
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 16, No. 4

April 2010

From the Rector:

As we anticipate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, beginning with our re-creation of the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples in that Upper Room in Jerusalem on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, we might do well to consider the tribulations of His modern followers, our Christian brothers and sisters living in Jerusalem at this time, in our age. As I write these words the news reports from that Holy City convey an image of near chaos from the protests in the streets of East Jerusalem over the planned construction of new housing blocks there by the Israeli Government. We should care, if for no other reason, because East Jerusalem is the locale of St. George's Cathedral, seat of the Episcopal (Anglican) Diocese of Jerusalem. The Diocese, founded in 1841, serves some 7000 Episcopalians in Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Syria, an area of more than 121,000 square miles. All of the sites related to the birth, life, death, resurrection, teachings and healings of Jesus of Nazareth lie within this diocese! The diocese sponsors two major hospitals, a health clinic, 16 schools, and numerous institutes for the blind, the deaf, the elderly, and the mentally and physically disabled. Services there are available to all without regard for ethnicity, citizenship, or religion. Financial support for this important work is provided by the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a non-political not-for-profit partnership with the Church in Jerusalem. The offering at St. Christopher's on Good Friday is traditionally designated for this purpose.

This Eastertide, let us redouble our prayers for the Peace of Jerusalem and for justice and reconciliation for all those who live there and in the other Christian enclaves that struggle to maintain an indigenous Christian presence in that Holy Land. "Sabeel" and the "Friends of Sabeel-North America" is a Palestinian Christian peace organization (Desmond Tutu is a member) which seeks to establish a just peace for all residents of that troubled area. In their manifesto, "The Jerusalem Sabeel Document: Principles for a Just Peace in Palestine-Israel," they lay out the theological, moral, and legal bases for such a peace, taking into account the scriptural and historical claims of all parties, and raising the hope of a two-state solution to the conflicts of this time. It makes for interesting and thought-provoking reading.....

Let us remember that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for the sins of this world, sins readily apparent as the basis for the troubles in Jerusalem in our time as in His: wrath, greed, envy, pride, sloth, gluttony and lust, the Deadly Seven. Proclaim His victory over all sin and pray for the Peace of Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Edson+

As members of St. Christopher's, we seek to act as a part of the body of Christ in response to God's love and grace by:

- praising God together in Christ-centered worship
- providing opportunities for education and spiritual growth for all
- loving and supporting each other in our life together, and
- reaching out to our community and larger world in love and service.

The Christ Bearer

a monthly publication of
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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website:www.stchristophers.org

Weekly Services
Sunday - 8:00, 10:00 Holy Eucharist
Wednesday - 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
w/ Holy Unction

Rector - The Rev. J. Edson Way
Deacon - Melissa Wafer-Cross
Deacon - Les Jackson
Deacon - Kathleen Borsch



Income & Expenses
(through February 28, 2010)

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 4,166.70	\$ 2,658.92
Pledge	31,309.20	40,339.00
Other	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 36,675.90	\$ 43,597.92
Expenses	\$ 36,675.72	\$ 41,935.85
Balance: Inc.-Exp.	\$ 0.18	\$ 1,662.07

Vestry Retreat Highlights

- The new vestry met on February 26 & 27 at the church with Fr. Way and Claire Cowden facilitating the meeting.
- Fr. Way reported that attendance continues to improve at all services, Adult Forum and the Wednesday Lenten suppers and program. He reported on some meetings and fund raising project ideas and announced dates he will be out of town in the next few months. Fr. Bowyer and Fr. Veal will cover services in his absence.
- Donnie Evans, Senior Warden, reported the renovation project is almost complete. Of the \$25,000 that was approved for this project, \$24,693 has been spent.
- John Edwards, Junior Warden, presented several suggestions concerning security, policies, procedures and planning for the coming year. The vestry approved a motion for John to proceed with replacing ceiling lights.
- Missy Ratcliff will assist Jan in the Pastoral Care area in checking on home-bound parishioners. Nancy will have the Newcomer's pamphlets printed.
- Steve Maines will chair the Stewardship Committee this year.
- Becky DelHotal and Claire Randolph will be paid monthly stipends in their positions as Christian Education chairs. Ted & Charise Adams are leading the Youth Group.
- Carolyn Jones will chair the Personnel Committee.
- The vestry approved an additional card table.
- Missy will have a sign-up sheet to see how many people would like to participate in a CPR class. Depending upon interest, the vestry will consider approving the class and

Thank You!

Dear St. Christopher's Family,

Thank you so much for all of your prayers, visits, emails, food, and general support during Mel's hospitalization and recovery from his broken hip. We have been reminded, once again, how fortunate we are to be a part of this loving community.

With love,
Jane & Mel Barnes



Food Pantry Requests for April

Thank you to everyone for your donations in the past month. For April, please continue to bring canned tomatoes, and also we are asking for Jell-o this month.

Please make the following correction in the parish directory:



Fr. David & Sue Veal's home phone number is 799-2069. They do not use the cell phone any more.

Big Thank You!

I have been asked to pass along Thank you's for everyone who helped put the Church Women United World Day of Prayer program on on March 5. Lest we leave someone out, I want to just say thank you to everyone who helped prepare and serve food, who planned and provided and led the program, who provided music and decorated the tables and who registered the guests. Many hands make light work, and there were certainly many, many hands at work.

Thank you,
Missy Ratcliff



April 15

send information to
jambarnes@suddenlink.net



Deacon's Corner

Every Lenten season I plan to re-read several of my favorite books of Lenten meditations, to find time for quiet contemplation, and maybe to clear out some of the mental clutter. Every year I make this plan, and about half way through the season, I realize that I have spent my time just trying to stay above water. This year I made it through part of True Wilderness by H.A. Williams, a favorite of mine; but I am disappointed in myself that I probably won't finish the book by Easter (by the way, it is a small book). I am disappointed that I haven't found time for quiet or for de-cluttering, and I still have mountains of papers to grade.

Wait a minute! By getting all exercised about what I have or haven't done, I've made the Lenten season about me. Isn't it funny how often we make our spiritual practices about ourselves instead of focusing on making a space for God within us? With our faces turned toward Easter and the joyous Easter season, maybe we can remember that Easter never disappoints. Celebrate the season in gratitude—remembering God's greatest gift in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we sing from *Hail thee, festival day*, "Praise to the giver of good! Thou Love who art author of concord, pour out thy balm on our souls, order our ways in thy peace," we can be assured that Easter is about God's love for us, about Christ's victory over death, not about how we might have failed. His love is about relationship, not arbitrary hoop-jumping that we set for ourselves.

Melissa



2010 Summer Camp Schedule - Quarterman Ranch

The Quarterman Conference Center has recently been renamed Quarterman Ranch to reflect the history and the atmosphere of this special place.

The theme for the Primary, Middle School and Senior High camps this year is "I Am," and the curriculum was designed by The Rev. Jim Haney, Rector of St. Paul's-on-the-Plains. Dates for the various camps are:

Senior High Camp - June 20 - 26

Primary Camp - June 27 - July 3

Middle School Camp - July 4 - 10

In addition, two other camps will be conducted: Happy Camp, June 14 - 18, for children who are disadvantaged and otherwise would not be able to attend a camp; and Promise Camp, July 12 - 16, for children who have a parent who is incarcerated.

For more information on any of these camps, contact Jamie Goldston, BQCCTX@aol.com

A number of women have met each Saturday morning during Lent for a study of the parables of Jesus, led by Linda Lawson. Linda has other studies available that she would be glad to share if there are enough people interested. Please call Linda, 317-1661, or the church office, 799-8208, if you would like to be a part of a continuing women's Bible study class.



Sundays & Wednesdays in April

You will get more out of our worship together if you take a little time beforehand to look at the Scripture lessons and think about our special prayer intentions.



Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunday (Year C)

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

I Corinthians 15:19-26

John 20:1-18

Wednesday, April 7 - Wednesday in Easter Week

Acts 3:1-10

Psalm 105:1-8

Luke 24:13-35

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper following service

Sunday, April 11

Second Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

Wednesday, April 14 - Feast of Alphege (transferred)

Revelation 7:13-17

Psalm 34:1-8

Luke 12:4-12

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper following service

Sunday, April 18

Third Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Wednesday, April 21 - Feast of Anselm

Romans 5:1-11

Psalm 139:1-9

Matthew 11:25-30

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper following service

Sunday, April 25

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

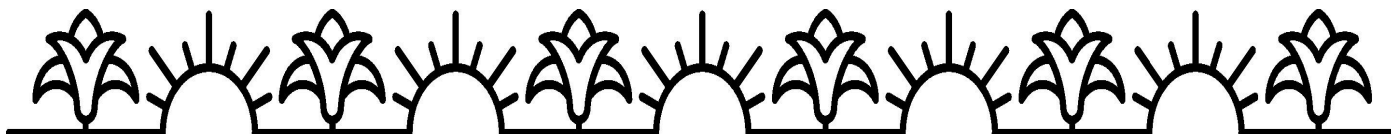
Wednesday, April 28 - Feast of St. Mark (red) transferred

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 2

Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16

Mark 1:1-15





The Episcopal Church Women

March was a busy month for ECW, starting on March 1st with "Ladies' Night Out" at Orlando's. The evening of fun and food was enjoyed by all.

On March 5th we hosted the Church Women United's International Day of Prayer luncheon at St. Christopher's. This year the service was written by women of the African nation of Cameroon. The parish hall was decorated beautifully, the food was absolutely delicious, the music provided by our group was so sweet and inspiring, our speakers/readers did a great job, and everyone left with such good feelings.

On March 7th our bereavement committee served a lovely memorial luncheon for the family and friends of Larry Beavers.

The outreach luncheon on March 14th was a huge success, raising \$559.00 for Hope Shalom Ministries. This will provide food, clothing and other services for many needy people. Thank you all for your generosity.

We are experiencing such a wonderful ministry, and, if you have not become involved, we would encourage you to join us. We continue to serve Sunday breakfast at St. Benedict's each week, and several of our ladies will be taking dinners to Canterbury in April.

Looking forward -- April 4 will be our traditional Easter Brunch. Plan to come around 9:00 am to share Easter morning with your parish family. April 18 is the date for the next ECW luncheon meeting. Watch for further announcements.

Serving St. Christopher's and the community through God's love and grace -- we are ECW.

Missy Ratcliff
ECW President

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 6:00 pm

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 116:1, 10-17
I Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17



Good Friday, April 2

Noon - St. Paul's-on-the-Plains (Fr. Way preacher)
6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross, St. Christopher's

Holy Saturday, April 3, 10:00 am

Job 14:1-14
Psalm 130
I Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66



Holy Saturday, April 4, Great Vigil of Easter, 8:00 pm

Service of Lessons with Six Readings
Lighting the Paschal Fire
First Eucharist of Easter



A Reader's Corner

Have a Little Faith: a True Story, by Mitch Albom. New York: Hyperion Press, 2009. (254p.)

These are actually the stories of three different men interwoven together – two who lived their faith and another (the author) who found his faith again. Mitch Albom, the author of *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* writes of having “run away from God” and from his rabbi, Albert Lewis (“he was tall, six foot one, and I felt tiny in his presence...I was certain he could view all my sins and shortcomings”, p.6). It was when his rabbi asked him to do his eulogy (“OK... I would speak at his funeral - but only if he let me get to know him as a man, so I could speak of him as such”, p.7) that Mitch begins his journey back – a journey that actually spans eight years, even though the book is organized as four seasons. The other traveler is Henry Covington, an African-American pastor who is also a reformed drug dealer and convict – a man who finds salvation daily by preaching to the poor and homeless within a dilapidated, hole-in-the-roof church. These two men, Henry and Albert, open Mitch’s mind and heart as he journeys with (and toward) them in an attempt to understand who they are and how their values and hopes have shaped their created and enduring worlds.

Mitch writes in an easy-going and candid manner, exploring his thoughts, feelings and reactions as he questions himself when relating to his two mentors and while recording their histories. Over time he grows to love these two men and as we, as readers, journey with him, we learn to love what he values in them.

This book was written, he prefaces, “in hope that all faiths can find something universal in the story” (from the author’s note). The ultimate message of this story is – to love one another.

Mitch Albom was born in 1958 in Passaic, New Jersey. He is best known for his inspirational stories as well as his charitable works in Detroit, Michigan (A Hole in the Roof Foundation).

An open invitation:

I would like to invite any reader or viewer to join me in this column. If you have read a book or seen a movie that you wish to recommend to other readers/viewers, please email me (candia.thew@ttuhsc.edu) with your suggestion. I can also submit a “guest” review or I can add an addendum to my own contribution by naming the book or movie (title) and recommended by (your name).

Notes from the Senior Warden

Through the process of the renovation project at church, it has opened my eyes to how much the church is used. We have many organizations outside the church family that depend on St. Christopher's for meetings. In the process of directing traffic in the past couple of months, everyone has been very cooperative moving from one end of the church to the other. One Saturday there were six different groups meeting at the church.

The heavy use will sometimes take its toll on our facility. Missy Ratcliff and Martha Robinson do a tremendous amount of work keeping the kitchens in order. Many others put in a lot of work as well. Please feel free to jump in any time to lend a hand or just say *thanks* for all that they do. One thing that would help tremendously, after your group meets, clean out the coffee pots, rinse coffee cups, place them in the dish washer and wipe the counters for the next group that uses the same area. It may seem like a small thing, but it sure helps in keeping our church looking nice. We are so fortunate to have so many folks willing to take on jobs at the

This 'n That

- **EASTER LILIES** - Donations for the Easter lilies that will beautify our altar on Easter Sunday may be made at any time. Envelopes should be available in the pews. Place your check inside (for any amount you choose) and indicate the name of the person, group or event you wish to honor with your donation.
- **CROSS BOARDS** - More crosses are needed to fill the third cross display board in the basement. You may leave your donated cross on the small table just inside the door to the parish hall.
- Sign up to provide snacks for the Sunday fellowship hours.
- **PRAYER REQUESTS** - Submit prayer needs via the Daughters of the King prayer cards in the pews. Put the cards in the offering plate or in the little box on the credence shelf at the back of the church.
- **ALTAR FLOWERS** - There are still blank spaces on the Altar Flower calendar for 2010. Please sign up to give flowers in memory or in honor of someone for one or more Sundays in the new year.
- **WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!** If you need one - if you've lost yours or never had one, tell Karen Hodges, and she'll arrange for you to get one.
- **PRAYER SHAWL GROUP** - Please bring any shawls you have completed to our meeting on Monday, April 5, at the church. Come and see all the lovely shawls that are being created and sit and knit or crochet and visit.
- **FOYER GROUP REORGANIZATION** - The small dinner groups called "Foyer Groups" will be shuffled and rearranged in the next week or so. If you are not already participating in this program and want a way to get to know other people in the parish on a relaxed, casual basis, contact Paula Purkeypile, 698-8721, and she will assign you to a group. If you need to



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Claire Randolph	April 5
Cole Adams	April 6
Reagan Thomas	April 7
Roger Schaefer	April 11
Aiden Finley	April 14
Kendra Jackson	April 14
Elizabeth Jones	April 14
Scott Stofel	April 14
Susie Broome	April 15
Kathy Davies	April 15
Les Jackson	April 18
Allison Boye	April 19
Jo Edwards	April 21
Roy Wilson	April 21
Ciera Otto	April 23
Frank McInroe	April 28
Audra Day	April 29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

John & Jo Edwards	April 14
Arnold & Nancy O'Clair	April 24

St. Christopher's chapter of Daughters of the King will not meet at its regular time this month, due to Easter Sunday. Everyone should continue reading our current book of study, *Triologue: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Dialogue*, by Leonard Swidler, Reuven Firestone, and Kalid Duran.

Also, it is time to change officers for the next year. If you are willing to serve as an officer - as President or Vice-president, let Bobbie Matches know.

Please, send all prayer requests to Jane Barnes to be included on the April prayer list.



Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held following the 10:00

service on April 4 for the children of the parish. Thus, eggs are needed for the children to hunt. If you would like to help, please fill a couple of dozen plastic eggs with candies or other treats or other sealed candy and bring them to the church office or Christian Education office sometime before Easter Sunday.

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The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer., Bishop
The Rev. J. Edson Way, PhD., Rector
Kathleen Borsch, Deacon
Les Jackson, Deacon
Melissa Wafer-Cross, Deacon

Elaine Howard, Administrative Assistant
Linda Swartz, Financial Assistant
Jane Barnes, Newsletter Editor
David Cross, WebMaster

The Vestry

Donnie Evans, Senior Warden
John Edwards, Junior Warden
Nancy McReynolds, Clerk
Jan Kireillis, Treasurer

David Bartl
Missy Ratcliff

Doug Cashell

Carolyn Jones
Bob Sherman

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