



## *Prayers, Cares and Current Affairs May 2019*

SPRING TIME! May flowers, new birth and new beginnings!  
After reaching the pinnacle of our faith... in the Resurrection of  
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ ...

where do we go from here? With the passing of each Sunday,  
we celebrate the mystery of our faith with the breaking of the  
bread and drinking of the wine which symbolizes the body and  
blood that was shed for each of us. Christ has died. Christ has  
Risen and CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!

With each passing century, each passing year, season,  
month, week, or day, hour minute, or second... we look for  
Christ to come again. But not even the Angels in heaven know  
the day nor the hour...so we keep on keeping on, walking by  
faith and not by sight. We believe in the resurrection of the  
body and life everlasting. So, each day we watch, wait, and  
pray. This is not a sit-down job! While on watch duty we con-  
tinue to walk in the way of love as Christ did.

In the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ, we have much to give humble thanks. Farmers  
are planting seeds, God's creatures are giving birth and an-  
nual foliage is beginning a new season. This is indeed, a good  
time to reflect on the Goodness of God...the magnificence of  
his creation...the mystery of His plan...the sufficiency of his  
Grace ...the gift of His mercy and the Hope of the life to come.

Often times we so easily get caught up in the business of our  
activities that we do not give due homage to the purpose of  
the celebration at hand. We seemingly play out the story of

Martha and Mary when Jesus came to visit. While Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, tending to his needs... Martha was all about the preparation of the house and all that entails receiving visitors into her home. Martha became angry with her sister Mary for enjoying the time with Jesus leaving her with the physical work. Martha lost sight of what was most important.

In the church calendar we go from the expectancy of the birth of a Savior, King of Kings, God in the flesh, born to a virgin, in a stable among animals. We fast forward to the Jesus at the age of 12, being left behind in Jerusalem and found among the elders in the temple. Jesus was about his Godly mission while his parents...were essentially being parents. We hear of Jesus again when he is a man, calling the 12 disciples, performing miracles, healing the sick and infirm, and raising the dead all while spreading the good news of God the Father. As Christians, we follow Christ's last forty days on earth in the reading of scriptures during the season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we carry on the tradition of ashes on the forehead in the emblem of a cross to remind us that from dust we came and to dust we shall return. It is also an outward sign of our faith. Will we be Martha or Mary? So is it important that we show others where we stand in your relationship with God or to remember to wipe away the ashes before you go into the store to shop so that no one points out you left home with a smudge of dirt on our head.

During Holy Week we mark the beginning of the doom of what is to come in the celebration of Palm Sunday when Christ rides into Jerusalem on a virgin donkey while the masses lay down palm leaves to honor the position of a King. Will we be a Martha and stay at home that Sunday because we do not have the traditional new outfit to wear as we parade around the church waving our palm leaf? Or will we be a Mary, come and be a testament to your faith and belief that Christ came as a sacrifice for us

We came together on Maundy Thursday to share the love feast, the Agape meal commemorating the Last Supper before Christ is tried and sentenced to death. Will we be the Martha that misses the service to clean the kitchen after the meal? After all no one I know likes to enter a dirty kitchen before preparing for the next meal. Or will we be a Mary who allows herself to be fully engaged in the service and humbled by just how much God loved us that He gave His only son to die a horrible death on the cross for our sins? We proceeded to the Sanctuary for a somber service which included Eucharist. The choir set the tone of the service in singing..." Go Dark Gethsemane," "He Never Said" (a mumbling word), "Nobody Knows," and "In Remembrance." Following the post Communion prayer, the altar guild stripped the altar and all, one by one, left in silence. The Sanctuary is left in complete darkness as it became the hour of our Savior's death.

On Good Friday at noon, the members of Saint Joseph's and Saint John's gathered and walked through the last steps of Jesus as he carried his cross to the hill of Golgotha, a place of skulls and bones, to his own suffering and crucifixion on the cross. The masses sang, "Jesus Remember Me."... as the thief on the cross asked for Jesus to remember him as he came into paradise. Before Christ gave up his last breath, he interceded on our behalf and begged forgiveness to God our Father. Martha is likely catching that last sale for Easter frocks and goodies for the children's Easter baskets which has nothing to do with the celebration of Easter but all to do with capitalizing on a Christian Holiday to make money. Mary is on the other hand, in church perhaps imagining the pain of Mary, the mother of Jesus as she bears witness to the death on the cross of her son.

Pentecost Sunday is on the horizon. Jesus takes his place with God the Father in heaven while leaving the comforter...the Holy Spirit. Many will mark the day in the wearing of red to symbolize the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit. Let us

not be like Martha with our focus on outward appearance of the day but like Mary whose focus is on the Holy Spirit that is within. (This is not, in anyway discouragement for wearing red. If you are offended, you missed the point.)

Give yourselves a big hug of Thanks to Cast Members of the Passion!

Sincere thanks to all who were volunteered into participation! Though our Narrator thought she was getting a short piece to read, Peter had to be awakened by his mother and Jesus had a southern accent... it was a wonderful performance! My sincerest thanks!!! It will be my honor to recommend each of you for a BROADWAY Reenactment!

### Bereavement

We are saddened at the passing of our dear friend and sister, Mae Butler following a long battle with Alzheimer's. Last Saturday, St. Joseph's celebrated her life and her devoted service to Saint Josephs.' She was a quiet person, graceful and elegant. She carried herself with the persona of a Queen but had the work ethic of a task master. Not work for others unless the job required machinery that would not fit in her car but work that she, herself would do. Once I came upon her painting the kitchen door. Her only response..."it needed painting ... so I'm doing it!" I often questioned her being at the church alone. She would always respond, "Nobody is going to bother me. I'm not afraid." If something needed to be done or purchased, not a word was said, but it would be done. Everyone knew she was the Angel in the wings, filling all the gaps, but never taken for granted and wanted no accolades. I personally took delight in complementing her elegant style each Sunday. Every Sunday I got the same chuckle and response..."this old thing....it's been hanging in the closet for years." To know her, was to love her. She gave her best in all she did. In visiting her in her last year, I marveled at the adoration in the eyes of her children as they too, gave the best in caring for her. She will be missed but never forgotten. Those so loved are best held in

our hearts. May she rest in peace and rise in glory until we meet again.

What is Happening at Saint Joseph's.

This is the time of year that we have children and or grand-children graduating from preschool, high school or college. Congratulations to the graduates... and Well Done to the parents and grandparents and village that cheered them on!



*Toasting Our Graduates !*



Grand-daughter of Tony Ferguson



**Niecha Demi Tisdale of Atlanta GA**

Graduate of Ms. Johnson's Kindergarten  
at Teasley Elementary School.

Rising 1st Grader at Chattahoochee Elementary. Being the Best She Can Be In All Things !

Grandson of Bob and Vernell Hamilton



**Ahmad Joyner Of High Point NC**

A Cheatham White Scholar  
Graduate of Southwest Guilford High School  
Rising Freshman at NC A&T Greensboro NC  
Computer Science / Business

Grandson of Wanda and Karl Vaughn



**John Patrick Kruger**

High School Graduate (December)  
Clothing Design Business

Granddaughter of Jan Mumford



**Iyanah Smith Of Pensacola FL**

Graduate of Escambe High  
Top 10% of State Academically  
Rising Sr. @ Auburn University, Alabama  
Senior Hall of Fame  
Forensic Psych./ Criminology

Daughter of Christine and Carlos Flores



**Cherisse Flores of Fayetteville NC**

Graduate of Fayetteville Technical Comm. College  
Associates Nursing Degree  
TBE (to be employed)  
Cardiac Progressive Care Nurse at Cape Fear Valley Hospital

Granddaughter of Donald and Jean LaHuffman



**Ashley Coles of VA.**

Graduate of Norfolk State University

BA Psychology

Counselor



May Birthdays

Cassidy Dummitt	May 2
Donald LaHuffman	May 13
Jan Mumford	May 14
Karl Vaughn	May 19
Chima Nwosu	May 23



ECW

The Upper Cape Fear District Deanery is in need for someone to serve as District Chair/Co-Chair to serve on the 2019-2020 Board. This position is a two year term. The first as the co- chair and the second as the Chair. The chair and co-chair are expected to attend the three Executive Board meetings held each year. Job description: Coordinate and maintain communication between the Diocesan Board and the parish Presidents, and hold annual District meetings for the purpose of fellowship, worship and sharing of ideas.

If you are interested, please ask Jan Mumford to forward the necessary information to you.

On Wednesday, May 1st, I attended the Annual Spring gathering of The Upper Cape Fear Region. It was well attended. The guest speaker was Rev. Jay Sidebotham who is also a cartoonist. He is the author of two books featuring his cartoons

while being Episcopalian. We shared Eucharist with our Bishop Skirving and a wonderful lunch was prepared for us afterwards.

We are encouraged to attend the ECW of Province IV Annual Retreat & Meeting at the Trinity Center on Salter Path Rd, Pine Knoll Shores. It will be Monday, June 3rd 2019 - Wed. June 5th, 2019. Registration is due by May 8th. Please see Jan Mumford or contact Becky Taylor Scott: 903-571-0652.

St. Joseph's ECW will host a Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser !

Friday, May 10  
Time: 6:00  
Cost : \$ 7 /plate



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew welcomes back their fearless leader.... Tony Ferguson! He is home from weeks of Grandpa Duties! The Brotherhood Annual Fish Fry is set for Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Please invite all your family and friends and neighbors to a Fantastic Fish Fry (also pork barbecue).



The Worship Committee

The worship committee is hammering out the linguistics of a two-fold yearly calendar. One being strictly liturgical, while the other is of parish events. We will be sharing it with the congregation in the near future.





## Bible Study

It is never too late to join Bible Study ! We are in the book of Leviticus. We are not slow readers, nor are we slow learners. We take our Bible Study seriously slow. Have you ever had your favorite (vanilla) milk shake that was soooo good .... that you wanted to suck it in nice and slow so you could taste ever vanilla bean it took to make it. It is just like our bible study. When you get to a passage that just boggles your mind... that's like a brain Freeze... you have STOP and Rev. Ralph has to back it up while you process the information. You must try it! I guarantee you will like it!



## DOK

The Daughters meet every 3rd Saturday at 11:00. The Daughters of the King is an order of Episcopal Women who devote their lives to prayer and service to others. Two prayer boxes have been provided for anyone seeking prayer. One is in the Sanctuary and the other in the parish hall. All prayers remain confidential. We have sisters all over the world that are easily identified by the cross we wear as a necklace or a pin. There is a class that is provided by our president and other members for a few weeks. You learn about the order, it's history and prayer. No test are involved. You will also learn about the missions that are supported by the Daughters of the King all over the world. Some larger churches have a Jr. Order of Daughters. We each pay an annual fee of \$40 into our Head Quarters. We also pay \$5 a month for dues which also support missions. We have 9 members who are daughters, any of whom will be happy to tell you more about joining. Our President is Karen Washington.



## Knitting and Crocheting Ministry

Do you like to stay busy but not necessarily physical in your business? Knitting and Crocheting may be just what you are looking for! It is easy to learn. You are cordially invited to join our ministry. How is it a ministry? We are the hands and feet of God! The gifts we make with our hands are blessed and given to people in need or just someone you want to receive a blessing. We make baby blankets, hats and booties for the babies of the NIC Unit at Cape Fear Hospital. We also make shawls. If we have an abundance of items, some are used to sell at fundraisers. We meet on the 3rd Saturday after the DOK meeting. You do not have to be a Daughter to join. These are two different ministries. It just so happens that members in the crocheting ministry are also in DOK. We bring and share snacks. We have a good time fellowshiping. If you are interested in the fellowship but think you are all thumbs when it comes to crafts... then we will teach you how to make the yarn into balls! All are welcome!



## CWU : Church Women United

The Church Women United is a group of women from all denominations all over the city of Fayetteville who come together for bible study, fellowship and offer their service to those in need. This Friday May 3rd, they will meet at St. Luke on Hillsboro Street at 9:00. This is an annual event they call Friendship Day. There is generally a guest speaker and the offering of the day is given to a pre-designated mission. Mrs. Enid Ferguson introduced me to this organization. She was instrumental in getting St. Joseph's participation in the farm workers ministry mission. It was formally known as the Migrant Workers Mission. Their head quarters is in Newton Grove and is affiliated with the Episcopal Church. Blankets are donated in the early fall. School items and

snacks are donated to the children and hygiene kits are donated to the farmworkers. The motto of the CWU is, "We are the Hands and Feet of God."



## Bible Trivia

What was Abrahams native Country?

- Canaan
- Jerusalem
- Negev
- Ur

Answer: d) Ur Genesis 15:7

## Bible Humor

How can you stay in good standing?

Answer: With a lot of kneeling

## THE CHUCKLE CORNER

~~~~~ Lazarus the Dog ~~~~~

One spring, I traveled home to visit with my father in Kentucky. He was living with my sister and her husband. Even though the home place was still standing, it was in disrepair. I had not seen him in a couple of years and we had a lot of catching up to do! He was a retired coal miner which cost him the loss of much of his ability to hear. This made speaking on the phone quite a challenge. He had a hearing aid which he kept neatly in a box on his dresser. I was a Daddy's girl and we could talk

for hours. When I arrived at my sister's home, I was surprised to see a dog in the yard. My sister had never spoke of having a dog and she was not the animal lover like myself. I wanted to know the dog's story. Daddy said she was just a Heinz 57 that took up with him and when he moved from the home place... the dog found his way there.

I must explain... I am Kentucky, born and reared! City folk have pedigrees and Mutts. Country folk have the lesser breed....ergo... Heinz 57or Sooner's (Just assumed to be one thing or the other. ) The breed is so mixed up... the dog is beyond classification and looks like all the other street dogs but different sizes and colors. My next question was, " what is the dogs name.?" Daddy said ... she does not have a name... she is just an old dog. Well alright then ... I thought to myself. Here we have a Heinz

57, with no name that is loyal to my Daddy. My next question was...." how did this unlikely friendship come about?" Daddy said... " Well I'll tell you.... about a year ago, the dog was in a family way and was suffering. She was a relatively small dog and the puppies would have been too large for her to deliver. Daddy felt badly for her situation and he took her to the vet. (I will let you surmise why and the end result.) Since then, the dog has been devoted to being with him. Ahhh what a story of love and loyalty!

I whistled for the dog. She came running with the excitement of a kid in a candy shop. I reached out to pet her and she took off like a cat with it's tail on fire! Daddy said, "Janice, she is not going to let you touch her!" What dog doesn't like me? This old dog with no name only allowed Daddy touch her one time and that was on the trip to the vet. As we entered the house there was a empty pie pan beside the back step. (Country folk save the good dishes for their dogs!) Being the animal person I am... I made it my mission to not only win the dog's confidence enough to pet her and by my departure, give her a suitable name. What better way than through food...after all it is a

way to a man's heart and dog is man's best friend! So they say! I asked... what kind of dog food does she eat and where is it located. Daddy said, "I see you are not going to let that poor old dog alone! She eats whatever I eat... table scraps." (Country dog all the way!) I gathered some leftovers from the fridge. Gee, I hope my sister wasn't planning a 'left over' night for dinner! Oh well! I zapped the leftovers in the microwave to take off the chill. I whistled for the dog. She came running, tail wagging, with her tongue hanging out to the side. She checked it out and ran off. Well, bust my buttons... an ungrateful dog for a Heinz'57! Beggars can't be choosy! I suppose she must not be hungry. Well, that was my thought until the old, no name dog came back with two friends! They ate first but left some for her. Mmmmm... Dogs that share! Well, I will be John Brown, I said and rushed off to tell Daddy. It seems it was the dog's daily ritual.

I was beginning to run out of days and was failing miserably in my mission to pet Daddy's dog, nor could I think of a suitable name for the dog. There were only two days left of my visit and I had not gone down to see the old home place which was about two miles away. Though it was looking like it was going to rain, I did not want to miss seeing the old house where I grew up. I climbed into Daddy's beat up old truck and off we went down the road. My henny bounced up and down, and side to side as we were hitting every pot hole there was on the highway. Our bodies moved to the rhythm of the changing of the gears as the engine sputtered... and we were not on the dirt road yet! Daddy never owned a new vehicle in his life... not as long as duct tape could hold the outside from shaking loose and insides could be rigged to work! The old dog with no name was sprinting behind us down the middle of the highway. Daddy said, if I go too far, she will go back home. Upon arriving, I walked from room to room down memory lane in the old broken down house that had seen its better day. The hard wood floors that my brother and I would skate on in our socks did not seem as long a distance that I recalled. We had made full circle and time to go.

As soon as we stepped outside, the clouds opened up and the rain poured down. To my shock... there was the little old dog with no name standing beside the truck, shivering and soaked to the bone!. I pleaded with Daddy to allow me to put the dog in the truck for the ride home. Daddy said, I don't know why you worry over that old dog... she will be home before us! I pleaded one more time and I could tell by his answer not to ask again! My 'baby girl' charm had gotten rusty! It was not working that day. I rode in silence back to the house with the poor old wet dog on my mind. As I climbed down from the truck... the rain had stopped. To my ABSOLUTE SHOCK, the little old, no name dog was at my feet! I was totally blown away. How did this dog get home before us? Daddy said, " she takes short cuts through the fields. What an amazing smart dog! She is loyal, feeds the community of hungry dogs, has insight as to where Daddy is going and knows short cuts home! That evening Daddy shared a story about the old dog. One evening he was awoken by a knock on the door. It was a neighbor down the street. The Grim Reaper! Bearer of all news....bad. He said... Mr. Dulin, I hate to tell you that your poor old dog was hit by a car and he was laying by the side of the road. Daddy knew it was bound to happen since folk come speeding down the highway like there is no tomorrow! ( Mama would have said ... "like a Bat out of Hell" ) ( She was more expressive than my Daddy).

Daddy gathered his emotions, put on his boots, got his shovel and a box with a plan to bury his faithful companion in the field behind the house. The deed was done, his dog was gone and laid to rest.

The next morning when he opened the door he was saddened to see the old dog's pie pan laying empty, never to hold his food again... never would she feed her hungry friends. Then.... out of no where....Daddy's old dog ran to the step wagging her tail in wait for her breakfast like always. Though I was not there....I know Daddy grinned from ear to ear! Well...

I will be John Brown....again! Daddy said, "She must have just gotten the wind knocked out of her and dug her way out! WOW! What an amazing story! Just when I thought I had heard it all... Daddy said, weeks later... the grim reaper knocked again! The message was again as it was before. This time they agreed, she surely could not survive a second hit and this time she was surely and absolutely dead! No sign of life but no visible broken bones. Daddy gathered his old dog with no name for the second time to bury her. He dug the hole a bit deeper than the first. He carefully laid her to rest while choking back the tears. He mustered the strength to toss the first shovel of dirt on her. ..

and the Heinz 57, little old dog whose name is now LAZRUS ran off to have a few more days of life with my Dad!

Amazing but A True Story.



REV. Ralph's Corner

May is a month of Easter this year. How wonderful it is to see the new growth of plants, the flowers, the re-greening of grass as we consider the new life of

resurrection. The feast of the Ascension occurs this month on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month. The ascension is when Jesus was lifted into heaven to end his resurrection appearances. We can read about it in the first 11 verses of the book of the Act of the Apostles. My favorite bit of this story is the appearance of the two men robed in white. We are to assume these are messengers from heaven, commonly called angels. These two men appear among the disciples as the disciples are staring up into heaven as they have just watched Jesus ascend. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible tells the encounter this way, "suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" The Book of Acts goes on to tell the story of

how the disciples chose Matthias to replace Judas and how they began the work of the church.

So often I see churches in this modern era celebrate Easter and the day of Pentecost with great passion and fanfare only to go on a long summer break during the season after Pentecost. This seems to miss the point of the resurrection from my point of view. Maybe we need a couple of persons dressed in white robes to ask us why we are staring up into the heavens. The first disciples got busy with the tasks of planning and organizing of what has become the church. What I would like Saint Joseph parish to do during this season is to start the planning for the coming church year. Planning events, planning the church budget, planning how we are going to be the episcopal expression of the Jesus movement in our part of the creation. Let's plan our success for next year.



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