

# Bristol Trinity Episcopal Church Monthly Newsletter

## March 2025



From the Rector's Desk:

Embracing our true purpose

The season of Lent in 2025 begins on Ash Wednesday, at a time when we find ourselves in the midst of divisions, conflicts, hate, struggles, discrimination, and economic challenges. We are now living in fear and uncertainty. We feel threatened and all this has negatively affected our social, spiritual and economic lives. What is God saying to us during this Lent season?

A story is told of two camels, a mother and her young calf, who were sitting under a tree enjoying the shade in a zoo.

The young camel, full of curiosity, turned to its mother and asked, "Mom, why do we have these big humps on our backs?"

The mother camel smiled and replied, "Our humps store fat, my dear, so we can survive long journeys across the desert without needing food.

The young camel thought for a moment and asked another question, "And why do you have such long legs and padded feet?"

The mother answered patiently, "Our long and wide feet help us walk on the hot soft desert sand without sinking."

The calf still curious asked, "Why do we have such thick eyelashes?"

The mother said, "Our thick eyelashes protect our eyes from the sand and the harsh sun in the desert."

After a moment of silence, the young camel looked around, puzzled, and finally asked, "Mom, if we all have these amazing things for surviving in the desert... what are we doing here in the zoo?"

This simple story is a powerful reminder that we are designed with a purpose. God has gifted us with talents, abilities and spiritual gifts meant to be used for His glory and to serve others.

The apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:10 that we are God's handiwork, uniquely crafted to accomplish the good works He prepared for us. Just like the camel was designed for the desert, we too have a divine purpose that aligns with God's plan.

However, it's easy to get comfortable or stuck in places where we aren't living out that purpose. Maybe it's a job, a relationship, or even a mindset that limits us from stepping into the fulness of what God has designed us for. Sometimes like the camels in the zoo, we settle for less than what God has prepared for us because it's easier or familiar. But God calls us to more and greater.

God calling us not to get comfortable at the zoo, but to come out and seek forgiveness and reconciliation with one another as a way of renewal. To lament over the struggles we are going through, we will call on God in prayer and fasting to bring peace and justice. And finally, to hope in Christ as we begin our Lenten journey that culminates on Easter. Through this we will be able to embrace our true purpose. I wish you all a blessed month of March and Lenten season!

The Rev. John Gitau

**Here's what is happening in March:**

**March 5: Ash Wednesday - BTEC: 12noon in the chapel; HTLC: 7pm**

**March 9: There will be a Special Bishop visit with St. John's in Holbrook**

**BTEC members are all invited to attend this special service at 10am**

**March 12: Lenten Soup & Reflection – held at 6pm in the fellowship hall with HTLC**

**March 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Red Cross Blood Drive in the fellowship hall: 9am-2pm**

March 16: Eucharist service at 9:45am

March 16: Sunday school, 9:30am

March 16: BTEC Coffee Hour

March 18: Monthly Vestry meeting, 6:30pm

March 19: Eucharist service and dinner at TACT, 6pm

**March 19: Lenten Soup & Reflection – held at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall with HTLC**

March 23: Morning Prayer, 9:45am

**March 26: Lenten Soup & Reflection – held at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall with HTLC**

**March 30: BTEC will host a Combined Eucharist service with St. John's Holbrook at BTEC at 9:45am**

March 30: Sunday school, 9:30am

**April 2: Lenten Soup & Reflection – held at 6pm in the fellowship hall with HTLC**

**April 9: Lenten Soup & Reflection – held at 6pm in the fellowship hall with HTLC**

**Daylight Saving Time Begins on Sunday, March 9**

**Be sure to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, March 15, 2025**

**This event is held by Bristol Trinity - 9am to 2pm in the Fellowship Hall**

Below is the link for signing up:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=BristolTrinity>

To everyone who is even considering donating, THANK YOU!

If you are able to donate, please remember to hydrate before your scheduled appt.

I am also looking for 1 or 2 people to help me check in donors.

I plan to be there the whole time, but don't expect anyone else to – unless you want to.

If you have any questions at all, please check with Eric.