

GLAD tidings

ST. MARY'S in-the-hills
EPISCOPAL church

APRIL 2011

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CHRIS' CORNER

It is hard to believe that Easter will come. The winter has been long and much of life has seemed dormant. Perhaps that is true of your spiritual life as well as the grass and plants in your yard. Just as many of us look forward to the greening of lawns and the flowers of spring, we long with anticipation for the renewed life in faith the miracle of Easter invites us to share. However, like the grass and flowers, the experience of Resurrection life and joy also requires that we tend the spiritual garden within. Hopefully you are taking advantage of the discipline of Lent to nourish and prepare the ground of your soul for that new burst of life promised us at each Easter. Just as a garden needs attention and care, so do our souls. Holy Week invites us to take time to walk with Jesus, to be present from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through his crucifixion on Good Friday so that we may experience the miracle of Easter and the new life promised to us through Jesus faithful journey. We cannot appreciate or understand that gift

without this journey. Its repetition each year helps us to grow into the likeness of Christ and to find Resurrection life here and now as well as a future hope.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday April 17

We begin our walk with Jesus through the last week of his life

Wednesday April 20 Service 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday April 21 Service 7:00pm

We re-member our Lord's Last Supper and betrayal in the Garden

We keep a watch overnight with people taking an hour to come to the church and pray as Jesus asked his disciples to do on that first Maundy Thursday

Good Friday April 29 Service 7:00pm

We stand at the cross with the first disciples as we mourn our Lord's death

The Great Vigil of Easter Saturday April 23

We begin in the darkness of abandonment and death and move into the glory of the Resurrection

Easter Day April 31 Service 8:30 and 10:00

Come share in the joy of the Resurrection!!

Easter Flowers

If you would like to order an Easter plant in memory or in honor of someone, please send the following information to Janis at office@stmarysinthehills.org: your name; name of the person or persons you would like to have listed in the bulletin (be sure to clarify if it's in honor of someone or in their memory). You can also fill out a request form on Sunday morning. A \$25 donation is requested to pay for the flowers. Please mark on your check in the memo: "Easter flowers." The deadline is April 17th. Your generous donations will bring spring inside our sanctuary with beautiful flowers on Easter morning!

Lenten Activities

Anglican Prayer Beads

Never heard of such a thing? Heard of it, but not sure what they are or how to use them? This workshop is for you. We will learn about these beads and make our own set. We will also explore how to use them in our own prayer life. Anyone old enough to string beads can make a set. We will have simple plastic beads available, but if you want to you can purchase your own beads and bring them with you. A sample will be on display on the bulletin board so you can see how many and what sizes you need. This will be a way for everyone to learn and work together—no age limit. If you have ones too little to participate I'm sure we can take turns watching them in the nursery. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 4:00-5:30 on Sunday April 3rd.

Stations of the Cross

Never walked the Stations of the Cross? This workshop is for you. Weather permitting we will walk the outside stations together. If the weather does not cooperate, we will do this in the Fellowship Hall so you can become familiar with using this prayer help on your own on our grounds. This activity will take place on SATURDAY, April 16 along with a quiet time prayer/retreat. We will begin with the Stations at 3:00 and then those who wish may come into the Church for what is called a Quiet Time. It is a time of prayer and reflection. There will be a beginning reflection, a mid-time reflection and an ending time of corporate prayer. The Quiet Time will be from 3:30-5:00.

Update on PASTOR CHRIS' RETIREMENT and CLERGY TRANSITION By PETER TRUMBORE WARDEN

As you all know, Pastor Chris will retire in October after many years of faithful service to St. Mary's. I wanted to give everyone a little bit of a sense of what happens next, and what we can expect as we move into a period of transition in advance of calling a new rector.

Pastor Chris has notified Bishop Gibbs of her intention to retire, and he has acknowledged her decision and the date of her last Sunday with us. The next step is for Mike Tyler and me, as the parish Wardens, to contact the Diocesan Office to begin the process of consultation. Our intention is for Mike and me to meet first with the Rev. Lisa Gray, Canon to the Ordinary, who is the diocese's point person on clergy transitions. We will then invite her to meet with the Vestry as we move closer to Chris' retirement date, and with the congregation as a whole when the time for that arrives.

Many of the tasks that we will need to take on as we move forward cannot be put into motion until Pastor Chris is no longer with us. These include the forming of a search committee, surveying the membership of the congregation to determine where we want St. Mary's to go in the future and what we want in a new pastor, convening congregational forums and discussion sessions, compiling all that information, developing and producing a parish profile that becomes the chief vehicle for marketing St. Mary's to potential candidates, and so on. All of these tasks have to be completed before we can actually begin the recruiting process and before a single candidate is evaluated.

However, there are things that we can do now, and that the Vestry has begun under Chris' leadership. We are beginning to look for supply clergy so that Sunday services are covered between the period when Chris retires and when we are able to secure a full-time interim rector. The Vestry is also educating itself as to how the process works – it is not like hiring in any “normal” field or occupation – and our responsibilities during the transition so that things continue to run smoothly and St. Mary's continues to flourish.

We invite you to educate yourselves about this process as well. An Internet search for the phrase “Episcopal church rector search” will return dozens and dozens of links to parishes that are either in the process of searching for a new rector or which have recently completed such a search. Take a look at any of those churches, follow the links on their websites, and you will get a good idea of the tasks ahead of us. You can also visit the national church's Office of Transition Ministry website (http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109541_21176_ENG_HTM.htm) and take a look at the information and resources available there for congregations going through a clergy transition.

We should all know that this may be a lengthy process, and we should prepare accordingly. It is not unusual for the transition and search for a new rector to take a year or longer, sometimes a lot longer if the congregation is unprepared, divided, or otherwise dysfunctional. This should not be a cause for worry though. We are prepared, we are united, and we are far from dysfunctional. Rather we should look at this as a true opportunity for us, as the people of St. Mary's, to discern where God is calling us to go and what God is calling us to do as a congregation. This will be a period of intense emotions and painful anxieties. But it will also be a period of learning, discernment, and ultimately opportunity.

This will be a stressful time for all of us, but it is also an exciting time. As we continue to move

forward, the Vestry and Wardens will work diligently to keep the congregation informed about what we are doing and how the process is unfolding. And when the time comes, we will need your active involvement, participation, and support so that we continue to move forward together. Since the parish's founding, each generation has contributed chapters to the unfolding story of St. Mary's, beginning with those Episcopalians who in the 1940s and 1950s saw the need for a church in north Oakland County and whose faithfulness and vision made it a reality, to those who built our current worship space in the 1970s, and then the Fellowship Hall in the 2000s. The next chapter in the story of St. Mary's is yet to be written, but we will begin to draft its outline together as we make the transition to new clergy leadership.

Fellowship Committee News

Upcoming Meetings

The Fellowship Committee is always looking for new members to help plan fun-filled events for all members of our St. Mary's family and beyond. Our monthly meetings are usually the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the St. Mary's Library. Our upcoming meetings are Tuesday, April 26th at 6:30 pm and our last meeting of the year will be Tues. May 24th.

Euchre Night

Join the Fellowship Committee for Euchre Night on Saturday, April 16th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our Euchre tournament will be "rotation style", so there is no need to bring a partner. Don't know how to play Euchre but always wanted to learn? This night is for you too. There will be a brief overview of the rules and "Euchre coaches" to help you through your first few hands of play. The Fellowship Committee will be providing light snacks and drinks as well as some comic relief with our long await Family Feud game. There is no charge for this event. Please contact Stacy Tines if you would like a ride to and from this event.

Sunday School News

We have completed the first eight weeks of the "Journey to Jesus" program. Our 3rd through 5th grade students are memorizing the books of the Bible. A special thanks to Shelia Hill, Marilyn Hestor, Nancy Schmitz, and Stacy Tines for their commitment to the thirteen week program.

Looking ahead, I need volunteers for the months of May and June to complete the school year. Please contact Cathy Flanders at flandersc@aol.com or (248) 860-0860.

Calling all Middle and High School Young People

You are invited to once again share in our Maundy Thursday overnight. The evening will begin with the service at 7:00pm on April 21 and continue through 10:00am Friday April 22. We will experience the service of Tenebrae at 10:00pm and Stations of the Cross at 9:00am. Other time will be spent in a variety of activities and free time. Bring sleeping gear, a non-sweet snack to share and yourselves. Not only do we have a good time and participate in the Vigil, our presence makes a safe place for those who come to pray as they are not entering a building without others present. Thus we are serving others in the parish as well as our Lord.

Book Club

Our monthly Book Club will meet two more times before summer.
April 19th, Tues., 12:30pm-2:30pm "Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion" by Sara Miles ~

a good non-fiction book for Lent, pick up a copy and join us!
May 17th, Tuesday, 12:30-2:30pm - *"Not My Daughter"* by Barbara Delinsky

Spring Cleanup May 15th, Sunday, after the 10am services

Please, please, please add this to your calendars and come help wash a few windows, polish the church sanctuary, work outside, etc. for a couple hours. Last Fall we held this on Saturday and had just a few hearty souls do a lot of work. This Spring please make a commitment to come help your church for just two hours. Lunch will be served. We will work from 11am - 1pm and then have lunch. Great opportunity for youth to earn community service hours, but kids of all ages with their parents are urged to come. Please "SAVE the DATE". Plan to wear work clothes to church that day.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Our next monthly meeting will be Sunday, April 10th, at 11:15am in the Bell Tower Room. All are welcome to join us.

PRECIOUS METALS – by Peggy Wenk

In the previous "Glad Tidings", the metals in the Bible that were discussed were gold, silver, copper, brass and bronze. This will complete the topic by covering **IRON, TIN and LEAD**.

IRON was a more recent invention in the Bible, needing to be smelted for many days, thus needing lots of coal and continuous air flow (bellows), yielding only a small lump of iron. But this carbonized iron, when made red hot and then tempered with cold water, became very hard. When used as armor or carriages in war, it gave that army superiority. Iron therefore came to mean **war, strength, lethal sharpness**. "May the bolts of your gates be of iron and bronze; may you be secure all your days." (Deuteronomy 33:25)

Its imagery was not used in connection with worship. Because of the high temperatures at the smelters, and days of pumping bellows endlessly, it was not a pleasant life. It could also mean **inflexible rule**. Isaiah 48:4 says "For I know how stubborn and obstinate you are. Your necks are as unbending as iron. Your heads are as hard as bronze."

The word "iron" came from the Old English "isaern", which probably came from the Celt "iarn", which meant "strong metal". The symbol for iron is Fe, from the Latin "ferrum", which means "iron".

TIN is a very soft metal, and by itself is not very strong or useful. Pewter, a very soft, bendable, scratchable metal, for example, is 85-90% tin, with the rest being copper, lead and antimony. Even our modern tin cans are aluminum, with older versions being stainless steel coated with tin. So tin, by itself, was a symbol of **worthlessness, weakness**. "And I will turn my hand upon thee, and thoroughly purge away thy dross (impurity), and will take away all thy tin (worthless metal)". Tin, however, was mixed with copper to make bronze, a useful metal, which was discussed in the last issue of Glad Tidings.

The word "tin" is from the Anglo-Saxon, probably derived from the Welsh "ystaen", which was their word for "tin". The symbol is Sn, from the Latin "stannum", which means "hard".

LEAD is a very poor metal, dull gray, very soft and malleable, poor electrical conductor, plus it is poisonous and damages the nervous system and brain. Its toxicity was known even in the biblical times, so lead was not a useful metal by itself. "The bellows blow fiercely to burn away the lead with fire, but the refining goes on in vain; the wicked are not purged out." (Jeremiah 6:19)

It is one of the heavy metals, with emphasis on HEAVY! In the Bible, it often **means weight, heaviness of heart**. "But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters." (Exodus 15:10).

The word "lead" came from the Anglo-Saxon for the metal "lead", while the symbol Pb came from the Latin "plumbum", which was their name for "lead".

References:

Wikipediia

Various websites of dictionaries, entymology sites, biblical references to metals, sites on chemicals

Thank You

As many of you walk around St. Mary's on any given day, you might run across a tall gentleman putting in energy efficient light bulbs, or changing the furnace filters, hanging rods for vestments, repairing many things or even installing a new toilet (just to name a few things)! That man most often is Paul Henderson, who attends the 8:30am service along with his wife and one of our Vestrywoman, Maxine. Paul feels that if he sees something that needs doing, he should do it - not walk by it. It's a wonderful motto to have and a great example of stewardship. Paul, we all appreciate all that you do and thank God for your presence in this church. For Paul, it isn't a question of "if" he will do it, but "when". Maxine is right along with him in many projects. They are wonderful team!

Spring is almost here and so is the CROP Walk! The 29th annual Lake Orion/Oxford Area CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, May 1 at 1:30 starting at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church on Waldon Road. There are two routes to walk: a 10K and a 2 mile.

CROP WALK

The money raised from the CROP Hunger Walk supports Church World Service work around the world in emergency response, as well as longer term solutions like enhancing food security, providing sustainable safe water supplies and literacy training. 25% of the money raised will be distributed locally to FISH receiving 15%, Love INC receiving 5% and St. Vincent DePaul receiving 5%.

Last year the Lake Orion/Oxford walk raised a total of \$20,621.03 with St. Mary's contributing \$2,230.00. We hope to top that this year and raise a total of \$22,000.00 in the community with St. Mary's goal of \$2,300.00.

Please see or contact Maxine Henderson (248-393-1906), Erica West (248-894-7154) or Kathy Pelc (248-321-3133) to sign-up to walk or donate.

Also there will be a sign-up sheet if you are interested in baking cookies. We have been asked to donate 10 dozen cookies to serve with refreshments after the walk at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church.

To learn more about the CROP Walk: www.cropwalk.org

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who has been participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. In March we received our quarterly check from Kroger for \$154.60. There are currently 20 families participating for St. Mary's. A few are not even St. Mary's members, but friends and family of our parish members. This "free" money goes directly into the Building Fund to help pay our mortgage.

Since St. Mary's first started participating in this program in August 2007, we have received rewards totaling \$4,924!! Wow! This past year we received rewards of \$754. Keep on shopping at Kroger and using your Kroger Plus Card at the checkout.

It's time to **re-sign up** for this program during the month of April (no earlier than April 1st). **All participants must sign up again for St. Mary's to receive rewards during the coming year, 5/2011 – 5/2012.** It's easy to enroll or re-enroll in this program. You can no longer scan the barcode letter at the register or service desk to participate. **St. Mary's ID number is 82296.**

Step by step instructions:

Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com

Click Michigan

Click "**Re-enroll**" if you were registered in the program last year.

Put in your e-mail address

Put in your password (If you forgot the password you set up, please go thru the "forgot your password")

Find St. Mary's by typing in our NPO number: **82296.**

Click the "**Select your organization**"

Click the "**Save changes**"

OR, Click "**Enroll**" if you have never been a part of Kroger Community Rewards.com, Kroger.com or registered with the scan bar method last year.

"**Sign up today**" (to the right)

Enter your zip code and click "**Search**"

Click on the arrow to display the list of stores in your zip code and highlight your preferred store

Enter in your email and password

Click "**Next**"

Key in your Kroger Plus Card Number (If it says that this card has already been used, please call the number on the back or your card)

Enter the security code (from the box above it)

Enter in your contact information

Click on "**Next**"

Verify that your account information is correct. Check box for agreement of the terms and conditions and click "**Complete information**"

Kroger will send you an email to the address that you entered earlier in the process. (This can take up to 10 minutes).

Open the email that Kroger sent. Read the email and either click on the link within the email or copy and paste it into your browser.

Sign in: click on the "**Click here**" button and then type in your email and password.

Under Kroger Community Rewards Section at right, click "**Edit Kroger Community Rewards Information.**"

Find St. Mary's by typing in our NPO number: 82296.

Click on **St. Mary's**. Please make sure that you click on the circle to the left of **St.**

Mary's so that it becomes highlighted.

Click on "**Save Changes.**"

Scroll over the page and make sure all information is accurate.

You are now "**registered!**"

Once you are registered, look at the bottom of your Kroger receipts. It should show St. Mary's.

You **will not** receive advertising email from Kroger once you enroll and give them your email address! It's safe, easy, and makes "free money" for St. Mary's. Please enroll during April. Thanks!

God Said NO

I hope that you can get the effects on your computers! The words are great, but the movements of the faces add a lot....

I asked God to take away my habit...

God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said, No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness..

God said, No. I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow..

God said, No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

pALMS and psALMS – by Peggy Wenk

These were two words that always confused me when I was growing up in St. Mary's. Spelled almost the same (extra "S" in one of them), pronounced differently (one starts with "pah", the other one drops the "pah" sound and starts with "ssss"), and mean totally different things.

PALMS are a tropic to sub-tropical tree of the family Palmae, of which there are over 200 genus, and over 2600 species. It comes from the Latin "palma", which means the "palm of the hand". I guess the palm frond (the feathery crown leaves at the top of the long unbranching stem) does sort of look like a human hand. The palm tree is mentioned about 30 times in the Bible, and seems to refer to the date palm, not the coconut palm. Growing up in Michigan, I thought there

was only one type of palm tree, which could make dates or coconuts or other fruits, or oils and waxes, or raffia or wood. Nope. These are all different types of palm trees.

PSALMS, on the other hand, are any sacred song, but usually refers to the Book of Psalms from the Old Testament. Some, but not all, may have been written by King David, others were written about him, while others were written before or after his time period. There are about 150 psalms, the exact number differs according to which bible version is used, which religion we're talking about, and how some poem fragments are counted. The word "psalm" comes from the Latin "psalmus", which was derived from the Greek "psalmoi", and meant the "twitching of the strings of a harp". These poems were meant to be sung, usually with musical accompaniment. The original Greek used the "psi" letter to start the word, and pronounced it with both the P and S sound - "p-salm". When it went over to the Latin, there was no symbol or sound for "ps", so the P sound was dropped. This dropping of the P, pronouncing only the S, continues in the English language, though we continue to write it with the P, reflecting its Greek origins (think psychology, pseudonym, to name a few other examples).

(Information taken from Old English Dictionary and Wikipedia)

This is how I feel at times by Peggy Wenk

A journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Western Wall to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long, long time. So she went to check it out. She went to the Western Wall, and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site. She watched him pray, and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, using a cane and moving very slowly, she approached him for an interview. "Pardon me, sir. I'm a reporter. How long have you been coming to the Western Wall and praying?"

"For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and Muslims."

"I pray for all the wars and all the hatred to stop."

"I pray for all our children to grow up safely as responsible adults, and to love their fellow man."

"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?"

"Like I'm talking to a wall."

It was the third Friday in Lent. The faithful parishioner walks through the pouring rain, into the monastery for dinner. It was the best fish and chips he had ever had. After dinner, he goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. He's met by two brothers. "Hello, I'm Brother Michael and this is Brother Francis."

"I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?"

Brother Michael replies, "Well, I'm the fish friar."

The man turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be . . ."

"Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk."

Thank you

The Fellowship Committee did a wonderful job putting together the open mic night. Fun was had by all. We have a lot of talent around St. Mary's and hope we get to show off again soon.