



The Eagle's Nest

St. John's Episcopal Church

May 2018

Padre's Pen

As our Eastertide response says, "The Lord is Risen indeed, Alleluia!" we proclaim his resurrection for the whole of the fifty-day season. So many around us are convinced that Easter is a day, with visits from the Easter Bunny during the days leading up to it and then eggs and candy and it is over, move on to Spring and get ready for Mother's Day, Graduations and the Summer. I believe that one of our ways to witness in those of the community around us is to remind people we encounter that there is such a thing as the Church Calendar and the Church Year... for example: Easter is a Season that lasts 50 days. Many people know of Lent covering 40 days over six weeks, many have heard of Islam's Ramadan which lasts 30 days, yet Easter is longer than both!

So you greet someone with "Happy Easter" four or five weeks after "the Day" and (if they don't smile and repeat the greeting) they might say something about it being past and you have the opportunity to let them know that our Lord walked this Earth for 40 days after His resurrection and met with and talked with up to 500 people during that time leading to His Ascension. By observing Eastertide, we remember the work of the Risen Christ on the Earth a work of reconciliation and teaching. This past month, Marv and I were in Pompano Beach for the week after Easter Sunday, That next Sunday, I greeted a restaurant manager with "Happy Easter", as she began to walk on, she suddenly stopped and turned and asked if I had said Happy

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Upcoming Events

Mother's Day - May 13th

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Diocese of Springfield

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins

Staff

Rector: Rev. Richard Swan
rector@saintjohnsdecatur.org

Deacons: Donald Coventry
Christine Gregory

Secretary: Mrs. LaVetta Williams
secretary@saintjohnsdecatur.org

Finance Director: Tom Ames

Treasurer: Gary Rhodes

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Easter to her. I answered yes, and she explained that she wasn't used to hearing that greeting and had herself had to explain it. That day was Orthodox Pascha (Easter) she had celebrated the night before at their Great Vigil and she was excited to hear the greeting. You never know...

This kind of discussion can lead to an invitation to have an acquaintance "come and see" how we observe the traditions of the ancient Church in a modern way. That is a way that we can witness, it is a simple way to share the beauty of our Anglican Worship at St John's with others. During this month we have the celebration of the Ascension of our Lord, May 10th, the Feast of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. The Pentecost gift of the Holy Spirit to empower our life and ministry is one that few talk about. Honestly, the Holy Spirit makes some of us very uncomfortable.

I don't know if it is because of the more traditional phrase "Holy Ghost" and the natural hesitation to deal with ghosts, or the unpredictability of the effect that the Holy Spirit has in powers of healing, prophesying, words of knowledge and the like. The fact is that John the Baptist told the people that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire, Jesus reiterated the promise before his Ascension after 40 days and then God did it at the Feast of Pentecost just ten days later.

We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at our baptism, we are empowered by it at our Confirmation. It is like having a savings account that you cannot overdraw. How do we access this account? Through Scripture study and prayer. We can each call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us, to speak to us, to speak through us, to comfort and protect us and, yes, to heal us.

During this long season after Pentecost try to make it a daily prayer to become more aware of the gift of the Holy Spirit in your life.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Swan.

Mark Your Calendars

There is a calendar of events listed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the month. The sign-up sheet for flowers and the Sanctuary Candle is on the bulletin Board outside the Nave in the Cloister.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Mother's Day – May 13th

Annual Picnic – June 3rd at the Forsyth Pavilion – 11:00 am Eucharist with the picnic to follow
Prayer Breakfast – Wednesday, June 6th – tickets are \$15.00 – please see Fr. Swan

Cursillo Weekend – June 21-25 at Todd Hall – please see Fr. Swan or Marv

Next Mission Leadership Team Meeting

The next MLT meeting will be on Wednesday, May 16th after the 6:00 PM Eucharist.

Mission Leadership Team

Tracy Barding
Hye-Seung Byler
Julie Carter
Dee Coventry
Jane Gucker- Senior Warden
James Keith
Dick McCullough - Junior Warden
JoAnna McCullough - Clerk of the Leadership Team
Melissa Rhodes
Sandy Roe

Favorite Recipe Corner

COUNTRY BLUEBERRY COFFEE CAKE

- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (12 ounce) can Pillsbury Grands refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup rolled quick-cooking oats
- 1 1/2 cups blueberries (fresh or frozen)
- 1/4 cup sugar

Directions

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Generously grease a 9-inch square baking dish.
- In a small bowl, combine brown sugar and cinnamon and mix well with a fork. Set aside.
- Separate biscuit dough into 8 biscuits and cut each biscuit into quarters.
- Dip each biscuit piece into the melted butter, then roll in the cinnamon-brown sugar mixture to coat well. Arrange in a single layer in baking dish.
- Sprinkle with 1/2 cup of the oats.
- Combine blueberries and sugar in a bowl and toss to coat.
- Spoon blueberry-sugar mixture over oats and biscuits and sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup oats. Drizzle remaining melted butter on top.
- Bake for 25 minutes or until cake is golden brown and center is done.
- Cool for 10 minutes, serve warm and sprinkle with powdered sugar if desired.

Submitted by Marv Swan

CHICKEN FRICASSEE WITH DUMPLINGS

- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 tsp. salt

- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 2 1/4 to 3 lb. chicken, cut-up or your favorite pieces with skin
- 3 tbsp. salad oil
- 2 med. carrots; thinly sliced
- 2 med. celery stalks; thinly sliced
- 1 med. onion; coarsely chopped
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups Bisquick

Combine flour and spices. Dredge chicken. Brown in hot oil. Remove.

Cook carrots, onion and celery in drippings until tender. Return chicken to skillet. Combine soup and milk and pour over chicken. Heat to boiling and simmer 25 minutes covered.

Stir biscuit mix with 2/3 cup milk. Drop onto gravy. Cook uncovered 10 minutes and then covered 10 minutes.

ENJOY!

Submitted by Mary Peters

Outreach

If you have a need for us to cook for you, please let Marv know so we can activate a site for you. Also if you would like to be added to the list of those who cook, please let me (Marv) know.

NOTE: We are still gathering food items on Sunday for NE Community Fund. Please remember to bring an item with you. It is so easy if you just throw an extra item in your cart when shopping for yourself. Items most needed are: peanut butter, cereal, canned meats, canned “meals”, cereal, rice, beans.

News Flash & Updates

A Mission Strategy for St. John's

Beginning with our Mission Leadership Retreat, on March 3rd, the Mission Leadership Team (MLT) started the effort of reporting our mission strategy to the Diocese. This will be an annual report given each year. In the broader sense it is a tool to help us accomplish some needed strategic planning over the next several years. It is not something that happens in one meeting and gives results in a matter of months. Fr. Michael Newago from St. Barnabas, Havana is the Mission strategy coordinator for the three northern Deaneries. He made a presentation to the MLT concerning the diocesan form and reporting considerations. As a part of this we were asked to look at what St. John's (as a Eucharistic Community) is passionate about, what are our strengths and weaknesses? What connections are important within and without St. John's?

James Keith, with his military planning background will be the facilitator for the MLT developing a short and long range strategic plan. If you have any suggestions, please share them with James or any other member of the MLT.

The Strategy team continues to meet (they met on the 8th of April and again on the 22nd) and will make a presentation to the Vestry at the May 16th meeting for approval to present to the Congregation. Please continue to pray the following prayer as we move forward with a strategy that will benefit St. John's.

A Prayer for Mission Strategy

Almighty and Eternal God, we come to You as Your Holy People.

We seek to actively and creatively be involved in the transforming power of Your Spirit in the world. Open our eyes, Lord Christ, to see the movement of Your Spirit. Open our minds, Lord Christ, to imagine and reimagine new ways of being church here and in our diocese.

Open our ears, Lord Christ, to hear the voices of all Your Holy People, from the faintest to the most boisterous. Open our mouths, Lord Christ, to share and speak with all truth and honesty in Your Love. Open our hands, Lord Christ, to share all that we have because we have been given it in love by You. Open our hearts, Lord Christ, to trust You to provide for us and help us receive all we need for our work from You. We give thanks to You, O Lord, for calling us to be your disciples and to share the message of Your Gospel with all the world. Grant us, Lord Christ, the courage and determination to follow You wherever You may lead us and ask us to go.

We ask these through and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mother's Day, May 13th

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world, and Mother's Day 2018 occurs on Sunday, May 13, in the United States. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day traditionally involves presenting moms with flowers, cards and other gifts.

Dick McCullough and Tim Phillips are

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forming a Building and Grounds Team and are welcoming both men and women! They will have a sign-up sheet available or you may contact either of them. Dick – 217-791-2464 or email - macala52@comcast.net; Tim – 217-428-926 or email – tphillipshvac@yahoo.com

The Fellowship Committee met in February and set the dates for several events:

Mother's Day – May 13th

Annual Picnic – June 3rd at the Forsyth Pavilion – 11:00 am Eucharist with the picnic to follow – Melissa Chair

Prayer Breakfast – Wednesday, June 6th – tickets are \$15.00 – please see Fr. Swan

Cursillo Weekend – June 21-25 at Todd Hall – please see Fr. Swan

Mix and Mingle – August at the Café at Richland with Chef Tucker and his crew

Ice Cream Social – September – Sandy Roe and Barb Peoples Co-Chairs

Brats Party – Sunday October 7th or 14th – Tracy and Ed are hosting at their home

The Great American Church Race – TBA – the Hawleys and the Peters Co-Chairs

Michaelmas Evensong – November 4th – Hye-Sung, Lois and JoAnna Co-Chairs

Lessons and Carols – December 9th – Kathy, Lois and JoAnna Co-Chairs

St. John's Patronal Feast – December 27th

Annual Meeting – January 20th, 2019

If anyone has any suggestions as to how we can have better communication as the events on the schedule and the times, please let Father or Marv know.

Education Opportunities

ADULT STUDY

Friday Bible Study continues at 10 AM on Friday in the Guild Room. They are finishing the Book of Exodus and will begin a new book in May. There are some lively discussions – I highly recommend that you join us!

Adult Sunday School is meeting at 9:00 am on Sundays in the Guild Room. The class will finish the study of Habakkuk. After we finish Habakkuk we'll finish the quarter and year with Zephaniah. All are welcome as we explore this gem of a minor prophet.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Julie Keith is leading the youth class.

Holy Days in May

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm and Saturday at 7:30 am we meet for Eucharist. It is our custom to honor a memorable figure in the life of the Church down through the ages. For May, we will give thanks to God for these faithful servants:

Saints Days for May:

Wednesdays

May	2	St. Philip & St. James, Apostles
	9	Ascension Day Eve
	16	Dunstan of Canterbury
	23	Ember Day

Saturdays

May	5	St. Monnica
	12	Gregory of Nazianzus
	19	Alcuin
	26	Augustine of Canterbury

Mission Leadership Team Meeting Highlights

We met on Wednesday, April 18th after the 6:00 PM Eucharist.

In Jane's absence, Fr. Swan reported that we had a decent turn out for our Lenten Evensong on March 18th and the Lenten Series wrapped up on the 21st with information concerning Organ donations. Holy week was busy, the Easter Vigil was glorious, and Easter Sunday was well attended at both Services. The children participated in a lively Easter Egg Hunt! Dick reported that the month had been fairly quiet as far as building maintenance. The NO TRESPASSING signs seem to be effective, there is a tree limb that is leaning on the fence on the corner closest to the Shell Station that will need to be removed. We have been advised by our web-server that we must change our mass emailing practice to comply with privacy regulations. We will be adding a "mailing list" to our web page that members and friends can sign up on. That list will be used for prayer notices, schedule reminders and email copies of the Eagles Nest. We will let you know when that is up and running. For the Good of the Order – there was concern expressed regarding our cleaning crew and the poor job that they are doing keeping our Church clean. Dick is going to pursue obtaining some other quotes and it was suggested that he contact MRI (Macon Resources).

Serving Opportunities

Any interested youth or adult over the age of ten interested in becoming an Acolyte, please contact James Keith or Father Swan.

Peripatetic Parishioners

Judy Ellison attended St Mark's Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn, Illinois on Maundy Thursday, March 29th and on Easter Sunday, April 1st.

Father Swan and Marv attended St. Martin Episcopal Church in Pompano Beach, Florida on April 8th.

Birthdays

- 2nd- Carol Craig
- 3rd- Leigh Anne Sinclair
- 5th- Julie Carter
- 6th- Francis Peters
- 11th- Edward Elliott
- 13th- Sanford Johnson
- 14th- Kirtley Wilson
- 16th- Sandy Roe
- 17th- Vincent Cooling
- 18th- Laura Curlin
Frank Wall
- 20th- Janice Akins
Sara Peterson
- 21st- Mike Robb
- 22nd- JoAnna McCullough
- 23rd- Eulah Gahwiler
Abaigael Keith
- 29th- Douglas Gucker
- 30th- Richard Hazelrigg
Anni Pilger.



Photos



Easter Sunday Coffee Hour & Egg Hunt

Photos provided by Janice Akins

Charm is deceptive,
and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord
is to be
praised.

Proverbs 31:30

Happy Mother's Day!

