

THE PHOENIX

FATHER HARDING'S MUSINGS

We have spent the last forty days, called Lent, reading about our Lord's teachings and His loving relationship with those who sought him out. He answered their questions, encouraged them to follow in his footsteps so that they may have a closer relationship with his father in heaven. And, that, they must be prepared to walk a new path if they were to truly experience the wonders of a loving relationship with his heavenly father.

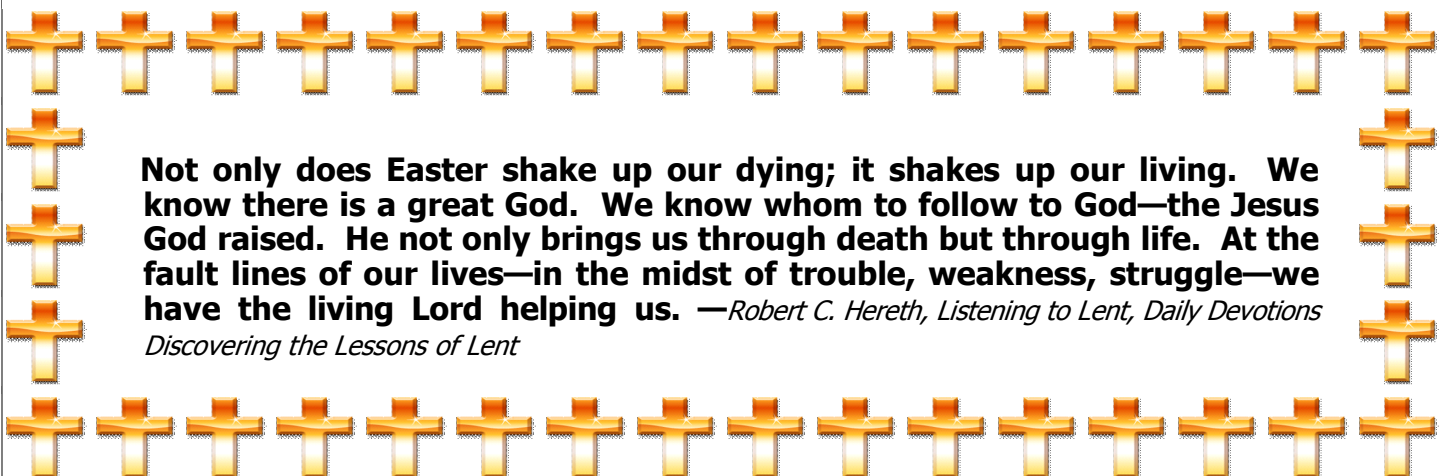
Truly, this is the real meaning of the Easter story, the rising of Christ from the dead (the old way) to a new life in a loving relationship with His heavenly Father (the new way).

Dying is not a new thing for us. Unfortunately we see death only in the narrow sense of our life ending. But we experience death every day in our life as we change and grow. We are like butterflies, who would not exist if the worm did not die, so that we might rise to become our beautiful self. If we did not discard some of the things in our life that stopped us from dreaming, or expanding our thoughts, we would still be beating one another over the head because we thought it the thing to do. Thank God we have had people rise up to show us greater ways of living our lives. Jesus truly started something that has kept us reasonably sane in our relationships with one another. It is an ongoing work that only succeeds when we are prepared to die to the past and have hope to change in the future.

Easter is for us a great day of joy and thanksgiving, because God was prepared to change everything so that we might have new life with Him and one another.

So the struggle goes on for us, but thanks be to God who has given us the victory through His Son, Jesus Christ.

A blessed Easter to you all!



Not only does Easter shake up our dying; it shakes up our living. We know there is a great God. We know whom to follow to God—the Jesus God raised. He not only brings us through death but through life. At the fault lines of our lives—in the midst of trouble, weakness, struggle—we have the living Lord helping us. —Robert C. Hereth, *Listening to Lent, Daily Devotions*
Discovering the Lessons of Lent

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The question was raised at the Annual Meeting about the difference between a Priest in Charge and a Rector, since it was announced that we are seeking a Priest in Charge. None of us on the team had a clear answer, so I asked Canon Keydel to provide some clarification for us. He replied, "Technically, a PIC is an appointee of the Bishop (after consultation with the Vestry); in earlier canons, the term was PIC for Redevelopment or Special Situations, which is how we (Episcopal Diocese of Michigan - EDOMI) still use the title. The canons are also clear (both of General Convention and of EDOMI) that the PIC has all the rights and responsibilities of a Rector, the only difference being tenure (Rector is tenured, PIC is usually a term letter with a variety of options at either the end of that term, or at an earlier date described in the letter). While that may seem to be a technicality, the reality usually is a bit more significant, especially as the action date or end of the letter approaches.....We began using PIC's with Redevelopment congregations in recognition that redevelopment usually calls for certain skills that may not exactly fit the pastoral assumptions of many congregations and search committees, but we also wanted the PIC to have something akin to a "right of first refusal" if the redevelopment did in fact work." The details of the contract will, of course, be worked out between the Vestry and the Candidate once one is selected.

We ask your continued prayers as we proceed with interviews and the process of discernment. May I suggest using the following: Almighty God, giver of every good gift; Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Priest in Charge for Church of the Resurrection, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, pg 818)

Candy Philbrick

DIGEST

VESTRY MEETING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Various administrative details were discussed, Treasurer's report reviewed and minutes approved.

Fr. Harding thanked the Altar Guild for the new Altar Lenten Array and for their skill in preparing the Altar for Eucharistic services. Easter/Holy Week banners have arrived and will be placed outside for the first Sunday in March.

Parish maintenance and improvement as follows: Mailbox will be relocated (with approval from the Post Office) from Clarkston Road to the parking area just outside the office entrance. A new Jenn Aire cook top has been generously donated and will be installed in the kitchen within a customized frame. The Breakfast Club will buy a new gas range which will also be installed. The computer system and website are going to be audited to determine the needs, issues and recommendations for improvements and/or changes.

The position of Music Director is going to be offered to an organist who has been interviewed and has auditioned. A reception for retired Music Director will be held in Stewart Hall after the 10:00am Palm Sunday service. Administrative details to provide continuing support for Sunday School activities during the Children's Minister's absence due to illness was discussed and approved.

A Vestry Retreat is scheduled for Saturday March 1st. It will be facilitated by Ray Babin (Diocese) and will include the Transition Team for the second part of the day.

Complete, approved minutes, and all attachments are available in the Parish office.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Clark, Clerk

Not Ready for Easter

By Pamela Todoroff

I used to know the particulars regarding the divergence of the Western Church's calendar from the Eastern Church's. I only remember now the justification for the separate entries, most years, on our Hallmark™ calendars for the major feast days of the Christian Church. The Orthodox Church asserts that one cannot celebrate the resurrection of Christ until after He has celebrated His final Passover, thus linking the two on the calendar by way of so many moons and other astronomical progressions. Our Western Church goes by other rules so, to paraphrase a greater mind than my own, (Pascal) it's a safer bet to just go along with our church. Thus, I concede.

But this year, I am just not ready for Easter. God, please forgive me. I am stuck in a deep place this Lent that is definitely unfamiliar ground to me. It's not that I won't be able to go through the motions of Palm Sunday and Easter Day; it's just that somehow the darkness of Lent and Holy Week seems even darker and longer than I've experienced before.

I feel like the Pharisees of John 9:13 who just didn't get it. They didn't celebrate the new-found sight of the formerly blind man; instead they wallowed in the technical—even procedural—detail of Jesus working on the Sabbath. They couldn't see the miracle. They only saw their puny laws. By interrogating the miracle's recipient for fodder against Jesus, they allowed their shortsightedness to interfere with their own understanding of a blessing from God. Thus they identified themselves as not yet being one of Jesus' sheep (John 10:14).

One of my favorite passages in John is 10:32 through 39, and not only for the message, but also because it provokes an image that always makes me smile. The Jews had just taken up stones to throw at Jesus near the Temple. They were at their wits end with Jesus because of His miracles, when He asks them "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?" And later: "...but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." (10:38) Is Jesus telling us that our lack of belief may be remedied by proper consideration of the "works" of the Lord? That if we can but look around us at all the miracles in our world and in our lives, we can assuage our doubt? I hold on to that as my lifeboat out of this deep Lent and pray that it will make me ready for Easter, even as right now I fear I'm not.

So where's the smile I mentioned above? John 10:39 says: "Again they tried to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands." I remember sitting in church long ago when these words were uttered by an ancient priest with a heavy accent. Suddenly the image of a youthful man sprinting away from the Temple with his robes fluttering behind him and his friends hard on his heels forced me to see it as a cinematic moment. The very human Jesus was running in my mind's eye. This is one of those passages in the Bible that continually remind me to think of Jesus as just like us—charismatic, but human.

So I have decided to run after Jesus, wherever He goes and whenever He tells me. But I am having some difficulty getting up for the race right now. Perhaps if I focus on the miracles and "works" around me more, I will fear the exercise less and be truly ready for the afterglow.

Bible Study News

Our first Psalms Bible study went well, and I'm very excited to be engaging in this study. We had a new face show up, as well as a few returning faces and the regular cast. I was heartened that so many felt called to a special study during Lent.

I was disturbed, however, by one comment I received. I was told that someone hadn't been coming to Bible study because "I'm intimidated by people who know a lot," or words to that effect. I took this to mean that I intimidate people who would otherwise come to the Bible study.

This bothers me because I work so hard to make it clear that I don't know a whole lot. Everything I bring to the Bible study is the result of a lot of study during the week. That research, however, only gives me a little more information than a good study Bible provides, and I rely heavily on the contributions of the group to make the Bible study effective and worthwhile. Indeed, without the contributions of all members of the Bible study, it would not have survived the first book we studied together with me at the helm.

That's actually an apt analogy. A sailboat requires the attention and expertise of several crew members. The captain may be at the helm, but without sail setters, a foredeck crew, and other members helping out where needed, the boat isn't going to go very far.

The Holy Spirit works through the group, all members of the group, to make the message of the Bible plain to us all. No one person, not me or anyone else, can possibly do that work properly. If I, or anyone else, tried to teach the Bible without allowing the Holy Spirit to work through the group, our Bible study would disintegrate within a very short time.

Psalms is a special and unique book. I hope you'll join us for this study.

Daniel LeBoeuf

Youth Group News!

Attention youth grades 6-12!

Church of the Resurrection is starting a youth group and we need YOU!

Our first meeting will be in our new youth room on Sunday March 2nd following the 10:00 service. We will get started by taking some time to get to know each other and share ideas. Together we will make a calendar of activities for spring that will include both recreation and community outreach. We will talk about partnering with other area youth groups for activities as well.

Pizza and pop will be included. Feel free to bring a friend!

If you have any questions call Katy Nicosia at 248-318-1836.

Lay Ministry Schedule



Acolyte

TBD

Greeter

Lynda Forbes

Eucharistic Ministers

The Eucharistic Ministers for the Month will be announced at Sunday Services.

Altar Guild

Barbara Bolden and Judy Roeser

Lectors

Sunday 3/2 Judy Godsell
 Sunday 3/9 Russ Philbrick
 Palm Sunday 3/16 Pamela Todoroff
 Monday 3/17 TBD
 Tuesday 3/18 Cristal Martin
 Wednesday 3/19 Vic and Michele Peters

Maundy Thursday 3/20 Bob Simpson
 Good Friday 3/21 Michele Peters
 Holy Saturday 3/22 Patience Beer
 Easter Sunday 3/23 Bob Simpson
 Sunday 3/30 Judy Godsell

**SERVICE SCHEDULE
 FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

Sunday March 2: 8 & 10
 Sunday March 9: 8 & 10
 Palm Sunday March 16: 8 & 10

Monday March 17: 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday March 18: 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday March 19: 7:00 p.m.
 Maundy Thursday March 20: 7:00 p.

Good Friday March 21: 7:00 p.m.
 Holy Saturday March 22: 7:00 p.m.
 Easter Day Sunday March 23: 8 and 10
 Sunday March 30: 8 and 10:

Holy Eucharist
 Holy Eucharist
 Blessing of the Palms
 and Holy Eucharist
 Holy Eucharist
 Holy Eucharist
 Tenebrae -- see note below
 Washing of Feet
 and Holy Eucharist
 Good Friday Liturgy
 Easter Vigil
 Holy Eucharist
 Holy Eucharist

Tenebrae (Latin for shadows) is a religious service celebrated by the Western Church on the eves of the last three days of Holy Week characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles. *(Thanks to Patience Beer for this reference.)*

Choir News

WE HAVE A NEW MINISTER OF MUSIC!!! The Vestry offered a contract to Ava Janus who accepted and will begin sharing her talents with us sometime this month! Stay tuned for news regarding the Chime and Choir practices.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY!!!



Becoming the Household of God Conference April 4th and 5th St. John's – Royal Oak

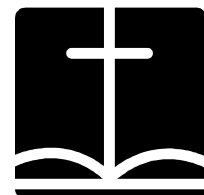
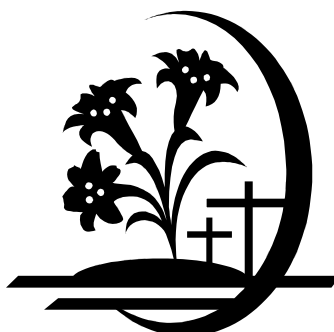
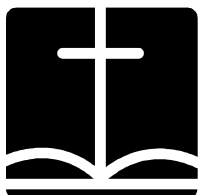
The 11th annual *Becoming the Household of God* conference will be held on April 4th and 5th at St. John's Royal Oak. This year's conference is subtitled *Standing in Faith at the Crossroads of Life*, and the guest speaker is the Very Rev. Tracey Lind, Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio.

This flagship event in the Diocese is sponsored by the Whitaker School of Theology and focuses on various aspects of Stewardship. Dean Lind, is known as a dynamic and inspiring speaker guaranteed to bring laughter, joy, inspiration and challenges to this conference.

For this conference she will draw on the work of St. Angela de Merici who was a 15th century Italian Franciscan and founder of the Ursulines, a religious community of women. St. Angela instructed her sisters to be like a piazza, to be open, gracious, hospitable, and engaged in the world—to stand in faith at the crossroads of life.

In her own ministry Dean Lind has focused on "church growth and renewal grounded in a vision of radical hospitality, stewardship, intellectual vigor and real-life spirituality." Under her leadership, the area around the Cleveland Cathedral has been transformed and revitalized into a vibrant urban piazza of sacred space where this vision is lived out.

Please plan on joining us for this exciting event. Continuing education credits are available. For more information and registrations please go to www.whitakerschool.org or contact Mary Margaret Block at 313-833-4419 or email household@edomi.org.



Sunday School

Please continue to keep Director of Children's Ministry Dina Edwards in your prayers. Pray also for Dorothy and Madeline, and everyone else who have continued to care for and teach our children. Blessings on all of you!



How Our Church Works

Third in a Series "Church Governance 101" By Louis Beer

The National Church

Our National Church is now called simply "The Episcopal Church". Until recently it was known as the "Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States", but the name was changed to reflect that there are now Dioceses outside of the continental United States, particularly parts of Latin America and in the Philippines, which do not have a separate national church.

The Episcopal Church consists about ninety Dioceses such as ours. (There are four Dioceses in the state of Michigan.) Each Diocese has one or more Bishops. If there is more than one Bishop, the ones who do not head the Diocese are known as "Suffragen Bishops" or if they are elected for the purpose of succeeding a bishop who is going to retire, they are called a "Bishop Coadjutor".

The National Church is governed through a convention, called "General Convention." It differs from our Diocesan convention in that it has two houses: the House of Bishops, and the House of Deputies. The House of Deputies consists of four laypersons and four clergy Delegates from each Diocese. The major actions of Convention require the approval of both houses. It meets every three years, not annually.

The House of Bishops elects a "Presiding Bishop." Unlike Diocesan Bishops, who serve indefinitely, the Presiding Bishop serves for a term of nine years.

Like the Diocese, the National Church also has an Executive Council. The Council is elected from groups of Dioceses, which meet in preparation for Convention in geographical groups called "Provinces".

The National Church concerns itself with issues of common worship. It is responsible for approving any changes in the Book of Common Prayer, (which has only been changed twice in the 20th century) and the Hymnal. It also deals with many other liturgical issues, and issues of faith. The House of Bishops meets separately twice a year, and responds for the National Church to many issues which confront the church in our national life.

While it is each individual diocese which calls its Bishop(s) through election at its own convention, General Convention votes to receive each Bishop into the National Church. This is a point frequently misstated and misunderstood in the national media, particularly in its coverage of the Election of V. Gene Robinson as Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire. It was that Diocese that elected him, not the National Church. General Convention voted to receive him as Bishop; in other words Convention voted to not take the extraordinary step of preventing the Diocese of New Hampshire from having the Bishop that they had chosen for themselves.

Next Month: The World Church

ECW News

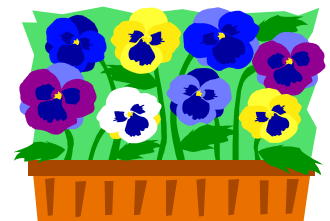
The ECW has many interesting programs on the drawing board at this time. We're still working out the details for many of these, so keep watching for further announcements.

Upcoming events are:

- A Program on facing economic adversity and unemployment with friends and faith—led by Bob Inskeep - date TBD
- Historic Clarkston tour – probably in May - being organized by Nickie Wyckoff
- Parking Lot sale - Sunday June 1 – with all proceeds going to local, national, and international outreach
- Ladies' Night Out in June organized by Elaine Hughes -- possibly to Shepherd's Hollow
- Davisburg Prayer Walk - an instructed labyrinth experience - followed by a picnic in a park – Summer
- Prayer shawl & love blanket ministry for knitters, crocheters, and other crafty types is being investigated by Tina Allison
- Report by Elaine Hughes when she returns from her upcoming trip to the Holy Land
- Trip to Chelsea and Purple Rose Theater in Fall - Judy Senseney investigating this
- Progressive dinner - Fall (avoiding MSU & UM football)
- Possible Advent program
- Xmas Bake sale in conjunction with the Greens Market

Judy's Garden Corner

By Judy Roeser, Master Gardener



Is winter getting the best of you? Add a little spring to your home with a visit to Bordines or your local grocery store. There are so many small flowering plants for very little cost. Find an Easter basket, or any basket for that matter, and fill it with miniature tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or cyclamens. Add some English Ivy or other trailing house plant and cover the pots with Easter grass. You have instant spring!

HELD IN TRUST

By Daniel LeBoeuf

Once again Cheryl and I are participating in the Diocesan trial tithing program as part of our Lenten discipline. For those of you unfamiliar with the program, it asks that you spend three months, beginning Ash Wednesday, as a tither, one who gives away 10% of his income. How you determine your income, as well as how you give it away, is left up to you. It's open to persons who are already tithing and to those who are interested in seeing what tithing is like.

It's a big scary notion to give away 10% of your income, especially if you figure it off your gross income. Cheryl and I, like many people, have only a tiny buffer to stave off bankruptcy if we miss two or three paychecks. Since making ends meet is already hard enough, how in the world can we do it with 10% less to work with?

That's where the leap of faith comes in, and why this is an effective Lenten discipline. It starts with the understanding AND acknowledgment that all I have is only held in trust by me. It belongs to the Lord; the Lord lets me have it with the expectation that I will use it wisely and well.

Last year I determined that I would tithe all year long, with a certain percentage going to the Church of the Resurrection, and the rest given away through direct donations. While I met my obligation to the congregation, I fell short of my goal of direct contributions. Of course, we bought a house and our monthly housing bill doubled in September, something I had not planned on when I decided to tithe.

Now the mortgage has been a fact of my life for almost half a year, and I did not see my way clear to take the leap of faith called tithing again. In other words, I chickened out. I didn't trust the Lord to take care of me and my family. In short, I failed.

When the trial tithe came around again, I repented of my failure, at least for three months, and will be diligent in tithing for the duration. I just sent a check to THAW (The Heat And Warmth fund), for example. I've never donated to them before, but I caught their radiothon on WWJ and called in a pledge. I'm going to be conscious of Lighthouse while I'm shopping, and pick up items I know they need. Soup kitchens, homeless shelters, the YWCA, THAW, Church of the Resurrection: the list of worthy entities needing assistance is endless. As Jesus said, almost as a promise, "the poor you will always have with you."

It's my belief, after many years of trying to convince myself that what I had I earned through my hard work, that what I have is a gift. Perhaps it was my brief experience with unemployment that changed my mind. Perhaps God just finally got through to me. I, like countless other Michiganders, found myself without a job through no fault of my own. One day my position was simply eliminated. No criticism of my dedication, hard work, or quality of my work. None of that mattered. They just eliminated my job and had nothing else for me. At the time, Cheryl had no job either. It was a scary time, yet we made it through, with three part-time jobs between us and our meager savings.

Now that both of us are full-time, and fairly secure in our jobs, I cannot escape that feeling of holding our good fortune in trust. As part of that trust, though, I need to share with those who have less, or need more. In my acknowledgement of my Lord's generosity comes my commitment to serve the Lord's people. My donations, like my prayers and activities, are service to my Lord and my fellow beings.

If you feel called to try the tithe, get in touch with Kristine Miller at 313-833-4414. I'm sure it's not too late to become part of the program.

WHEN I WANT TO KISS GOD

When
No one is looking

I swallow deserts and clouds
And chew on mountains knowing
They are sweet
Bones!

When no one is looking and I want
To kiss
God

I just lift my own hand
To

My

Mouth.

From The Gift by Hafiz—Submitted by Judy Senseney



RECEPTION FOR DAVID HOTTEL PLANNED

A reception for David Hottel is planned for Sunday, March 16 (which is also Palm Sunday). The get-together will be immediately after the 10:00 service in Stewart Hall, and will commemorate David's tenure as Resurrection's Director of Music Ministries. Michele Peters is planning and hosting the event, so please contact her if you would like to assist. Michele can be reached by phone at (810) 441-2591.

Mark your calendar for March 16 after the 10:00 service

We look forward to seeing you there!

**The Church of the
Resurrection**

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We're on the Web!
Clarkstonepiscopal.org

*Our mission is to proclaim
the power and love of Jesus
Christ, through our worship,
fellowship and service to
others.*



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