

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
PO Box 97
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**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NEWSLETTER—APRIL 2017**

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, April 9 at 9:30am- Palm Sunday, Holy Eucharist
Thursday, April 13 at 6:00pm- Maundy Thursday,
Agape Supper and Holy Eucharist
Friday, April 14 at noon- Good Friday, Stations of the Cross
Saturday, April 15 at 8pm- Holy Saturday,
The Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 16 at 9:30- Holy Eucharist with
Easter egg hunt after the service!

***Combined 9:30am services begin April 9th, Palm Sunday,
and continue through Easter into the summer***

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. —John 12:23-24

In this upcoming month of April, we will be celebrating the greatest feast of the liturgical year and the most holy day in the Christian church—Easter—the commemoration of the resurrection of Christ and the celebration of all that Christ accomplished through his death, opening to us and to the whole world the way of everlasting life. Yet it is important for us to remember that the resurrection did not occur in a vacuum. In order for Christ to be brought again into life, he first had to suffer death. That is why we celebrate three other extremely important feast days during Holy Week, the week before Easter. We celebrate Maundy Thursday, the night before Christ died for us when he shared supper with the disciples and instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist, by which we are able to be partakers of Christ's body and blood, becoming one body with him and with each other. We celebrate Good Friday, the day that Christ was unjustly sentenced to death, was flogged and mocked and ridiculed, and then suffered the pain and humiliation of death by crucifixion. And we celebrate Holy Saturday, the day that Christ's body lay in the tomb—the day no human on earth had contact with Christ. The commemorations we hold during Holy Week serve as a potent reminder that we cannot have the glory of the resurrection without the suffering of the cross.

It seems very appropriate that as we travel through this important period in the liturgical year, we are experiencing parallels in our current work as a church. Since Advent we have been having discussions about the history and changing identity of our church, discussing our passions and our hopes and dreams for the future. With God's help we will be able to create a new mission statement together using this work as a foundation. This mission statement will help lead St. Thomas into the future. Yet just as we cannot experience the hope of the resurrection without the suffering of the cross, we will inevitably experience some pain as we make changes to fit the new vision for the future we are working to create—some things may have to die. It is important to remember that, as with the resurrection, the pain involved will be well-worth the glorious outcome.

Beginning Palm Sunday, April 9th, we will begin holding combined services so that we will celebrate Holy Week and Easter as one congregation. This combined service will continue through Easter Season into the summer. This will allow more people to be involved in our final series of discussions as we create a plan for our future. Sunday April 23rd, we will begin meeting after the 9:30am service to further discuss and discover our new mission statement. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, even those who have been unable to attend previous sessions. . If you have not already had a chance to take a look, summaries of the outcomes of our previous conversations can be found on the wall in the fellowship hall. Please join us in these discussions and lend your voice as we look forward to this season of resurrection.

Peace,

Megan

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

5 Arlene Hathaway
27 Julianna Price

Anglican Prayer Beads

The Anglican Prayer Bead station offered in the parish hall this Lent has been very popular. **This Sunday, March 26th**, Megan will be available between services for anyone who wishes to make a set of prayer beads so they can continue this spiritual practice at home. Supplies will be provided. Please bring your own cross if you are able. Anything 1-2 inches tall would be appropriate.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, April 2—Children's Church—9:30am
Tuesday, April 25—Food Pantry Distribution

Dinner Out Thursday, April 6

We will be trying out "Basil's Restaurant and Pizzeria"
at 766 Fritztown Rd., Shillington.
If you have any suggestions for our next one, let Dori know!

Egg Hunt

Any donations of candy for the Egg Hunt would
be greatly appreciated!
Small individually wrapped work best!
Please bring them to the church by April 9.

April 2

8:30am
9:30am—Children’s Church
10:30am
Reader.....Pat Mast
Intercessor.....Terry McEwen
Chalice.....Ken & Helen Harclerode
Ushers.....Stan & Sally Stalnaker
Refreshments.....Price/Cunningham
Nursery.....Jen Cunningham
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Counters.....Janet McColgan/Jen Cunningham

**April 9
Palm Sunday**

9:30am
Reader.....Jim Hathaway
Intercessor.....Arlene Hathaway
Chalice.....Pat Mast/Liz Beebe
Ushers.....Barbara & Evans Goodling
Nursery.....Liz Beebe
Refreshments.....Stalnakers
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Counters.....Cook

**April 16
Easter**

9:30am
Reader.....Evans Goodling
Intercessor.....Barbara Goodling
Chalice.....Stan Stalnaker/D.D. Krawlzik
Ushers.....Jim & Arlene Hathaway
Nursery.....Doris Gring
Refreshments.....Stillman/Moore
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Counters.....Stalnakers

April 23

9:30am
Reader.....Amy Smith
Intercessor.....D.D. Krawlzik
Chalice.....Evans & Barbara Goodling
Ushers.....Ken & Helen Harclerode
Nursery.....Jen Cunningham
Refreshments.....Cook/McEwen
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Counters.....D.D. Krawlzik/Terry McEwen

April 30

9:30am
Reader.....Barbara Goodling
Intercessor.....Helen Harclerode
Chalice.....Ken & Helen Harclerode
Ushers.....Stan & Sally Stalnaker
Nursery.....Liz Beebe
Refreshments.....Goodling/McCord
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Counters.....Goodling

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