

The Mars Hill
PROCLAIMER
March 2010

*A newsletter
by, for and about the people of*
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
DeKalb, Illinois

This month:

- A note from Mthr. Gwynne
- Special Dates to Remember
- Program & Committee Reports
- Diana Butler Bass Report
- Maundy Thursday History and Traditions
- April Birthdays

All submissions to the *Mars Hill Proclaimer* should be sent to
parishoffice@stpaulsdekalb.org.
The next deadline will be April 15, 2010.

A NOTE FROM MTHR. GWYNNE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ --

We love seeing all the signs of spring: the days are longer and warmer, the trees and the grass are greening, the bulbs are sprouting, the birds are singing. I know I always find a new sense of energy and aliveness.

The most important sign of spring of course is Easter -- the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. THAT is where we truly find new life and new energy. Our lives are intertwined with his and we celebrate.

At St. Paul's we are also moving into a new phase of our parish life. Our profile has been posted and the Search Committee is now taking names of candidates. We pray for the Search Committee and the candidates that they may all discern the life of Christ and where the Spirit is calling.

So I invite you to celebrate and give thanks...

Alleluia! Christ is risen!!

Gwynne +



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 1: Service at 7 P.M.

Holy Friday, April 2: Services at 12 noon and 7 P.M.

Easter Eve, April 3: The Great Vigil of Easter at 7 P.M.

Easter Day, April 4: The Holy Eucharist at 9 A.M.

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wednesday, April 7 - Bin Gao's concert at 8 p.m. in the Recital Hall, NIU
- Friday, April 9 - Friday, April 16 - Parish office closed
- Sunday, April 11 - Low Sunday Brunch following the 10:30 service
Vestry Meeting following the 10:30 service
UTO Ingathering
B.U.N.S. drop off date
- Saturday, April 17 - Parish yard work day. Details to come!
- Sunday, April 18 - Facebook As A Ministry Tool - Discussion follows each service
- Friday, April 23 - ECW Awards Ceremony 2 p.m.
Crepes on the Patio 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 24 - ECW Ladies' Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 26 - SangHee Han's Piano Recital, 8 P.M.,
- Sunday, May 2 - DeKalb Festival Chorus performs at 3 p.m.
- Sunday, May 9 - Recognition Sunday, Mothers' Day
- Saturday, May 15 - Lobster Boil
- Sunday, May 16 - Combined service at 9 A.M.
- Sunday, May 31 - Combined service at 9 A.M.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Thank you to the Cripe family for coordinating our annual Chili Cook-off brunch, and to Maureen Gerrity for heading up the Easter Day children's egg hunt. We have a lot of fellowship events this year, and it is very helpful to have all the volunteers.

Our next event is on Friday, April 23rd. This *Crepes on the Patio* evening is sure to be interesting and fun! There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the parish hall which will give more details. Please make sure you let us know you'll be attending, so we have adequate food and supplies.

This adult evening will be held rain or shine, but we hope for shine, so we can mix and mingle indoors and out. Those attending will be asked to bring a small dish to share. A plate of appetizers or a small salad would be good - something for the social hour or to go with the crepes. We also ask that you bring your own beverage of choice, along with appropriate glassware. Plates and silverware will be provided, as will coffee and water. The cost for this event will be \$10 per person, with the fellowship budget picking up the balance. All adults are invited to come and see if this event will become our newest annual happening!

Looking forward, we see that the post-Lobster Boil dinner party is not that far off! It's a great way to celebrate another year of hard work and fun, so we hope you can attend. No RSVP needed, but again, please bring your beverage of choice and glassware. And offer to help in some way, if you can! (Don't forget to order your lobster!)

Lastly, please mark July 25th on your calendar. That's the day of our annual church picnic, which is preceded by worship in the park. More details to come.

--Peggy Newby & Terry Dickow/Fellowship Chairs



ECW HIGHLIGHTS (Episcopal Church Women)

New Meeting Format

A small ECW group gathered in the parish hall for the March meeting. Using a questionnaire prepared by Marilyn Cleland as a guide, we discussed how our ECW members might support each other in our religious and spiritual practices. We decided that a useful place to start might be to prepare a summary of spiritual topics that could be the focus of future ECW meetings (one topic per meeting, to be determined by the person planning the meeting). We agreed to get things underway by preparing a short list of common spiritual disciplines. We encourage others to add to the list and/or offer comments about how to proceed from here.

This is what we have:

Prayer	Confession	Meditation
Celebration	Solitude	Fasting
Service	Study	Worship
Simplicity		

Discussions of these areas of faith will not replace the business part of ECW meetings and or diminish the wonderful social interaction over lunch. Rather, we would hope that the spiritual topics will enrich our time together. For example, we might explore how spiritual disciplines help us cope with loss and grief as well as the transitions in our lives, such as aging. Other suggestions are most welcome.

From now on, meetings will be held monthly on a Saturday from 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the parish hall unless otherwise announced. The host of the meeting will provide the meal, coordinate the meal or suggest a "Brown Bag" lunch. We will eat and socialize from 12:30- 1. Then we will shift gears and discuss a spiritual topic or discipline (to be announced ahead of time) from 1:00 - 1:45. We will then discuss any ECW business and close each meeting with prayer requests and prayers. ECW will break from this format 3-4 times a year to fellowship at a restaurant or in someone's home. ***The next meeting of ECW will be April 24th at***

12:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Ellen Anderson will be leading a discussion on prayer; please bring thoughts, questions and comments to share on the topic. Ellen will also provide the meal. Every woman is invited to come; friends are welcome.

Coffee Hour Donations

There has been a recent change in the policy regarding coffee hour donations. ECW has turned over previously collected coffee hour donations to the church, and will no longer be responsible for collecting donations or distributing reimbursements. From now on, the hosts of coffee hour will be responsible for donations collected during their coffee hour. The hosts can reimburse themselves from the money collected. If the donations do not cover the amount needing to be reimbursed, the hosts can submit receipts to Anna Dee for reimbursement. If the hosts do not choose to be reimbursed or there is money leftover, the money should be placed in the locked black box on the literature table in the parish hall. The money will be deposited into the church account to be used for coffee hour needs. New hosts are needed for coffee hour. If anyone is interested in hosting a coffee hour, contact Anna Dee.



B.U.N.S. (Baking Up Nice Surprises)

Sharon Downen will be collecting your fresh baked goods to be distributed to DeKalb County Hospice patients and their families. Please bring your wrapped baked good to church on Sunday, April 11 and leave them on the island in the kitchen with your name and BUNS written on it. A little bit of effort makes a big difference!

Recapping the Chili Cook-Off and Potluck

We had some fabulous dishes and desserts, as well as some good old-fashioned fun at this year's Chili Cook-Off and

Potluck! Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success! Congratulations to 1st place winner Jack Anderson and 2nd place winner Larry Rutherford. Special thanks to Larry and Hazel Rutherford for helping decorate and set-up, as well as Jack and Rita Anderson for washing dishes and helping clean up. We appreciate everyone's help - we couldn't have done it without such a generous and loving church family!
--Rochelle Cripe

FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has finalized the Parish Profile, and it has been approved by Bishop Lee. We also finished the three page Church Deployment Office form for posting our opening, as well as the essay questions candidates will be asked to respond to. Our opening for a full-time Rector has been posted on the Chicago Diocese website and we will be receiving applications in the coming weeks.

Once we have received all completed applications, resumes, and essay question answers, the Search Committee will review them, narrow the field, and set up telephone interviews. After these interviews, we will further narrow the field and make visits to the candidates we select. Finally, we will invite two or three candidates here to meet with us and the Vestry, and then make a final recommendation to the Vestry. Our goal is to have this process done and a candidate in place by Fall 2010.
--David Anderson



MAGNETIC CHURCH COMMITTEE

Quiet Area for Parents and Children
At their March meeting the Vestry approved a proposal from the Magnetic Church Committee to create a small area in the back of the sanctuary for parents and children. Modeled after

the space at St. James Cathedral, this will provide an alternative to the nursery to parents who may be visiting and feel more comfortable keeping their child with them. It also acknowledges the special gifts children bring to the service and is a visible sign that children are welcome in our sanctuary. Thank you to the Bill and Jennie Cummings for loaning us the handsome rocking chair. --Ellen Anderson

LOBSTER BOIL IS COMING!

Save the Date! St. Paul's 41th Annual Lobster Boil is Saturday, May 15 and everyone is invited and encouraged to help from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. Then the party starts! This is an amazing day for our church community and also a day we raise funds that help many local charities. See below. More details soon!! Mark your calendars now!!

Lobster Boil Award Reception:

It has been a long-standing tradition at St. Paul's to donate half of the proceeds of the Lobster Boil to local charities. Based on last year's successful event, St. Paul's will be donating just over \$5,000 to 9 local charities, including Safe Passage, Hope Haven, Family Service Agency, DeKalb County American Red Cross, 4C Child Care, DeKalb County Home Auxiliary, Voluntary Action Center, Hospice, and Habitat for Humanity. We will be inviting each agency to a special reception to honor their contribution to the community and present them their check. The reception will be held on Friday, April 23 from 2:00 - 3:00 in the parish hall. The congregation is invited and encouraged to attend; refreshments will be provided. If anyone is interested in presenting the check to a charity they are involved with, please contact Ellen Anderson.



HOPE HAVEN “NECESSITIES” DRIVE

St. Paul’s will be collecting supplies for Hope Haven Homeless Shelter. Items are due Sunday, April 25th, but can be brought in at any time and placed in the box marked “Hope Haven” in the Fellowship Hall.

Items that are needed include:

Cleaning Supplies (Pinesol, Windex, bathroom cleaner)
Napkins/Paper Towels
Dish & Laundry Detergent
Lunch Bags
Sandwich Bags
Freezer Bags (gallon)
Serving Gloves (food)
Trash Bags (33+ & 13 gal.)
Disposable Razors
Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Women’s Sanitary Products
Diapers & Wipes
Office Supplies (Pens, tape, staples, copy paper, etc.)

Note: Toilet paper is NOT on this list as the shelter has commercial dispensers that use the gigantic rolls.



DIANA BUTLER BASS AT ST. PAUL’S

by Michael Duffy

On Saturday, March 13, author Diana Butler Bass presented the third and final day of her program "Imagining with Diana Butler Bass" at St. Paul's Church. This program was offered by the Diocese of Chicago. Bishop Jeffrey Lee, Canon Scott

Hayashi, several diocesan staff members, and representatives from many parishes from our diocese were present, including a contingent of parishioners from St. Paul's.

Butler Bass's discussion centered around her recent mass-market book on church history, *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story* (New York: HarperOne, 2009). She said that she wrote this book as a postscript to her four-year project to study mainline Protestant congregations that revealed many thriving communities, summed up in her book *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006).

Among the things she found about thriving mainline congregations was the relation of history to current practices. She emphasized that history (church history included) is "not nostalgia," it is "not set in stone," and it is "not an isolating thing." She asserted it is not nostalgia because nostalgia does not offer "a realistic view of the past," nor does it "have any hope for the future." It is not set in stone because "history is the process by which we interpret chronology" and that "while the facts remain the same, history always changes." Different scholars and communities will interpret facts and chronologies differently, resulting in different versions of history. Finally, history is not an isolating thing because it is "by its very nature, a communal activity." She quoted what Jon Meacham said to Joe Scarborough, "History is to a country what memory is to an individual." History is therefore our collective memory, as a Christian people, as a denomination, as a diocese, and as a congregation.

She asserts that this memory-like function of history is very important because we, as a society, suffer from a fractured sense of our own past, only remembering bits and pieces that when put together are frequently weird or inaccurate. She highlights this by telling the story of "Big-C" Christianity which many people understand to be church history. It includes the "Big C's" of "Christ, Constantine, Christendom, the Crusades,

Calvin, and Christian America." She said that this is the "logical extension if the story starts with the Great Commission" ("Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20 NRSV).

As an alternative, she suggests that we begin the Christian story with the Great Command ("You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27 NRSV). Using this framework, she divides Church history into four periods, early Christianity, medieval Christianity, Reformation Christianity, and modern Christianity, and focuses on the Great Command within each period ("love the Lord your God" translates to devotion, and "[love] your neighbor" translates to ethics).

She closed by recommending that we ground our devotional practices in history by reading the Bible metaphorically and our ethical practices by practicing hospitality, which she referred to as the primary Christian virtue.



MAUNDY THURSDAY: HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

(Callously plagiarized from the "Maundy Thursday" entry on Wikipedia.com)

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. It is the first day to the Triduum and commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. It is normally celebrated in the evening, when according to Jewish tradition Friday begins.

In various parts of the world this holy day has different names. In England "Maundy Thursday" is the normal term, but this term is never used in Ireland or Scotland.



Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. (Lucas Cranach the Elder)

The Anglican Church uses the name "Maundy Thursday" in the Book of Common Prayer, where it treats "Holy Thursday" as an alternative name for Ascension Day. But outside of the official texts of the liturgy, Anglicans sometimes apply the name "Holy Thursday" to the day before Good Friday.

In the Maronite Church (Lebanese or Syriac Catholic) and the Syriac Orthodox Church, the name is "Thursday of Mysteries".

According to a common theory, the English word *Maundy* is derived from the Latin *mandatum*, the first word of the phrase "Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos" ("A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you"), the statement by Jesus in the Gospel of John (13:34) by which Jesus explained to the Apostles the significance of his action of washing their feet.

According to other authorities, the English name "Maundy Thursday" arose from "*maundsor*" baskets, in which the king of England distributed alms to certain poor at Whitehall on the Thursday before Easter. "*Maund*" is connected with the Latin *mendicare*, which means *to beg* in its verb form.

Since the reign of King Edward I (1239-1307) the monarch has given coins to senior citizens in place of baskets of alms. The coins, known as *Maundy money* or *Royal Maundy*, are distributed in red and white purses. The red purse contains regular currency and is given in place of food and clothing.

The white purse holds specially minted “Maundy coins” in the amount of one penny for each year of the sovereign's age. The coins are 1, 2, 3 and 4 penny pieces, and are legal tender. Until the death of King James II the monarch would also wash the feet of selected poor people. There is an old sketch, done from life, of Queen Elizabeth I washing people's feet on Maundy Thursday.

For Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Christians this day is referred to liturgically as Holy and Great Thursday, but is also known, less formally, as Great Thursday or Holy Thursday. The following troparion substitutes for many of the normal hymns of the Divine Liturgy:

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither will I give Thee a kiss like Judas. But like the Thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

In the Czech Republic, the church bells fall silent until Holy Saturday, here called “White Saturday”, because “they have flown to Rome.” In some regions they are replaced by groups of children walking round their village and making noise with wooden rattles. People come out of the door and give them money.

In Sweden Maundy Thursday is connected to old folklore as the day of the witches. Young children often dress up as witches and knock on doors getting coins or candy for easter eggs.

In Bulgaria Maundy Thursday is called Great Thursday and is traditionally the day when people color their Easter eggs and perform other household chores geared toward preparing for Crucifixion Friday, Great Saturday and Easter Day.

In Kerala, the southern state of India where the Syrian Christians or Nasranis are in high population this day is observed with with great reverence. It is called as *Pesaha*, a Syriac word commemorating the last supper of Jesus Christ. It is a state wide declared public holiday by the Government of

Kerala. The tradition of *Pesaha appam* or Indariyappam is observed by the entire Nasrani people to this day. Special long services are conducted during the Pesaha Eve or from midnight until morning in the Syrian Christian churches.

The day has also been known in English as Sheer Thursday, from an obsolete word *shere* (meaning "clean" or "bright"). This name might refer to the act of cleaning, or to the fact that churches would switch liturgical colors from the dark tones of Lent, or because it was customary to shear the beard on that day, or for a combination of reasons.

A RELATED HOLY DAY

Thursday of the Dead, Thursday of the Secrets, or Thursday of the Eggs is a feast day shared by Christians and Muslims in the Levant that falls sometime between the Holy Thursdays of the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christian traditions. It is a day on which the souls of the dead are honored. A popular day among women in the region, it underscores the shared culture between Arab Christians and Muslims.[[]

In Julian Morgenstern's *The Rites of Birth, Marriage, Death, and Kindred Occasions Among the Semites* (1966), Thursday of the Dead is described as a universal day for visiting tombs. Women would go to the cemetery before sunrise to pray for the departed and distribute bread cakes known as *ka'ak al-asfar* ("the yellow roll") and dried fruit to the poor, to children, and to relatives. Children would also receive painted eggs, generally yellow in colour. Morgenstern also noted that the women in Jerusalem carry dyed eggs on their afternoon visits to cemeteries on Thursday of the Dead.

The sharing of this tradition between Christians and Muslims is thought to date back to at least the twelfth century when Saladin urged Muslims to adopt Christian customs in order to promote religious tolerance in the region.

Anne N. Fuller in *Buarij, Portrait of a Lebanese Muslim Village* (1961), lists Thursday of the Dead among a series of springtime rituals preceded by Thursday of the Animals and

Thursday of the Plants, and followed by Thursday of the Jumping. Fuller writes that in it can be "seen that ancient Near East belief that the living as well as the dead form a single community."

According to Frederick Jones Bliss in his lecture on religions of Syria and Palestine in 1912, Thursday of the Dead formed a part of Muslim mourning practices: "The cemetery may be visited every Thursday after the death occurs and then annually on the Thursday of the Dead." In the 1892-1893 *Quarterly Statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund*, it is noted that the practice of distributing food to the needy by the family of the deceased at the tomb site which begins immediately after their death is considered rahmy ("mercy"). For some, this practice would continue through until the first Thursday of the Dead after the person's passing.

In the Syrian city of Hims, Thursday of the Dead is still commemorated in the same way. Many there now prefer to call it "Thursday of Sweetness", since the purchase of sweets by women and their distribution to children and the poor is seen as a double act of "sweetness".



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Maggie Russell April 2
Alec Dudgeon April 12
Rick Johns April 17
Mthr. Gwynne Wright April 22
Doug C. Roberts April 23

Tayden Sikorski April 2
Jeffrey King Roberts April 14
Alan Leonard April 18
Gregory Dudgeon April 22
Rochelle Cripe April 26

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

900 Normal Road

Dekalb, IL 60115