

*The Church of the Good Shepherd*  
*April 2020 ~ Newsletter*

Dear Congregation,

*From our Senior Warden*

Easter of 2020 will be one to be remembered. Most of you already know that services have been suspended through April. Although, as Bishop Skirving has clarified, services have been suspended, but church has not. We are the church and each Sunday morning we depart to serve. Volunteer to shop for those who should not go out in public. Safely check on your friends and neighbors. Technology and social media have been instrumental in keeping us in touch while practicing *social distancing*, a term recently inscribed in our lexicon. I take our last service, March 8<sup>th</sup>, as a reminder never to take tomorrow for granted. One never knows what the next day will bring, when we will see that friend again, or when we will receive our last communion. The Church of the Good Shepherd has survived for over a century, even through the deadly Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918 during which our church answered the call of service to the community by becoming a hospital. Our church has always served her community, and we still are here to serve you. Please let us know if you are in need help during this time of trial. Please join us and St. Mark's for virtual services Sunday mornings. For those not able to access the virtual services, please know that we are with you in spirit and we love you. Holy week is upon us, and I encourage you not to let this time discourage you from celebrating the holidays in your own private and safe environment. Across the world we will find churches empty Easter morning, just as Mary Magdalene found the tomb of Jesus. We will make it through this episode and celebrate our reunion at the right time.

Sincerely,

JR Naylor



To My Dear Friends,

*From our Priest*

We have all had to face the reality that we will not be able to be in our respective churches for Holy Week this year. It is important to focus on the fact that the Church is not, in the end a building, but the faithful who gather to worship God. This feels like an exodus time to me, and as it was for the people of Israel as they made their way to the promised land, we are in exile, on the way to a new place where God calls us. So we travel in hope and with God's grace.

I suggest that we find a place in our homes where we want to be for our on-line worship services. It can be in the hub of our house; the kitchen table for instance, or it can be a place where we find ourselves for quieter purposes, a study, or den. Wherever, I think we should "dress it up" for the occasion. Candles, a special table cloth, flowers, a simple cross are all things that might help.

On Maundy Thursday there was the suggestion that we wash each other's hands rather than feet. Given the present circumstances this seems appropriate. Also we will share, an Agape meal, each in our own house. Based on the Seder shared by Jewish families, commemorating the Exodus seems like a meaningful endeavor. Basic foods, bread, olives, cheese, fruit, maybe a glass of juice or wine, will be what we need.



May God bless and keep you and yours safe.

The Rev Jim Papile



## **The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina**

The Right Reverend Robert S. Skirving, Bishop

Monday, March 23, 2020

Jesus said to Thomas, 'Have you believed because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'  
(John 20:29, NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we draw closer to the celebrations of the Easter season and I have contemplated the decisions that we must make, the story of the encounter between Thomas and our risen Lord Jesus has found its way into my heart. Normally shared publicly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, this passage from John's gospel portrays the challenge faced by Thomas in accepting the word of the other disciples, when they tell him "We have seen the Lord." Thomas needed to see Jesus for himself and to touch his wounds. Too often, we are critical of Thomas, labeling him as doubting. In reality, most of us need to see for ourselves before we can "believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God." (verse 31)

Sadly, our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter Day will not include seeing one another in the usual ways, nor embracing one another in person. With this letter, I am directing that the suspension of public worship continue in every congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina through the end of April 2020. There are to be no exceptions. The creativity and collaboration that I am witnessing across our Diocese will need to be taken even further, as we find new ways to worship during Holy Week and the early part of the Easter season. I will collaborate with our clergy and churchwardens to find ways of addressing the challenges ahead, and I will be available to support the leaders of each congregation in making necessary decisions.

Please note that this direction applies only to public worship. Leaders of the congregations of our Diocese are charged with making responsible decisions for all other dimensions of life and ministry in their own communities. In all cases, we are to comply with the requirements of local, civic and federal authorities in order to help slow the spread of infection. Diocesan House staff will work with ministry leaders to modify, reschedule, or cancel all Diocesan events planned to take place during the month of April.

This Holy Week and Easter season, we might look to Thomas for our inspiration, particularly as we can neither see nor embrace one another in person. May God's Holy Spirit lead us to seek not our own needs, but the needs of those who suffer most deeply as a result of the pandemic brought by COVID-19. May our Easter proclamation of God's love be expressed in our love for one another and for all of our neighbors.

Yours in Christ,

*Robert S. Skirving*

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*From our Treasurer*

Thank you to everyone who has found a way to deliver their Good Shepherd pledge to the Church. Deposits will be made as necessary. Bills will continue to be paid, as received, using the online bill pay service at our bank. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please call me at 870-534-0650. Virginia Perschbacher

*From our Parish Administrator*

[gs6080@hotmail.com](mailto:gs6080@hotmail.com)

*Elise Rocks 910.620.9224*

## Virtual Services

Thanks to Jim Papile for his generous offering of providing a way for us to worship from home. You will need to download the Zoom app. You can use your smart phone or computer. Go to the app store, search for Zoom and install. **Please email [jimpapile@gmail.com](mailto:jimpapile@gmail.com) to be added to the Zoom invitation on Sunday mornings.** On Sunday morning, Jim will send out a link before the service begins. It's a wonderful way to continue to be together. As we have discovered, there will be times of technical difficulties, so please text me at 910.620.9224 if you don't get the link or can't get connected. There's also an option to call in to the service. Let me know if you need to use that option. Please let me know if you would like to participate as a reader in one of the services.

## Easter Baskets for Farmworkers Ministry

Unfortunately, we will not be able to deliver baskets due to the shelter in place order, but Mary appreciates your efforts and will make sure all of the baskets we currently have collected will get to children in need as soon as she is able!

## Good Friday Virtual Vigil

We have invited St Marks to share in our Good Friday Vigil. Each participant will call someone to listen for about 30 minutes, then read to a new listener for about 30 minutes. Times will depend on how many participants we have. Please email or call me if you would like to participate and let me know a broad range of times you are available between 8 pm on Good Friday to 8 am on Saturday. It will take a little faith and a lot of coordination but it will be awesome, so just jump on in!

## New Address

We have installed a secure mailbox at the church and closed the Post Office Box. If you have any automatic payments set up, or would like to mail in your pledge, please use our physical address:

**515 Queen Street, Wilmington NC 28401**

4	Richard Banks
5	Michael Smith
5	Jacob Chambers
14	Presleigh Sullivan
18	Mary Gaylord
19	Eric Korman
25*	Aimee & Rob Parker
27	Isabel Cooper

## April Special Days – Birthdays and Anniversaries\*

We love to celebrate each other by remembering birthdays and anniversaries. If we have missed anyone's special day, please let know, and please check the directory to make sure yours are listed!

Need a directory?

Want to be on our mailing list?

Have questions about the church?

Ask one of our members, or contact [gs6080@hotmail.com](mailto:gs6080@hotmail.com)





The Church of the Good Shepherd, 515 Queen St. Wilmington, NC 28401  
 Corner of 6<sup>th</sup> & Queen in the historic Castle Street Arts & Antique District

Readings for the Month of April

April 4 Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	April 11 Easter	April 19 1st Easter	April 26 2nd Easter
<u>Liturgy of the Palms</u> Matthew 21:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  <u>Liturgy of the Word</u> Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 19:28-48 Psalm 31:9-16	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35 Psalm 116: 1, 10-17	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42 Psalm 22	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Acts 2:14a,22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31 Psalm 16	Acts 2:14a,36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

**The Mission of the Church of the Good Shepherd**

...is to live in unity and fellowship with God and each other.

The Right Reverend Robert Skirving, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina  
 The Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal)

Chris King, Director of Music

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