



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



April 2011

Tree of Glory

Crucifixion was a prolonged and painful death. It had been devised deliberately as an act of deadly torture. There was the pain of the wounds, the exposure to heat and flies, the thirst, the mocking by spectators. Above all, there was the continual struggle to breathe. Each laborious breath could only be made by the crucified forcing himself to the agonizing act of lifting himself on the cross to grasp another lungful of air. Eventually the struggle failed and death came through asphyxiation. Often this could take more than a day to happen but it was possible to shorten the ordeal by breaking the legs of the crucified so that he was no longer able to make the movement necessary to gain the next breath.

Crucifixion was a shameful death. Because of its horrible character, it was reserved for slaves and felons.

For a Jew, crucifixion was a Godforsaken death. "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.," wrote St. Paul (Galatians 3:13), looking back to a verse in Deuteronomy. It must have seemed the absolute denial of all the disciples' hopes that Jesus was God's chosen Messiah, when they saw that he was to be put to death in this way.

It is difficult for us to recover the feeling of horror that a word like "cross" evoked in the ancient world. It was not an ecclesiastical symbol, as it is for us today, but a ghastly gallows. The use of the cross in Christian art comes very late, about a century after the abolition of this form of execution, when the memory of its horror had had time to fade.

Yet for Christians, the tree of shame is the tree of glory. Christ is the king who reigns from the gallows. Three times in St. John's Gospel there is a grim reference to the Son of Man being "lifted up" (John 3:14; 8:28; 12:32-34). At one level it is a clear reference to death by crucifixion, just as, in the



days of hanging, people spoke of someone being "topped." But for John, who delights in the divine irony of the Incarnation, the lifting up of Jesus on the cross is also the moment of his true exaltation. "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). As the passion approaches, Jesus says "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." (John 12:23)

-Dr. John Polkinghorne in *Searching for Truth*

The Last Word

The simplest meaning of Easter is that we are living in a world in which God has the last word. On Friday night it appeared as if evil were the master of life. The holiest and most loveable One who had ever lived was dead and in His tomb, crucified by the order of a tyrant without either scruples or regrets. He who had raised the highest hopes among men had died by the most shameful means. A cross, two nails, a jeering mob of debauched souls, and a quick thrust of a spear had ended it all. Those hours when His voice was stilled and His hands were quiet were the blackest through which the race has ever lived. If Caesar could put an end to Jesus, then no man could ever dare aspire or hope again. Hope, in such a world, could be nothing better than a mockery. Then came Easter morning and the glorious words: "He is risen!" And evil's triumph was at an end. Since that hour when Mary in the garden first discovered the staggering fact of victory, no man whose heart was pure and whose labors were honest has ever had reason to fear or despair if he believed in the Resurrection.

Paul Hovey

Birthdays

- 3 Alison Douds
- 4 Martha Douds
- 8 Jim Chilenski
- 10 Nanci Allen
- 12 Dick Gray
- 14 Lisa Rosser
- 15 Nikki Lewis, Gary Rowley
- 17 David Berner
- 25 Margaret Baker, Helen Johnston
- 29 Tierney Carter, John Martin, Chad Shook
- 30 Mary Kraker

Wedding Anniversaries

- 8 Bob and Laura Wright (95)
- 12 Austin and Meredith Fath (08),
Ralph and Reda Kittle (69)
- 14 Robin and Elizabeth Leonard (79)
- 15 George and Fran Utley (41)
- 21 Brian and Cecilia Davidson (90)
- 26 Craig and Lori Bockman (97)
- 27 Paul and Nancy Frick (87)

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 Kirsten Carr (87), Sherry Walker (45)
- 2 Lisa Rosser (94)
- 3 Anna Adkins (3)
- 9 Katie Shook (00)
- 10 Amy Eyman (66)
- 11 Bill Pursley (54), Barbara Mohler (54)
- 12 Judy Furlow (41)
- 13 Diana Turpin (45)
- 15 George Utley (20)
- 16 Caitlin and Alanna Hurdley (95)
- 18 Alex Shook (99), Nickie Leckrone (43)
- 19 Neil Wright (79)
- 22 Michael Angle (90)
- 23 Hannah Hurdley (00)

Attention, Altar Guild

All members are urged to be at the church on April 16th and April 23rd at 10 am for Palm Sunday and Easter decorating.

Fellowship Breakfast

Our next Fellowship Breakfast will be on April 3rd at 9 am. This will be held in the undercroft following the 8am service.

Spring Clean Up Day

On May 21st there will be a spring clean up day at the church. We will work on getting the yard in shape, clean windows and other items that may need to be done on that day. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church in the next few weeks. So if you can help on that day, please sign up. If you have any questions, please call Mark Perrine at 654-2551.

Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found box outside Fr. Bill's office. Items not claimed within the next couple of weeks will be given away.

Vacation Bible School

St. Johns' will be joining with local Lutheran churches for Vacation Bible School this summer. Mark your calendars now for your child to be at St. Peter's Lutheran Church from 6:30—8:30 pm from July 31st to August 4th. A meal will be provided. Volunteers are needed.



A Special Thank You

I would like to thank you very much for submitting me to be a member of the Episcopal Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna. I am very honored, With God's help I will do my best to live up to the three-fold rule of life of the Society. Thank you again, and God be with us all.

Anna Adkins

2011 Lenten Series “Live to Make a Difference”

In his newest book, *Outlive Your Life: You Were Called to Make a Difference*, Max Lucado examines the book of Acts. His premise is that God used simple, common folk, or “Joe Pot Roast,” to do his work in the world. After pondering the disciples in the early church and what God did with them, Lucado is compelled to ask himself, “*Does Jesus still do it?*”

In this year’s 2011 Lenten Series, the Evangelism and Renewal Committee hopes that each of us will be led to answer this question with a confident and resounding “YES”! Each of our four speakers has chosen to pursue God’s calling in their lives, each with a unique outreach to the world. Come hear their stories and listen as they offer testimony to the possibilities for each of us to live to make a difference by working to bring Christ to the world.

We have already had two wonderful speakers, Jason Smith and Rebecca Dohn, talk to us about how they and others in their lives live to make a difference in their daily walk with God. Each has brought insight and understanding from which we can all learn and benefit.

We have three dates remaining in our Lenten Series. Please make every effort to attend as many evenings as possible as we work our way toward Good Friday, and then to the promise of Easter.

The remaining dates and speakers are:

March 27 - 5:00 p.m. Simple Supper of Soup – Sandwich – Dessert * **

5:45 p.m. Speaker -- **Paul Clever** from the Common Friars/Good Earth Farm, Athens, Ohio. Paul and his wife began living in a farm house and using the land to farm throughout much of the year to provide fresh vegetables to local food banks. Since then, they have begun to operate as a religious community called the Common Friars.

April 3 - 4:00 p.m. Service of Choral Evensong

Kathy Heim, Choir Director and St. John's Choir

5:00 p.m. Simple Supper of Soup – Salad – Dessert * **

April 10 - 5:00 p.m. Parish Pot Luck *

5:45 p.m. Speaker -- **The Rev. Bill McCleery**, Vicar, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Logan, and Church of the Epiphany, Nelsonville.

There are sign up sheets at the back of the church

* For the Pot Luck Suppers, bring one main dish and one side dish (salad, dessert, etc.)

** For the Simple Suppers, all will be provided by those who have already volunteered.

Youth Activities

Game Night— April 8th

A game night for all youth from 6-9 pm. We will have Wii and board games. Pizza will be provided. Grades 7-12 are asked to bring drinks to share and grades k-6 are asked to bring a dessert to share.



Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

**Meet at 9:30 am
In the Sanctuary**

**Bring your own basket, if possible.
Donations of candy, plastic eggs, and trinkets can be dropped off in the church office.**

Vestry Highlights

- * The April "Back to the Table Class is full. There are still openings for May and June.
- * The request for the roof grant from the Church Foundation was approved.
- * A policy was approved for memorial plaques to be placed in the church.
- * St. Johns' will join with local Lutheran churches for Vacation Bible School.
- * The Mission Committee request for \$2100.00 was accepted.

Kitchen Items Needed for Cooking Class

In order to have enough equipment for the upcoming cooking classes, donations of the following items are welcomed. (used or new)

- 6 sets of metal measuring spoons
- 6 heat proof silicone rubber spatulas
- 6 long wooden spoons
- 6 two-cup liquid measuring cups
- 3 sets of metal dry measuring cups
- 3 pairs of OXO brand tongs
- 10 stainless mixing bowls, large size that hold 2 qts or more

Just a reminder that the April class is full, but there is still room in the remaining classes.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week Schedule will be the regular church schedule with these additions:

April 21—Maundy Thursday—7 pm

April 22—Good Friday—12 pm
Stations of the Cross—1 pm

From the Dohns

I was sick recently: sore throat, cough, and fever. I can't be sure, but I think it was caused by too much kissing the week before.

Commonly people "kiss" here when greeting one another. "Kiss" in this context means touching cheeks and kissing the air (everybody does it, except of course men-greeting-men in this macho society).

Last week I attended a series of meetings with the community health promoters, offering a multitude of great opportunities to exchange ideas, thoughts, and germs. Everyone greets everyone else individually. Even if the meeting has already started, it stops while the late-comer greets each person there (a little tiresome to me when it is the sixth late-comer within fifteen minutes) - and, of course, everything said in the meeting up to that point has to be repeated so that everyone is included. I like the sentiment and inclusiveness, but the delays drive me a little bit crazy. At any rate, there has been a lot of respiratory illness in the communities recently and ... well, I ended up sick.

Our prayer requests have always asked people to pray for our health and safety. My recent sore throat notwithstanding, we have been incredibly healthy over the years - especially considering all the relatively greater risks posed by infections and accidents here.

Michael was waiting alone in a small community in the sugar cane fields one day. A young, bare-foot, unwashed boy approached him with a cluster of grapes and offered to share them. Michael smiled and said in English, "You're the little guy that always has diarrhea." Thanks to unanticipated English-Spanish cognates, the boy surprised Michael and answered, "Si, ¡yo tengo diarrhea! ¿Quieres una uva?" Michael said a little prayer, and they split the grapes. Michael was fine.

Prayers for health and safety work. Thanks and keep up the good work.

Keep praying, Anita



Several members of St. Johns' were on hand at Procter Conference Center, Tuesday, March 22nd to congratulate Dick and Polly Gray and Anna Adkins (center) on their induction into the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna.

The Episcopal Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna is a community of elders who undertake to be constant in prayer for our church and its people; to be a counselor and advocate for the diocese and to be a living witness to God's grace through the example of their own lives.

Founded by Bishop Steven Charleston in the late 1980's, this society seeks to recognize elders among us to whom we look for guidance and see as role models. In many societies, the wisdom of the elders is held in high esteem and they are sought after for counsel. It was Bishop Steve's belief that, in our current age, we were losing touch with this rich resource and he founded the Society to reestablish the place of honor that our elders once held. For each member in the Society, there are many other elders whom they represent: men and women to whom many come in search of advice and knowledge.

Nominees to the Society must be at least 60 years old and an Episcopalian for at least 15 years.

Congratulations, Dick, Polly, and Anna! Thank you for being godly models of aging for us all..

April 2011 Serving Schedule

| April 3rd | 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM | Readings |
|---|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Lay Readers | Jean Hammer | Jennifer Spires & James Hall | 1 Samuel 16:1-13 |
| Acolytes | | Alex Shook & Hannah Hurdley | Psalm: 23 |
| Lectors | | Richard Bailey & Ivan Smith | Ephesians 5:8-14 |
| Ushers | Rita Zimmerman & Anna Adkins | Victor & Mary Paini | John 9:1-41 |
| Altar Guild | Jean Hammer | Deana Roshong & Chris Hurdley | Set-up: Rebecca Pursley |
| April 10th | 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM | Readings |
| Lay Readers | Nick England | Doug Carr & Frankie Mathias | Ezekiel 37:1-14 |
| Acolytes | | Morgan & Ty Spires | Psalm: 130 |
| Lectors | | Robin Rhodes & Charlie Voss | Romans 8:6-11 |
| Ushers | Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton | Mike & Wendy Garbrandt | John 11:1-45 |
| Altar Guild | Anna Adkins | Kathy Canter & Judie Miller | Set-up: Deanna Roshong |
| April 17th Palm Sunday | 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM | Readings |
| Lay Readers | Alma Priddy | Tom Hammer & Ivan Smith | Isaiah 50:4-9a |
| Acolytes | | Katie Shook & Milt Taylor, III | Psalm: 31:9-16 |
| Lectors | | Tom Hammer & Joy Malinski | Philippians 2:5-11 |
| Ushers | Rita Zimmerman & Anna Adkins | Nicki Leckrone & Diane Downard | Matthew 27:11-54 |
| Altar Guild | Frankie Mathias | Sally Stallsmith & Reda Kittle | Set-up: Heather Perkins |
| April 21st Maundy Thurs | | 7:00 PM | Readings |
| Lay Readers | | Jim Merton & Nick England | Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 |
| Acolytes | | Jennifer Spires | Psalm: 116:1, 10-17 |
| Lectors | | Frankie Mathias & Paul Heim | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 |
| Ushers | | Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton | John 13:1-17, 31b-35 |
| Altar Guild | | | Set-up: |
| April 22nd Good Friday | | 12:00 Noon | Readings |
| Lay Readers | | | Isaiah 52:13-53:12 |
| Acolytes | | | Psalm: 22 |
| Lectors | | | Hebrews 10:16-25 |
| Ushers | | | John 18:1-19:42 |
| Altar Guild | | | Set-up: |
| April 24th Easter | 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM | Readings |
| Lay Readers | Jim Merton | Robin Rhodes & Chuck Canter | Acts 10:34-43 |
| Acolytes | | 1 st Crucifer – Alanna Hurdley 2 nd Crucifer – Milt Taylor, III Torches – Andrew & William Eyman | Psalm: 118: 1-2, 14-24 |
| Lectors | | Nick England & Sarah Perlow | Colossians 3:1-4 |
| Ushers | Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton | Nick England & Chris Hurdley | John 20:1-18 |
| Altar Guild | Cathy Forbes | Julie Meenach & Jessie Smith | Set-up: Jean Hammer |

If you cannot serve as scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.

APRIL 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 8:00 HC 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast 10:30 HC 4:00P Evensong 5:00P Simple Supper | 4 7:00P Solemn Choral Evensong | 5 8:00P AA Meeting | 6 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:15P EFM | 7 3:30P Pickering House 6:15P Back to the Table Cooking Class | 8 6:00PM Game Night for all Youth | 9 9:00 Evangelism & Renewal 10:00 Parish Health Ministries |
| 10 8:00 HC 9:00 Education 10:30 HC 2:00P Lanfair Service 5:00P Pot Luck Supper & Prog. | 11 7:00P Evening Prayer Group | 12 8:00P AA Meeting | 13 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 12:30 Parish Health Luncheon 6:15P EFM | 14 3:30P Pickering House 7:00 Vestry Mtg | 15 | 16 10:00 Altar Guild Set-up |
| 17 Palm Sunday 8:00 HC 9:00 Education 9:30 Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 HC | 18 7:00P Evening Prayer Group | 19 8:00P AA Meeting | 20 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:15P EFM | 21 1:00P E & L Deadline 3:30P Pickering House 7:00P Maundy Thursday Service | 22 Good Friday 12:00P Good Friday Service 1:00P Stations of the Cross | 23 10:00 Altar Guild Set-up |
| 24 Easter Sunday 8:00 HC 10:30 HC 2:00P Carriage Ct. | 25 7:00P Evening Prayer Group | 26 8:00P AA Meeting | 27 12:00P Morning Prayer 6:15P EFM | 28 3:30P Pickering House | 29 | 30 |

Back to the Table Cooking Classes

May 5th June 2nd July 7th August 4th
For details go to www.stjohnlancaster.org
or call the church office at 653-3052

GAME NIGHT

For all Youth
Friday, April 8 at 6:00
Pizza will be provided

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

134 North Broad Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH STAFF

PRESIDING BISHOP: The Most Rev'd Katharine Jefferts Schori
BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF SO. OHIO: The Rt. Rev'd Thomas E. Breidenthal
BISHOP SUFFRAGAN: The Rt. Rev'd Kenneth L. Price
RECTOR: The Rev'd Mr. G. William Pursley
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Kathy Heim
ORGANIST: Carolyn Schneider
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Schyler Crawford
TREASURER: Lowell Stallsmith
VERGER: Jim Hall
MISTRESS of ACOLYTES: Jennifer Spires
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Jean Hammer

Parish Office (740) 653-3052
Rector (740) 654-5274 (home)
(740) 215-3900 (cell)

For daily & Sunday readings & Fr. Pursley's
sermons, visit St. John's website
www.stjohnlancaster.org

Members of Vestry

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Peggy Merton (Senior Warden) | 653-4807 |
| Mark Perrine (Junior Warden) | 654-2551 |
| Carol Baily (14) | 654-3242 |
| Jean Hammer (13) | 687-6134 |
| Kathy Heim (14) | 205-3397 |
| Barbara Parker (13) | 969-4829 |
| Nicholas Powell (12) | 321-662-6917 |
| Doug Snyder (12) | 746-8263 |
| Milt Taylor, Jr. (13) | 653-2415 |
| Charlie Voss (14) | 654-4225 |
| Mike Whiley (12) | 654-4306 |