) 628-3998 (home)

BE Still
and know that
I am GOD
-Psalms 46:10



*St. John's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 253
Ashfield, MA 01330-0253*