



The Messenger



The newsletter of St. Mary's Church, an Episcopal-Lutheran Community

506 South McNeil Street · P.O. Box 841 · Burgaw, NC 28425 · (910) 259-5541

APRIL 2008

A Message from Father Dan Macgill

It is with great anticipation and excitement that I look forward to my first service with you all as your priest. I honestly did not think that I would be in this position again. I felt that I would strictly do supply work for the diocese and that would be it.

However, when I received a call to see if I might be interested in coming to St. Mary's as your priest, that belief changed when I visited your church for the first time on a Sunday. Everyone was so friendly and I felt like I was back in my former church. That feeling continued when I went into the sanctuary for worship. I just had a very strong sense that this was a place that God truly was calling me to serve.

So, I thank you for this wonderful opportunity and I look forward to getting to know all of you. We will worship God together and make St. Mary's a place that people will want to come and be a part of the life and mission of our church.

May the peace of God be with each and everyone of you.

Father Dan

The Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop's Message for Easter 2008

Your Easter celebration undoubtedly has included lots of physical signs of new life -- eggs, flowers, new green growth. As the Easter season continues, consider how your daily living can be an act of greater life for other creatures. How can you enact the new life we know in Jesus the Christ? In other words, how can you be the sacrament, the outward and visible sign, of the grace that you know in the resurrected Christ? How can your living let others live more abundantly?

The Judaeo-Christian tradition has been famously blamed for much of the current environmental crisis, particularly for our misreading of Genesis 1:28 as a charge to "fill the earth and subdue it." Our forebears were so eager to distinguish their faith from the surrounding Canaanite religion and its concern for fertility that some of them worked overtime to separate us from an awareness of "the hand of God in the world about us," especially in a reverence for creation. How can we love God if we do not love what God has made?

We base much of our approach to loving God and our neighbors in this world on our baptismal covenant. Yet our latest prayer book was written just a bit too early to include caring for creation among those explicit baptismal promises. I would invite you to explore those promises a bit more deeply -- where and how do they imply caring for the rest of creation?

We are beginning to be aware of the ways in which our lack of concern for the rest of creation results in death and destruction for our neighbors. We cannot love our neighbors unless we care for the creation that supports all our earthly lives. We are not respecting the dignity of our fellow creatures if our sewage or garbage fouls their living space. When atmospheric warming, due in part to the methane output of the millions of cows we raise each year to produce hamburger, begins to slowly drown the island homes of our neighbors in the South Pacific, are we truly sharing good news?

The food we eat, the energy we use, the goods and foods we buy, the ways in which we travel, are all opportunities -- choices and decisions -- to be for others, both human and other. Our Christian commitment is for this -- that we might live that more abundant life, and that we might do it in a way that is for the whole world.

Abundant blessings this Easter, and may those blessings abound through the coming days and years.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Presiding Bishop's Message for Easter 2008**

"For you have died, your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory." (Colossians 3:3-4)

"You have died." The words resonate because this world's violence and suffering--so pervasive, so needless, so relentless--haunt every human community and life. Where death rules, hope lies entombed in endless grief.

Another death--the crucifixion of Jesus--changed everything. God is not hidden, but present through suffering, sorrow, and death. Jesus is God's resounding "yes!" to the steadfastness of God's forgiving love, embodied on a cross.

The death of Jesus shows no partiality. It was for all nations and all people--for them, for you, for me. Your life is now with Christ. In baptism you have died. Hidden with Christ, no longer entombed in grief, your life carries the promise of glory.

From that first day of resurrection onward, God has been raising up messengers of salvation, heralds of peace, and testifiers of the promised glory. You are a witness of the hope to come. Quite simply, Christ is your life, my life, our life. You have no other than this One who lives resurrected in you.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

There's More!

On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn't know there was more—a resurrected Lord.

Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn't yet know there was more—a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make the joy complete.

Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine there was more—the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

As great as Easter is, it's only the "first fruit" of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come!

submitted by Linda Hadden

What is “Witness?”

We say that Christians live through “Worship and Witness.” We gather to worship; then we disburse to live our lives, with everything we do and say being a witness to our faith.

Much of our witness is personal—how we act and speak where ever we are. But some of the time our witness is not as personal, particularly when we donate our money to projects through our Church that are too large for us to do ourselves or too distant for our personal involvement.

We can divide these larger projects into sections based upon geography:

1. Worldwide Anglican (or Lutheran) projects
2. Projects of the national Episcopal (or Lutheran) Church
3. Diocesan projects
4. Deanery projects
5. Congregational projects

It is important to emphasize that these efforts at witnessing are not in opposition to each other and are not even competitive. The Church operates at these different levels, giving us the opportunity to witness in a number of different ways. St. Mary's Church is a congregation of the Lower Cape Fear Deanery, one of the five deaneries of the East Carolina Diocese of the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church is a member of the Worldwide Anglican Communion.

An example of each level of witness:

1. Anglicans all over the world support of the besieged and battered Anglican Church in the Holy Land with their Good Friday offerings. (The Lutheran Church has a similar ministry.)
2. Our national Episcopal Church trains, sends, and supports missionaries around the world. We at St. Mary's support this effort through our annual tithe to the Diocese of East Carolina. In addition, we give 1% of our annual budget to seminaries of the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches. Other examples of national church mission projects are found in every issue of *Episcopal Life*.
3. Our Diocese of East Carolina joins with the Diocese of (Central) North Carolina and the Diocese of Western North Carolina in support of Thompson Child and Family Focus, a social ministry for at-risk children in our state. Our Diocese also sponsors and supports a large and growing Hispanic ministry in the Newton Grove area including La Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia (Church of the Holy Family) congregation and a ministry to migrant workers.
4. There is no specific Deanery project at the present.

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Witness, con't

5. St. Mary's Projects: We have been involved for quite some time assisting Safe Haven of Pender County with the donation baskets at the entrance to the church. We are also providing a financial donation to the Penderlea family (neighbors of Heidi and Jimbo Robbins) who lost their home and youngest child to a fire just before Easter.

PLEASE NOTE: These different levels of witness are not in competition with each other and are not for us to pick and choose. These are the various different levels through which we as individual Episcopal/Lutheran Christians are involved in witness through our Church. Of course, it is only natural that one level would appeal to us more than others; but all these witness efforts are valid, and all need support.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PREPARATIONS

St. Mary's Church will be celebrating its centennial in November 2008. Preparations are underway! Linda Hadden has agreed to serve as the coordinator for the centennial celebration. She will be announcing the committees and projects soon and is seeking input from all parishioners. Everyone is welcome to participate in these preparations; please speak with Linda if you would like to help.

Diocesan History Workshop Coming Soon!

The Diocesan Archives and History Committee is sponsoring a workshop on Saturday, April 12th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Diocesan House in Kinston. Everyone in the Diocese of East Carolina is invited to attend.

The guest speaker is Patrick Valentine, author of *The Episcopalians of Wilson County, 1856-1995* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1996), winner of the N.C. Society of Historians' Ethel Twiford Religious History Book Award and the N.C. Genealogical Society's Award for Excellence in Publishing. He has also written *Rise of a Southern Town: Wilson, North Carolina, 1849-1920* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 2002) and a number of articles about libraries. Dr. Valentine is an Assistant Professor at East Carolina University's Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology. He has a doctorate in history from Tulane University and a master's in librarianship from the University of South Carolina. Following Dr. Valentine's presentation, workshop participants will be doing research on their parish using archival records available in the Diocesan resources.

Linda Hadden is a committee member and will be attending the workshop. Any parishioner who would like to attend with her is welcome. Please let Linda know.

2007 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES	BUDGETED	ACTUAL
PRIEST	17100.00	17207.29
ORGANIST	9300.00	8397.91
UTILITIES	3060.00	3140.35
INSURANCE	3900.00	3000.86
MAINTENANCE	2160.00	3991.86
SUNDAY SCHOOL	500.00	400.97
MEETINGS, ETC.	500.00	1283.22
DONATIONS	5200.00	14163.00 (6000.00) PRIVATE DONATION
MEM.FUND		1393.00
ADVERTISING	1000.00	783.42
OFFICE	500.00	1836.14
FLOWERS	1300.00	1070.20
ALTER, ETC	100.00	7661.99 (6240.00) PRIVATE DONATIONS
KITCHEN	400.00	155.78
MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES	650.00	
DIOCESE PLEDGE	4038.00	4038.00
TOTALS 12/31/2007	49708.00	64485.99

ROOF FUND	\$1,350.00 (INCLUDED IN BALANCE)
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/07	\$ 6,217.93

FLEX CD	\$15,299.00
ORIGINAL CD	\$38,873.10

TREASURERS NOTES

In an effort to try to control our miscellaneous expenses, I have purchased a Costco membership card for the church. If you need to purchase any supplies, please use the card to purchase as much as possible at Costco. Or, you can let me know what you need, and I can do the shopping for you. We used Costco for our recent luncheon food and paper needs; it proved to be economical and convenient.

I realize there may be times when this is not possible, but we should try to price out items that we need at Costco to make sure we are getting the best price. Also, we can file for a refund for our sales tax, and it would be easier not to have numerous receipts to research.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Bettie Phelps

April 2008 Sunday Servers

APRIL 6

Third Sunday of Easter

Presiders	Father Lawrence Baietti Father Dan Macgill
Lay Assistant	Linda Hadden
Cantor	Brian Zygmunt
Crucifer	Bill Davis
Oblations	Griff and Joan Weld
Usher	Griff Weld
Sunday School	Laura Zygmunt
Altar Guild	Pat Casaw
Coffee Hour Angels	<i>Special Luncheon</i>

APRIL 13

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Presider	Father Dan Macgill
Lay Assistant	Joan Weld
Crucifer	Jimbo Robbins
Oblations	Julian and Donna Anderson
Usher	Julian Anderson
Sunday School	Laura Zygmunt
Altar Guild	Laura Zygmunt
Coffee Hour Angels	<i>Special Coffee Hour</i>

APRIL 20

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Presider	Father Dan Macgill
Lay Assistant	Pat Casaw
Crucifer	Elaine Bullin
Oblations	Jimbo and Heidi Robbins
Usher	Jimbo Robbins
Sunday School	Laura Zygmunt
Altar Guild	Annette Olesen
Coffee Hour Angels	Julian and Donna Anderson

APRIL 27

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Presider	Father Dan Macgill
Lay Assistant	Bill Davis
Crucifer	Bob Goslee
Oblations	Bert and Dede Yepko
Usher	Bert Yepko
Sunday School	Laura Zygmunt
Altar Guild	MarthaAnn Blake
Coffee Hour Angel	Mike Martin

VESTRY MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Linda Hadden

April Calendar Notes

- April 6:** Worship at 11:00 AM (Lutheran)
Farewell, Father Baietti!
Luncheon following worship
- April 7:** ECW meeting at 10:00 AM
- April 12:** Parish Research & Discovery Workshop
Diocesan House, Kinston
- April 13:** Worship at 11:00 AM (Episcopal)
Welcome, Father Macgill!
Special Coffee Hour following worship
- April 20:** Worship at 11:00 AM (Episcopal)
Coffee Hour following worship
Vestry meeting after the Coffee Hour
- April 22:** Deadline for May newsletter submissions
- April 27:** Worship at 11:00 AM (Episcopal)
United Thank Offering (UTO) Sunday
Coffee Hour following worship

April Birthdays

05-Joan Weld
29-Dayna Corcoran

April Baptismal Birthdays

11-Laura Zygmunt
17-John Wynne
18-Joan Weld
18-Griff Weld
23-Kyra Corcoran
23-John Corcoran