

St. Bartholomew's Newsings

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 906, High Springs, FL 32655

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April 2019, Vol. IX, Issue 4

-----Vicar Message-----

Grace, peace, and the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you.

He Is Risen!

This is the most important statement that every Christian should have on the tip of their tongue. Knowing the Creeds, the Catechism, the Baptismal Covenant are important to all of us but the words: *He Is Risen* are at the very top of the list to say each day. Our life is given to this truth. He lives and so will we. We are now safe and sound in all the journeys that lie ahead. Our journeys are to get better and better because we are in Him and He is in us.

Yesterday is over and we need not dwell on the past. Yes the past does inform the future but it does not control the future path we take. Our mistakes are past and because of the cross they exist no more in the eyes of God. God has given each of us a new beginning so that we positively know that we are good in the eyes of God and move forward in love and service to God and our neighbor. Being reconciled and redeemed by God means we are elevated to full fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

He Is Risen

How blessed we are with this spectacular gift from the Father. The greatness of the cross goes far beyond the resurrection. The cross *nails the truth* that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God and that his walk on earth instructs us on the purpose of full life, i.e., that on earth and that in paradise that awaits. We no longer have to believe in second hand information but have received the Word from God in His Son Jesus Christ. The resurrection is the proof of the New Covenant. If we memorize, believe, understand, and apply this proof to our lives there will be glory in our transformation from death into life.

Jesus calls us into service. He says there is a harvest of people that are ready to work for peace and the glory of God. We are called to bring them into the fold, baptize, confirm, and spread the love and Good News that Jesus Christ told us to spread. He tells us no effort is too small. Look at the mustard seed. See how small it is. Yet look at how great it becomes. So too with our efforts, just one at a time can grow into something way beyond our imagination. Every one of us should be striving to make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to St. Bartholomew's. That is doing what Christ has asked us to do. I think we can safely say that Jesus has done His part for us!

He Is Risen

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth. May the Lord strengthen and fill you with His power to do all such good works that He has for you. Happy Easter!

Much love in our Risen Lord, fr. Lance+

Editor's Note: We hope you are enjoying the Newsletter and we welcome your comments and suggestions.
Deadline for next issue is April 21st.Contact: Annette Jones - (386) 454-8585 pgrscoot97@aol.com

This month your editor has added information about **Holy Week**, the most important week in the Church year! It is a time when we celebrate in a special way the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We remember his actions, reflect on his messages, and recommit to living as his disciples in the world today.

New-sings from the Senior Warden..... Carol Griffin 386-497-2292



Our journey continues during this Lenten Season. Wednesday Evening Prayer and Healing service has had a good attendance. This is followed by a Soup and Salad dinner enjoyed during our Lenten Study program of the book People of the Lie by M. Scott Peck, M.D.

What does Easter mean to us as Christians? It is God's love and grace that He sent His only Son in the form of man to take on all the sins of the world for those who believe in Christ, to have salvation and everlasting life. Christ broke the power of death, being the devil (Hebrews 2:14). Christ's resurrection on the third day clearly validates this. Christ's one time sacrifice of His blood eliminated the need for animal sacrifices, which, according to Hebrews 10:11, can never take away sins. 1 Peter 2:24 states:

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." NRSV

What should we do as Christians? Confess our sins, because God will forgive us and purify us from unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9). Offer yourself as an instrument of righteousness (Romans 6:13). Become a disciple for Christ (Matthew 28:19). Take time to reflect on the true meaning of Easter - not the commercial meaning.

Remember to praise and thank God for the greatest gift you will ever receive.

A Squire Rushnell "GodWink" for April: Often times we wonder why things happen as they do, good and bad. God knows where we need to be both now and in the

future. Trust in the Lord - “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NRSV))

Rudolph Giuliani: Why Me? Why Me?

Prostate cancer prepared Rudolph Giuliani for his date with destiny on September 11th

How often has this happened to you? You look to the sky and say, “Why, why me?” Sometimes the answer you get back is surprising.

The Candidate blankly looked at the doctor. “You gotta be kidding,” he said with disbelief. The doctor shook his head and solemnly continued his report.

“Based on this medical report, we recommend you drop out of the race—put your health first.”

A few hours later Mayor Rudolph Giuliani stepped before the microphones, facing a battery of reporters, uttering words he never ever thought he’d hear himself speak. That he was *quitting*. That he had prostate cancer. That the doctors gave him a good chance. But, he had no choice but to drop out of the race against Hillary Clinton for the US Senate seat in New York.

But inside his mind, Mayor Giuliani was screaming these words, “Why me? Why now?” He’d prayed all his life, and now, in the depths of this race he’d prayed fervently everyday—now this? This was unbelievable. “Why would you do this to me? Why now?”

The date was May 2000. Sixteen months later, we all found out why. Because on September 11th, 2001, Rudolph Giuliani’s destiny was to be the first voice we heard that tragic morning; a nation in utter shock, we had been attacked by terrorists. That two airliners had purposely been driven into the towers World Trade Center.

Mayor Giuliani’s role was to serve as the calm father figure for our nation. And—win or lose against Hillary Clinton—he needed to be in the Mayor’s office for his destiny to play out.

And later, the Mayor said, “My prostate cancer prepared me for what I had to do after nine-eleven, to comfort families during those difficult days.”

Mayor Giuliani, a Candidate for President in 2008, fully recovered and continues to actively aid victims and families of personal tragedy.

He lives in New York.

The next time you face something you perceive as “bad” happening to you and you say “Why Me?” think about Mayor Giuliani. Perhaps God has another plan for you. Perhaps your destiny—already written—needs to be fulfilled differently than you think.

Reminder: There will be a monthly meeting of **“The Kitchen Brigade”** and those involved with **The Holy Smokes BBQ** and **VBS** on the last Sunday in **April (28th) at 9:15**. We will finalize our plans for the BBQ and get an update on VBS. Please plan on attending this meeting if you are involved in either of these events.



Hostess List for April



Apr 7 – Pot Luck

Apr 14 – Cornelia

Apr 21 – Gregg & Sharon/Neil & Susan

Apr 28 – Sheryl/Danelle

Note: If you would like to volunteer to provide a light snack and drink, please contact Cornelia Swann 386-454-3505.

☞☞ Lessons for April ☞☞

April 7th: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

14th: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40

Maunder Thurs. Exodus 12:1-4,(5-10),11-14; Psalm 116:1, 10-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:117,31b-35

Good Friday Isaiah 52: 13—53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1—19:42

Holy Sat. Job 14:1-1-14; Psalm 31:1-4,15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66

Great Vigil of Easter: BCP pg 284

Easter Day 21st : Acts 10:34-24; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18

28th : Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31



Holy Week

Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday Jesus was welcomed by the people with cheers and palms - a symbol of victory and sign that "all is well". Palm-bearing date trees were valued for their dignity, beauty and shade and were used at special occasions to welcome heroes and royalty. As you listen to the Passion on this day, place yourself in the

story. What does it feel like to be part of the crowd or to be a disciple? What does it feel like to be in Jesus' place during the passion?

News Flash There will be a Church and Grounds **CLEAN UP DAY** on **Saturday, April 13**, 9am-12noon. This is a week before Easter. Ben will be grilling hot dogs for the workers. Come help make St. Bart's SHINE for the Lord!



Children's Activities and Family Fellowship



Sunday School Teaching Schedule for 10am Services:

April 7th: Betty
Ben

April 14th: Sheryl
Cherie

April 21st: Easter Sunday – No Sunday School

April 28th: Sam
Cornelia

Upcoming Children & Youth Events:

~ Wed. April 3rd at 7pm: Youth Group

~ Wed. April 10th at 7pm: Youth Group

~ Wed. April 17th: No Youth Group due to Holy Week

~ Wed. April 24th at 6pm: Leadership Meeting for Sr. Youth
7pm: Youth Group

~ Wed. May 1st at 7pm: VBS TRAINING!!!

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Roar! Life is wild, God is good VBS is coming to St. Bart's June 17-21. Dinner starts at 5pm and the program ends with our finale at 8pm every evening. Plan on joining us for this crazy fun adventure!!

Mission Week is July 21-26 for our Youth & Young Adults. It's always a transformational, high impact week. Ask Cherie for more information if you would like to donate meals, supplies, or transportation



Chalice Bearers -- April

4/7 -- Gregg

4/14 -- Neil

4/18 -- Gregg

4/20 -- Annette

4/21 - Margaret

4/28 -- Cherie

Lay Readers - April



4/7 - Beth Treese

4/14 - Samantha Shiver

4/18 - Cherie Harris

4/20 -

4/21 - Annette Jones

4/28 - Margaret Palmer

The fourth in the series of short articles on the twelve apostles which your editor will be sharing in this year's issues of the BartholoMewsings.

Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father and it suffuceth us. ~John 14:8 (KJV)

THE TWELVE IN EACH OF US PHILIP, THE SLOW TO GRASP

By Terry Helwig

Philip, from Bethsaida of Galilee, was the first man to whom Jesus addresses the words *Follow Me*. But he failed to grasp Jesus's relationship with God. When Jesus said He was going to the Father, Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." (John 14:8 NRSV).

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...." John 14:9, NRSV).

Several weeks before my husband, Jim, was discharged from the army, a friend invited me over for coffee. "We'll chat, just the two of us," she said. But soon after I arrived, a dozen friends and acquaintances did too. I sat there bewildered.

My friend looked at me and said laughingly, "Terry, don't you know what's going on? It's a surprise going-away for you!"

How could I have been so naive!

And I wondered, *How naive am I about God?* How many times have I, like Philip, been slow to grasp that I've been in God's presence? Perhaps the thread of Philip running through me is a thread of awareness and awakening, outlining the unfolding presence of God in my life. And perhaps my response will be one of reverence instead of ignorance.



April Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 – David Hansen | 17 – Raiven Young |
| 5 – Kathy Young | 18 – Marsha Bancroft |
| 6 – FR LANCE | 18 – Diane Lorincz |
| 6 – David Robertson | 23 – Eric Diepersloot |
| 8 – Ruthanne Swanson | 25 – Gabby Harris |
| 14 – Sharon Pelfrey | 26 – Brice Halbrook |
| 15 – Dale Clark | |

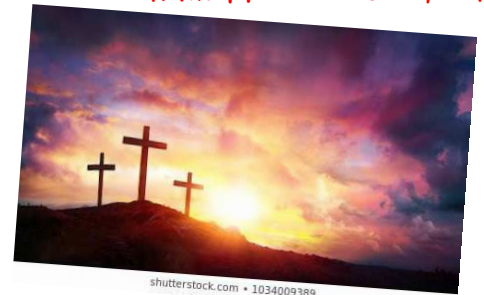


Anniversaries in April

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 7 – Jane & Pete Woodward |
| 7 – Tracie & Chad Munn |
| 13 – Dale & Joe Clark |
| 25 – Lisa & Bill Rhan |
| 29 – Carie & Eric Diepersloot |

Congratulations to Each of YOU! If your name does not appear here, please contact Annette Jones to have it added for next time.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion The first and second readings, from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Hebrews, describe the mystery of the cross - the Paschal Mystery - suffering turned into victory. The gospel is the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The word passion can also mean strong feelings of love. Jesus' passion is the time from the Last Supper to his death on the cross, during which he shows his great love for us. If you stood at the cross on which Jesus hung, what would you say to him? How does it feel to touch or kiss the cross? What does this mean to you?



The Great Easter Vigil The blessing of the Easter fire begins this celebration. From that fire, the Paschal Candle is lit. The Paschal candle symbolizes Jesus as light of the world. It is from this candle that baptism candles are lit throughout the year, that we celebrate the life of faith of the newly departed and that we celebrate the commitment of faith in the sacrament of Confirmation. It stands as a symbol of our faith and our desire to be light to the world as Jesus is for us. What does it mean for you to celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection?

ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

We had a full house!



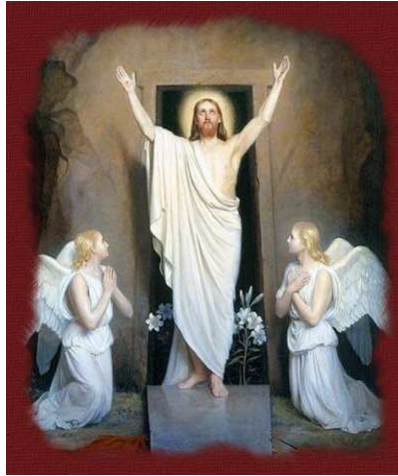
“Chef” Ben and his “staff” did the cooking.



Everyone had FUN!



HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!



Easter Sunday The real meaning of Easter is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To Christians, it is the most special day of the year. Yes, the birth of Jesus is very important, but, his resurrection offers the hope of everlasting life to everyone! The Lenten season leading up to Easter Sunday is a time of fasting, sacrifice and prayer. It is the Christian way of replicating in a small way what Christ sacrificed for us, both in his fasting and his final death on the cross.