

The Lower Lights

St. Peter's-at-the-Light Episcopal Church
Barnegat Light, New Jersey

February 2021

There are many unique holidays to celebrate during the month of February:

Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day



(2/6)

National Drink Wine Day



(2/18), and

Tell a Fairy Tale Day



(2/26) to name just a few.



But the one we all know and recognize is **Valentine's Day**
which happens each February 14th.



In the United States, and many other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between friends and loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. The history of Valentine's Day (and the story of its patron saint) is shrouded in mystery and contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman traditions. Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages. It's common for friends and lovers to exchange a small token of affection and cards. Today, the Greeting Card Association estimates 145 million cards are sent each year – making it the second largest card sending holiday of the year! So, remember to mail your cards early!

This year during February we, along with many Christians throughout the world, will observe Lent, the annual season of sacrifice and simplicity. Lent is the Church season before Easter which begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until Easter Day. It is a season of fasting, prayer, spiritual growth and simplicity. Please mark your calendars for our [online](#) Lenten events.

Tuesday, February 16 – 5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Wednesday, February 17 – Ash Wednesday service at 5:00 p.m.
(Ashes for this service will be distributed in advance!)

Lenten Bible Study – Weekly during Lent

Please join us for the above events. Contact the office either by email to officestpeterslbi@gmail.com or by calling 609 – 494 – 2398 to let us know you will participate in the Ash Wednesday service, and do the same for the Bible Study Program. That will help us plan.

The Church's Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 24, 2021. The 2021 Mission Committee is comprised of the following:

Genevieve Bishop, Vicar	stpeterslbi.vicar@gmail.com 609-248-6334
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And our Vicar's reflection.....

February is approaching. From where I stand, I can watch the snow blanketing the yard. Thin blades of green and brown grass are poking through that snow blanket everywhere. The blades are short, for we are in the dead of winter and the earth is cold and stiff. If the snow keeps falling, all signs of the grass will be lost in the whiteness of the snow. It reminds me that so much of life – both the good and the bad – lies just below the surface.

Over the last month, we have witnessed all sorts of bad. Division. Distrust. Fear. Anger. Even hatred. And the resultant suffering. Most of us have been flabbergasted by what we have seen. We want to shut it down. We want to close our eyes. But somehow we can't. Every time we turn around, there is conversation – news – reminders. How are we to live with what we have witnessed? As the Psalmist prayed, "I turn my eyes to the mountains; from where will my help come?" (*Psalm 121.1*)

The words of the great Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel come to mind: "If a man has beheld evil, he may know that it was shown to him in order that he learn his own guilt and repent; for what is shown to him is also within him." (*Here Heschel is quoting the "Baal Shem" But that's a story for another day.*)

The seeds of division, of fear, of anger... the seeds of all that we have seen in our world this month... those seeds also lie deep within us. For that reason, it is a good thing that the season of Lent comes around every year. Lent is not concerned with the world around us, but with the world within. Lent invites us to take stock of the darkness within. We really would rather not. It's so much easier to bury it. As we approach Lent this year, let us commit to looking honestly below the surface of things. Let's look courageously at both the good and the bad within us. The good within is of God. The darkness within is waiting to be filled with God. As the light of God brightens within us, darkness will be driven out in us and in our world. Let's make this our individual and our communal work this Lent.

Blessings,

Genevieve

Birthday Celebrations

February 1
February 3
February 6
February 8
February 11
February 11
February 14
February 15
February 21
February 22
February 22



Booker Deakyne
Linda Pugliese
Georgia Koenig
Joan Malara
Jim Girgenti
Tomm Robinson
Valerie Kent
Rosemarie Ruf
Kirt Bass
Tony Bakum
Mary Stead

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations



February 23 (19 years)
February 24 (59 years)
February 25 (60 years)

Robert & Frances Knorr
Kirt & Bev Bass
Reg & Barbara Smith

We extend our heartiest congratulations to all!

*The Lord bless you and keep you!
The Lord lift his countenance upon you
And bless you with peace, joy, and love!*