

## Therefore, Let Us Keep the Feast!

— by Buddy Coffey, Diocesan Lay Evangelist

*For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast.*

-- 1 Cor 5:7-8

We hear these words every week just before we receive the Sacraments. The Celebrant says, "says, "text of Paul's writings says, become the "glory of God!" light of the sacrifice of Christ: to be persons who are "fulChrist our Passover is sacrificed for us," and we reply, "Therefore, let us keep the Feast."

**So what Feast are we to keep, and why?**

The phrase comes from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians as has been quoted above. Let's read a little more of the passage to see the context of the quote.

*Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

-- 1 Cor 5:6-8

It is clear that leavening is the subject of the passage, and that we are encouraged to rid our lives of the "old leaven" so that we may be a fresh, unleavened lump of dough.

Observant Jews and some Christians know exactly to what this passage is referring, for immediately following the Passover comes a seven day celebration called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Those who observe this week long feast abstain from leavened prod-

ucts and seek to rid their dwellings of every speck of leavening agents.

Paul as a Jew of Jews and Pharisee of Pharisees would have been intimately familiar with this custom, having observed it all his life. In writing to the Corinthians he alludes to the custom of purging the physical leaven from our houses and our food to make a point about how we should live our lives in light of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

### WHAT GIVES US LIFE?

Paul then switches from the physical leavening process to one of "de-leavening" our lives. What enlivens, animates, and motivates us naturally are things like "glorying, malice, and wickedness." Left to themselves even a little bit of any of these can eventually spread throughout all aspects of our lives and "leaven the whole lump." That's not an attractive way to live.

Instead, we are admonished to purge ourselves of these things so that we become a "new lump" -- truly as "unleavened" as the bread used by those who observe this Feast in a physical way. Then it is possible for God's Holy Spirit to be the agent that enlivens, animates, and motivates us, using as a basis our "unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

### SPIRITUAL UNLEAVENING

There is benefit in going through the physical process of purging leaven from our lives for the week of Unleavened Bread. I did so for 20 years, and I learned a lot in the process. But the real benefit is what we will gain spiritually as we seek out those things that have crept into our lives that keep us from advancing in holiness.

The season of Lent is here. It is a time of self-examination and reflection to see ourselves more clearly and to purge our lives from those things that inhibit us from doing so. In some years what we find is obvious, and in others what we find is hidden, just like those crumbs of toast that are in the crevices of our kitchens. And even though during Lent we are more aware of our sinfulness than at

I have assembled a grand list of projects for our buildings and grounds for beautification, much needed maintenance and some changes in how we use our space-- as an example, soon we hope to remove the dilapidated playground equipment and begin work on a meditation garden in its place! Last Sunday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>) we asked during our services for volunteers to come out on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> to clean up and mulch the library side of the grounds (starting at about 1:00 in the afternoon), and I look forward to spending time with folks making the walkway to our office and Rectory more attractive.

I've also asked for an additional page to be added to the Eagle. Please take a few extra moments to look at the enclosed "Volunteer Skills and Interests" page. We hope we can offer all of you every opportunity to use any skills you would like for the betterment of ourselves and our church! If there is something on there that appeals to you, please print it, fill it out, and either bring it with you on Sunday and give it to Father Bill, Jan Biondo or me; or call and drop it at the office. Thank you, and God Bless!

Greg Shinn



# The Eagle

## The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church

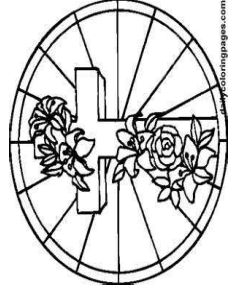
### April 2011

### The meaning of Easter - What does it mean to you?

The meaning of Easter is Jesus Christ's victory over death. His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. The meaning of Easter also symbolizes the complete verification of all that Jesus preached and taught during His three-year ministry. If He had not risen from the dead, if He had merely died and not been resurrected, He would have been considered just another teacher or Rabbi. However, His resurrection changed all that and gave final and irrefutable proof that He was really the Son of God and that He had conquered death once and for all. However, Easter did not always symbolize Christ's resurrection from the dead and the meaning of Easter was quite different than what Christians celebrate today. The feast day of Easter was originally a pagan celebration of renewal and rebirth.

Celebrated in the early spring, it honored the pagan Saxon goddess Eastre. When the early missionaries converted the Saxons to Christianity, the holiday, since it fell around the same time as the traditional memorial of Christ's resurrection from the dead, was merged with the pagan celebration, and became known as Easter. The meaning of Easter was also changed to reflect its new Christian orientation. Today, the meaning of Easter, for million of Christians, is that of honoring and recognizing Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and His glorious promises of eternal life for all who believe in Him.

<http://www.allaboutjesuschrist.org/the-meaning-of-easter-faq.htm>





### The Recorder's Corner

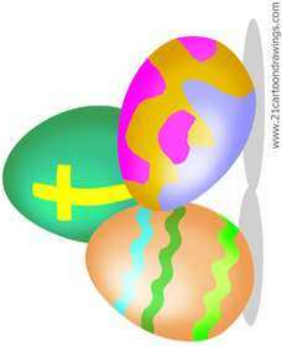
10:15 service. Our celebration of the Triduum will begin with Holy Thursday Eucharist and foot washing at 7 pm and continue the next evening, Good Friday at 7 pm. In lieu of doing our own Easter Vigil on Saturday, we will be joining with St. Maryanne's, Northeast at 7:30. Fr. Sam has developed a unique way of celebrating the vigil and I would encourage as many as possible to join in the celebration.

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As I mentioned in February, a strategic planning group has been formed and commissioned by the vestry. Their task over the next 12-18 months is to create a vision for St. John's that will carry us forward and—hopefully—make us self-sustaining. They've made it clear, by the way, that they aren't just another committee; they are, in fact, a vital ministry of this parish. This is why they quickly re-named themselves the *Vision Quest Ministry* and I think the name is entirely appropriate. By the way, there's still room for one or two more people, particularly men, so don't be bashful. For more information, please contact Sandra Pope, the leader of Vision Quest Ministry.

Whew! Can it be that Easter is already upon us? It seems like Christmas and Epiphany were just here... when did time start going so fast?? On Easter, which is on April 24, our services will be at 8:00 and 10:15. NOTE: People who come to 10:15 please bring hand bells, clangers and any other noisemakers to sound off during the singing of the Gloria in Excelsis!

Holy Week will begin with our Palm Sunday celebration and a grand procession with palms at the



www.21centuryevangelists.com

### April Calendar Happy Birthday:

- 3 Richard Burch, Maria Voelker
- 8 Carol Thompson
- 13 Anne Burton
- 14 Grace Hewitt
- 22 Tiffany Keithley
- 24 Crystal-Joy Burch
- 25 Ricky Voelker
- 26 Stacie Edie, Sarah Gengenbach
- 27 Shannon Taylor
- 29 Perri Cianelli-Fair.

### Happy Anniversary:

- 9 Tom and Jan Biondo
- 27 Mark and Lori Gengenbach.

If you've got an anniversary or a birthday coming up, let us know!

### Important Dates:

- 9: **Ground Sprucing**
- 19: **Vestry Meeting, 7:00 pm**
- 21: **Maunday Thursday: 7pm**
- 22: **Way of the Cross: 12 pm**
- 22: **Good Friday: 7pm**
- 23: **Easter Vigil: St. Maryanne's: 7:30pm**
- 24: **River Eucharist: St. Maryanne's: 6:30am**

**April 28th:** Deadline for Eagle entries:

[stjohnshdg@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnshdg@verizon.net)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR \*\*\*\*\*

Sunday, July 3rd, is the day of the Independence Celebration Parade. You will not be able to park on Congress, Stokes, Otsego, Bourbon, Pennington, or Juniata from 11am to 4pm.  
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### Wednesday Adult Education Classes through Lent:

Will be held at 7:00 pm

Special Guest Speaker **Canon Dan Webster**  
"Sex, Marriage, and Scripture."  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Readers Schedule April and May:

4/3: Susan Streb

4/10 Sandra Pope

4/17: **Anne Burton and extra readers needed for the passion!**

4/24: Carlos Morales

5/1: Jackie Brandon

5/8: Keith Butler

5/15: Jan Biondo

5/22: Mary White  
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### Regular Weekly Schedule:

Sunday:  
8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:15 am Holy Eucharist

Monday:  
9:30 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday:  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer  
6:05 pm Choir Practice

### Greetings From Sarah Ingalls-Howard:

Hello everyone! I am in the process of updating our records, and just need a little information. If you have not already called or written this information to me, please do. I am in most need of the following information: who is a member, who would like to be a member, who is a friend of the church, and correct addresses/e-mails. I can be found in the office Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. The office phone number is 410-939-2107, and the office e-mail is [stjohnshdg@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnshdg@verizon.net). I look forward to working with you all!

God Bless,

Sarah Ingalls-Howard

### Palm Sunday we will start in the Hall and Process to the Church Together. \*\*\*\*\*



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### Double Cheese Crab Dip by Campbell's Kitchen

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup Pace® Picante Sauce OR Pace® Thick & Chunky Salsa
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (8 ounce) can refrigerated pasteurized crabmeat
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup sliced pitted ripe olives
- Pita triangles, tortilla chips or fresh vegetables.

#### Directions :

Heat the oven to 350 degrees F. Stir the picante sauce and chili powder in a small bowl. Spread the cream cheese in the bottom of a 9-inch pie plate. Top with the picante sauce mixture, crabmeat, Cheddar cheese and olives. Bake for 15 minutes or until the mixture is hot and bubbling. Top with additional picante sauce. Serve with the pita triangles, tortilla chips or fresh vegetables for dipping!

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### Eagle Note:

**If you no longer want to receive the Eagle, or if you would rather receive it by e-mail, please notify the office.**

[stjohnshdg@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnshdg@verizon.net)

410-939-2107

# Easter is Here! Unity in the Community



## A Multi-Cultural Event

We will be hosting a **Bake Table** for this event. We are reaching out to our community, getting involved, and finding new people to join us!

We have been invited to join **St. Maryanne's Episcopal Church** in North East, MD for their **Easter Vigil and Sunrise River Eucharist**. The vigil is at 7:30 pm on Saturday the 23rd, and the River Eucharist is Sunday the 24th at 6:30 am. The address is 315 South Main Street, North East, MD. This is a great opportunity to congregate and get to know our neighbors! Come join the celebration!

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## “The Way of the Cross”

This is being put on by the Susquehanna Ministerium. All of the Havre de Grace Churches are invited to be a part of the tradition of walking the stations of the cross together. It will be held at **Noon on Good Friday**. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office at 410-939-2107 or [stjohnshdg@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnshdg@verizon.net) for further information.

Office: [stjohnshdg@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnshdg@verizon.net), 410-939-2107

Gladys Keithley: 410-272-2285, 443-528-8201

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## Grace Place

Grace Place is a wonderful ministry that helps the local less fortunate have enough to eat. Our church hosts Grace Place every Tuesday in our parish hall. We share volunteer time with other churches in our community. Our church takes a turn on Every Third Tuesday. We are in need of new volunteers for this ministry. If you think you can help, even on an intermittent basis, please let Nadine Anderson know. You can contact Nadine Anderson at 410-939-3324.

God Bless!

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## Our Lenten Services

**Our Maunday Thursday** Service

will be held in the Church at 7:00 pm.

**Our Good Friday Service** will be held in the Church at 7:00 pm.

**Our Easter Services**

will be held in the Church at 8:00 am and 10:15 am

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## Volunteers Needed

The Vestry Room and the Sunday School Rooms need to be cleared out. If you can volunteer for an hour or two for this project, please let Sarah know. Also, in those rooms there are old computer parts. The local computer recycling is all drop-off, no pick-up. If you have a truck or a car with a large trunk, and are willing to make a trip over to the recycling plant, please let Sarah know. Please let Greg Shinn know if you can help with any of the Grounds restoration.

If you have the gift of writing, please send in an article for the Eagle! If you have the gift of cooking or baking, please send in your recipe's.

If you can help serve or cook once a month or once a quarter at Grace Place, please let Nadine Anderson know.

Fall Festival: If you have any event planning or hosting skills, please contact Anne Shinn or Kallie Lyons.

If you have baking skills and can donate to the “Unity in the Community Multi-cultural event”, tell Gladys.

*If you know of any other volunteers needed in the church, please let me know so that I can include them in the next newsletter.*

From your treasurer

I'm sure it's no surprise to anyone that for the first quarter of 2011, we finished about \$22,000 in the red. The extra money needed to function came, of course, from our investments. Someday, we **WILL** be putting the red ink in the past, but for now, it's simply where we are. I will no longer worry over that nor should you. Worry is counterproductive and is almost insulting to God. He will take care of us! Why worry? (Note: I tend to be quite the worrywart, but I'm working on it!)

I will, however, do all I can to mitigate the red ink. I will give as much as I can of my time, talent, and treasures to St. John's. If we all strive to do this, someday soon we will be functioning in the black again. We will grow and prosper. I know this is God's truest desire for us!

As for my worry about this as well as anything else bothering me, I recently reacquainted myself with this bit of scripture:

For I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances may be. I know now how to live when things are difficult and I know how to live when things are prosperous. In general and in particular I have learned the secret of eating well or going hungry of facing either plenty or poverty. **I am ready for anything through the strength of the One**

who lives within me. Philippians 4:11-13

The last line is a good mantra for us all!

As we pass through this season of Lent and come to the blessed day of Christ's resurrection, let us never forget that the One who died for us then would die for us still. That being true, then clearly, He will strengthen us in all things we face, no matter how difficult!

I leave you with this, one of my favorite bits from Max Lucado's book, And the Angels Were Silent:

In our wildest imaginings we wouldn't conjure a King who becomes one of us.

But God did. God did what we wouldn't dare dream.

He did what we couldn't imagine. He became a man so we could trust him. He

became a sacrifice so we could know Him. And He defeated death so we could follow Him.

Alleluia! He is Risen!

Blessings and peace to you all  
Kallie Lyons



## **St John's Volunteer Skills and Interests**

We would like to have information from any members of our congregation who have time and abilities that could be put to use for the betterment of our church facilities. Please let us know how you would like to contribute. Many of these volunteer opportunities can also help our parish conserve money!

Usher/Greeter\_\_\_

Acolyte\_\_\_

Lay Reader\_\_\_

Choir\_\_\_

Grace Place\_\_\_

Sunday Morning DayCare\_\_\_

Sunday School\_\_\_

Cleaning\_\_\_

Landscaping/gardening\_\_\_

Painting\_\_\_

Carpentry\_\_\_

Electrical\_\_\_

Masonry\_\_\_

Is there a skill you have that you would like to offer? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you speak a foreign language?\_\_\_

What manner would be best to contact you?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# St. John's Eagle

The Monthly Newsletter of  
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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