



# The Spire

The Newsletter of St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Smyrna, Delaware



*"A Community of Faith Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing"*

April 2019

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## Rector's Reflections – Walk through Holy Week

The 14th of this month begins Holy Week. The time when the very core of the Christian miracle is represented in prayer and praise through the sacred rites. I find this time of the year humbling and awe-inspiring. Since we celebrate this important week once a year, I would like to explain the rich symbols which help to make real the events surrounding the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus.

Holy Week begins with a liturgy properly named Palm/Passion Sunday. Prior to our present Book of Common Prayer, this Sunday was divided into two separate Services. The Churches of the catholic order (Anglican, Roman and Orthodox) were concerned that too many people were attending the Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist, followed by Easter, thereby missing the central act of the Cross on Good Friday. To counter this problem, the Churches merged these two Services together.

Palm Sunday begins in a joyous mood, as we remember the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, riding a donkey [symbolizing as King he comes in peace], while the crowd laid palm branches along His path shouting "Hosanna, Hosanna." We join in with the crowd and their excitement in greeting Jesus with our own small procession carrying palm branches. The 8 AM service gathers in the Parish Hall and the 10 AM service gathers on our Mt. Vernon Street property. As the procession ends, the mood of the liturgy changes dramatically as we read the Passion account, this year from the Gospel of St. Luke. The cheering is replaced by shouts of "Crucify Him, Crucify Him" and death is on the horizon. When we hear our own voices saying "Crucify Him, Crucify Him," we are reminded how easy it is to unintentionally stand with the principalities and powers of this world instead of with God and the marginalized.

On Wednesday in Holy Week we have our Healing Service. The Gospel is always from John 13:21-32 where Jesus is at supper with the disciples and tells them one of them will betray him. Initially all the disciples wonder if it is them, just as we must wonder if it is us. Jesus reveals that it is Judas who is one of the twelve disciples with his own agenda that conflicts with Jesus' agenda of non-violence and love.

Reflecting on this Gospel reading this week reminds us of the damage and despair we have the power to unknowingly inflict when we impose our self-serving agendas rather than the Lord's agenda.

On Maundy Thursday we gather to share in all that Jesus did on His last night. We experience a deeper level of intimacy with Jesus at the Supper and watch with Him as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. We acknowledge that on Thursday night in the garden, every part of His humanity wanted to run; but the divine love within gave Him the courage to stay and lay down His life in absorbing with suffering the violence, evil, and rejection of the world. We remember and celebrate the institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Priesthood, and Jesus' new servant-leadership in the washing of the feet.

We begin our evening with fellowship and a simple Agape meal and seek to see ourselves as one of the disciples sitting around the table with Jesus. The liturgy that follows begins in the usual fashion with the foot-washing celebrated after the sermon. Volunteers from the congregation help us recall this act of humility. It reminds both the congregation and the clergy that we are all called to serve and not to be served. The Eucharist has special significance on this night as we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples. He gave His very self to His disciples through the bread and wine. These were broken and poured out, just as He would be the next morning. We also remember that it was on this night that Judas betrays Jesus, Peter denies Him, and Jesus stands trial before the Sanhedrin of Israel.

After communion, we remember Jesus being led away by transferring the Blessed Sacrament in solemn procession from the Church to the Altar of Repose in St. Stephen's Chapel. Immediately after the procession returns, we remove all the crosses, altar clothes and any movable finery from the church, so that all that remains is a bare altar and the cross covered in black. The Church is made ready for Good Friday. Then the Vigil Watch begins in St. Stephen's Chapel where we are invited to answer the question, "Can we watch with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane one hour?"

On Good Friday, the holiest day of the year, we battle evil in this world and within ourselves by quenching it with the power of the Cross. From the start of Friday until Easter, the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated. The Church greets us on Good Friday with a stark bareness encountered no other time of the year. The wooden Cross becomes the focus of our worship on this day. After receiving Communion from the Reserved Sacrament at the Friday evening service, the remaining Reserved Sacrament is consumed.

From that point until the Easter service, the Risen Lord is not present in the Church through the Bread and Wine. The Aumbry is left open to reveal its emptiness and the sanctuary candle is dark. All is quiet! Jesus is buried and we wait; but how long could we wait? When we allow ourselves to sit in the quiet, empty presence of the Risen Lord, then on Easter Sunday our joy overflows with singing and praising our loving God who came and was incarnate in this life, rose to defeat evil once for all, and is still here with us in the Spirit.

These rites are not simply a rehearsal of some past events. Rather, they bring to life the very power of those original miracles each and every time they are celebrated. So often in our own lives we experience moments of death and betrayal, times when the tunnel of time seems without end. Holy Week reassures us that Christ experienced that same darkness, but in the end the light of the Resurrection brought victory to Christ, and victory to us.

It's easy for us to fall into the danger of following Jesus at a distance. "Walking in another person's shoes" provides us the ability to empathize and better understand. Fully participating in all the Holy Week services gives us the opportunity to experience and feel what Jesus felt that last night before His great agony and to somehow enter into His passionate love for us. By walking the road to Calvary we too find the power of Resurrection dispelling the darkness of our own lives, bringing clarity and joy to bear.

During this Lenten Season let us promise and dedicate ourselves to eliminating any distance between ourselves and Jesus. Let us walk the sacred walk of Calvary together this year as we proclaim the power of the Cross and empty tomb together. Please join with me in finding the Light that shines from the empty tomb!

In Christ's Love and Service, *DJ+*



***Holy Week Services:***

***Sunday, April 14, Palm/Passion Sunday***

- 8 AM – HE Rite I beginning in Parish Hall*
- 10 AM – HE Rite II beginning on Mt. Vernon St.*

***Wednesday, April 17, Wednesday in Holy Week***

- 10:30 AM – Healing Service with HE Rite II followed by Bible Study*

***Thursday, April 18, Maundy Thursday***

- 6 PM – Agape Meal*
- 7 PM – Maundy Thursday liturgy with foot washing*
- 9 PM – 9 AM Friday – Vigil Watch in St. Stephen's Chapel*

***Friday, April 19, Good Friday***

- 12 PM – Smyrna Clayton Ministerium Service at Smyrna Wesleyan Church*
- 7 PM – Good Friday liturgy with the Veneration of the Cross and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament*

***Sunday, April 21, Easter***

- 8 AM – HE Rite I with a Baptism*
- 10 AM – HE Rite II followed by an Easter Egg hunt in the backyard*

*P.S. Remember on Saturday, April 13 (one week earlier from past years), we have our Evangelistic Outreach of Lunch with the Easter Bunny from 11AM to 1PM.*



***Happy Easter!***





**Outreach for 2019**

Thank you for supporting our monthly Outreach Projects in 2018. We had a busy year and it is our hope that we have made a difference in our community. Our monthly schedule for 2019 will be the same as in 2018 and we will continue our on-going Outreach projects as well. The project for each month is listed below. If you have suggestions for Outreach projects, please contact me.

May we all have a giving heart in 2019!

Mary Sanders  
(302)-659-1466

**Matthew 25:35-45**

<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,<sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup> 'Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?<sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

<sup>40</sup> 'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

- January – P.I.C. (Personal care/household cleaning items) Ewell~St. Paul's Church, Clayton
- February – "Souper Bowl of Caring" (funds collected), Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium
- March – Food of the Month (food items), Food Pantry at Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna
- April – PIC (personal care/household cleaning items) Ewell St. Paul's, Clayton ERD Episcopal Relief and Development -ERD (funds collected) Lent Project**
- May – Food of the Month (food items), Food Pantry at Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna
- June – Home of the Brave (wish list items) Veterans Home, Milford
- July – Food of the Month (food items) Food Pantry at Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna  
Alex's Lemonade (funds) 4th of July Event, funds for Children's Cancer Research
- August – Back Pack Project for North Smyrna Elementary School
- September – Kent County Animal Shelter (wish list items), Camden
- October – Thanksgiving Dinner (funds & breakfast food items), Smyrna/Clayton Ministerium
- November – DHCI Christmas for Residents (wish list items) Smyrna
- December – Veterans United Outreach of Delaware (Gift Cards)

**March Follow-up & April Harvest Sharing**

The rest of the Food collected in March will be delivered this week to Asbury Methodist Church. Thank you for Sharing!

April Harvest Sharing is the PIC at Ewell's - St Paul Methodist Church. Slips with needed items are in the PIC basket at front of the church. Items will be delivered the first week of May.

We will turn in the funds for our Lent project for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Gift of Life Program after the Easter Sunday services. At that time we will be able to determine which animals and how many animals we can purchase for this program. Gift of Life helps provide animals and crops that provide food and a source of income to families in countries around the world. We can make a difference.

Thank you! Mary



**Our Thanks this month go to...**

**Shirley Biddle** and **Dorris Wheeler** for coordinating our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and **Everyone** who provided the food and labor for the event and/or ate pancakes in support of our event to make this event a great success.

**Paul Buckley** and the Members of the **First State Harmonizers** who led our worship music from March 3<sup>rd</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Everyone** who brought a dish to share at our Potluck Dinner on February 16 and/or helped set up and clean up.

**Paul Buckley** for his presentation at our Potluck Dinner on celebrity train layouts.

**Shirley Biddle** for coordinating our Eating-Out Event at Pat's Pizza on March 26<sup>th</sup> and **Everyone** who attended to support the ministries of St. Peter's.

**Paul Buckley** for removing the soaking wet insulation in the hall ceiling in front of the kitchen window.

**Dorris Wheeler** for coordinating our Mothering Sunday Homecoming and **Everyone** who helped set-up or brought pictures to share.

**Dorris Wheeler** and **Shirley Biddle** for providing the traditional Simnel Cake for our Mothering Sunday Homecoming celebration.

**Paul Buckley** for quickly replacing two floor vents in the Parish Hall after Beth Wessell notified him there were metal edges sticking up.





**“WHAT’S HAPPENING”  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**April**

- 4/2 Mary Vaughn Moor
- 4/6 Harold Warnett
- 4/9 Kathleen Faulkner
- 4/10 Marylouise McNaughton
- 4/11 Susan Poteau
- 4/12 Sandy Robinson
- 4/15 Alton “Rex” Price, Sarah Behler
- 4/17 Ella Grace Chafin
- 4/19 Rich Behler
- 4/20 Patricia Atherly-Liddie, Rob Correll
- 4/29 Bill Slicher
- 4/30 Lois Clampffer

**Anniversaries**

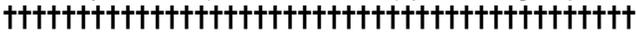
- 4/1 Dennis & Charlotte Costello  
Keith & Wendy Faulkner
- 4/12 Leroy Brown & Stan McIntyre
- 4/17 Steve & Mary Putman



If anyone would like to brag about a milestone birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement, birth of a child or grandchild or any major event in your lives, this is the place to do it!!! Call the office and we’ll make sure to get it into the Spire so we can all enjoy your news!!

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If you would like to have the Altar flowers put in Church In Memory of or in Thanksgiving for someone, please sign your name next to the date on the charts in the Parish Hall (next to the kitchen). **The florist will bill you** (Note: the price for both vases is \$40.00) or if you would like to have the Aumbry Candle (\$20.00 a month) please sign up.



**ALTAR FLOWERS – April**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Stan McIntyre & Leroy Brown
- 14<sup>th</sup> Shirley Biddle
- 21<sup>st</sup> Easter Flowers
- 28<sup>th</sup> Easter Flowers

**AUMBRY CANDLE – April**

WillElla Jackson

**April Parish Cycle of Prayer:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Kathy, Daniel & Amanda Eichler  
Greg & Dawn Ellis
- 14<sup>th</sup> John, Lisa & Allison Embert  
Kathy Faulkner
- 21<sup>st</sup> Easter Flowers & Memorials
- 28<sup>th</sup> Keith & Wendy Faulkner  
Allison & Tom Gallo



**Patter from Preschool**

Spring, spring, where are you? I had frost on my windshield this morning!! BUT you know before long we will be commenting on how warm it is. Bring it on!

We have been busy with shamrocks, spring and just starting our Easter unit. As always, we stress! It’s Not the Bunny but The Lamb!! The children are enjoying getting to be outside most days.

I would like to thank all those who purchased raffle tickets for our Fundraiser. The list of winners will be in the next Spire. The money collected pays for our transportation for our 2 field trips and whatever else is needed to improve Preschool.

Enjoy the longer days, the beauty of the flowers and trees and warm ☺ breezes.

Beth Wessell



**Important/Fun Dates for March:**

- 4/1 April Fool’s Day
- 4/2 National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day
- 4/10 National Siblings Day
- 4/14 Palm Sunday
- 4/15 TAX Day – taxes due!
- 4/17 National Cheeseball Day
- 4/18 Maundy Thursday
- 4/19 Good Friday
- 4/21 Easter Sunday, Passover Begins (Sundown)
- 4/22 National Jelly Bean Day, Earth Day
- 4/24 Administrative Professionals Day
- 4/30 National Honesty Day



**St. Peter’s Preschool Raffle Results:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Brian Lutes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brittany Fuchs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Pandora Freeman
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Drew Spencer
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Terry Merrill
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Joan Fuchs
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Diane Denker

☺ Congratulations to All the Winners!! ☺