

The Epistle of St. Paul's, Bristol Parish Petersburg, Virginia

April 2009

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

It's a familiar situation when someone comes up to you and says, "I've got some bad news and some good news. Which do you want first?" I don't know that many people who would choose to hear the good news first and then have to end up hearing the bad news last. Most of us would prefer to get the bad news out of the way first and then be able to linger over the good news. Perhaps the good news would even take away some of the sting of the bad news.

Jesus often comes to his disciples with the bad news first: "I'm going to die and I'm going to die a lot sooner than you think and not in a very nice way." The disciples who may not fully understand why Jesus has to die want to keep him around for as long as possible. They want not only to enjoy his company, to learn from him, and to watch him perform miracles, but they also want him to turn things upside down, to upset the Jewish hierarchy, and to push against the hated Romans. The disciples always react to the prediction of Jesus' death with dismay and denial, "Say it ain't so!" Consistently the disciples never seem to hear that every announcement of his death also includes a word about his rising again. In each of the four gospels, Jesus never mentions the news of his death without also mentioning the news of his rising again. The two events are always in tandem: the Passion and the Resurrection linked together.

Perhaps this is why the reading of the Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday hits us so hard. We only hear of the events leading up to and including the

Crucifixion. We don't get the good news of the Resurrection until a week later. We have to go through the whole of Holy Week without hearing the good news of Easter morning as well. Even knowing how difficult it is to hear only the bad news, I encourage you all to take up your cross during the week from Palm Sunday to Easter.

Come to church on Palm Sunday, receive your palm branches, wave them during the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, wear your palm cross, and begin the journey through the valley of the shadow of death. Know that Jesus is walking with you. Come to church on Maundy Thursday and participate in the Last Supper and the Stripping of the Altar. This year we will have a dramatic liturgy for the removal of all the items from the sanctuary that will be very moving. Join us at church on Good Friday for the somber liturgy featuring the solemn collects and the contemplation of the cross upon which Jesus died. Having walked the way of the cross through the entire week, please come to church and shout, "Alleluia!" with us on Easter morning as we greet the Risen Lord! The joy of Easter morning is so much sweeter when we have experienced the dark disturbances of Holy Week. The light is so much brighter when viewed from the shadows. The Good News of the Resurrection is so much richer when we have really listened with our heart and soul to the bad news of the Crucifixion.

Peace,
Rick

Summary of the Vestry Meeting held March 8th

After an opening prayer offered at 12:30 p.m., reports were made by the Rector, the Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden. The Treasurer was away on duty in Florida at the time of this meeting. The 2009 Budget was reviewed briefly with particular attention being paid to the compensation of salaried personnel. The mission and membership of the Vestry Committees was discussed at some length. Each Vestry member was asked to consider the ministry of six possible Vestry Committees: Capital Campaign, Membership Growth, Marketing, Christian Formation, Communication, and Stewardship. The Rector will be presenting a mission statement for each one of these committees at the April Vestry meeting with the understanding that there may still be the need for several more committees. There was a prudent interest expressed in having only committees with a clear purpose and an active membership. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 5th

- 8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist, Rite I
Passion Narrative and brief homily
- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast, *Bristol Hall*
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study, *The Guild Room*
- 9:30 a.m. Bristol Ringers Rehearsal, *Gallery*
- 10:30 a.m. The Liturgy of the Palms and
The Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour, *The Guild Room*

Wednesday, April 8th

- 7:15 p.m. St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal, *Chancel*

Maundy Thursday, April 9th

- 6:00 p.m. Dinner, *Bristol Hall*
- 6:45 p.m. Nursery, *1st Floor*
- 7:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist, *Rite I*
and The Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 10th

- 12:00 p.m. The Good Friday Liturgy, *Chapel*
- 6:45 p.m. Nursery, *1st Floor*
- 7:00 p.m. The Good Friday Liturgy, *Church*

Easter Sunday, April 12th

- 8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist, *Rite I*
- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast, *Bristol Hall*
- 9:30 a.m. Bristol Ringers Rehearsal, *Gallery*
- 9:45 a.m. Flowering of the Cross
- 10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist, *Rite I*
- **12:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship Hour
on the front lawn

**** The time of the Easter Egg Hunt has been changed**



Concerts by Candlelight

Every second Friday of the month
as part of Petersburg's *Friday for the Arts*.

***With Good Friday falling on the second Friday
in April there will be no concert this month.***

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH ~ 6:30 P.M.

Lisa Edwards-Burrs, Soprano
Charles K. Lindsey, Jr. Organ & Piano

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH ~ 6:30 P.M.

Bryan Sheetz Steel Drum Ensemble

News and Notes

First Young Adult Fun Fellowship Event

The Young Adults of St Paul's will gather at Swaders (www.swaders.com) at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 4th for some very competitive miniature golf. After determining a links champion, the group will head over to the Chandlers' house at 7:00 p.m. in Walnut Hill for a casual supper of burgers and dogs. Folks are encouraged to come for one or both of these events as their time schedule permits. Oh, "a young adult" by the numbers is anyone between the ages of 18 and 40, but all those who are "young-at-heart" are most welcome to join in the fun!

We need acolytes to serve on Easter Sunday!

St Paul's would love to have a "full complement" of acolytes serving on Easter Sunday morning. We hope to have two crucifers, two flag-bearers, two torch-bearers, a server, and a whole bunch of banner-bearers! Everyone who would like to participate is encouraged to speak to the Rector about their interest in serving. The hope is that once folks have given acolyting a try, they will want to continue with this beautiful ministry.

Children's Sunday School to Begin April 26th

Elizabeth Chandler and Vanessa Keeler have volunteered to begin teaching a Sunday School class for our young children during the first half of the 10:30 a.m. service. Initially, the children are asked to join their families in church for the singing of the opening hymn. Then they will be invited by the Rector to come forward to gather at the Chancel steps to hear a children's homily. At the end of the brief homily, the children will go downstairs to Bristol Hall for their lesson. The children will return at the exchanging of the Peace to be with their families once again for communion. We are very grateful to Elizabeth and Vanessa for offering their educational ministry to our children.

A Prayer List Change

St. Paul's has gently been made aware of the fact that publishing the Prayer List on the website may not be a good practice for a variety of reasons, but particularly due to privacy issues. The Prayer List will continue to be printed in the Sunday bulletin, however, and we will certainly continue to pray for one another.

If you would like to add or delete a name on the Prayer List, please let Susan Wells know in the Church Office.

Wednesday Evening Hymn Sing

Our Wonderful Wednesday Program has added a new feature! At the end of dinner, just before Compline is said, everyone is invited into the Chancel to join in an old-fashioned Hymn Sing. Each Wednesday evening we will sing four favorites from the 1982 Hymnal or any other hymnal of your choice. Charles Lindsey will make copies of any choices not from the 1982 Hymnal. Please come and join us for dinner at 6 p.m., the Hymn Sing at 6:50 p.m., Compline at 7:00 p.m., and Bible Study at 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday night.



Pet-Food Donations

Peachie Johnson has offered to deliver pet-food to area animal shelters to ensure that every pet does not go hungry during this current economic crisis. Please bring dry or canned dog or cat food to church with you on the **third Sunday in April** (normal collection is the second Sunday of each month) and Peachie will make sure that it all gets delivered to the right place.



ECW Scholarships Available

Each year the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Southern Virginia offer scholarship aid to men and women for continuing education. These scholarships are available to Episcopalians living in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. The deadline for applying this year is July 1, 2009.

There are two scholarships:

- ✓ The Elise Holladay Scholarship provides assistance to men and women for continued education beyond high school in undergraduate study only.
- ✓ The Tucker Memorial Scholarship provides assistance to men and women in church-related training in an accredited Episcopal Church seminary. Applicants must have successfully completed the Diocesan Ordination Exploration Program and been granted postulancy prior to submission of an application. Half of the amount of the scholarship must be repaid within five (5) years.

Applications forms are available in the Church Office.

Little Notes from You

Dear Ms. Maclin and St. Paul's,

On behalf of the citizens in Petersburg that we serve, it is our sincere pleasure to thank you for your donation of gifts for a family this holiday season. Our team had another great year of philanthropy despite these difficult financial times. With your assistance, more than 214 families ranging from two to ten members were able to have a holiday that they did not expect, but most certainly enjoyed.

Our goal here at Petersburg Department of Social Services is to provide services and programs that improve the quality of life of area citizens. You most definitely assisted us in meeting that goal.

Again, we thank you for your generous support and extend our warmest wishes for a prosperous New Year.

With Our Kindest Regards,

Kimberley D. Willis, MSW, ACSW
Director

Mahasin D. Shamsis-Deen

Volunteer Services Coordinator

Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you all so much for the wonderful things for Jack! It is so very nice to be part of a community that cares so much for each other. Each gift was very thoughtful and special. They will come in very handy and be cherished for many years to come!

Love,

Vanessa, Justin and Jack

April Birthdays

10th Richard Cuthbert
13th Morgan Parrish
14th Brenda Orlando
17th Cynthia Owens-Bailey
22nd Linda Wynne
24th Beth Cuthbert
30th George Blake
30th Anne Carree Smith

April Anniversaries

8th George & Jackie Blake
27th Chris & Peachie Johnson

We give thanks for the birth of Jack Urban Keeler, born March 22nd at 4:22 a.m. to Vanessa and Justin Keeler. Jack weighed in at 8 lbs. 12 oz. and measured 21 ¼ inches. Mother and son are healthy and doing well.