

Epiphany 2018,

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Sometimes two things occur at the same time. Sometimes we call this serendipity or synchronicity. Sometimes we call it coincidence or kismet and sometimes we call it an accident. We usually find ways of making meaning of these events that either dovetail or collide. Who can say?

Well we can say! According to Genesis, God called us to name every living creature and by extension we become co-creators with God and give meaning to all the things and events around us. As we get older we see some meanings change, as we see the narrative of our lives take on ever new shapes and dimensions. For those on a journey of faith, things become more or more meaningful and at the same time things that once seemed important may no longer hold the same power over our imaginations.

This next **Wednesday, February 14th is both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday!** It is a celebration of Love and Death, Eros and Thanatos! For Freud, it was all about libido, until it was also about his discovery of the death drive. On this day as we declare our desire for the other even as we also recognize our own mortality. We learn the true significance of love by our experience of it in our precious, limited time.

Are we at war with the prevalent culture and it's fixation on romance? Or, conversely, do we deepen the discussion with the wisdom of the Psalmist who implores us to "number our days?" I would contend that church calls us to an added depth and gravitas in our sometimes playful celebration of life. It is not so much, either-or, as it is, both-and (more!).

This Wednesday, February 14th, we invite you to join us at any of three enriching celebrations **8:00 A.M., Noon and 7 P.M.** with Eucharist. As we begin our 40 day observance of a Holy Lent and poetically walk with Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days, let us also see this process as increasing our capacity to lovingly engage this world and all God's people.

To prepare for this observance, we will have our regular practice of celebrating Shrove Tuesday with a **Pancake Dinner at 6 P.M. on Tuesday the 13th of February** in Levy Hall.

Blessings,
The Rev. Steven J. Yagerman