



Loaves

&

Fishes

MAY 2025

All Times are His Seasons

Photograph by Clara Stark

the left-hand column

☂ Hello, Spring, let's have tea. Yes, the spring tea is scheduled. Two in the afternoon of May 10. Do plan to come, my dears, and let Bobbi or Mary know to set you a place.

☂ Have you admired the new windows? What an improvement they are. Also, there's now a large screen over the fireplace for presentations at meetings, Besides all that, the Thrift Shop has a lovely wall to hide the donated items waiting to be sorted; thank you, Steve!

☂ Speaking of the Thrift Shop, have you heard about the beautiful Cherokee quilt/ hanging someone donated? It will be our gift to the Cherokee Nation museum in Oklahoma. Pictures and a story inside.

☂ What a beautiful Easter morning we had, with three baptisms, in keeping with the custom of the early church. It's always good to have that reminder of our promises to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself," and to "strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being."

☂ Our holy mowers could use a few more willing workers; check with Peter (pmwoodside@yahoo.com).

We ask for "daily bread" and God never says you should have come yesterday, he never says you must come again tomorrow, but today if you will hear his voice, he will hear you...now God comes to thee, not as in the dawning of the day, not as the bud of spring, but as the sun at noon to illustrate all shadows, as the sheaves at harvest to illustrate all penuries; all occasions invite his mercies and all times are his seasons.

~~John Donne

One of the great gifts of Eastertide is the knowledge that the risen Christ comes to us both in our individual and collective lives, that all our time is imbued with the love of God. John's gospel, which is our "scriptural anchor" this season, is a constant reminder of this Living God who cannot be excluded from our hearts or our communities. Though the disciples this week are locked in the upper room by their fear of the authorities, they cannot keep Jesus from their midst by their terror or by the locks they place on the doors and their hearts. Jesus stands among them and says, "Peace be with you." That peace is our own sun, the light of which keeps us aware of the shadows we still harbor, the ways in which we resist this light coming into our lives. My hope is that throughout this season, we may find new ways to invite the risen Christ into our hearts, to allow his peace to shine in all our encounters between us and in the world, which needs it so desperately.

Blessings,
Mark+



Giving Ourselves Away

One of the great gifts that the beginning of the Great Fifty Days of Easter gives us is the chance to begin thinking about what resurrection means for us. After going through all the emotional upheaval of Holy Week, the time spent in the tomb and the wonderment of the release of resurrection, we are understandably exhausted from all we have seen and experienced; what this time gives us is a chance to think about what it means to be called out of our own tombs, the half-lives for which we so often settle, and think about what our converted, resurrected selves can mean for each other and for the church.

A great deal of our Easter celebrations are concerned with welcoming this new creation, a wonderfully overturned world that the resurrection has begun. What we often fail to understand is the ongoing creation that God has begun in us, one that continues after the women have left the tomb and the dark places in ourselves have been opened. This Easter season represents an opportunity to look at the ways we serve each other, the chances we have to give ourselves away in the work of a stand-up people who receive the world by giving themselves away.

As generous as we are, most of us are not accustomed to the idea of giving away our very selves, the things that help define us. We are free enough with what we give to our friends, our contributions to the church, but giving away oneself represents something different. It is a gift of our uniqueness, the gift that no one else can offer, one that has been transformed by the event that has made the whole creation new. As Rowan Williams has said:

My charism, the gift given to me to give to the community, is my self, ultimately; my story, given back, to give me a place in the net of exchange, the web of gifts, which is Christ's Church. My self is to be given away in love, not because it is worthless, but because it is supremely precious, given to me by the hand of God as he returns my memory. Out of my story, the Spirit of the risen Jesus constitutes my present possibilities of understanding, compassion and self-sharing. And the [key] is the learning of one's own self as gift, allowing it to be returned-- whatever the initial pain or shame-- by the risen Christ, hearing one's true name from his lips.

We are conditioned to associate risk with danger, that what we have to offer in the world might be spurned or ignored; it is easier to “play it safe”, to not put ourselves out, to not give ourselves the future. But as with anything new, we need practice, and the church is the place where we can learn to look for those willing, patiently and gently, to receive this gift of ourselves we have to offer; we have then the chance to receive our selves back as changed, transformed, resurrection people.

Throughout the coming season, I would encourage you to think of where your own gifts might best contribute to our collective life, how your own uniqueness might best serve our community. My hope is that you might do it mindful of this new thing that has come into the world and what it has done to us. This Eastertide is overflowing with opportunities to look at the changes God is working in us; my hope is that you will find new ways to live them out in this wonderful community.

Blessings,
Mark+

It's Tea Time, Ladies

Our spring tea is set for 2:00 on the afternoon of May 10.

As always, fancy hats and tea dresses are not required, but welcomed.

Please let Bobbi Brown (301 994-1114 brbrown62@md.metrocast.net) or Mary Larson (301 994-1017 larsonml@md.metrocast.net) know you plan to be there.



The Senior Warden Reviews a Busy Month

At the beginning of the April Rev. Mark, Peter and I attended a Warden's Conference at St Stephen and the Incarnation Church in the District. It was an interesting day filled with large and small group meetings. We learned that the diocese has many resources and staff available to parishes whenever needed. It was also good to meet and interact with folks from other parishes.

Our window project is well underway. The work—mostly—was completed during the week prior to Easter. Donations continue to come in to help finance the project. So far, about twenty windows have been donated. We appreciate the generosity of our parishioners in helping to get this important work done. Additionally, I think parishioners appreciate an opportunity to memorialize loved ones who have passed away or honor someone who is still among us. A company has been contacted to provide the plaque and brass plates and do the engraving.

In the middle of April, a leak was discovered in a fuel tank located behind the parish hall. Thanks to Peter Woodside's quick action the tank was pumped out and replaced with a temporary tank and the contaminated soil in the area was removed. The HeadStart Center closed for two days as a result of the leak. Fortunately, it was a small one. Otherwise, things could have been much worse.

In March, Rev. Mark told the parish about a possible partnership with St Mary's Caring. Now that Easter is over we make a few announcements in church and the newsletter to assess parish interest. It could be a good way to increase our presence in the community as well as provide a way for folks in the parish to serve others in our local community.

Finally, I would like to thank Fr. Mark for the services he conducted during Holy Week. In case you missed it, there were services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and an Easter Vigil on Saturday. I found them to be very moving and I am looking forward to them next year. And, the Easter service on Sunday was a glorious event with wonderful music, beautiful flowers a joyous service with a full house—followed by an exciting egg hunt and great coffee hour. Thanks go to all those who helped these events take place.

Respectfully,
Susan Bennett

The Junior Warden Says. . . .

Thank you to Clara, Fran, Tim, Joyce and Steve for clearing all the interior window areas throughout the parish hall building to expedite the installation of forty-one windows. The last two will be installed by mid-May.

Donors will be asked to provide wording for the brass plate recognizing the person or cause their gift honors.

Thank you, everyone, for making this happen. The new windows enhance the building's appearance while reducing energy use.

Church roof repairs should start some time in mid-May weather permitting. The copper gutters have already been removed to prevent further water damage to the bricks.

Thank you, Ted, for the interior door handle. Likewise thank you, garden elves Barb and Nancy for removing the weeds then adding mulch around the parish hall yard.

The roof of the shed behind the parish hall (where the riding lawn mower lives) received some tender loving care, courtesy of Bill Riddell. Unfortunately he was the recipient of attention from a pair of ticks during the course of repairs.

Our holy mower teams are short four people. Effort involves time one week a month to maintain our campus lawn. Any level of participation would be greatly appreciated.

And, finally, the Building and Grounds Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. May 13 in the parish hall.

Peter



Photograph by Peter Woodside

A Treasure Finds Its Way to the Thrift Shop

Story and pictures by Mary Hansen

Many interesting items are donated to the St. Andrew's thrift shop for the sorters to sort and the sellers to sell. We give many items to our yard sales, extras go to the St. Mary's Women's Association, and to Jessica Kimball Finch at the Giving Closet.

One very interesting item last year was a large, heavy bundle. To our amazement, we unfolded a large quilt. Well, not really a quilt, but a quilted wall hanging made up of sixty twelve-inch squares. Several squares are finely embroidered with woodland animals, the word Cherokee, and symbols of the seven Cherokee clans.

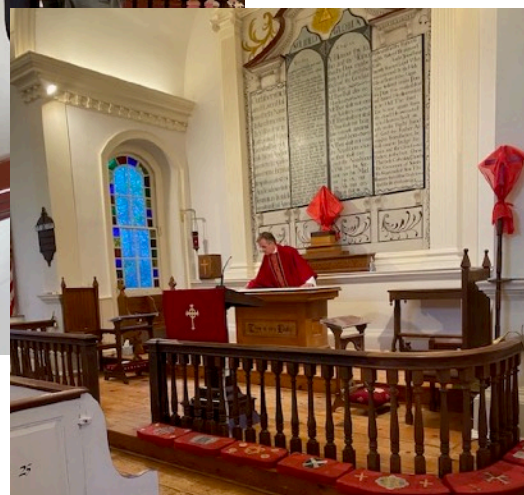
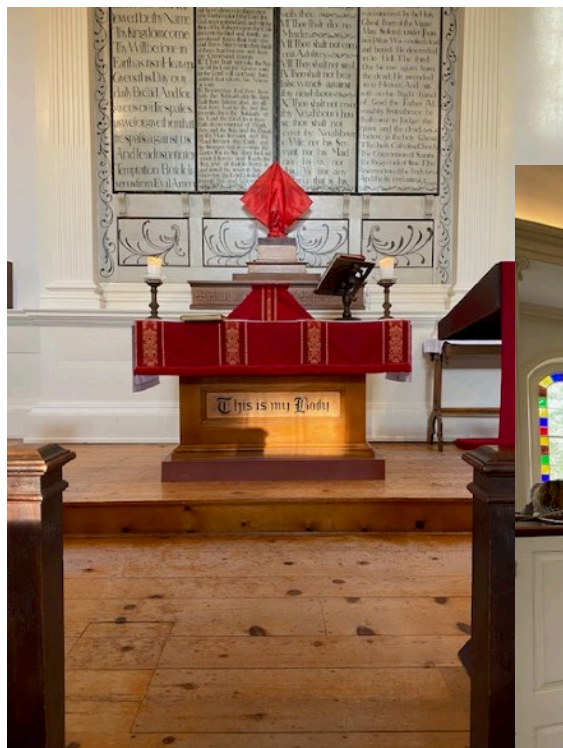
Immediately, we knew we had something very special that would not be for sale. I offered to do the research. I called the Cherokee nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and spoke with Linda Cox, administrative assistant to Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. The chief was in meetings, and unable to talk then, but Ms. Cox said she would get back to me. I sent her a few photographs of the quilt/hanging. It took some time, but when we talked again, she said the chief was interested in the hanging and would love to have it for their museum and were willing to pay for the shipping cost.

We are so excited that we are able to send this beautiful treasure to the Cherokee nation where it belongs. It will be treasured for years to come.

Once they receive the hanging, they will send photographs back to us. Their artifacts department and will send us anything they are able to find out about this treasure. Of course, if you should travel to Oklahoma, please stop by the museum to see it in the museum.

We will have the hanging in the fellowship hall one Sunday in May for all to see before it is packed up and sent to the Cherokee Nation National Center.





Photograph by Clara Stark



Photograph by Joyce Austin



Photograph by Joyce Austin

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*
~~Mark 5:7

May 4 Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Ron Leonard

Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Margaret Hallau

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Susan Bennett

Lector: Joie Samuelson

Coffee hour: Joyce, Ned and Rudy Austin

May 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Clara Stark

Altar duty: Susan Bennett and Svenna Gonzalez

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Nancy Edwards

Lector: Margaret Hallau

Acolytes: Tom Joyner, Alice Dunn and Barrow Dunn

Coffee hour: Bertie McKay, Ethan Chan, Linda and Jerry Himmelheber

May 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Jerry Gehrig

Altar duty: Kim Stickney and Mary Hansen

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Mary Maker

Lector: Robert Abell

Acolytes: Chris Moran, Ameia Moran and Rudy Austin

Coffee hour:

May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Mary Larson

Altar duty: Mary Maker and Michael Dyson

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Dee McRae

Lector: Caleb Wong

Coffee Hour: Misty Cantu and Erica Day

May 29 Feast of the Ascension

Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53

Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Clara Stark

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Bob Aldridge, Pam Baake, Jan Barnes, Melanie Baisley, Robert Bennett, Eunice Benson, Elizabeth Biddle [Pumphrey], Grace Billingsley, the Blackwell Family, Caroline Bradford, Carol Brimm, Pete and Nancy Brown, Christine Butler, Kelly Butler, Susan Carroll, Art Carson, Donna Carter, Donnie Carter, Judy Cavin, Jennifer Ceriale, Judy Consoli, Lanette Cowles, McKenna Cox, Marilyn Crosby, Laine Dogget, Judi Donnelly, Billy Doughty, Phyllis Doughty, Ruby Dyson, Brian Gardner, Gloria Gehrig, Susan Geary, the Girard family, Alexi Greene, Susan Hogan, Ryker Hurst, Greta, Keith Johnston, Terrie Leonard, Thomas Leonard, Elinor Mattingly, the Mattingly family, Dee McRae, Artie Miller, Sue Montgomery, the Montgomery family, Bernice Nunes, Annamaria Pache, Olivia, Joey and Georgio Parisi, Kenda Parker, Kyle Patrick, Chase Phifer, Lisa Powell, Dan Quinn, David and Natalie Reed, Jane Roderick, Rusty Robinson, the Rotzinger family, Diane Rudish, Bob Sisson, Alice Snyder, Kelly, Jonathan Tanner, Taylor, Tegan, Isabella Tenczar, Charlene Townsend, the Walls family, Paula Wayland, Angelica Wilkinson, the Willett family, Stuart A. Wood, first responders, and all who serve in the military and their families.



Cheers to Our May Babies

- 1 Don Schramm
- 3 Elizabeth Drayton
- 4 Brent Johnson
- 6 Charlie Drayton
- 8 Hal Pease
- 9 Susan Bennett
- 10 George Weeks
- 16 Zachary Werrell, Drew Wolcott
- 20 Chuck Stein, Jake Ersek
- 21 Steve Wible, Mary Hansen
- 23 John Duff
- 25 Jamison Wood
- 26 Phyllis Doughty, Barry Knouse
- 29 Dee McRae, Barbara Collison
- 30 Paul Appleby

May

- 1 **Thursday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 6:00 p.m. AA
 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 2 **Friday**
 6:00 p.m. AA
- 3 **Saturday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 4 **Sunday**
 8:00 a.m. H.E. I
 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum
 10:30 a.m. H.E. II
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 5 **Monday**
- 6 **Tuesday**
 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 7 **Wednesday**
 9:00 a.m. noon Thrift Shop
 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
- 8 **Thursday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 6:00 p.m. AA
 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 9 **Friday**
 6:00 p.m. AA
- 10 **Saturday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 2:00 p.m.—Annual Spring Tea
- 11 **Sunday**
 8:00 a.m. H.E. I
 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum
 10:30 a.m. H.E. II
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 12 **Monday**
- 13 **Tuesday**
 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 14 **Wednesday**
 9:00 a.m. noon Thrift Shop
 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
- 15 **Thursday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 6:00 p.m. AA
 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 16 **Friday**
 6:00 p.m. AA
- 17 **Saturday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

- 18 **Sunday**
 8:00 a.m. H.E. I
 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum
 10:30 a.m. H.E. II
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 19 **Monday**
 Noon—St. Mary's Garden Club Luncheon
- 20 **Tuesday**
 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 21 **Wednesday**
 9:00 a.m. noon Thrift Shop
 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
- 22 **Thursday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 6:00 p.m. AA
 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 23 **Friday**
 6:00 p.m. AA
- 24 **Saturday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 25 **Sunday**
 8:00 a.m. H.E. I
 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum
 10:30 a.m. H.E. II
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 26 **Monday**
- 27 **Tuesday**
 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 28 **Wednesday**
 9:00 a.m. noon Thrift Shop
 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
- 29 **Thursday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 6:00 p.m. AA
 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 30 **Friday**
 6:00 p.m. AA
- 31 **Saturday**
 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop



***Congratulations in
 the Merrie Month of May***

- 4 Tim and Anne Vallandingham
 10 Andrew and Catherine Walls
 19 Richard & Brenda Wolcott
 20 Ted and Judy Ersek
 31 Chris and Jill Wagoner

Looking for Someone?

Rector: The Rev. Mark Smith: 301 862-2247 rector@standrewsleonardtowntown.org

Parish Administrator: Amanda Anisko: 301 862-2247 parishadmin@standrewsleonardtowntown.org

Senior Warden: Susan Bennett

Junior Warden: Peter Woodside

Robert Abell

Joyce Austin

Bobbi Brown

Ethan Chan

Nancy Riddell

Clara Stark

Andy Walls

Treasurer: Chuck Stein

Minister of Music, Amy Foster

Newsletter, Dee McRae

To give flowers for the altar: 301 862-2247 parishadmin@standrewsleonardtowntown.org

The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 202 537-6550

The Diocese of Washington 202 537-6555 <http://www.edow.org/>



Food for Thought

Barbara Brown Taylor has been a parish priest and a college professor; she has written fifteen books. Now retired and in her seventies, she lives with her husband on a farm north of Atlanta. Recently she was interviewed by Sojourners magazine associate editor Josina Guess. Here is some of what she had to say.

A big part of reverence is the recognition of things greater than we are. I'm doing a funeral for a man who was my supervising minister for ten years. He taught me to be grateful for the things that are out of your control. Those are the things that will teach you your true size in the family of things. It's a great relief to be shrunk down to size because, at least in my culture, we get way too big in our own estimation and in the import of our own lifetimes. . .

I'm anxious about the political landscape. I'm in conversation in daily life with people who keep the county running pretty well, though presidentially we're not on the same page. They cancel my vote, and I cancel theirs.

When I moved here from Atlanta, I thought I would be bereft, or I would turn into a hermit, and it's not true at all. It's pretty easy to find people in the community who quilt, read, play music or work on things I'm interested in. But the neighborliness just stuns me. I'm on a two-mile-long dead-end road. We lost a lot of trees during a recent snowstorm. By the time I needed to go out, the neighbors had gotten their tractors and saws and cleared the road.

I'm very opposed to the idea that you know everything about somebody from the political sign in their yard or the sticker on their car. . .

Fortunately, Jesus had a lot more to say about life on Earth than he did about theology. . . . When he could have talked about high things, he talked about everyday things. There is hardly a divine truth that doesn't take some shape on Earth. Christianity is still my first language, but I mean that to be incarnate language.