

THE EPISTLE

A PUBLICATION OF ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARCH 2007

From the Rector

The Kingdom of God is like standing on your head and seeing the world upside down. It is seeing things differently. It is seeing things the way God apparently sees them. God, according to Jesus, sees greatness in small people and things and actions, in the seemingly insignificant people and events we tend to overlook. God is looking for justice and fairness and peace. One Bible scholar says that 'Your Kingdom Come' should be translated "Set the world right."

*--from "Your Kingdom Come"
by Mimsy Jones*

At St. Paul's as we journey through Lent and Holy Week in the hopes of a glorious Easter we are reminded that through Jesus' suffering his goal was always the Kingdom of God. Our goal as we journey should be the same; seeking always in every place the kingdom of God.

But in seeking God's kingdom we can become so focused on the in-breaking of God's kingdom at Easter that we forget that Easter has no meaning without Good Friday. On Easter our church will be packed with visitors and those seeking once more to see Christ resurrected, but on Good Friday only a few will stand at the foot of the Cross. Yet it is precisely at the foot of the Cross that many in our community stand; we can't fully experience resurrection in our lives until we fully understand what it means to spend our time at the Cross.

My challenge to you this year is to experience Holy Week, to fully participate from Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday. To bring all the Good Friday's in your life—illness, sadness, broken relationships, and offer them at the foot of the cross in the hopes of the empty tomb. It is easy to find reasons why not to, your challenge is to find a reason why you should. See you in church.

Fr. Deon+



An Icon is a prayer in line and form;
a hymn of praise in color and harmony.
An icon is a work of beauty inspired by
God;
an offering of the soul,
painted to adorn the Church.
An icon speaks to the heart and soul of
the faithful;
a window into Heaven,
lifting us up to Christ and the Saints.
An Icon belongs to the liturgical worship
of the Church,
embodies eternity
and brings Heaven to earth.

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SACRED TRIDUUM??

From early times Christians have observed the week before Easter as a time of special devotion. As the pilgrim Egeria recorded in the late fourth century, Jerusalem contained many sacred places that were sites for devotion and liturgy. Numerous pilgrims to the holy city followed the path of Jesus in his last days. They formed

HOLY WEEK



processions, worshipped where Christ suffered and died, and venerated relics. From this beginning evolved the rites we observe today on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

These services provide a liturgical experience of the last days of Jesus' earthly life, as well as the time and events leading up to his resurrection. The BCP provides special liturgies for each of these days. The Eucharistic lectionary also provides proper readings for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week. Some parishes observe the service of Tenebrae on one of these days in Holy Week. In many dioceses, the diocesan clergy will make a reaffirmation of ordination vows in the context of a Eucharist during Holy Week, usually before Maundy Thursday.

The three holy days, or Triduum, of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are at the heart of the Holy Week observance. In many Episcopal parishes, the liturgical color for Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Maundy

Thursday is red. Holy Week ends at sundown on the Saturday before Easter, or with the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

LENTEN DINNER & PROGRAM

LENTEN POTLUCK SUPPERS WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

6:30PM Dinner

7:00PM "Ground Work; Into the World of Prayer"

7:45 Evening Devotion

Into the World of Common Prayer

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent as we explore the many aspects of prayer. The program dates and content are as follows:

March 14

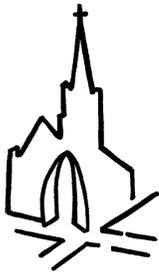
Scripture as prayer; "God was in this place and I, I did not know"

March 21

Francis and the world as prayer; "Preach the Gospel, use words if necessary."

March 28

Prayer in Practice; "Lord, teach us to pray"



God is in the House- The Diocese of Michigan is putting on an overnight retreat for youth in grades 6-8 from March 16-17 at the Emrich Center outside of Brighton. This will be a wonderful way for our young people to meet other Episcopalians from southeast Michigan. You will play games, sing songs, make some cool stuff, worship together and explore ways that God is "in the house" all the time. The retreat will begin at 7:00pm on Friday and run until 3:00pm on Saturday. The cost is \$25 per person, and St. Paul's Youth Fund will pay for this for you. So come on out and have some fun and meet some new people. Call or see Phil Smith for more details. Registration forms need to be sent in by March 8th.



Church-Wide Mission Trip

We are in the early planning stages of scheduling a mission trip for the summer of 2008. All parishioners will be invited to attend. We believe that this will be a chance for all of us to strengthen our spiritual lives and grow together as a parish as we work to benefit those who are less fortunate than ourselves. If you have any ideas or questions, please contact Phil Smith.



Michi-Lu-Ca and Stony Lake Camp Overnight Retreat in Howell- St. John's Episcopal Church is inviting all teens from 7th to 12th grade to an overnight at their church on Friday, March 30th. The summer camp staffs from these two camps will be on hand to give the youth a taste of summer camp without all the mosquitoes and poison ivy. St. John's is inviting the teens from 7 Episcopalian and Lutheran churches in this area to get together for camp songs, team building games, small group Bible studies, outside games, skits and prayer time. You may also invite your friends, and those who play musical instruments are encouraged to bring their instruments along. The fee for our church is \$75, which covers as many youth as we want to send. So let's have a great turnout for this fun-filled night of camaraderie. The fun begins at 8:00pm on Friday, March 30th, and ends after breakfast on Saturday, which will be served starting at 5:30am. So those of you who have Saturday plans will still have plenty of time to go home and get a couple of hours of sleep before heading out on Saturday. Call or see Phil Smith for more details. We can register up until March 19th.

Rite 13 Ceremony

Our next Rite 13 Ceremony will take place on April 22nd. We currently have 4 youth who are eligible to take part in this special ceremony. Please contact Phil Smith if you have a young person who is turning 13 this spring/summer, or who has already turned 13, who you wish to take part in this ceremony.

Youth Sunday

Our next Youth Sunday is scheduled for March 25. We will be needing youth from grades 4 to 12 to help with the service.

Easter Vigil-

All children are invited to help celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord during the special service called the Easter Vigil that will take place this year on Sat. April 7th at 8:00pm. An Easter egg hunt for the young ones will take place on Easter morning, April 8th.



SPACES IN-BETWEEN:
an interactive journey
through Holy Week.

The Youth Group and People of
St. Paul's invites you, during Holy week,
to journey with Jesus through the spaces
of Jerusalem.

**Exhibit will be open Monday through Thursday
April 2 – 5, 2007
1:00pm – 8:00pm**

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION (PALM SUNDAY)

April 1, 2007
8:30am & 10:30am

GOOD FRIDAY

April 6, 2007
3:00 PM – Stations of the Cross & Devotions
7:00 PM – Proper Liturgy for Good Friday

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

April 2-4, 7:00 PM – Evening Prayer

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 5, 2007
7:00 PM, Agape Meal & The Holy Eucharist

Saturday, April 7, 2007
8:00 PM – Vigil & Holy Eucharist

THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION (EASTER DAY)

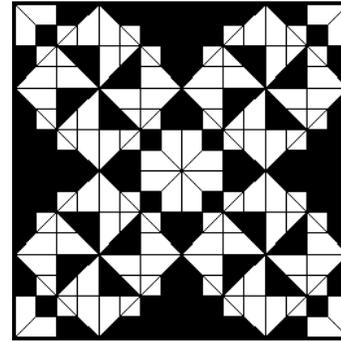
April 8, 2007
8:30 AM -Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM – Festive Holy Eucharist –(followed by Egg Hunt)

Parish-Wide Trip to see the Lansing Lugnuts

We have a tentative date of Friday, July 13th as the day we will travel up to Lansing to see the Lugnuts play baseball. The day will begin with all of the children of the parish gathering at the church for some fun and games, lunch, and a mini Summer Bible school program. Later in the day the adults will arrive and we will carpool up to the game. We expect this to be a wonderful evening of fellowship for our whole parish family. Stay tuned for more information to follow next month.

LAST CHANCE!!

March 25, 2007 is the last chance to be included in the parish Quilt.



Each family unit is invited to submit a piece of fabric with special meaning that measures 7 1/2 x 12 3/4. All of the individual pieces will be incorporated into a parish quilt. You may contact Bev Field for further information.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EUCHARIST



During Lent, at the 5:30 Eucharist we will follow in the footsteps of our early Christian Ancestors and walk the way of the Christ. Join us each **Saturday in Lent at 5:30pm** for Stations of the Cross and the Holy Eucharist.

Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

Ministry Fair 2007

Saturday, May 5, 2007

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Christ Episcopal Church, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd.

Grosse Pointe, MI 48236



The Dorothy Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King will hold their next meeting on Saturday, March 10 at 9:30 AM.

All women of the parish are invited to attend. We are planning many spring and early summer activities.

We are also beginning a study of "The Heart of Mary" by Joanna Weaver.



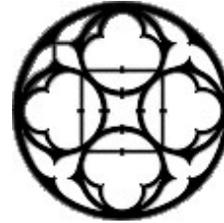
MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Bay	3/1
Melanie McKenna	3/1
Jeanne Smith	3/1
Ruth Weber	3/1
Allan West	3/2
Evan Shields	3/5
Barbara Johnson	3/6
Chloe Haskins	3/8
Diana Szalay	3/10
Tim Anguish	3/11
Katy Latham	3/12
Jerry Knapp	3/13
Sue Bell	3/14
Dave Claydon	3/19
Suzanne Conerway	3/20
Christine Grajek	3/21
Josh Latham	3/21
Caitlin Cofield	3/22
Becky Cook	3/24
Morgan Haskins	3/25
Jack Heinonen	3/26
Peter Finkbeiner	3/30
Jaime Reichlmayr	3/30

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Colin and Helen MacGregor	3/2
Dave and Janet Claydon	3/3
Rick and Laurie Bourbonais	3/11
Dave and Linda Raleigh	3/11

**WHERE IS GOD CALLING
ST. PAUL'S ?**



CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT TEAM

The Vestry and Rector has convened a Congregational Assessment Team. They have appointed Suzanne Conerway and Hugh Munce to coordinate this team. Members include Bob Chenoweth, Wende Cofield, Sanjay Khunger, Jon Paggett and Janet Thurston.

The newly formed Congregational Assessment Team will facilitate exploration of St. Paul's identity, resources and ministry. An assessment of various committees and plans throughout the year will provide an opportunity to engage the entire parish in an open dialogue to explore where we are and where we plan to go in the future.

This assessment will conclude with a written report submitted to the Rector and Vestry, and to the entire St. Paul's congregation at the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting. Once your recommendations are shared with the team, it is anticipated that our parish will be able to continue to "grow, give, and serve in all ways in Christ."

REACH Week is Coming

We will be housing and feeding the homeless during REACH Week, Monday, March 26 through Monday morning, April 2. We will need people to help supply and serve food, stay with the guests overnight, and provide transportation. Be sure to check the sign-up sheet with opportunities to help. Many volunteers are needed to make the week go smoothly, not only for St. Paul's, but for our guests. There is a way for everyone to participate in this outreach project. Questions or concerns may be directed to Jenny Ritter 517-545-2434.

Cancer Relay for Life

The Brighton Cancer Relay for Life is coming! It will be held Friday, May 18 – Saturday, May 19, 7:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Brighton High School track. David Beidler and Edmund Senkowski are acting as team captains for the event. You may walk at the relay, sponsor a walker, make a donation or buy luminaria; it all helps to finding a cure for this life-changing disease. If you have questions regarding the Relay, please contact David or Edmund.

What is the real meaning of Palm Sunday?

What relevance does it have to the church today?



Palm Sunday traditionally has two focal points. One is the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem just days before his arrest, trial and crucifixion. He was greeted with acclaim by residents, who placed branches of palm trees in his path, a sign of respect for an arriving messiah. Within a week, of course, the people of Jerusalem were making a different cry: "Crucify him!"

The other focal point is the reading of the Passion Gospel, the entire story of Jesus' final hours, beginning with his torment in the Garden of Gethsemane and concluding with his death on the cross and the placing of his body in a tomb. Thus the day usually is known as the Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday.

In many churches, the liturgy for that begins with an enactment of the procession into Jerusalem, with palm branches waved by worshipers. (Some of those branches will be saved until next year and then burned for use as the ashes on Ash Wednesday.) The Gospel reading for the day is the Passion Gospel (from

Mark this year), sometimes in a dramatic reading by several readers, with the congregation taking the part of the Jerusalem mob.

Many consider this the most moving liturgy of the year. Its relevance is both to tell the story of "Christ crucified," as Paul put it, without which the story of Easter has no meaning; and to call attention to our complicity in turning against Jesus.

—Tom Ehrich
from *What Are You Asking*

Good Friday People...By Barbara Brown-Taylor

I actually know people who come to church on Good Friday and who don't come back on Easter. Easter is too pretty, they say. Easter is too cleaned-up. It is where they hope to live one day, in the land of milk and honey, but right now Good Friday is a better match for their souls, with its ruthless truth about the stench of death and the high price of love. It isn't that they don't care about what happens on Sunday. They do. They just don't believe that God is saving all the good news until then.

Today, on the quietest day of the year, we have come to sit in the presence of one who was fully who God created him to be every day of his life--who loved God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his strength, and with all his mind--and who loved his friends so much that he stepped into the oncoming traffic of death in order to push them out of the way. He furthermore did it all with no more than the basic human equipment--a beating heart, two good hands, a holy vision, and some companions who could see it too--thereby showing the rest of us humans that such a life is not beyond our reach. Whatever else happens on Sunday, here is enough reason to call this Friday Good.



CPR TRAINING: YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE

St. Paul's will be offering a course in CPR Sunday March 25, 2007. The Course will include both adult and children CPR techniques. The cost for the training is \$40. Those interested in learning more or signing up for the CPR training should contact Mary Bensmiller or the Parish Office.

QUOTES TO REMEMBER...

"The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes and sand gnats come close!"

"God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called."

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