

THE EVANGELIST

April 2009

What a mess we are in; what a painful and sad time for our country, for many people in this country and in many other parts of the world. The economies of a lot of nations are tanking, there are people being raped, robbed, displaced, and killed by forces in their own governments or by the soldiers of invading forces. People who were once middle class are living with family members and some are homeless or hungry. And then there is the health care crisis alongside the lack of health insurance for so many Americans. Lordy, Lordy.

And now we come to Easter. We come to that time in which we Christians talk about the hope, the joy the promise of resurrection. We put on Spring gear, put flowers in the church and sing about how great things are going to be, but in fact, come Easter Monday everything I said in the first paragraph is still going to be facing us head on. So what difference does it make? What difference does Easter make in the midst of a world that is in such a mess.

Well, first of all, the world has always been in a mess of one kind or another, and often a bigger mess than it is now. For instance, the Black Plague killed about 75 million people at the end of the 15th century. So, we are in a mess but the world has been through worse.

So in the middle of this mess, what is the point of Easter? The point for me is that in the midst of the messiness of life we have a firm foundation for hope and that foundation is God. In God we can hope for redemption, in God we can hope for strength, in God we can hope for a better future and in God we can hope for the courage to sort through the mess and to live another day.

Easter refers to the past but it is mainly about today. If it is not mainly about today, it is hardly worth celebrating.

Fr. Martin

United Thank Offering

The United Thank Offering is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. It is the sum of our daily thanks for the blessing in our lives – for good weather, happy times, job opportunity, and unexpected visits – there are so many things for which we can be thankful. At the very least, we can be thankful to God for blessings and take action by putting coins in the Blue Box. Twice a year you are asked to bring the amount of your daily thanksgiving for the ingathering, where it is combined with the offerings of hundreds of thousands of other Episcopalians to become the United Thank Offering.

The United Thank Offering is an organization founded by women in 1889. It has become a worldwide effort to meet compelling human needs and to expand mission and ministry of the church – for men, women, and children throughout the world.

The United Thank Offering is a way for each person to express tangible thanks to God. United with the prayers and offerings of the Episcopalians, its ministry reaches around the world.

We will be collecting your UTO Blue Boxes and donations on May 17. The Ingathering will be held May 21 at the Cathedral. For more information please see Karen DiPaolo.

Healing Mission

There will be a Healing Mission sponsored by the Good Shepherd Chapter, International Order of St Luke the Physician, Entitled How God Heals. It will be held at St. Mark's Church in Oaklyn, NJ. on Friday, April 24th at 6:45 pm and Saturday April 25th at 9 am. If you are interested or would like more information please see John Elliott. You may also contact him at 610-872-4375 or john.elliott1209@comcast.net.

Search Committee News

Here's a brief summary of where we are.

One of the Search Committee's primary goal is to put together the parish profile, which is sort of a brochure of what we at St. John's are doing for the Lord's work in Essington.

The next Parish workshop with Fr. Ted will be on April 19th. The Committee and I so wish to thank all of those who participated in the the last workshop. The information garnered will be most helpful in putting together the CDO form which will be sent out to all prospective candidates for our next rector (Priest-in-Charge). The participation at the last workshop was most earnest and most sincere on the part of the entire congregation present. The most important thing is that we remain in prayer

Question: "What is Passion Week?"

Answer: Passion Week (also known as Holy Week) is the time from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday (Resurrection Sunday). Passion Week is so named because of the passion with which Jesus willingly went to the cross in order to pay for the sins of His people. Passion Week is described in Matthew chapters 21-27; Mark chapters 11-15; Luke chapters 19-23; and John chapters 12-19. Passion Week begins with the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday on the back of a colt as prophesied in Zechariah 9:9.

Passion Week contained several memorable events. Jesus cleansed the Temple for the second time (Luke 19:45-46), then disputed with the Pharisees regarding His authority. Then He gave His Olivet Discourse on the end times and taught many things, including the signs of His second coming. Jesus ate His Last Supper with His

disciples in the upper room (Luke 22:7-38), then went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray as He waited for His hour to come. It was here that Jesus, having been betrayed by Judas, was arrested and taken to several sham trials before the chief priests, Pontius Pilate, and Herod (Luke 22:54-23:25).

Following the trials, Jesus was scourged at the hands of the Roman soldiers, then was forced to carry His own instrument of execution (the Cross) through the streets of Jerusalem along what is known as the Via Dolorosa (way of sorrows). Jesus was then crucified at Golgotha on the day before the Sabbath, was buried and remained in the tomb until Sunday, the day after the Sabbath, and then gloriously resurrected.

It is referred to as Passion Week because in that time, Jesus Christ truly revealed His passion for us in what He willingly went through on our behalf.

Church of St. John the Evangelist
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Present: Father John Martin, John Elliott, Fran Kramer (Rector's Warden), Shelly Lapish, Walt Marvel, Tammy Morgan, June Varas, and Trina Zema.

Regrets: Bob White **Absent:** Karen DiPaolo, Jerry Rhoades.

The Meeting was opened with prayer led by Father John.

Special Order of Business: Because Bob White, the Accounting Warden was excused, Gail Rzepka, the Assistant Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report and went over some important information for the new members.

Father John appointed Fran Kramer to serve as Rector's Warden. He also nominated Bob White to serve as Accounting Warden, and John Elliott to serve as Secretary, whom the Vestry then approved.

The Minutes from the January 11, 2009 Meeting were approved as presented. Copies of the Minutes will appear in the March edition of *The Evangelist*. From now on the Vestry Meeting Minutes will have been approved by the Vestry prior to posting them in *The Evangelist*.

Interim Rector's Report: Father John gave a short summary on his Pastoral Visits. We had a brief review of the Annual Meeting. All agreed there was good discussion regarding the Guidelines for Baptism. He then went over the Lenten Wednesday Night Soup and Salad Gatherings Schedule. He announced that on Bishop Lee's scheduled visitation on September 13th, we have scheduled a baptism and seven kids for Confirmation. We will start putting the copies of the Propers in the weekly bulletin again.

Rector's Warden's Report: Fran Kramer noted that the Annual Meeting deferred the election of Deputies to Diocesan Convention/Delegates to the Delaware Deanery Plenary Sessions to the Vestry Meeting. The following people were then proposed as Deputies/Delegates: John Elliott, Fran Kramer, and Walt Marvel. Alternates: Suzanne Erb, Shelly Lapish. The Vestry then approved the appointments.

Fran proposed that we create a form for "Use of the Undercroft."

Cyndy Houpt has agreed to serve as the "Sunshine Person" and will send notes to those who are ill.

Elizabeth Rasnake has agreed to send out "Thank You Memorial Thank You Cards."

Labyrinth Memorials- Since there has been a lack of interest and energy for the purpose of donating memorial bricks for the labyrinth that was to be built in front of the Church, it was agreed to move the funds to other memorials or return the money, if the donor so desired.

Heather Kramer has agreed to take on the American Cancer Society Daffodil sales program this spring.

Fran noted that we need to start planning the Strawberry Festival.

Accounting Warden's Report: (See Special Order of Business above)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Religious Education: Tammy noted that attendance is picking up. Vacation Bible School will be held from Sunday, June 28th thru Thursday, July 2nd from 5 pm to 8 pm.

Trina noted that the Youth Group has been doing well in its fund raising. John suggested they look into participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Event.

Outreach: The Ham and Cabbage Dinner raised \$1350 to be divided equally between Loaves and Fishes and the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Hospitality: Trina said we need all of our members to be involved both for coffee hours and the soup and salad series.

Property: The snow removal problem has been addressed and will be handled by the neighbor across the street.

Memorial Garden: Walt and Fr. John have been reviewing the Memorial Garden Rules and Regulations.

Finance: The position for chair is still being considered.

Liturgy: Shelly Lapish will take on the responsibility for assigning the Acolytes to their specific tasks and will see to it their albs are up to good conditions.

Discernment: John reported through the information on the Surveys and the input from the Discernment Workshop and working with the Discernment Consultant we will be able to put together our Parish Profile.



Holy Week and Easter Services



Palm Sunday – Holy Eucharist 8 and 10 am

Maundy Thursday - 7:00 Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, 3 Hour service begins at noon at United Methodist Church, Norwood

Holy Saturday 6:00 pm. Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday – Holy Eucharist 8 and 10 am

Church of St. John

The Evangelist

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Service Times

Sunday:

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Rite I

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Rite II and
Sunday School

Coffee hours follow.

Nursery provided at 10 a.m.