

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...

Forward Day By Day
Have you used this great prayer resource?

Weekly Parish Schedule
Add your group's event to the calendar: email stthomassooffice@googlegroups.com

Candlemas and Groundhogs
Sunday, February 2nd
The Feast of the Presentation

Forward Movement, a ministry of the Episcopal Church, grew out of the determination of the General Convention in 1934 to counter a period of anxiety, distrust, and decline in the Episcopal Church with a "forward movement" charged to "reinvigorate the life of the church and to rehabilitate its general, diocesan, and parochial work."

They are best known for the popular daily devotional Forward Day by Day, which provides daily meditations based on scripture readings appointed by the lectionary and Daily Office. Forward Day by Day is published in English, Spanish, large print, audio cassette, and Braille editions, and the daily meditation is available online.

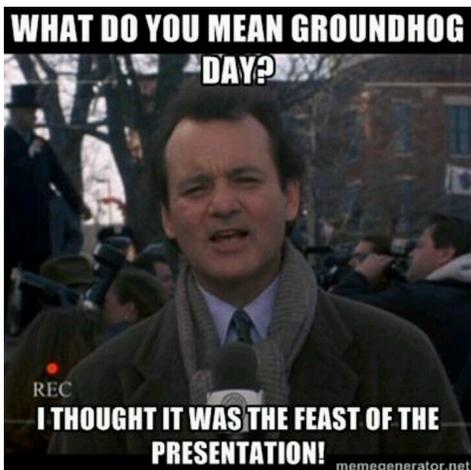
Our parish has copies of the daily devotions booklet available in the tract rack next to the office door, in the lobby. We have these available in both large and regular size print. Please avail yourself of this valuable resource.

Since 1935, Forward Movement has produced pamphlets, booklets, and books on such topics as prayer, liturgy, pastoral concerns, evangelism, stewardship, church history, and introductions to Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church. You can view all publications on their website, or request a catalog by writing to Forward Movement, 412 Sycamore St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. You may also call 1-800-543-1813.

For this new age, they are offering ebooks, other digital resources, and smartphone apps. Just as pamphlets were cutting-edge in 1934, they are always changing to meet the needs of our day. If you have a suggestion for a new product, publication, or service, they are always glad to hear from you.

Eight full-time and several part-time staff in Forward Movement's offices in downtown Cincinnati edit and design the publications, market them, fill orders, and respond to the diverse concerns of those who call and write with comments and questions. They welcome suggestions from congregations and readers on how we can be of more use and offer better service. Contact them with comments, questions, or concerns at 1-800-543-1813 or orders@forwardmovement.org.

Forward Movement receives no subsidy from the Episcopal Church and operates with a balanced budget. *You will notice a donation box on the rack where the Forward Day by Day pamphlets and books are, next to the office...*



Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ and the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is widely regarded as the end of the Christmas Season. It is based upon the account of the presentation of Jesus in Luke 2:22-40.

The Feast of the Presentation is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church, celebrated since the 4th century AD in Jerusalem. There are sermons on the Feast by the bishops Methodius of Patara (died 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (died 360), Gregory the Theologian (died 389), Amphilochius of Iconium (died 394), Gregory of Nyssa (died 400), and John Chrysostom (died 407). It is also mentioned in the pilgrimage of Egeria (381-384), where she confirmed that the celebrations took place in honor of the presentation of Jesus at the Temple.

In the 1700s, German settlers brought the Candlemas tradition to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. It came at the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. Superstition held that if the weather was fair, the second half of Winter would be stormy and cold.

The earliest American reference to Groundhog Day can be found at the Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center at Franklin and Marshall College: February 4, 1841 - from Morgantown, Berks County (Pennsylvania) storekeeper James Morris' diary..."Last Tuesday, the 2nd, was Candlemas day, the day on which, according to the Germans, the Groundhog peeps out of his winter quarters and if he sees his shadow he pops back for another six weeks nap, but if the day be cloudy he remains out, as the weather is to be moderate."According to the old English saying:

If Candlemas be fair and bright,

Winter has another flight.

If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,

Winter will not come again.

On Candlemas, many Christians brought their candles to church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year; for Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who referred to Himself as the Light of the World. With candle-making at home now more a hobby than a necessity, we reverse the process. We bless candles and send them out to be burnt in times of worry or sorrow or celebration. This upcoming Sunday the 2nd, we will incorporate this candle blessing into our worship services. We will begin in the Great Hall and process into the Nave as a congregation, with candles. **These candles will remind us of God's presence in every moment of our lives, and also that we are to be bearers of the light of Christ in the world.**

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 26

Family Church Sunday

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
9:15am (U) Nursery
10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, January 27

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

Tuesday, January 28

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
4:30pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
8:00pm (U) KIS AA

Wednesday, January 29

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
10:30am (C) Lectionary Bible Study
12:00pm (N) Intercessory Prayer
with Holy Eucharist
4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
5:45pm (P) Centering Prayer
8:30pm (GH,K) S College Speakers AA

Thursday, January 30

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
7:30pm (MR) St Gregory's Choir

Friday, January 31

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
12:00pm (P) Al-Anon
6:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 778
6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, January 1

9:00am (GH) Liturgy Guild
interest meeting and refresher
1:00pm (GH,S) Brook Kortvelesy funeral
reception in the GH to follow

Sunday, January 2 Candlemas

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
9:15am (U) Nursery
9:30am (U) Children's Worship
10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
12:00pm (C) CREW
2:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

(C) Classroom	(MR) Music Room
(GH) Great Hall	(U) Undercroft
(N) Nave	(BO) Business Office
(P) Parlor	(RO) Rector's Office