

The Archangel

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

April 2009

Easter Parties End Too Quickly

Every season of Lent is an invitation to live with different and perhaps taxing spiritual disciplines, but for many it is a time of waiting for the Easter Celebration when the church sanctuary is decorated with bright and joyful colors again. With great hymns the Holy Scriptures and prayers we celebrate that Jesus is risen from the grave and death to the new life in glory. Our celebration is our testimony that we believe Christ is the forgiveness our sins confessed, and the promise of the new life in Him made available to us even now in this temporal life. All this is eternal truth in Christ Jesus, but soon the sanctuary flowers begin to droop and so, for many of us, does the enthusiasm of Easter Day.

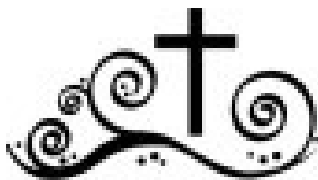
That very first Easter Day when Jesus' followers were despairing their Master's death, He joined with two of them who were walking to Emmaus, a nearby village. In their despair, they did not recognize Him until at dinner that evening, "then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him...and they asked each other, were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us." (Luke 24:31-32)

Perhaps we have had such an experience as our hearts warmed in the nearness of Jesus. We have to learn to keep the confidence of our heart warmed by the nearness of Christ to go through anything. So guard your heart because it is the dull, dreary, commonplace day, with commonplace duties and people, that kills the heart made alive in Christ, unless we have learned the heart centered confidence of abiding in Jesus.

Much of our distress as Christians comes not because of sin, but because we are ignorant of our own natures, that emotions can lead us astray. It is therefore wise to test an emotion's leading, and if the logical outcome is something displeasing to God, then allow it no more space. But if that emotion is kindled by the Spirit of God, and its outcome would be to the glory of Jesus, then follow that leading, even if that leading is to a life or place we would not choose for ourselves. We are not given to stay on the Mount of Transfiguration for long, no one is. Even Jesus' close followers were given to obedience for His glory in the dull, dreary and commonplace of life. Those who persevere and know Jesus' peace learn the confidence in Christ to go through anything. Let us always encourage one another to a great confidence in Christ alone.

Your Brother in Christ,

Tige Newell, Rector



Holocaust Remembrance Service

A city-wide Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service will take place on **Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 7:00 PM, at Congregation Brith Achim in Petersburg**, 314 South Boulevard, Petersburg (next door to Walnut Hill Baptist Church). The service is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

This annual event is sponsored by the Petersburg Area Clergy Association (PACA) and the Walnut Hill Area Churches and Synagogue Organization (WHACSO) in conjunction with the U.S. Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust and the Virginia Holocaust Museum.

This year our speaker is Jay Ipson. Forced into the Kovno Ghetto at age 6, Jay and his family survived their harrowing ordeal and later emigrated to Richmond, VA. In 1997, Jay co-founded and continues to serve as the Executive Director the Virginia Holocaust Museum. Many of the exhibits featured in the Museum recreate his family's experience. In addition, there will be a special presentation by students of the Colonial Heights Middle School, who will perform several Yiddish songs of the Holocaust period.

Every year Americans observe the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust. We join people of all faiths to take a stand against hate, bigotry, and apathy, by participating in this special event. Apathy, too, is a major evil in our society. **As living witnesses begin to fade, all people should take advantage of this opportunity!**

For further information contact Rabbi Dennis Beck-Berman at the Temple (732-3968) or by email (BrithAchim@aol.com).



Camp Wakonda Needs Our Help June 19-21, 2009

Camp Wakonda is a project of the Norfolk Urban Outreach Ministry of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. The one-week camp is offered free of charge to children who are suffering from, or have a family member who suffers from AIDS/HIV. To ensure the campers get the most of every day's experience, your help is needed to provide three meals each day, along with fresh fruit, snacks, juice and water. On Saturday, the campers will be at Chanco. A church is needed to provide lunch or a cookout for the campers at Chanco. Paper Products, suntan lotion and bug spray are also needed. These items along with liquid and powdered drinks may be delivered to the Diocesan office in Norfolk where they will be stored until needed. You may reach the camp food coordinator, Anne Brockenbrough, by email at abrocken@nps.k12.va.us or by phone 757-423-5684.

KOMEN RICHMOND RACE FOR THE CURE May 9, 2009



Kim Williams and Hannah Roberts will be running on the "Colonials for a Cure" team and would love any support through prayer, cheers or donations you would like to offer. The race will raise funds to support Komen's Promise to save lives and end **breast cancer** forever by empowering people, ensuring quality of care for all and energizing science to find the cures. Please join in the fight by pledging in support of Kim and Hannah's participation in the race. Your tax-deductible contribution can be sent to Richmond Affiliate, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Suite 209, 4905 Radford Ave., Richmond, Va 23230.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 9th, 7:00pm

Foot Washing, Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar



Good Friday, April 10th, 7:00pm

Stations of the Cross



Easter Sunday, April 12th, 8:00 & 10:30am

Easter Celebration and Holy Communion

Good Friday Offering

Every year on Good Friday, pilgrims from all over the world gather to walk along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. Some carry a cross, to understand better the nature of the burden that Jesus bore. Others accompany them, as witnesses, as penitents, as believers. By dying on the cross at Calvary, Jesus delivered us from sin and despair.



For 150 years the Anglican Church in Jerusalem has borne the responsibility of sharing the cross of Jesus in a special way. By helping to maintain the Christian witness in the Holy Land, by serving all of God's people there in a variety of ministries, by proclaiming the gospel and promoting justice, peace and love throughout the four dioceses in that region, the church serves us all.

Since 1922, Episcopalians here have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the **Good Friday Offering**. It is vital that we continue to share in this burden, and not let our brothers and sisters in Jerusalem carry the cross alone.

An Invitation

The Adult Spiritual Formation class is working on a chapter called "Living Abundance". In this chapter we are challenged to an exercise together. That challenge is to "choose one thing you prize and give it away." By God's grace we will do that together. We also would like to do some other giving or outreach together. So we invite you to contribute your suggestions to the following

Prayerfully think and write down several activities that the Adult Spiritual Formation class might do together or at the same time to give to or serve someone, in or out of our St. Michael's Church community. Please take some time to pray and think this through.

Out of the ideology of abundance, who might we serve and why? What could we do or give? How might this be organized and carried out? We hope to start discussing some possibilities next week. Remember that we give of our time, treasure and talents in God's name and for His glory.

We invite you to:

- Write down your ideas with as much detail as possible and give them to Hank or Peggy Graeser by 4/12/09.
- Join with the class in whatever we decide to do, whether it is your idea or not.

Thank you,
The Adult Spiritual Formation Class

Reminder

1st Sunday Pot Luck

Palm Sun., April 5, after 10:30 worship

Since spring is here and Easter is coming and eggs are a sign of new birth, lots of deviled eggs would be fun---everyone loves them. The eggs would be an extra in addition to another food item--we always want everyone to stay for pot lucks even if they forgot to make something---there is always enough.

Y'all Come!



Happy Birthday

Birthday party will be on
April 19th
after the 10:30am worship service .

APRIL

- 3 Helen Wagner
- 5 Sabine Allen
- 6 Dale Williams
- 11 Connie Thornton
- 15 Connie Lewis
- 16 Penny McCulloch
- 20 Heidi McMurdo
Woody Stafford
- 26 Karen Murphy
- 27 Hannah Roberts
- 28 Kara McCulloch

Anniversaries

APRIL

- 21 Henry and Jeannette Koster
- 24 Peter and Cindy Devereaux
- 26 Jay and Lisa Horne
Raul and Lynda Figueroa

Important Dates

April

- 1 Alpha, 7:00pm
- 4 Palm Sunday
- 9 Maundy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 11 Holy Saturday, Quiet Day
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 16-17 Communion Partners, Houston, TX, Clergy

THROUGH THE PANERA BREAD MINISTRY this past year, we have provided bread and pastries that retailed for \$30,145 to Carriage House and Lafayette House residents. Thanks to our volunteers! If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Ken Switzer.

Want to be Immersed in God's Glory?

You need to put May 7th on your calendar!! Christian rock group "SELAH" will be performing at Fort Lee, May 7th at 7:00pm.

Kirk and I have seen them once and cannot wait to see them again! We wanted to share our excitement and have you be a part of this beautiful music. All seats are FREE so call ahead to reserve yours! Please call Doreen @ 734-6494. The concert will be held at the Chapel, unless full capacity is met, in which case, it would then be moved to their theatre. **Please don't miss this, we promise it will be worth the trip!!**

- Tracy Bailey

Ladies of St. Michael's

If you have not already done so, please turn your calendar to October and write in **Women's Retreat** on the weekend on Oct. 9-11th! We already have reservations at Roslyn Center and think the theme will be "Wellness: physical and spiritual". If you have any ideas on this subject or can offer your expertise, please let me know.

- Peggy Graeser

Episcopal Church Women

The **April meeting** of the ECW will be Thursday, April 16th, 11:00am, in the Fowler Room. We will be working on Chapter 5; Job 15-17 for our Bible study. After the Bible study, we will have a short business meeting and then go out to lunch at a local restaurant.

Remember that the **Ukrop's Golden Gift Certificates** will arrive in May. They must be turned in to Hilda Traylor by Sunday, May 31, 2009.

The **UTO envelopes** will be collected May 17, 2009. Any questions, call Mary Lynne, 520-4618.



Shrine Mont 2009

Remembering, Resting and Rejoicing

July 26-30, 2009

**Keynote Speakers: Jean Rutherford and
Randolph Charles**

This is the "last hurrah" for the annual Shrine Mont Adult Formation Conference, after 36 wonderful years. We will share memories, spend time with friends, and joyously commemorate the history of the Shrine Mont Conference.

See the bulletin board for a brochure and information.

Evidence of the Resurrection

It is always a special joy when Easter Sunday coincides with the beginning of Spring. When I was a child, Easter often came early in the year when the ground was still hardened by frost and only a few hardy flowers dared appear. It made decorating the Church with signs of new life a real challenge.

In *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye sings an exuberant song in which he delights in being alive: "To life, to life, l'chaim. l'chaim, l'chaim, to life!" I always hear that song in my head on Easter Day because it expresses the miracle of Christ rising from the grave. Our faith is clear: Jesus did not just return from the dead – he was restored to life to the fullness of an exuberant, exciting existence!

"I came that you might have life," he once said, "Life in all its abundance!"

The Easter life in which Christ wants us to share is not mere living; It is a life of praise and thanksgiving, of laughter and song, of sharing and giving, of service and helping. Most people only live "half-lives" that are restricted by their human frailties and limited by their lack of vision. Easter Christians are called into "abundant life" in which God's grace dominates and through which the Holy Spirit shines.

It is that fullness of life which we will celebrate Easter Sunday. Christ's death and Resurrection change everything – and most especially the way we live, the way we relate to God, and the way we treat others. And we cannot keep it to ourselves.

There's an old story about a group of miners who were part of the California Gold Rush of 1849. They found a large deposit of the precious metal, but wanted to keep the discovery to themselves. They pledged that none of them would share their secret when they returned to town to get supplies. And they kept their promise. Not one of them said a word about their find. But when they set out for their claim a few days later, they were surprised by a large group of people following them. "How did you know we had struck pay-dirt?" they asked. "No one said a thing," they were told, "but you all used to be such a grouchy group when you came to town, and this time all of you were smiling!"

The evidence of the Resurrection lies in our faces and in our lives.

-- The Rt. Rev. Gethin B. Hughes,
via St. Mark's, Shreveport, Louisiana

from: *The Anglican Digest*
Easter A.D. 2009, p. 7

Youth Ministry News

The meeting this month will be led by Hannah Roberts. The topic for the meeting is "Life is what you make of it!"

Happening #55 was attended by David Warriner and Brandon Peet. The closing ceremony was really nice. Both David and Brandon had a mountain top experience.

This years Blackstone Convention will be attended by Brandon Peet, David Warriner, Joseph Gay, Aaron Bottoms, Kate Parsio, Guy Allen, and myself.

The EYC Yard Sale will be held on May 16. We are accepting donations of your unwanted items. We will have tables for sale once again, \$15 for members of the church and \$20 for anyone else. This event was a major contributor towards EYC events last year, and we hope to raise just as much this year. Tell your friends and neighbors and start clearing out those closets, garages, and storage areas. Contact me or Kelly at 768-8664 if you have questions.

Thanks be to God,
Michael



Easter Egg Hunt

We will have an Easter Egg hunt for children after the Easter Sunday Services. Kids, please bring your Easter basket to gather eggs.

Canterbury Choir Tour

The Men and Boys Choir of Canterbury Cathedral will be touring and stopping at St. James' Church, 1205 West Franklin Street, Richmond. The concert is scheduled for Monday, April 20, beginning at 7:00pm. The 12 lay clerks and the 30 boy choristers of the Canterbury Choir continue a tradition over 1400 years old – one of the longest in the world. Their concert will include choral music by William Byrd, Robert Parsons, Thomas Tallis, Benjamin Britten, William Walton and organ music by George Frederick Handel and Louis Vierne. Dr. David Flood, Canterbury's Organist and Master of the Choristers since 1998, will be leading the group.

Interested persons are invited to attend. For more information, go to the St. James' website at www.doers.org/pages or contact the church at 804-344-1779.



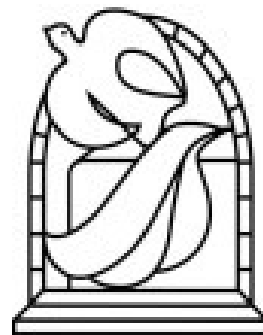
Thoughts from the Altar Guild

We are the people of God. We are called to be in relationship with our God. One of the ways that helps us in building relationship is through our worship. God asks us to worship Him and there are many ways to worship. Here in St. Michael's, we are blessed with many opportunities and avenues of worship such as through our choir music, our fellowship times, our prayer times, etc.

In Lent we have had opportunities of worship through hearing the word and hearing about life's lessons through community with each other right here in St. Michael's. As we approach the end of Lent, we are again given the opportunity to walk with our Lord Jesus through Holy Week, to remember the story and to hear in our hearts what He wants to say to each us right now. We always have an invitation to come and renew our relationship with Him as we try to experience just a little of the flavor of that week before Calvary. Many times we don't want to think about the cruelty and pain of these hours leading to the cross for it was much less than pleasant. When I pause to realize that Jesus went through all of it for me and for each and every member of my family, my dear friends, and all of mankind, I stand amazed at such incredible, wonderful love. Only God can love like that. My answer to His invitation to come and experience the pageantry of Palm Sunday, the intimate gathering at His last supper here on earth, the care and love He extended in washing the feet of His disciples and then the charge for them and for all of us to go forth to care for one another and to spread the Word of His love and salvation, must be "Yes, Lord, I will be there." I will be with you also, Jesus, as you struggle towards that cross on Good Friday. My prayer for all of us is "help me Lord not to run away from the ugliness of this time, but to hold onto your hand as I remember what you have done for me."

Join us on that glorious day of resurrection as we celebrate Easter, the gift of life our Lord has won for us.

Our sanctuary will come alive on Easter day with many examples of God's creation. He is truly the Master Artist. He has given us so much beauty through His creation of flowers, woodland creatures that fly and swim and move and have their being in Him. We will display a tiny bit of it to honor Him. His most important creation is you and me. I hope that we can be there too.



Happy Easter,
Your Altar Guild

Bereavement Coalition News

The Bereavement Coalition of Central Virginia, a group that Hank and I have been members of for 2 years, is offering a variety of activities in the Richmond area throughout the month of April. These activities are focused on increasing awareness and offering coping skills and ideas to families and children who have experienced loss. The events range from a performance by "Men of Step" at Union University on April 4th to a time of games, crafts, story telling and puppets at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden on Sunday, April 26th. If you are at all interested in learning more about "The Month of The Grieving Child" please contact Peggy Graeser or pick up a brochure from the bulletin board in the hall outside the Fellowship Hall.



Update on Bryan's Oasis

The Lord is blessing and using Bryan's Oasis, a small retreat center in the Va. mountains. Its purpose is to "provide rest and refreshment on the journey" in a quiet peaceful setting. This is offered free of charge, meals and linens provided. We are privileged to be stewards of this lovely place, offering it to others and enjoying it ourselves. In early Jan. we hosted Eugene and Mariana Siminov, the young Moldovan missionaries who many of you know, for 3 days as a place for them to recover from jet lag and to prepare for their time here in the states. Then a couple who lost their adult son spent 2 days there remembering and celebrating him on the 2nd anniversary of his passing. Later in the month we hosted a young couple needing a time and place to grieve the loss of their baby. We were inspired and blessed by their courage. In February, several ladies from St. Michael's gathered there, enjoying the wood burning stove and a brief snow fall. It was a wonderful time of community, prayer and sharing. As I write this Irene Handy is hosting a Lenten retreat for several of her spiritual directees. I offer this update in gratitude for the Lord's faithfulness and in thanksgiving for many prayers said and answered. Please keep it up. This is Kingdom work and we treasure and need your prayers. We also have and will be presenting a short Power Point presentation about Bryan's Oasis to various organizations involved in bereavement that might act as referrers for grieving couples and families. Thank you again for keeping us and this ministry in your prayers.

Blessings and love,
Hank and Peggy

Tastefully Simple

Come to the historic Folly Castle Inn, Petersburg on Sunday, May 3, to enjoy Tastefully Simple treats and raise money to **support the St. Michael's women's retreat**. Jackie Graham has invited us to use her beautiful bed and breakfast to enjoy each others company and sample some of the unique gourmet products designed to promote a simple lifestyle. Priced from \$4.49 to \$9.99, you can purchase Parmesan Biscuit mix to Blushing Cosmo Drink Mix and English Toffee Mocha Drink Mix and Butterscotch Brickle Cheese Ball Mix. The mixes make wonderful gifts and Mother's Day is coming

Plan to join us and bring a friend after our pot-luck luncheon at 1:30pm on May 3. If you aren't able to be there, you can still place orders through the St. Michaels event either on-line or through Cindy Devereaux, and the same portion of your purchase price will be credited to St. Michael's. Please RSVP to Cindy at 732-3289 so we can plan for you.

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