



Cares, Prayers and Current Affairs

April 2021

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah! To God Be The Glory! After 2020, this has been quite the journey. Blessings to each and every one of you, as you may be reading the newsletter today on this Happy Easter Day!

In real time, today is Maundy Thursday, a very dark day in the history of mankind. Though it was by the will God, still it's a day that Christ Jesus, the perfect son of God was rejected and sentenced to a cruel death on the cross by crucifixion.

Here we see mankind at it's worse...yet God choose to save us by giving up Himself. Christ came into this world, without sin, blameless, without fault. Christ in his last days was teaching and preaching the love of God, healing the sick and infirmed, He performed miracles and raised the dead, drove out evil spirits.

Christ's righteousness was a threat to the religious leaders of the day. Even now it

seems, whenever mankind feels inferior, the first reaction is to destroy rather than to attempt to know or to understand.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to see the Shroud that Christ body was wrapped. To know that the pattern on the shroud was made from Jesus precious blood brought unbearable shame for what we as sinful beings brought to God our father and Christ our redeemer. We truly are undeserving of God's Goodness and mercy, yet he loves us even still.

How do we process what we as members of the human race have done to the Holy of Holiest? We strive to live an honorable and righteous life, humble before God our maker. We pray daily for the forgiveness of our sins, both known and unknown. We serve out God by serving each other.

So tonight as I assist my sisters to strip the altar, I will reflect on the ultimate price Christ paid for us so that we may live life eternal by God's Grace and Mercy.

What's Been Happening At Saint Joseph's !

Two Sundays ago, St. Joseph's celebrated Mothering Sunday. It was a beautiful

service. Mothering Sunday originally began in the 16th century. Mothering', referred to the Mother Church and was a day that parishioners were given the day off to return to their home church. Now we would probably call it a Homecoming Celebration. The celebration dwindled out over time and was later resurrected, putting the emphasis on motherhood.

Where would churches be without the mothers and women of the church? In many Anglican churches this celebration spans over a 3 day weekend that ends in church service. This celebration is always on the 2nd Sunday of March which is the month designated to celebrate the accomplishments of women.

The altar linens for the day were rose or mauve in color. Being that it was our first celebration of Mothering Sunday, all entered the sanctuary with wonder and expectation.

Our guest speaker was Rev. Mary Reese, retired Priest from St. Andrews in Goldsboro. Mother Mary stands tall and moves with grace and angelic like purpose and poise. Her voice is very calming and engaging. She showered us with the word of God and her pearls of wisdom.

The Liturgy was poetically beautiful. Women throughout creation were acknowledged and praised beginning with Eve, the first mother of creation to Mary, the mother of Christ our Savior to those whose reputation did not hinder them from being a vital part of God's ultimate plan.

The Liturgy was penned by our own Rev. Ralph Clark who will be sharing his gift with the Diocesan Committee of Liturgy so that others may use it for years to come.

The music was superbly selected by our Minister of Music, Mrs. Sharon McNair. Every verse of every song paid homage to women throughout the ages who played vital roles in religion, the early churches and Christ ministry. Today we stand high on the shoulders of Ms. McNair's ancestors here at St. Joseph's.

Women and mothers of the church brought the service to life in the Prayers of the People, lifting their voices high to pay tribute to the women in the Bible.

It is our hope that this will be a longstanding tradition and that next year we may celebrate with festival befitting St. Joseph's.

In preparation for Holy Week, I'd like to give a shout out to Sharon and Karen Robertson who for the past several years have given their crafting talent to make the palm crosses for Palm Sunday. They are our sisters in Christ, EFM, Cursillo, Bible Study and friends for life! We love you and appreciate your undying service.

*Bible Study has been suspended until further notice. Morning Prayer is held at 10:00 each Wednesday morning. All are invited to attend.

* We are blessed to have Mr. Tony Ferguson back into our midst. On behalf of our sewing group that are continuing to turn out mask....one at a time, I was to give a shout out to Enid Ferguson whose mission of service goes on. Tony loaned us her singer sewing machine that runs more smoothly than all the new machines at our disposal! Thank you Tony for honoring us with Mrs. Enid's sewing machine.



CWU

Friendship Day, a tradition for the Church Women United will

be held virtually via Zoom at noon, April 7
Meeting ID: 277249 8768
Passcode: CWU2021

Hygiene Kits for the Farmworkers at
Newton Grove will be turned in in the
parking lot of First Christian Church on Fort
Bragg Road on Friday April 23, at noon.

All Are Welcome!



The Altar Guild

Are you feeling a call to serve
but think you have no talent?

Being a part of the Altar guild may be a
good fit for you! It only requires a willing
heart!

If you wish to be a part of this service...
please see Mrs. Ann Marie Smith or Ms.
Jan Mumford.



Brotherhood of Saint Andrew

Welcome Back Tony!

Please bring in your non-
perishable foods for children or give a
donation to one of the Members of the
Brotherhood of St. Andrew's. Every little bit
helps!



DOK

Daughters, please refer to your emails for the next zoom meeting of “Conversations with the Daughters”.

Recipes from St. Joseph’s



Pillsbury Dough Finger Sandwich
By Ms. Elenor Alexander

Purchase a tube of Pillsbury Dough that rolls out flat.

Separate the individual sections onto baking tray.

Brown in a skillet ground turkey or beef, mushrooms, peppers and onions. Drain and set aside.

Spoon a portion of meat and vegetable mix into the center of the dough.

Top the mixture with shredded cheese of your choice.

Fold ends of dough up over the meat and cheese. Pinch the top of the dough to close it.

Bake at 350 until brown

Butter before cooling

Enjoy !



Chandra's Prayer Closet

Dear God, thank You for giving me hope and a future in You. For every place where a move is required in my life, help me to let go of my past and embrace the future You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

You are still in a time of transition between that which is coming to a close and that which is just ahead. There will be a very distinct difference between where you have been and where you are going. You are in the process of ascending to a higher level of natural experience and spiritual existence. Letting go of the past is vital to your freedom in moving ahead. Endeavor to stay clear and clean so that you can hear My voice and discern My leading. Ephesians 1:4. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should

be holy and without blame before Him in love.

By Chandra Francis



Bible Trivia

In the Song of Solomon, where does it say leopards live?

- A. Mountains
- B. Trees
- C. Desert
- D. By the river

Answer (a. Mountains, Song of Solomon 4: 8)

Bible Humor

Where does Moses keep the bees on the ark?

Answer: Ark hives (archives)



April Birthdays

8th Vernell Hamilton
18th Ryan Joseph

26th Kathleen Ferguson
Anthony Joseph
28th Obinna Nwosu
23rd McAllister Collins



Thoughts from our Senior
Warden, Mr. Tyrone Francis

As all human beings are, in my view, creatures of God's design, we must respect all other human beings. That does not mean I have to agree with their choices or agree with their opinions, but indeed I respect them as human beings.

[Stockwell Day](#)

Show respect to all people, but grovel to none.

[Tecumseh](#)

Respect your efforts, respect yourself. Self-respect leads to self-discipline. When you have both firmly under your belt, that's real power.

[Clint Eastwood](#)



Deacon's Notes

*All things come of thee, oh Lord
and of thine own have we given
thee.*

The generous spirit of St. Joseph's is never lost. Being blessed in so many ways, many members of the parish have given of their time and talent to prepare Easter "bags" to share with our shut ins and those parishioners who are not able to attend services at this time.

This is truly the outreach which Jesus calls us to do. Thank you to all those who contributed to filling the gift bags. Many individuals gathered Saturday morning to stuff the bags and then delivered them that afternoon.

Easter bags were also prepared for those attending the Easter service. Knowing that we might have visitors some members have volunteered to share their bag with others.

May this Easter be one of joy and celebration of Jesus' resurrection. May the rejoicing and spreading the "good news"

continue throughout the year. Alleluia,
Christ is risen.



Chuckle Corner

There was a young man named Mr. Mike that lived in a neighborhood next door to 3 adorable children. The kids were like normal kids playing about their yard, riding their bikes and were very mannerable. The children raised rabbits and had one cute floppy eared rabbit named BAPS. The young man worked from home and enjoyed watching the children play.

One day while the children were away at school, the man's dog was pawing at his owner's door with a rabbit in his mouth. The young man was horrified because he recognized the rabbit as being BAPS, one of the children's pet from next door.

The terrified man began praying aloud. Please Lord, please don't let this rabbit be dead.... please let it be alright.

He carefully removed the bunny from his dog's gentle hold. The bunny was dirty most likely from the chase and capture

from his dog. He was relieved to see no blood or puncture wounds and assumed the poor bunny was in shock from the near death ordeal. He did not claim to know a lot about animals but knew some can do a good job of playing dead. So the man cleaned the bunny up in the tub as he verbally reprimanded his dog as he watched.... Bad dog, bad dog he scolded. He cradled the bunny in a towel and carried it back to its pen where he had escaped and placed it ever so carefully on its bed of straw.

The young man was so pleased with himself that he had thwarted what would have been a bad outcome for his neighbors children.

The man watched the clock for the time at which the children would arrive home. To his horror he heard screaming from the children as they ran into the house.

Oh no, he thought... in spite of his efforts the bunny must not have survived the attack of his dog. It was time for the neighbor to confess and tell the children and their mother what really happened to BAPS their bunny.

As he knocked at the front door... the children ran to him, still screaming and

said, Mr. Mike, Mr. Mike..... BAPS died and we buried him in the ground yesterday and now he is back in his cage!

LOVE MUCH

STAY WELL

BE SAFE

LAUGH A LOT

PRAY ALWAYS

Priest-in-Charge..The Rev. Ralph Clark
The Rev. Deacon Mary Mac Shields
Senior Warden...Mr. Tyrone Francis
Junior Warden...Mr. Carlos Flores
Director of Music.. Mrs. Sharon McNair
Newsletter Author....Ms. Jan Mumford
Newsletter Editor.....Mr. Sam Lloyd