



BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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St. John's Episcopal Church

April Epistle

From the Rector

Soon it will be Easter. The Sunday of the Resurrection is just around the corner. "Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!" That is the ageless greeting of the day. And every Sunday service during the year is meant to be a 'little Easter', a celebration of that most defining moment for Christians.

There are some steps yet to take. They are the Holy Week services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. And, this year, once more, we're going to add The Easter Vigil on Saturday night. As one friend once put it, "You need to experience the Holy Week services to feel the fullness of Easter." There is a good bit of truth in that. It is no accident that the Prayer Book has the Special Liturgies for these days immediately before the service of Baptism and Holy Eucharist.

The simplicity of Maundy Thursday and the remembrance of the Last Supper brings back something of the simplicity of the people who followed Jesus and his commitment and self-giving, to them and to God.

Good Friday, just by virtue of the name, captures something of the paradox of faith and of life. *Paradox* means two seemingly conflicting truths, like saying

Jesus was fully human and fully divine. And, so, we call it "Good Friday", but how is that so? With the reading of the Passion, with the prayers and collects reminding us of the brokenness about us, so poignantly in that prayer in which we recall how in the name of Christ we have "persecuted others" where is the Good? When all is said and done, on Good Friday we stand naked before God, the Holy One, before whom all hearts are open, no secrets are hid, and all desires are known. Perhaps that is what makes it good.

The Easter Vigil was done here some years back, and we're going to do it again. In this service, from the kindling of the first fire, to the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant culminating with the first Eucharist of Easter, it carries a special message of engagement rather than observance.

I picked up John Dominic Crossan's book, "In Parables", this Lent. He points out three aspects describing the Kingdom of God Jesus presents in his parables--*advent*, *reversal*, and *action*. *Advent* is not the season; it is the surprise or the gift found in parables, as in the pearl or the treasure. With the finding comes surprise and joy. *Reversal* is not a negative thing but the life-changing, new-world life presented in parables. And, *Action* is that ever-changed, empowered direction the parable people take. Crossan does a great job of keeping us from becoming too confident of mastering parables and

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Senior Warden's Corner



If you can remember my recent March Letter you will recall that my sacrifice for Lent this year was giving up my free time to any opportunity that the Church might offer. If I am going to ask each of you to get involved in a ministry at St John's then the least I can do is to lead by example. It appears to me that many other folks at the church are energized and taking on ministries that whether they realize it or not, and are growing their relationships in Christ. Catherine Massey pulled off a wonderful "Italian Night" on Sunday March 22. I know there had to be 60+ adults and children in attendance. It was great driving up and seeing the kids outside playing. While seeing everyone at church each Sunday is nice, you simply get to know people better over a plate of lasagna.

Carolyn Stoklas has done a marvelous job planning for the yard

sale on April 4 by having Darden Baker, Becky Houston, Miriam and Bill Houtz, Arlene McCullough, Patti Davis, Lynn Bartholomew, and Carol Dubber from the ECW open the church the last 2 Saturdays to receive the yard sale items. Again, while giving time to these projects or ministries parishioners are interacting and getting to know each other better. After all, in the end isn't building these Christian relationships with each other the reason we all come to St John's each Sunday--searching for that human as well as the spiritual connection that we all need.

I'm also happy to report to you that another important ministry at St John's, The Columbarium Committee, has experienced a new infusion of energy. Frank Sullivan, Julie Arthur, Don Meyers, Peggy Scott, Darden Baker, and Jr. Warden Rob Reichmeider have big plans on sprucing up and maintaining this very visible part of our church. A financial gift has been offered to the church for the placement of a Cross in the

Columbarium. You may have noticed two crosses on the hill over the last several weeks. They were placed to give a visual idea of the cross. The committee is discussing type, size, and placement of the cross at this point. You are all welcome at any time to offer your time to pull weeds. No appointment necessary!

I've never been very big on attending "special" classes in the church but I have to tell you that the Lenten Classes conducted by our Deacon John Linscott and wife Susan with assistance from Mid and Joanne Wooten were quite informative. There were from 15 to 20 of us each week in attendance. If you like me have never been led through the 14 stations of the cross you are missing an unbelievable opportunity to experience a meaning of the Easter Season at a deeper more contemplative level. I am very glad I decided to devote time to these classes and I'm sure all in attendance would like to thank John, Susan, Mid, and Joanne for giving their time.

Well, my creative writing juices have about stopped flowing for this month. I think that you can recognize my continuing theme of getting involved in St. John's outside of Sunday Worship. There are so many ministries that you can give your time and talent and so many ministries that would gladly accept your offer. Did I say that you will receive back much more than you put in?... Just as I have.

*Yours in Christ,
Tom Baker*

From the Rector - continued from page 1

making them subject to ourselves. Instead, he reminds us that "Parable is the house of God."

Easter is just around the corner. What lies ahead in our services are not so much tools or means to an end, but more of gifts, offerings, and directions:

- * The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, 8 and 10 am, April 5th
- * Maundy Thursday, 7 pm, April 9th
- * Good Friday, Noon, April 10th
- * The Great Vigil of Easter, 7 pm, Saturday, April 11th
- * The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday, 8am and 10am, April 12th

- Jerry Fisher

Stewardship Report from the Finance Committee

Stewardship relates to the vestry's responsibility to properly utilize resources, property, and financial assets to ensure that expenditures are appropriate and sustainable over time. Simply put, Stewardship is taking care of finances.

Your giving to the church operating and capital funds allows programs and ministries to run in the short and long term. Currently, our goal is to keep a watchful eye on expenditures to avoid running a deficit and not require additional pledges from the congregation. The results for 2008 expenses were excellent, although over budget by 0.7% or \$3,500. The 2009 expense budget has not increased over 2008 amounts. We have several areas we are looking at to keep the expenses in-line when, as you know, many costs are slowly rising. There will be more about these programs, such as the energy audit and efficiencies in future bulletins.

The 2009 stewardship campaign was successful in reaching our minimum target of \$200,000. Thank you so very much for your support of our church. We are pleased to report that expenses for the first few months of 2009 are identical to 2008. As the

financial picture becomes clearer, we will look to balance debt repayment and new spending. It would be wonderful to add new programs or equipment and there are good ways to put those funds to work. On an ongoing basis, every idea is examined by the vestry for the costs and the positive impact it could have on the congregation and mission of the church. Please bring your ideas to the vestry so we can help make these ideas into reality.

Longer term investments into the church like the '07-'09 capital campaign have been successful. Your planned contributions for 2009 will be needed in order to meet the financial obligations of this program. If you are a newcomer and are in a position to provide funds this year for the building improvement projects, please see one of the vestry members listed in the bulletin. These investments have helped to complete the downstairs construction under the preschool and minimize the amount of new debt being added.

Paying down the longer term debt is a crucial plan to the church and diocese to make sure "we are

not living off the seed corn." In addition, we are developing plans for future investments in more efficient equipment and keeping funds available for the building maintenance "rainy day" needs.

Currently, because of the low mortgage rates, the finance committee is reviewing our outstanding mortgage and line of credit that was used to finance the construction. Our goals will be to get the best commercial rates available while utilizing a bank that can provide great customer service and possibly some additional on-line tools to help make accounting and giving processes easier. The banks are currently reviewing our information and providing a "Stress Test" on the church finances. Thus far, feedback we have received says we have a solid financial foundation.

We hope this information is useful in understanding financial soundness of St. Johns and how operating and capital funds allow programs and ministries to function. Thank you again for your generosity and volunteerism in helping the church do Gods work.

Preschool News

The preschool recently applied for a grant from the American Academy of Dermatology for a sun safe shade structure for the toddler playground. Recipients will be notified in June so we need your prayers! Teachers have implemented creative sun safety lessons that teach children about the strength of the sun and how they

can "Block the sun not the fun"!

A parent of one of 4-year-olds is collecting gently used shoes and toys for people in Afghanistan. The brother of one of our teacher's is in the National Guard and is stationed in Afghanistan. He is receiving our packages and distributing items to very grateful families. He said the

need for shoes is tremendous. We have sent 18 boxes so far and have 20 more to send, however funds are needed due to high shipping costs. If you have a few dollars to contribute to this worthy cause, there is a collection envelope on the preschool bulletin board in the parish hall.

- Kristen Baron

Miscellaneous News

The **United Thank Offering (UTO)** is a mission of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church. The UTO's mission is to expand the circle of thankful people through daily prayers, offerings, and awareness of God's blessings. The UTO allocates the offerings to ministries that alleviate profound human suffering and impact the lives of women and children. We will be handing out the boxes

starting Sunday April 26th. Collection day is May 24th. - *Dorie Allen*

Care Group: I would like to extend a thank you to all who have helped provide meals or service to families within our congregation. Please let me know of anyone in our congregation who may need meals or service (skesler35@yahoo.com or 556-1657). Thanks! - *Sloan Walkup*

Let Us Know About Our Students: Graduations are ahead. Please let us know about our students graduating from High School and College. We want to include them in future newsletters, so if you can send a picture and tell us what their plans are, we'd like to share it with everyone. Send them to Mary Ellen Archer using the church's email, stjohns@stjohnswf.com, or to the church office.



Easter Memorial Plants for the Columbarium

The Flower Guild and the Columbarium Board have teamed up to take us in a new direction. Instead of lilies for Easter memorial plants, they are inviting your memorials for plantings in the Columbarium.

Two years ago, the plantings in the Columbarium were bright, full and beautiful. Unfortunately, the deer found them to be attractive, too. And, we had two successive years of

draught. The Columbarium Board has assembled a variety of plants both drought hardy and least attractive to deer. So, rather than lilies that are attractive only for a short while, memorial contributions this Easter will be used for the purchase of plantings. And the altar array for Easter will be done with many of the plants chosen for this purpose.

If you would like to make a donation, in any amount, to honor people in your life and to the Glory of God, it will become a permanent gift visible in the Columbarium. You may use the form below or the Memorial Envelope found in the narthex of the church.

Easter Memorial		
Donor's Name:		Telephone No.
Given in Memory of:		
Given in Honor of:		
Amount of your gift:		

Sunday Suppers @ St. John's

Last month's Italian-themed Sunday Supper was such a hit, we're planning another one for April! **Sunday Suppers** is a collaborative effort to get us together as parishioners and as a collective family. Look for a low-key, friendly way to end the weekend or prepare for the upcoming week.

- * **What:** A time for fellowship with our fellow parishioners-- "How are you doing?" up close
 - * **When:** Sunday, April 25th
 - * **Time:** 5 pm - 7 pm
 - * **Theme:** Cookout
- Look for a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall on the bulletin board.

We'll have the basketball goal set up and cordoned off from cars for some hoops action and if anyone would bring a couple of soccer balls, maybe some folks would like to kick a ball around.

If you have questions, please contact Catherine Massey at ctmassey@earthlink.net or (919) 453-0269. at (919)453-0269.



Christian Education

Thank you to all who have contributed candies and eggs and especially to Cathy Barham who have



helped to organized this year's egg hunt. I know the children will have a wonderful time con-

tinuing this great St. John's Easter tradition!

Please mark your calendar now for May 24 when we will wrap up our regular church school year with a pot-luck picnic.

It is already time to look forward to our age-integrated Summer Sundays program. As you begin to plan your summer activities, please consider reserving one or two Sundays to help with this special program. It is a won-

derful way to get to know some of our younger parishioners!

- Ann Holmes



In Our Prayers



Our Parishioners and Their Families:

Alfie Adams
Tiffany Bell
Mimi, Tori Bennett's mother
Nancy Blackman, Jean McCamy's cousin
Nancy, Karen Bell's mother
Bob, Kathy Binns' husband
Kay Brewer, Jenny Brewer's daughter-in-law
R.V. Cate, Jackie & Amy Bailey's brother-in-law
Jay Chapman, Carol Smith's father
Wayne and Nancy Clausen
Patrick Cubberly, Patty & Rob Reichmeider's nephew
Virginia Currie
Ruth Dancy, Mollie River's daughter
Al Dubber, Carol's husband
Frankie Epps / Sarah Fort
Magen Ferland, Emily Duplessis' friend
Nick, Sheryl Friedrichs' husband
Brenda Gainey, Milly Nelligar's sister
Alton Hare / Dot Hinton
Tom Holt, Lee's father
Arlene Homan, Joyce McPherson's mother
Drew Hoover's mother
The Rev. Burton Linscott, John's father
Jay Martin, Adam & Kathryn Martin-Meurer,
Mary Martin's son, daughter, and son-in-law
Anna Melvin, Roger's sister,
Barbara and Gene Montague
Dick Monteith
Kristen and Andrew Monteith, Dick & Janet's
son and daughter-in-law
Regina Morris, friend of The Hall Family
Ginger Morrison
Susan Neely
Liz Newberry, Sallie Newberry's daughter-in-law
Hudson Nowell, Shawn and Craig's nephew
Robert Hart Raynor, Milly Nelligar's cousin
Lisa M. Robertson, Gene and Barbara's daughter
Janie Rodgers, Cindy Hall's cousin
Fran Taliaferro, Catherine Massey's mother
Frank Toney
Silvia Travaglione, Laura Santos's sister-in-law

Nellie Trawick, Cindy Hall's grandmother
Nash Underwood, Judy Gould's father
Linda Wolfgang, Dave McPherson's cousin

Our Friends:

Caeden	Barbara Kearns
Lille Boyte	Anna Lee Long
Steve Brooks	Andra McRae
Claudia Brugaletta	Phyllis & Pete Mickseckutz
John Burek	Eva Martinez Paharik
Tommy Byrne, Jr.	Gary Pike
Eden Carroll	Marisa Rosa
Pat Cawley	Tom Schwab
Nancy Coats	Clark Shelton
Diane Davis	Deborah Snow
Jackie Diaz-Cid	Lynn Springer
Jim Duke	Felecia Stephens
Laura Faulkner	Vann Taylor
Lynn Furtell & family	Faye Tessiner
Dee Gillespie	Stephon Williams
Eric Hansen	Louise Young
Don Jones	

Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:

Thomas, son of Tom and Darden Baker
John, son of Pinky & David Cooke
Eric Fancher, brother of Jessica Graber
Steven, son of Carolyn Filo
Matt Jeanerett, nephew of Greg & Sonia Ingram
Frank Kelly, grandson of Frank & Carol Smith
Michael Klump, brother of Kathy Binns
Megan Leone
Sean Lynch, friend of Pinky & David Cooke
Kevin and Chad Marshall, friends of Virginia Olsen
Zachary McBee
Ryan McDavitt
Thomas McDonald, friend of Kristen Davis
Ben Miller and Drew Holt, nephews of Lee and Perri Holt
Josh Norton, friend of Mike Berger
Kyle Weinel

Ministry Assignments

Calendar	Acolytes	Readers	Chalice	Greeters	Ushers	Flower Guild	Altar Guild	Lessons	Sermon
05-Apr Sunday of the Passion	8:00 Patrick Barham 10:00 Vann McDuffie John McDuffie Jack Presson	Elwood Munz Harold Davis Sally Fisher	Bob Bidwell Lee Holt		Larry Demanovich Durward Matheny Michael McDuffie	Flower Guild	Vivian Jones and Melanie Murphy	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47	Jerry Fisher
09-Apr Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM	Elena Harp	Eleas Ottley		Dave McPherson	No flowers or greens	Elizabeth McDuffie and Patti Reichmeider	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116:1, 10-17 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jerry Fisher
10-Apr Good Friday	Noon					No flowers or greens		Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1-19:42	Jerry Fisher
12-Apr Easter Day	8:00 Conner Williams 10:00 Patrick Barham Jacob Holt Kristen Kramer	Jan Williams Ellen Holst Megan Holst	Bob Bidwell Durward Matheny	Elwood and Helen Munz	Greg Williams Roger Mevin Louis Mullinger	Flower Guild	Arline McCullough and Denise Munz	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18	John Linscott
19-Apr Easter 2	8:00 Bob Bidwell 10:00 Sean Leech Philip Page Sidney Osbome	Al Reynolds Lisa Hunt Craig Johnson	Bob Bidwell Kenille Baumgardner	Alfie Adams and Jenny Brewer	Al Reynolds Bob Nelligar Al Reynolds	Sharon Davenport	Alfie Adams and Jenny Brewer	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-22 John 20:19-31	Mid Wootten
26-Apr Easter 3	8:00 Bob Bidwell 10:00 Patrick Barham Trevor Daw Trevor Telenko	Emily Baker Vivian Jones Donna King	Bob Bidwell Jenny Brewer	Harold Davis Louis Mullinger	Tom Baker John Rich David Roberts	Pinky Cooke	Kenille Baumgardner and Karen Demanovich	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4:13-25 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	Gene Montague
03-May Easter 4	8:00 Conner Williams 10:00 Jacob Holt Chalton Holt Patrick Ingram	Jan Williams Tom Marshall Rachel Pottern	Bob Bidwell Jim Davenport	Jim and Sharon Davenport	Larry Demanovich Frank Smith Frank Toney, Jr.	Shirley MCHose	Ruth Crawford and Sharon Davenport	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Jerry Fisher



April Birthdays

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 01 Dot Hinton | 09 Alice Pahl | 16 Tony Graber | 27 Tom Raper |
| 02 Nathan Barham | 10 Matthew Fisher | 17 Mike Allen | 28 Sue Blake |
| Darrel Collins | 11 Durward Matheny | 20 Perri Holt | Jean Root |
| 03 Ashley Reynolds | Denise Munz | David Wilkerson | Trey Brame III |
| Jennifer Sloan | 14 Jacob Holt | 21 Lisa Hunt | 30 Bill Goldston |
| 04 Kevin James | David Paff | 23 Patti Davis | Emma Renfrow |
| 05 Jack Manley | Melanie Paff | Vivian Jones | |
| 09 John McDuffie | Patty Reichmeider | 25 Conner Williams | |



St. John's Episcopal Church

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Building the Body of Christ

From the Parish Register

Transfers - *Give them courage, patience, vision and strength in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others.*

John Derrick to Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, NC

