



# THE MESSENGER



Parish News of St. John's Episcopal Church, Saginaw, Michigan

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April 2011

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*Walking with Jesus to the New Life of Easter!*



*"On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said 'Take, eat. This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.' After supper he took the cup of wine and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said 'Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.'"*

*~Book of Common Prayer, Holy Eucharist Rite 99*

## *Walking with Jesus to the New Life of Easter...*

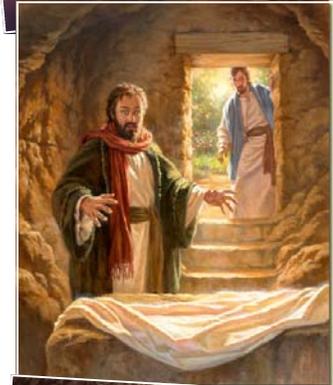
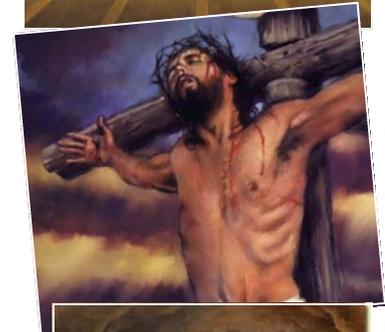
“Surprising numbers of people still go to church at Christmas and Easter, but probably more at Christmas than at Easter. **Why then is Christmas that bit more popular?** I suppose it's partly because Christmas is quite a simple story – it's about the gift of God to us, in the Christ child; it's about a present that all we have to do is receive. But Easter's more complicated. Easter is a journey. Easter is lots of stories rolled into one and it can make real demands on us.

From the very earliest days of the church, celebrating Easter has been quite a *long* job. It's spilled over into the whole week before it – Holy Week – as it's been called for many, many centuries. And in holy week, **what we do is walk alongside Jesus** in the last week of his life. The church reads and acts out that story in all kinds of ways during those days so that by the time you get to Easter you've actually travelled quite a long way.

So the whole story of Holy Week ends with the celebration of the resurrection. We begin it on Easter Eve, and then on the morning of Easter Sunday it blazes out in all its glory, in all its triumph. The tomb is empty, there is no power that can hold Jesus down or lock him up. The stone, the entrance of this great rock tomb is heaved away by the life of God, and there is no dead body there, there is no Jesus locked up in the past, there is only Jesus alive forever more.

So at Easter we celebrate not just the fact that Jesus rose from the dead - as if that were an interesting fact that happened many centuries ago - we celebrate the fact that, in the words of the Bible, because "he is alive, we are alive". We know that we are held in God's hands, that our lives are held firmly and lovingly forever by the mercy of God. We know we have a future in his love, and that nothing can take that away.

**It's a long journey, a journey from the moment when we *thought* we could *welcome* God cheerfully and happily because he seems to come and fulfill all our desires.** Palm Sunday is a cheerful occasion. And then we have to face the fact that the Jesus who has arrived is perhaps not quite what we want, he's making us feel uncomfortable. He's changing us. And human beings push back against that change. And they do it violently and horribly. They try to push Jesus right out of the world. And we have to face in ourselves all those aspects of our lives which try to push God away. And then we realize the amazement, wonder and gratitude, but however hard we try to push it away, he won't go away. He's there, he's *promised* to be there, he will be there for us wherever we are. **And so at the end of our celebration of Easter, that long journey of Holy Week, we can say, in the words of St Matthew's Gospel - right at the end of that Gospel – as we've heard Jesus saying, ‘I'm with you always. I'm with you 'til the very end of the world.’”**



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***Happy Birthday!***

- 2 Ted Grigg
- 5 Drew Christiansen
- 5 Cheryl Heath
- 7 Jimmy Harrell
- 8 Kathie Humpert
- 9 Shirley Blodgett
- 9 Kathy Sedwick
- 10 Jack Mott
- 11 Aimee Lynes
- 12 John Reardon
- 14 Gary Hollman
- 15 Herb, Jr. Spence
- 16 Brayden Winters
- 19 Marilyn Wells
- 23 Helene Whitehead
- 25 Ruth Joswiak
- 25 Michael Spence
- 27 William Heath
- 28 Betsy Greenwood
- 28 Gloria Moore-Graham
- 30 Thorin Magyar
- 30 Marcie Winters

***Happy Anniversary!***

- 22 Nancy & Dan Cramer
- 26 Cynthia & Steven Baillie

# Thank You

Thank you to the wonderful helpers that set up, cooked, and washed dishes at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper including: **Sharon Kaylor, Dave Humpert, Sue Luxton, Jack Luxton, Chris Doyle, Amanda Doyle, Amy Simons, Burris Smith, & Marcia Hoffman.**

A HUGE thank you to **Ellen Redfield** for your dedication to continued grant-writing for St. John's and congratulations on your success!

A special thanks to all of our ushers and greeters for taking special care to learn the new ropes of accessibility including: **Marc Baillargeon, Nancy Birdsall, Jim Braun, Tim & Judy Braun, Kim Burau, Connie Grantham, Paul Ilkka, Ray Ilkka, Berney Jones, Carl Lockwood, Sue & Jack Luxton, Tom Lynes, Barb & John Roberts, Paul Schaub, Burris Smith, Dennis Thom, Virginia Warner, Joan Wendland, and Jerry Young.**

<b>Good Samaritans:</b>		
Mar. 20 - Apr. 2	Jim & Marsha Braun	793-5015
Apr. 3 - Apr. 16	Betty Donaghy	793-2700
Apr. 17 - May 1	Joan Wendland	686-8363

***Vestry Members:***

Janet Cosenza	401-0853	janetcosenza@charter.net
Bill Frederick	781-0002	wfrederick@tm.net
Jane Girdham	790-8712	kgirdham@svsu.edu
Connie Grantham	695-2088	grantham@hotmail.com
Marcia Hoffman	793-8354	hoffman1982@sbcglobal.net
Sue Marquardt	790-0656	r-s-keyofc@sbcglobal.net
Duncan Redfield	799-7893	redsailor7@yahoo.com
Burris Smith	792-4775	smithbr@chartermi.net
Dennis Thom	793-9562	dennisthom@sbcglobal.net

## ***Holy Week 2011 At-a-Glance***

### **Palm Sunday – April 17, @ 8:00am and 10:30am**

The drama of Holy Week begins with the remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with the liturgy of the Palms and transition from celebration to the intensity of his Passion on the cross. Start your observance of Holy Week when you enter the story, carrying palms and the singing of "All Glory, Laud and Honor".

### **Maundy Thursday – April 21, @ 7:30pm**

Holy Week continues with the commemoration of the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus "on the night he was betrayed." In this special service, we share in the response to the gift of Communion, where Jesus humbly and quietly washes the feet of his disciples. This deeply moving action gives us a real experience of how powerful servant ministry can be and will be offered to anyone who wishes to receive this symbolic act as part of the liturgy. The liturgy concludes with a symbolic representation of that final night, with the stripping of the altar and all decorative furnishings from the

church and with the sacrament being reserved -- all while Psalm 22 is read or chanted -- and ends with a silent meditation, without a dismissal, for the Church remains in prayer for three days -- until the Great Vigil of Easter.

### **Good Friday – April 22, @ Noon**

As with Christians from as far back as the fourth century, the Church commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. The Holy Eucharist is not celebrated on Good Friday, but Holy Communion will be administered from the reserved sacrament.

### **The Great Vigil of Easter – April 23, @ 8:00pm**

During The Great Vigil of Easter, we move from the Passion and death of Jesus Christ to his Resurrection. The service begins in darkness and slowly moves into the light of the resurrection, beginning with the lighting of the new Paschal candle and its entry into a darkened church. Through this powerful liturgy, we recover the ancient practice of keeping the Easter feast. The traditional night for adult Baptism, the Vigil is where all our Lenten preparation leads us. As the Exsultet chant proclaims: "This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin and are restored to grace and holiness of life!" Be among the first to sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" and welcome this most glorious of Christian feasts.

### **Easter Day – April 24, 2011 @ 8:00am and 10:30am**

The Feast of Christ's Resurrection and the promise that the resurrection holds for us is celebrated on this festive day. Be overwhelmed by the beauty and majesty of Easter celebrated in the Anglican tradition. The 10:30 liturgy will be enhanced by the great Easter hymns played by organ and brass as well as special music by our Choir.



## 12th Annual Operation Hope Tote!

Each Lent, St. John's teams with the City Rescue Mission for Operation Hope Tote! We fill totes with a range of personal care items and the City Rescue Mission spreads the hopeful message of Easter to members of the community most in need. In 2010, St. John's was one of the leading contributors with 40 bags. This year, **we've requested 50 bags** to fill and with your help we can do it!



Here's how it works:

1. Pick up a Hope Tote and yellow Contents Slip from the community room
2. During the season of Lent, fill the Hope Tote with a variety personal care items (from the list)
3. Return the Hope Tote to St. John's by **Palm Sunday (April 17)**

Our parish children are also collecting **gently** used toys and clothes to donate to the City Rescue Mission. What a great way to spread the message of HOPE in our community!

## Lenten Fish Supper!



On **Friday, Aril 15th**, St. John's will host one of the most anticipated meals of the year and to make it the best it can be we need to know you're coming!

Tickets for this Salmon Bake are \$10.00/ adult and \$5.00/child. The menu of delicious bakes salmon, sides, and salads will also include chicken for those among us with no wish for fish.

You can buy your tickets after each worship service on Sunday or by calling the parish office.

## Rummage Sale!

Is your house feeling a little cluttered? Need to make room for that new office, nursery, or hobby room? Now is the time to start collecting your forgotten treasure for the St. John's Fundraiser Rummage Sale.



The sale will take place sometime in May with proceeds supporting Outreach, Formation, and other programs at St. John's. Need some ideas to start sorting? These would all make for a great start:

- Household / Kitchen utensils, etc.
- Knick-knacks & Decorative items
- Books
- Costume Jewelry
- Coats, Gloves, Scarves, Accessories
- Boots & Shoes
- Linens & Blankets
- Toys & Games

For more information about volunteering to help contact Lou Smith at 779-5583.

## *Children's Sunday School*

In case you haven't heard we thought you'd like to know! So many of you have told us that something has been missing and very much needed at St. John's – a Sunday School program. With special thanks to **Sonni Magyar** and **Kathie Humpert**, both of whom came to St. John's after the closing of Calvary Memorial Episcopal Church, St. John's is now offering a special Children's Service. Each



**Sunday at 10:30 a.m.** youngsters worshipping with us are invited to gather in the chapel adjacent to the church for a special Sermon for Kids and related activities to discuss the lessons of the week. They will join their families at the Peace and stay for communion and then return to the chapel for prayer. All school aged children are welcome – think one room school house!

Sonni spent the last four years at Calvary studying to be a catechist through the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. Being the mother of two boys, she felt a strong need to do something to bring Sunday School back to St. John's. In keeping with St. John's designation as a "safe church" all activities involving children require at least two adults. This is a great opportunity to lend YOUR support to the program. Only your presence is needed. You won't need to lesson-plan or collect materials for activities (unless you'd like to, of course). Simply making yourself available to our youth is enough.

The program runs parallel with the day's Gospel reading and is designed to bring Christ's message to a child's perspective and inspire conversation at home. The youngsters are given a challenge each week encouraging them to seek an opportunity to practice Jesus' words. The following week they meet to discuss if an opportunity presented itself and what choices they made. We also challenge them to listen for specific phrases during communion or look for them in the Book of Common Prayer. We ask that they come back and talk about what the priest may have been doing while saying that phrase. Even if children aren't receiving communion, it gives them a sense of interaction with the Eucharist.

We'd love to have you and your children involved! We think it's an exciting opportunity, well organized and conducted by extremely committed and knowledgeable parishioners. If you'd like more information, Sonni would love to talk with you – either by phone at 695-2682 or by email at [sonni\\_jim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sonni_jim@sbcglobal.net). Better yet, just come and be a part of the rebirth. We're looking forward to seeing you!

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## *Ushers WANTED!*

Spring and summer are always seasons that lend themselves to vacations and absentee service workers. But YOU could be just the person to help fill the gaps! St. John's needs some willing men and women to fill in a few vacancies in our Worship Servers' Schedule. **Could you read a lesson, pass out bulletins or collect the offering?** Of course you could! Even if you were only occasionally scheduled, your time and efforts would offer some over-scheduled volunteers a much needed rest. Contact the parish office to learn how you can be part of the worship service in a whole new way!



## ***Warden's Report***

A few nuts and bolts updates for your early spring consideration and information...

### **The Rector Search**

Our national postings are complete and now listed as "Receiving Names." And they are beginning to pay off. The Search Committee has received the names and profile information of 3 prospective candidates and more are expected. Evaluating candidates is underway. It's a time consuming task. In addition to using some time in the regular monthly Vestry meetings, the Search Committee is moving into high gear with its own meeting schedule to effectively evaluate these and future candidates.

### **Closing of St. Mark's**

We've been notified that 11 parishioners from recently closed St. Mark's in Bridgeport have requested their membership be transferred to St. John's! Expect to see and welcome them in the coming weeks. Wearing name tags would be a nice touch, too.

### **Building and Grounds**

Two much-needed projects are underway. Being able to see and hear in the church seems fairly important. We're on our way to finding solutions for the less than adequate lighting of the Altar and updating an inadequate sound system in the church. We're working with experts in these two areas and expect proposals in the very near future. Regarding the sound system, there is some good news - much of our current electronic equipment is still near state-of-the-art and can be used in any new design. Obviously what we can do depends on funds available, but we're encouraged by conversations so far.

### **Accessibility Project**

In preparation for developing a permanent tribute to those who contributed to the Accessibility Project, we've posted the list of names as we have them both on the website and in the Community Room. Over the next week or so, would you check to see that the name is listed as you would want it to appear? If we've missed you, profuse apologies and please let Jan know. (It's not too late to get your name included - donations are still welcome!)

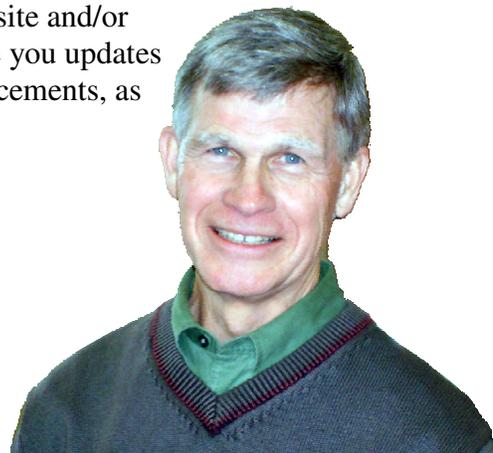
### **And finally...**

For those of you so inclined, remember to check the website and/or Facebook pages for current news. We'll continue to give you updates at the third Sunday "From the Vestry to you . . ." announcements, as well as the Messenger and weekly bulletins.

Stay in touch - we will!

Faithfully,

*Burris Smith*  
Senior Warden



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## *How will you journey to the New Life of Easter?*

<i>Attend an Event or Special Service?</i>	<b>April 15</b>	<b>Lenten Fish Supper @ 6pm</b>
	<b>April 17</b>	<b>Palm Sunday Service</b>
	<b>April 21</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:30pm</b>
	<b>April 22</b>	<b>Good Friday Service @ Noon</b>
	<b>April 23</b>	<b>WSCA Easter Egg Hunt @ Noon The Great Vigil of Easter @ 8pm</b>
	<b>April 24</b>	<b>Easter Day Services</b>
<i>Participate in a Special Project?</i>	<b>Saginaw Rescue Mission – Hope Totes (Due April 17, 2011)</b>	
<i>Participate in a Book Study?</i>	<b>Lenten Series: <i>Renewed For Life</i></b>	

ST. JOHN'S IS CALLED TO CARE, SHARE, WORSHIP, CELEBRATE, AND LOVE.