



# The MESSAGE

## Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

108 N. King Avenue • Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024 • 731-285-3522  
[www.stmarysdyersburg.org](http://www.stmarysdyersburg.org) • [office@stmarysdyersburg.org](mailto:office@stmarysdyersburg.org)

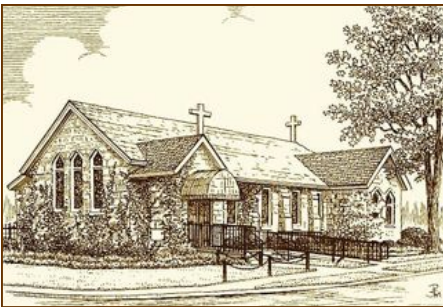
### WORSHIP TIMES

#### Sundays: Holy Eucharist

8:00 am: Traditional Rite I without music  
 10:30 am: Contemporary Rite II with music  
 (sung Eucharist on the first Sunday)

#### Wednesdays

12:05 pm: Holy Eucharist & healing prayers  
 3:20 pm: Atrium



### CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Don E. Johnson,  
*Bishop of West Tennessee*

The Rev. Gary Meade, *Rector*  
 Dr. Scott Roberts, *Organist*

Mrs. Melissa McLaughlin, *Parish Secretary*

### VESTRY AND LAY LEADERSHIP

Dudley Davis, *Senior Warden*

Bob Dean, *Junior Warden*

Tommy Hopper, *Treasurer*

Brooke Emery

Tiffani Glass

Judi Grunert

Bobbie Milligan

John Reed

Bubba Smith

Anita Toth

### A Few Words from

## The Rev. Gary Meade, Rector

*"Consecrate to me all the firstborn."*

— *Exodus 13:2a*

"It's Groundhog Day!" In a 1993 movie Bill Murray plays Phil Connors, a weatherman who has been sent to cover the annual Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania for a Pittsburgh television station. He finds himself reliving February 2 again and again and again. Every morning the clock radio in his hotel room wakes him with the same words cheerfully proclaiming: "It's Groundhog Day!" Repeating the same day over and over is a first a novelty, then a nightmare, then finally an opportunity. Only when he lives his life to the fullest — fulfilling his truest potential — can he wake up to a new day.

This year, on February 2, we celebrate the Presentation of our Lord Jesus. In accordance with Jewish law, the first-born males were presented in the Temple and therefore set apart especially for God. This had long been the practice and custom. The faithful came to the Temple in Jerusalem for many practices that had been observed for centuries, including the offering of animals, crops, and money to God.

Like Phil awaking to the same day over and over, the Jewish people had been engaging in the same ritualistic practices over and over, a pattern of worship repeated endlessly. Why? Every new harvest required a new offering of thanksgiving; every new year required a new sacrifice as part of the ongoing need to seek reconciliation with God.

At first Jesus' life follows this long-established pattern, including circumcision on the eighth day and his presentation as Joseph and Mary's first-born son. During his ministry, Jesus continues to participate in this apparently endless pattern. For example, we see him bring his disciples to Jerusalem to participate in the usual festivals including, most memorably, his final Passover.

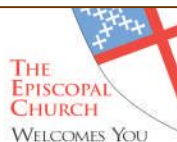
But Christ came into our world not to reinforce these old patterns but to subvert them and to replace them once and forever. In *Groundhog Day* Phil Connors has to live through the same day countless times to perfect himself. In our Gospels Jesus Christ needs live only through one life as the perfect Son of Man. In his perfect offering of himself, he breaks once and for all the endless cycle of sin and redemption underlying the Temple cultic practices.

The day of his presentation may have seemed ordinary enough, but old Simeon, who has been waiting years for this day, understands that this is no ordinary day and no ordinary child: "my eyes have seen your salvation," he proclaims to God (Luke 2:30). First-born sons were set aside for a holy purpose; Simeon knows that the child Jesus has been set aside by God for the most holy purpose of all: the salvation of all humanity.

In the movie, Phil could repeat a single day until he got it exactly right. It doesn't work that way in the real world, of course. And because of Christ's loving sacrifice, it doesn't have to. We don't have to find perfection in ourselves  
*A Few Words from*

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The Episcopal Church:  
 home to thoughtful  
 Christians since 1785



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## The Rev. Gary Meade, Rector

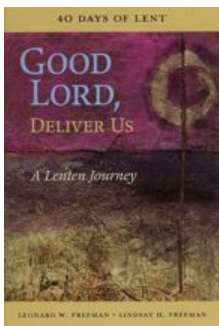
(an impossible task, to be sure) because we find our perfection in the Messiah of the world, Christ our Lord. Just as Jesus was presented to God to be marked as holy and dedicated to God may we, too, present ourselves to God that our lives, perfected in Christ, may also be holy in our dedication to our Lord.

Your servant in Christ,



Father Gary

## Lenten Devotional Available




Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, March 9. As is our custom, we have copies available of a devotional booklet for your use during this holy season. This year Fr. Gary has selected *Good Lord, Deliver Us: A Lenten Journey*. The publisher offers this description: "Guided by the heart and vision of thirty-two timeless petitions from Thomas Cranmer's Great Litany and by the wisdom of lessons from Holy Week and the Great Vigil of Easter, authors Leonard W. and Lindsay Hardin Freeman offer strength and encouragement for our walk to the cross as they look at the many ways in which deliverance comes to us. Like the Great Litany itself, their reflections speak of human frailty and holy grace, of the longings and aspirations of our human hearts, and of the transformative power of God's abiding love."

Copies will be available in the Wheeler Room in early March for a suggested donation of \$2.00.

It's Time for Mardi Gras!

The Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is coming soon! And why do we eat pancakes on this last day before Lent? According to the BBC website, "Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent—the 40 days leading up to Easter—was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday Christians went to confession and were 'shriven' (absolved from their sins). It was the last opportunity to use eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast, and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients."



Father Gary will be flipping pancakes, but we'll still have plenty of room on the table for whatever food you wish to bring: breakfast casseroles, breads, fruit salads, or whatever you would care to share.

So plan to share in the fun on **Tuesday, March 8 at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. Donations will be accepted on behalf of the Dyersburg / Dyer County Humane Society.



Begin Lent by sharing in the ancient tradition of the imposition of ashes as a reminder of our mortality and of our need for repentance before God. Two services will be offered on March 9: **12:00** and **6:00** pm.

## LIFELINE BLOOD SERVICES

The Bloodmobile will be at Dyersburg Electric on Thursday, February 17 from 12-6 pm and at Dyersburg Regional Medical Center on Thursday, February 24 from 12-5 pm. They are especially in need of O negative, B positive and B negative. Please help if you are able!



**3:** Jenny Wright. **4:** Kimberly Dobie.  
**9:** Glenn O'Bryan. **12:** Eden Bird.  
**13:** Heath Pritchett. **17:** Robert Toth.



**3:** Johnny & Judy Burks  
**4:** Eddie & Dudley Davis

| SUNDAY   |  | MONDAY                      | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                               | FRIDAY               | SATURDAY                |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>REGULAR WORSHIP &amp; CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b><br>Sundays: Holy Eucharist<br>8:00 am: Traditional Rite I without music<br>10:30 am: Contemporary Rite II with music (sung Eucharist on the first Sunday)<br>Sundays: Christian Education<br>9:30 am: Adult Bible Study<br>Wednesdays<br>12:05 pm: Holy Eucharist & healing prayers |  | 1                           | 2  | 3  | 4                                      | 5                    |                         |
|  |  | 7:00 pm: Confirmation Class | 12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers<br>3:20 pm: Atrium<br>5:30 pm: Book Club   | 5:15 pm: Bible Study-The New Testament   |  |                      |                         |
| <b>6 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist<br>9:30 am: Adult Bible Study<br><br>Chalice: K. Brunson    Lector: D. Palmer<br>Prayers: W. Heathcott    Acolyte: E. Glass<br>Usher: P. Viar    Vestry: B. Milligan  |  | 7                           | 8  | 9  | 10                                     | 11                   | 12                      |
|  |  |                             | 7:00 pm: Confirmation Class  | 12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers<br>3:20 pm: Atrium<br>5:30 pm: Book Club | 5:15 pm: Bible Study-The New Testament |                      |                         |
| <b>13 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist<br>9:30 am: Adult Bible Study<br><br>Chalice: B. Milligan    Lector: B. Reed<br>Prayers: D. Davis    Acolyte: S. Emery<br>Usher: J. Emery    Vestry: D. Davis  |  | 14                          | 15   | 16   | 17                                     | 18                   | 19                      |
|  |  |                             | 6:00 pm: Men's Group<br>7:00 pm: Confirmation Class  | 12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers<br>3:20 pm: Atrium<br>5:30 pm: Book Club | 5:15 pm: Bible Study-The New Testament |                      |                         |
| <b>20 The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist<br>9:30 am: Adult Bible Study<br><br>Third Sunday Luncheon<br>Chalice: B. Smith    Lector: L. Thurman<br>Prayers: D. Palmer    Acolyte: A. Hawkins<br>Usher: J. Hawkins    Vestry: T. Glass  |  | 21                          | 22   | 23   | 24                                     | 25                   | 26                      |
|  |  |                             | 5:30 pm: Vestry Meeting<br>7:00 pm: Confirmation Class   | 12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers<br>3:20 pm: Atrium<br>5:30 pm: Book Club | 5:15 pm: Bible Study-The New Testament | 6:00 pm: Movie Night | 10 am: Acolyte Training |
| <b>27 The Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist<br>9:30 am: Adult Bible Study<br><br>Chalice: M. Hudson    Lector: J. Reed<br>Prayers: M.S. David    Acolyte: T. Hopper<br>Usher: T. Hopper    Vestry: J. Reed  |  | 28                          | The LORD bless you and keep you;<br>the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;<br>the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.<br><br><i>The Priestly Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26</i> |  |  |                      |                         |

# Summary Budget Report for January 2011

|  | Actual             | Budget      | Difference |
|--|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>Regular Income (pledges, plate, etc.)</b> | 7201.44            | 11,666.00   | 4,465.56   |
| <b>Income from Endowment</b>                 | 4,166.66           | 5,000.00    | 833.34     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | \$11,368.10        | \$16,666.00 | 5,298.90   |
| <b>Expenses — Operating</b>                  | 13,485.68          | 15,216.00   | -1,730.32  |
| <b>Expenses — Outreach</b>                   | 275.33             | 1,446.00    | -1,170.67  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | 13,761.01          | 16,662.00   | -2,900.99  |
| <b>Income Less Expenses</b>                  | <b>\$-2,392.91</b> |             |            |
| <b>Value of Endowment (as of 12/31/10)</b>   | \$1,201,383.93     |             |            |

## OUR PRAYER LIST

### Those with immediate needs:

Gary and Sonja Bush  
Richard DeClue  
Martha Donner-Borthwick  
Hunter  
Brenda Irwin  
Wesley Sims  
Vickie Viar

### Those with ongoing needs:

Aaron Joshua  
Adam  
Andy  
Avery  
Chloe Bird  
Virginia Brunson  
Sue Burks King  
Kaitlyn Cash  
Dianne Donner  
Allen Freemont  
Johnnie Faye Hawkins  
L. D. Gant  
Lechia Holbrook  
Martha Horn  
June Lannom  
Teresa Layne  
Patti Murphy  
Amy Nance  
Jamie Owens  
Pat Roberts  
Ewell and Margaret Ruth Tucker  
Ginger Voss

*Names will be removed from our list of immediate needs after one month unless specified otherwise. Names from our list of long-term needs will only be removed upon request. To add yourself or another to this list, please complete a Prayer Request Card in the pew. You may also call or email the office.*

### FOR ANY PASTORAL CONCERNS

Please call Father Gary at home, 882-4925; or on his cell phone, 589-3370.

## Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

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Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024

