

May 2011



The Messenger

St. Mary's Church an Episcopal - Lutheran Community

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Drawing From The Wells

As someone who has a background in science, people often ask me how it is that I reconcile my technical background with my religious background. Most of the time, people have difficulty reconciling that they have a priest who is a scientist. For me, it isn't a great stretch; in fact, it is not a stretch at all. Throughout my undergraduate education, I was struck by our well formed universe, from the Pleiades star cluster to the microscopic, sub-atomic world. And nowhere was God more present than in my physical chemistry class. When you get down to the quantum level 0, the most basic level of the makeup of the world, you begin to see God's hand at work.

Stephen recently gave me an article about John Polkinghorne's 80th birthday celebration. Polkinghorne is a curious character. He is both a quantum physicist and an Anglican priest. Like me, he sees a world that is deeply irreconcilable from a creator. The further we look, and as more detail emerges, we begin to see a pattern of attraction. This attraction for me, and I dare say, for John Polkinghorne, is perhaps the greatest metaphor for God's love in the world. God is attracted to humanity in ways that create and build. Beyond metaphor, though, we see that this attraction and this creative force is real for our world. The forces that must interact in order to bring about life, and the forces that occurred at the establishment of our universe, cannot be a random chance occurrence.

Did you know that if the advent of the big bang had been off by even one femtosecond (one quadrillionth of a second), not only would there be no life on this planet, but the universe would not exist. That is a very exacting standard – a standard that only God can inhabit.

There is a challenge to all of this. We may desire God to fill the holes of our understanding. However this wish incompletes God...It views Him as a God of gaps – that is, any time we cannot explain something, we say that it must be God. This outlook erodes God, even as we become more educated and begin to more fully understand the world and universe in which God created for us to exist.

Instead, we should do more research about the dark invisible matter, a matter with force. If we look more closely at how the relationship of creation plays out and examine the attractive forces in the world, we begin to see God. God and science become not two diametrically opposed beliefs but one grand, unified theory. As Polkinghorne states, the need to “prove God compatible with physics has largely been met. Physics asks how the world works, and when it answers that question, it finds a very deep, marvelously patterned order. But it doesn't explain where that order comes from. I believe that the order is a reflection of the mind of God.”

The next time you stop and smell the azaleas that are in bloom, instead of simply taking in what you see, marvel at how an extremely complex series of atoms and molecules were ordered to put the bright starburst pattern on the petals; how the combination of quarks and photons bring about a color and a smell that attracts a bee to pollinate the flowers; how God brought you to that moment; how some strange, attractive force has intrigued you to stop and take in the beauty of a creation that is at the same time, ageless, months in the making, and fleeting. And then thank God that you are a part of that creation.

Fletcher

May Events

May 2 at 10 a.m.
ECW meeting in Fellowship Hall

Kick off the Summer at the Annual ECW Gathering

When: May 10, 2011

Where/Host: Christ Church, New Bern; 320 Pollock St., New Bern, NC 28563

Guest Speaker: Dr. Bob Stevens of the Dominican Development Group

Topic: "The Dominican Development Group"

Attendees will learn about outreach opportunities
in our companion diocese: the Dominican Republic.

Reservations need to be made by May 2.

Friday, May 13th from 11 A.M. until 5 P.M.

Shriners Fish Fry

The Shriners helped us last February by donating
a steak cooker and other items for our Valentine's Dinner.

This is an opportunity to say, "*Thank you*" to them.

May 15-22, 2011

Dominican Republic Mission Trip

The Rev. Stephen Mazingo with St. James will be working to develop
companion parish relationships with three parishes in the Dominican Republic:

San Juan Bautista, Monte de la Transfiguracion and Dia de Pentecostes.

Please remember to pray for the trip's success and the team's health and safety.

May 21

Pender County Spring Festival

The ECW at St. Mary's will be selling fleece blankets and pillows at Spring Fest.

These lovely items will make memorable and loving gifts for friends and family.

Once bought, you will probably want to keep some for yourselves as well.

Thank you for supporting our ECW's ministries
which support so very many people in our community.

May 29 (and June 5)

United Thank Offering Sundays

The United Thank Offering addresses compelling human need
through grants to projects that alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally,
within the Anglican provinces, dioceses, and companion dioceses.

May Birthdays

02 - Griff Weld
13 - Taylor Jones
22 - Anthony Caputo
20 - Heather Ruddell



May

Baptismal Birthdays

08 - Robert Goslee
08 - Linda Hadden
10 - Mercedes Yepko

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to pray for Barbara Boulis, Helen Crouch, Lynn Goddard, Christine Halas, James Halas, Bettie Phelps, Jack Stocks, the Von Oesen family, and Dede Yepko.

Also, please pray for Marrissa Batson (friend of Amy Jones), Mary Collins (mother of Fr. Rob), Richard DeBose (uncle of Jon Jones), Jennifer Freer (daughter of Lynn Goddard), Pam Graham (daughter of Marion Clark), Bonnie O'Connor (daughter of Bettie Phelps), Joe Peace Woodlief, Jr. (cousin of Linda Hadden) and Ted Westermann (great uncle of Kristin Westermann).

2011 FINANCIAL INFORMATION (AS OF APRIL 15)

Anticipated operating income	\$15,771
Actual operating income	\$14,339
Operating expenses	\$16,385
Difference	(\$2,046)
Operating fund balance (checking)	\$2,806
Roof replacement fund balance	\$2,575
Stained glass window repair fund balance	\$5,568*

*includes November 2010 grant from the Diocese of East Carolina

Reaping What Is Sown

When a successful business man knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business, instead of choosing one of his Directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you." The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today - one very special seed. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the person who brings the plant that I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost, and he planted the seed. Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by -- still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however, he just kept watering and fertilizing the soil - He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful -- in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him! When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the Financial Director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed - Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive Officer! His name is Jim!" Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. "How could he be the new CEO?" the others said. Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!"

A Fight for the Faith
The 31 year old Bishop vs. The 68 year old Presbyterian

Outside the pages of the New Testament itself, Athanasius is probably the man to whom we chiefly owe the preservation of the Christian faith. The events were as follows:

Setting: Alexandria Egypt around 318 AD

Church in the West: The See in Rome ruled over the churches in Southern Italy

Church in the East: There was no See. The Bishop of Alexandria exercised jurisdiction over the churches in Upper Egypt and Libya, The Bishop of Antioch exercised jurisdiction over some of the churches in its area (Later in the Fourth Century: the See of Constantinople was created; and in the Fifth Century the patriarchate of Jerusalem evolved, until then, Jerusalem was not a center of power in the early church).

Background: Bishop Peter of Alexandria fled Egypt rather than submitting to the edict from the Emperor in Rome to cease meeting for worship. While Peter is gone, Arius is ordained as a presbyter in Alexandria.

Leading people in the story:

Arius 250 AD (Libya) - 336 AD (Constantinople):

Learned from Lucian the presbyter of Antioch.

Was 68 years old when the quarrel began

Tall, lean, distinguished appearance, women doted on him because of his beautiful manners, and men were impressed with his aura of superiority. He had a quarrelsome nature.

Athanasius 297-373:

Secretary to Bishop Alexander at the age of 21 when the quarrel began.

Succeeded Bishop Alexander in 328 at the age of 31.

Shorter than average, spare in build, intensely energetic, ready wit, lived in monasteries when in exile. He had a mind that was dedicated to the defense of Christ's church to the absolute exclusion of heresy and schism.

Quarrel: Arius espoused a Neo-Platonic view that the Son did not exist before his incarnation, and that he was a creation of God, therefore inferior to God. Quoted: John 14:28 "for my Father is greater than I."

Athanasius relied on John 1:1-2: In the beginning was the Word and The Word was with God and the Word was God."

The Church in the West tended to view The Trinity as *one* being with different Modes. This belief is called Modalism a/k/a Monarchianism. The Church in the East was divided on the similarities and differences of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Barbarians began invading the West which created a need for unity in belief, since a unified country is better able to defend itself. Constantine, the Emperor of Rome moved to the East and founded Constantinople. Around the time that he became Emperor, the church was in the midst of two potential schisms: One, the exile of the Donatist priests (*see February Messenger*) and Two, the Arian controversy discussed in this article.

In May of 325 AD at The Council of Nicea, two Hundred and Twenty Bishops including four from Rome discussed the dual nature of Christ (divine and human). It was decided that the Father and the Son were *like* each other. This ambiguous language could be interpreted by the Arians in support of

First Council of Nicea (325)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God], Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;

by whom all things were made [both in heaven and on earth];

who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man;

he suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And in the Holy Ghost.

[But those who say: 'There was a time when he was not;' and 'He was not before he was made;' and 'He was made out of nothing,' or 'He is of another substance' or 'essence,' or 'The Son of God is created,' or 'changeable,' or 'alterable' — they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.]

First Council of Constantinople (381)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds (æons), Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;

by whom all things were made;

who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;

he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;

from thence he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. In one holy catholic and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sources: The Early Church by Henry Chadwick, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athanasius_of_Alexandria, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arius>, and <http://justus.anglican.org/resourcesbio/152.html>

their view. Additionally, since there wasn't any mention of the Son being in preexistence prior to the incarnation, Arius signed the creed. Because Arius signed, the Emperor Constantine demanded that Bishop Athanasius restore Arius to communion in Alexandria. Athanasius refused to do so. The Emperor summoned Athanasius to Constantinople. After meeting him, The Emperor didn't continue with his demand for Athanasius to restore Arius. Throughout this ongoing quarrel, Athanasius and Arius were each exiled, depending on which side the Emperors found favorable or unfavorable during their reigns.

In Oct of 451 AD at the Great Council of Chalcedon: Christ is defined as perfect God and perfect man made known in two natures, with the distinct properties of each nature remaining intact in the union.

Arius died in 336 AD. The Nicene Creed from 325 AD (see Creed on the left column *above*) remained unquestioned as the criteria of the faith up to the death of Constantine in 337 AD. Shortly before his death, Constantine was baptized by Eusebius of Nicomedia in 337 AD. Eusebius was an active supporter of Arius' side of the controversy.
(to be concluded in the June Messenger)

MAY 2011 SERVERS

<i>SUNDAY</i> <i>MAY 1</i> <i>The</i> <i>Second</i> <i>Sunday</i> <i>of</i> <i>Easter</i>	Celebrant Lay Assistant/Crucifer Acolytes Oblations Usher Organist Altar Guild	The Rev. J. Robert Spainhour Kristin Westermann Kyra Corcoran and Danielle Alexander Valde and Helle Jorgensen Valde Jorgensen Kay Lowell Annette Olesen
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<i>SUNDAY</i> <i>MAY 8</i> <i>The</i> <i>Third</i> <i>Sunday</i> <i>of</i> <i>Easter</i>	Celebrant Lay Assistant Acolyte Crucifer Oblations Usher Organist Altar Guild	The Rev. Stephen Mazingo Bob Goslee Quinn Corcoran Kristin Westermann Jimbo and Heidi Robbins Jimbo Robbins Katherine Goslee Heidi Robbins (set up for Thurs.)
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<i>SUNDAY</i> <i>MAY 15</i> <i>The</i> <i>Fourth</i> <i>Sunday</i> <i>of</i> <i>Easter</i>	Celebrant Lay Assistant /Crucifer Acolyte Oblations Usher Organist Altar Guild	The Rev. J. Robert Spainhour Brian Zygmunt Andrew Zygmunt Jack and Susan Stocks Jack Stocks Katherine Goslee Laura Zygmunt
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<i>SUNDAY</i> <i>MAY 22</i> <i>The</i> <i>Fifth</i> <i>Sunday</i> <i>of</i> <i>Easter</i>	Celebrant Lay Assistant Acolyte Crucifer Oblations Usher Organist Altar Guild	The Rev. Fletcher Wells Linda Hadden Kyra Corcoran Bert Yepko Griff and Joan Weld Griff Weld Jennings Trawick Pat Casaw (set up for Thurs.)
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May Sunday School: Dayna Corcoran

SUNDAY
MAY 29
The
Sixth
Sunday
of
Easter

Celebrant
Lay Assistant
Acolyte
Crucifer
Oblations
Usher
Organist
Altar Guild

The Rev. Stephen Mazingo
Joan Weld
Anna Zygmunt
Jimbo Robbins
Julian and Donna Anderson
Julian Anderson
Jennings Trawick
Laura Zygmunt

Thank you, Coffee Hour Angels!

We are all grateful for the good folks who have faithfully provided refreshments for our Coffee Hour each Sunday. Lately, the number of volunteers who are willing and able to be Coffee Hour Angels has diminished, and the same people have been called upon a great deal. At its last meeting, the Vestry decided it's time to give these hardworking angels a rest.

During the months of May, June, July, and August, no Coffee Hour Angels will be formally scheduled. But we WILL have Coffee Hour each Sunday. Coffee, soft drinks, and cookies will be provided, and fellowship will be encouraged! Conversation with friends will continue to be the most important part of our Coffee Hour.

If you would like to bring in a special treat to share with the congregation, please do so whenever you wish! But, more importantly, be sure to stick around after worship each Sunday to reconnect with your church family.

The Messenger is the monthly newsletter of St. Mary's Church, an Episcopal and Lutheran Community, 506 S. McNeil Street, P.O. Box 841, Burgaw, NC 28425.

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Email: stmarysburgaw@bellsouth.net

The deadline for newsletter articles and special scheduling requests is the 15th day of each month. You may email your article to stmarysburgaw@bellsouth.net or place the article in the Administrator's mail bin. Thank you!

May 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Lutheran Service 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour follows	2 · <i>St. Mark</i> 10 a.m. ECW Meeting 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Mtg.	3 <i>St. Philip and St. James, Apostles</i>	4	5 9 a.m. Blankets	6	7
8 Episcopal Service 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour follows	9 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Meeting	10 Diocesan ECW Mtg. New Bern	11	12 9 a.m. Blankets 11:30 a.m. Mid-Week Eucharist	13	14
15 Priest's Discretionary Fund 9 a.m. Vestry Mtg. Episcopal Service 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour follows Deadline for June scheduling requests and newsletter articles	16 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Meeting	17	18	19 9 a.m. Blankets	20	21 <i>Spring Fest</i>
22 Episcopal Service 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour follows	23 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Meeting	24	25	26 11:30 a.m. Mid-Week Eucharist	27	28
29 UTO Sunday Episcopal Service 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour follows	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Meeting	31 <i>The Visitation Of the Virgin Mary</i>				