



Prayers, Cares and Current Affairs April 2019

To God be the Glory to all our brothers and sisters in Christ! We have been so blessed to have had a GRAND homecoming weekend ! My cup still overflows with joy and jubilation!

The conversation started over a year ago to have a homecoming celebration. The physical work began in October with the mailing of invitations and notifications. In February every one pulled together and were assigned a task under the direction of Carlos Flores. We met each Saturday to report progress. The last two to three weeks prior to the Friday's event, a few of us met daily.... making sure every i' was dotted and t' was crossed. Thank God for the angels who hang in the wings and filled in the gaps!

Let me set the stage for you.... The chosen colors for this event were green and white. Crystal beads intertwined with soft lights were used to enhance and illuminate the room along the window seals and counter top. Each table was adorned with apple green mats joining in the middle with a glass bowl of green marbles and crystal beads with a soft candle light flickering in the middle for each centerpiece. All the green plants about the room were dressed in clear lights. The piano table was draped in a green cloth while the philodendra plant was interwoven with white roses that also gave off a soft light. A beautiful angel, dressed in green and white, holding a nest made of eucalyptus leaves was positioned above the plant, as though she was gracefully watching over it. There were four tables positioned at angles to allow free movement and space to gather in conversation. Chairs outlined the room. In the far

corner of the room was a round table gracefully draped in a lace cloth with a variety of stemmed glasses for those who wished to partake of their choice of red or white wine. A rotation of handsome bar attendants manned the station throughout the evening. Soft jazz played in the background while photos of members and friends at various social hours and activities played on the flat screen on the wall. Some of the photographs dated back 30 years or more. It was most entertaining. Souvenirs commemorating this festive occasion were also available for sale: They included coffee mugs, t-shirts, key chains and calendars. Members who preregistered received their memoirs in a gift bag so graciously prepared by our hostess, Chandra Francis. Tasty hors d'oeuvres, fruits and sweets were served buffet style. A special dish was prepared for McAllister Collins, our beloved and strict vegetarian. (Saint Joseph's is all inclusive and accommodating.) Our Senior Warden welcomed us and introduced our Priest-In-Charge, Rev. Ralph Clark, who blessed the food. As the sun sat on our evening, the brilliance of the lighting on the green became more evident as we lingered to reminisce upon the evening and the satisfaction of a beautiful day spent and the days yet to follow.

Day II of our celebration began on Saturday at 4:00 with a Service of Remembrance. The altar linens were white with a dove outlined in gold on the frontal. On the altar lay three tiers of candles. The paschal candle was present and lit along with the office candles on each side of the cross at the Resurrection Windows. The choir was in place, soft music was played in the background in wait for the service to begin. At 4:00 pm sharp, our Senior Warden, Priest and Eucharistic Minister entered from the Sacristy. A passage from the Revelation of John was read by a guest from the community. (Donna LaHuffman) A quaint, yet beautiful Homily was given whereby names of a few of God's White Robed Army were called as they are the ancestors of those who are members of St. Joseph's still today.

Following the Homily, there was a responsive reading highlighting the character of those who have gone before us. The congregation responded with... "we will remember them." The Eucharistic Minister and Sr. Warden began calling names of the 28 members whose names are stamped in black on new brass plaques and have now been added to the others whom we vow to remember. After each name was called.... a candle was lit and the sound of the gong rang ...resonating into silence until the next name was called. The gentle wiping of tears could be witnessed and sniffles could be heard from the crowd. This was a beautiful and moving service which ended as reverently and quietly as it began in the singing of the song, "For All The Saints."

The celebration continued as we gathered at St. John's beautiful dining hall to share a meal and fellowship. We are thankful to St. John's, Rev. Robert Alves, Junior Warden, Ms. Mary, and Sr. Warden, Mr. Allgood who were so graciously accommodating in the use of their facility. 'Homecoming' takes on a two-fold meaning in that St. Johns was the first home from which we derived.

Donald expressed words of welcome and announced the occasion. Rev. Clark introduced Bishop Robert Skirving and his wife Sandy who hails from Canada. A most impressive bio of our Bishop was shared. Sharon, our Minister of Music entertained us with a rendition of "Memories." It was so very beautiful. Before the blessing of the food by Bishop Skirving ... our Jr. Warden read a proclamation written by the city of Fayetteville's Mayor Mitch Colvin commemorating this grand homecoming celebration.

The head table led us to a meal fit for kings prepared by Chef Ervin Farmer! The meal included, a garden salad, roast beef and gravy, baked chicken, plain rice and fried rice, collard greens, green beans, macaroni and cheese, rolls and iced tea. A variety of sweets were provided by St. Josephs'. Donald led us in telling his fondest memories of St. Joseph' as we were

invited to share ours. I think we would all agree... the memory of... Mac Collins telling of how he always sits on the left side, 4th row of every Episcopal Church he attends was most entertaining. Un-Be-Knowance to Mac... this particular row was that of Mr. Tommy Hodges. Mac had arrived early to claim his coveted seat of choice. Mr. Hodges enters ...seeing Mac in his pew ... bends down... speaks into Mac's ear... "You are in my pew." Mac excuses himself and says, "I'll slide down." Mr. Hodges says.... "No, you don't understand, you are in my pew. So Mac....being the respectful, gentleman that he is....excuses himself again...gets up ... surrendering his seat. A new tradition for Mac is that now, at St. Joseph's he sits in the first seat of the 5th row! Mrs. Hodges stood and said, she remembers that Sunday because she heard Mr. Hodges grumbling under his breath. When She asked him what was wrong and though he said, "Nothing," she heard him grumble.... "This is my pew!" Another funny comment was how Mr. Hodges would stand and sing with his hands lifted to God.. from his heart, LOUD, OUT OF TUNE and OFF KEY. I remember those days well. He was often heard saying... "I know my Redeemer liveth!"

The evening was filled with smiles, laughter, fond memories of happy times, great company and delicious food! Celebrations do not get better than this!

Sunday Morning Service at St. Joseph's was nearly full to capacity. Our Celebrant for the day was our own, Bishop Skirving...but let me back it up a bit andset the stage! Picture this....the altar linens were the color rose (some would say...a shade of pink with a touch of burgundy). The first three rows were filled with beautiful ladies dressed in red from head to toe! They were none than the Fayetteville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. of which our Sharon is actively involved. The Hodges Clan were in the coveted 4th row on the left side and seated directly behind them was Mac...true to habit!

The processional was regal in that the Bishop is decked his white mitre (pointed hat) while carrying his beautiful wooden carved staff. (I'm sure most did not see the beautiful wooden stand beside the Bishop's chair that holds his staff>>>> awesome>>>>) He is wearing a rose Chasuble over his white alb. Rev. Ralph is matching... in his rose colored stole against his white hooded alb.

Bishop Skirving began his homily telling us the rose color vestments and linen are not a fashion statement but an acceptable color used in the Anglican church during lent. His sermon began with his recollection of his memory of being a new bishop to this diocese and coming to St. Josephs.' Upon learning of the fire of 2015, he came the very next morning... not only to assess the damage but to also be with the members who were numb from the shock of this horrible accident as well as the devastation of the damage. We were facing the daunting task of how an aging population in a small parish would go about repairing the damage for our hearts were heavy. Bishop Skirving recanted how we held hands in a circle in the midst of the charred wood, ash and badly stained pews and prayed for strength, courage and resilience to move forward from this tragedy. Thank God, the size of a congregation does not dictate the mightiness of the mission! By God's grace and mercy, the aid of the community of faith and church insurance, we rose from the ashes better than we started.

Later in his sermon he spoke on the gospel story of the homecoming of the prodigal son who even though he shamed himself and brought dishonor to his father by squandering his inheritance on acts of immorality...the father still loved him unconditionally and maintained high hopes for his return. Can you picture the father, advanced in age, tending his garden near the gate and casually glancing up periodically in hopes that the figure in yonder distance would be that of his wayward son. Can you fathom the joy that flooded his soul when in fact it was indeed....the son he longed to welcome home! Was it by the clothes he wore or by the way he walked that the father

knew it was he? Perhaps it was the confirmation of prayers answered or the faith he had in the bond between father and son. Regardless, his child had come home and that was all that mattered. As is custom, the father immediately ordered the slaughter of fatted calf for a feast in his honor.

Mmmmm...Coincidental...or part of a divine plan that this gospel reading would fall on the culmination of our own homecoming weekend. The reason was different but the outcome the same! St. Joseph's rallied the community near and far to celebrate the coming home of our church family! Something to ponder indeed!

Following servicewe did what St. Joseph's does best...we fellowshiped over a delicious meal as we enjoyed each others presence and viewed photos of past activities and events on the big screen! Oh what a joyous celebration it was indeed!

A special thanks to God Almighty for granting us beautiful weather. To all who spread the good news that St. Joseph's family wascoming home and to those who purchased ads from local businesses... you have our humble thanks ! To our leader who rounded up the masses to share in the work load. Accolades , kudos and special thanks to all the angels who filled in the gaps, went above the call of duty and rested not...until all was said and done! You know who you are! God bless you and we love you!

It is my sincere hope that by reading this review.. you have twice the joy of this spectacular event. If by chance you were unable to attend...you may experience the homecoming second hand. May God's love and peace be always with you.

Souvenirs will be available for sale for the duration until all items are gone. There is someone at the church from 10:00 thru 5:00 each Wednesday. Please call in advance and have

the correct change or be prepared to use a check payable to St. Josephs'. Thank you in advance.

What's on the Horizon at St. Joseph's

Preparing for Holy week and Easter!

Making Crosses

On Friday April 12, we need all who can help in making the crosses from palms for Palm Sunday. We will begin at 11:00 in the parish hall.

Reading the Passion

Im asking for the following people to be readers of the Passion on Palm Sunday. This will be the Passion according to Luke. If you cannot serve... please let Jan Mumford know.

Narrator:	Carol Graham
Jesus:	David Harvey
Peter:	Olu Orondava
Disciple:	Donald LaHuffman
Servant 1	Elaine McNeill
Accuser1	Christine Flores
Accuser 2	Carlos Flores
Soldiers	Sam Lloyd, Gene Graham, Anozie Nebolisa
Assembly	Everyone!
Pilate:	Tyrone Francis
Criminal1	Bob Hamilton
Criminal 2	James
Centurion:	Kieth Walcott

Maundy Thursday

April 18th

Maundy Thursday service will begin at 6:00 pm in the parish hall with the agape meal. The acceptable foods are flat (unleavened) bread, cheese, olives, nuts and dried and whole fruits. Red wine or red grape juice. Roasted lamb bitter herbs(celery greens, chives and parsley), roasted lamb and fish. The assigned readings may be before or during the meal. After the meal we will retreat to the Sanctuary. The service ends with the tripping of the altar in silence.

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross @ Noon

April 19, 2019

In keeping with our tradition, Saint Joseph's along with Saint John's congregation will join forces and walk through the 14 stages of the cross. Rev. Ralph will open the service... members of both churches will alternate readings. St John's pre-selected readers will read all even number passages. St. Joseph's readers will take the uneven numbers. The Responsive song is found on page #230 in the African Hymnal... "Jesus Remember Me." Rev. Robert Alves will close out the service.

Easter Sunday Service

April 21, 2019

Service on Easter morning will begins at the regular scheduled time... 10:00

I hope to see you all there

DOK



The Daughters of the King just had a spring gathering. Thanks to Karen Washington for representing us and taking our banner. She returned with two wooden prayer request boxes for our convenience. One is located at the corner table in the parish hall.

The other box is on the credenza at the entry of the church. The boxes are locked so anonymity is kept. We will meet on the 3rd Saturday at 11:00.



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood has been missing their fearless leader for the past several weeks. He is a proud new grandfather. He welcomes Baby Donald Tisdale III to the Ferguson family! The brothers have been carrying on in your absence.



ECW

The Episcopal Church Women of East Carolina will soon meet May 1st in Kinston at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The Theme this year is "Growing the Church (and ECW) Through Humor and Hope." Registration is due by April 16th. The cost of lunch is \$14 per individual. Please see Jan Mumford if you wish to attend. Checks should be made payable to Sarah Warner, St. Mary's Church, 800 Round tree Street, Kinston, NC 28501. Thanks to Carol Graham and Heidi Maxwell for consenting to be our representatives for the UTO (united thank offering) and the periodical club.

The Worship Committee

Our worship committee will begin meeting on the 4th Sunday of the month to plan services for each liturgical season at a time. In the past we have planned a month in advance. This month due to the Homecoming weekend we postponed our meeting and we will meet on the 7th of April.



Bible Study

I would like to take this time to encourage all to attend Bible Study. Do not be afraid of being called upon to answer a question buried deep into the archives of all things Bible related. You do not even have to read unless you so desire. Most of us know that the Church was the governing body long before lawyers and courtrooms. The Law of God was present before the Church! You know there is a 'but' question coming! "But, did you know... God was also the head of the first CDC?" Do I have your attention? Read Leviticus...its all in there! Come to Bible Study! Find out for yourself! It's the Bible in ways you have never thought of!



APRIL SHOWERS and BIRTHDAYS!

April

8 th	Vernell Hamilton
10 th	Essie Gore-Steward
18 th	Ryan Joseph
26 th	Kathleen Ferguson Anthony Joseph
28 th	Obinna Nwosu
23 rd	McAllister Collins

Holy Week Schedule

4.14.19	Palm Sunday Service	10:00 AM
4.18.19	Maundy Thursday Svc Agape Meal	6:00 PM
4.19.19	Good Friday Stations-of-the-Cross	12:00 Noon
4.21.19	Easter Sunday Service	10:00 AM

Birthdays

Bible Trivia



Who called himself, apostle to the gentiles?

- a) John
- b) Timothy
- c) Paul
- d) Peter

Answer: c) *Paul*

Bible Humor

What is the best verse to hang in the kitchen?

Answer: *"For every thing, there is a season."*



Rev. Ralph's Corner

What a great celebration we had last weekend! It was wonderful to see all the persons whose lives are closely linked with ours through the history

and future of Saint Joseph's church! With this happy time behind us we are ready to move through the rest of Lent and into the Passiontide of our savior Jesus. Passiontide is an old expression for the last two weeks of Lent which included what we now call Holy Week.

The start of Holy Week is the Sunday before Easter and is most often referred to as Palm Sunday following the Roman Catholic practice of that name which began in 1969. Prior to this change this Sunday was known as Passion Sunday. The 1928 Episcopal Book of Common Prayer used the term Palm

Sunday which was the first use of that term in the Episcopal Church. The distinctive ceremonies of the day are the blessing of the palms and the procession, representing the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem a week before the Resurrection.

There are other important days on the church calendar associated with the Passiontide. Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Good Friday and is named after the first words of the antiphon sung during the ceremony of foot washing. The Latin words are *mandatum novum* which translates as a new command and refers to the importance to love one another. The special celebration includes the commemoration of the Lord's Institution of the Eucharist on that day which dates to the 4th century.

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter and it is the day we remember the crucifixion of Jesus. The practice of walking the stations of the cross on this day, as we do at St. Joseph, dates back to the 18th century when the practice was made popular by Franciscan monks. Good Friday is also one of only two official fast days on the church calendar, the other being Ash Wednesday.