



The Caller

April 1, 2014

The gospels have been referred to as Passion Week with a long introduction. That is probably a reductionist position that minimizes the transformative content of Jesus' teaching ministry. However, it is true that the central claim in Christian proclamation is that Jesus was crucified and on the third day he rose again. So, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter is the core message of the gospel.

Holy Week begins with Jesus arriving triumphantly and dramatically on a donkey with his followers shouting words proclaiming the arrival of a conquering King. Many of the cheering crowds were religious pilgrims in to celebrate the festival of Passover.

Passover is another event when against great odds God triumphed over oppressive forces. Pharaoh had to let God's people go. The details of the rest of Holy Week are both intriguing and mystifying. Jesus ends up getting executed between two thieves on a day we refer to as Good Friday when it actually is better called Terrifying Friday. Then, off course the Resurrection happened and failure turns into triumph. This is the pivot that changes history.

Many of the details of Holy Week seem strangely modern. We are very familiar with death. We know too well that the promise of a new life for oppressed people often doesn't end well. Instead, military dictators ruthlessly squash the movement and publically kill the people advocating change. Are the military tribunals sentenc-

ing hundreds to death in Egypt any less ruthless than Rome? Jesus embodies the struggle of people seeking justice in the face of lethal force.

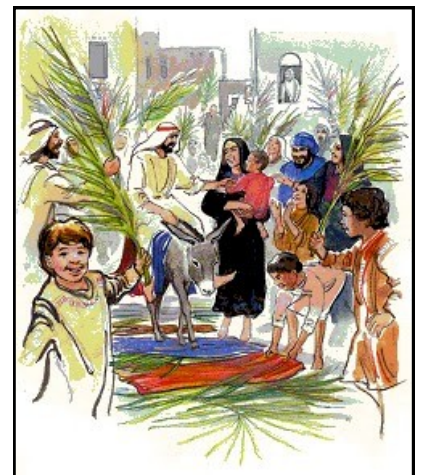
For those in despair about injustice and about human suffering, Holy Week is not an abstract or intellectual affair. It is very practical. As we follow the movements and encounters of Jesus during Holy Week, we witness the emergence of "a way out of no way." We don't see Jesus outwitting his enemies. He doesn't forcibly overthrow the brutal Roman government. The emerging "way out of no way" arrives in a way no one could have ever expected. It wasn't produced by Jesus and he didn't will it to happen.

This is simply a story the first witnesses just retold with great enthusiasm even while they struggled to understand it. That is why Robert Schuler used to conclude every service at the Crystal Cathedral with the hymn, "We've A Story to Tell to the Nations." The story itself disrupts all our intellectual abstractions and blows to pieces all cultures of despair.

So join me this Holy Week as we rehear this amazing story.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard



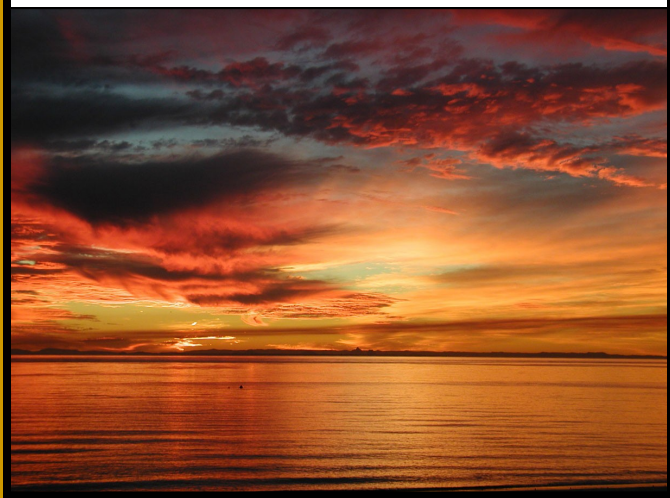
Worship Notes

March 30th: When Jesus restores the sight of a man born blind; the disciples ask him, who sinned? The man or his parents? The question is a long standing one in religious circles. How much collective punishment can be attributed to past actions? Jesus answer with a clear: neither. He then goes on to talk about how God's glory can shine when our eyes are opened. Text is *John 9:1-11*.

April 6th: In *Ezekiel 37*, we see the fiery prophet looking over a valley of very dry corpses. God tells the prophet to revive these lifeless people and give them hope again. The question the prophet asks is: Can these bones live?



"If you want to be reminded of the love of the Lord, just watch the sunrise."



April Sunday Calendar

Sunday, April 6, 2014

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
11:15 AM Youth Orchestra Rehearsal -- Sanctuary
1:30 PM Prayer/Study Group -- Parlor
4:00 PM Martie Harris Piano Recital -- Sanctuary /Dodds Hall
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, April 13, 2014—Palm Sunday!

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High
10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
11:15 AM Lenten Luncheon: Children's Ministry -- Dodds Hall
6:30 PM Discovery Circle -- Parlor
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room
7:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale Board Mtg -- Adult Ed Conf Rm

Sunday, April 20, 2014—Easter Sunday!

7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Worship Service
8:00 AM Easter Breakfast
8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:15 AM Sunday School: Children's Ministry
Easter Program

Sunday, April 27, 2014

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High
10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
11:15 AM Confirmation Class -- Pastor's Office
11:15 AM Hospitality Committee Meeting -- Adult Ed Conf Rm
5:00 PM Martin Luther King, Jr. Event -- Dodds Hall
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Lenten Lectionary

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Looking for a different Lenten discipline this year?

Join us in the Sanctuary each morning (except Sundays) during Lent (March 6 through April 19) at 7:15 AM for the reading of the daily lectionary and a brief prayer.

We are usually finished by 7:30 AM.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday is on Sunday, April 13th: The gospels report Jesus arriving in Jerusalem in a brazen act of street theatre. It is Passover and the city is alive with anticipation that God will do something dramatic. The scene reminds me of the march of the tribal warriors through the capital city in the last segment of the "Hunger Games."

Following worship, Children's Ministry will present our final Lenten luncheon, which is an Old Fashioned Church Picnic. See details in this newsletter.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service will be Held on **Thursday, April 17th at 7:30PM.**

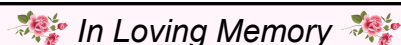
Good Friday Service is at Noon in the Sanctuary. We will read the Passion story in John. The service will include periods of silent reflection. We will sing the hymns of the cross.

Easter Worship is on Sunday, April 20th. We will offer **three services:** 7 AM, 8:30 AM, and 10 AM.

The Sunrise Service will be held at 7:00 AM in the Sanctuary and will be approximately 30 minutes. The service will conclude with communion served in the Memorial Garden.

An Easter breakfast, prepared and hosted by the Session, will follow the Sunrise service from **7:30 - 8:30 AM**

A Celebration of the Resurrection will be held at 8:30 AM and 10 AM. We would encourage more people to attend the 8:30 AM service so we can accommodate the large crowd at 10 AM. The Children's program with the Easter Egg Hunt, the Blossoming of the Cross, and a lesson — will follow the Children's Sermon at the 10 AM service. The Sermon is titled: "The Answer to Failure."



In Loving Memory

Rose Ann Elizabeth Schrott

Rose died suddenly at her home on Tuesday, March 25, 2014. She is survived by her husband Bob of fifty years; her daughter Lisa and son-in-law Brian McWilliams; her son Robert and his partner William Bullock; and her son Timothy.

Rose's memorial service was held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, March 29. She will be deeply missed by all of her CCPC family and friends.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob and his family.

To read Rose's obituary, view her photo gallery, and sign/read the guest book, please visit the Robert E. Evans Funeral Home website at <http://www.dignitymemorial.com/robert-e-evans-funeral-home/en-us/index.page>



The Bolig's New Address

Please update your address book for Jo and Paul Bolig 555 Fearrington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Wishing them the best on their new adventure!

Update on Bobby Ardan

Bobby has moved from Bethesda to Spa Creek Center in Annapolis. Contact is 35 Milkshake Lane, Annapolis, MD, 21403, 410-269-5100, ask for Rena in room 125-B.

Thank You!

I appreciate so much the cards, prayers, and phone calls I received following the unexpected loss of my brother. They came just when I needed them most. I've heard it said when God closes a door, he opens a window. Thank you for being that window for me.

Love and God Bless,
Deborah Dookie



Welcome New Members!

CCPC's new members were introduced to the congregation on Sunday, March 23.

Please welcome Linda Hamlett and Kris Ross

Linda Hamlett was raised in Lanham by her parents Michael and Charlene McDonald. She attended Grace Presbyterian Church in Lanham. She is retired from the PG County Fire Dept where she was a paramedic; now she is an accountant for a private company in Odenton. Her two children are Tyler and David, Jr. (DJ). Since both of them have special needs, she has been quite busy (to say the least) raising them on her own. Luckily now that their dad is an integral part of their life, it is not so tough.

Kris Ross moved here from Batavia, Illinois last September. She's been in education all her life - teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, consultant. Currently her work is as a volunteer with the Lost Boys Rebuilding South Sudan and American Professionals Partnering with Lithuanian Education. She also has helped at her grandsons' school.

She has two daughters. One lives here in Bowie with her husband and five children. One lives in Iowa with her family of four. Her husband passed away four years ago and she moved out here to be closer to her daughter and her family.

She was raised Catholic with 12 years of Catholic schooling. She joined United Church of Christ congregations as an adult and was a member of the Congregational Church of Batavia for many years. She was introduced to CCPC by Sharon McNamara and was impressed by the many outlets for service to others.

The Gadabouts

The Gadabouts will meet on Tuesday,
April 8th at Noon in the
Adult Ed Conference room

For those of you who have not heard of the Gadabouts, we are a group of women who meet for lunch in the Adult Ed Conference Room, at a local restaurant, or have a potluck at someone's home at Noon on the first Tuesday of each month. Periodically, we take day trips to places like New York City and Lancaster to see plays or other events. Our next trip is coming up on July 24th. We will be going to see the play *Moses!* Details are in this newsletter. We would love to see new faces! If you are interested in joining us for any of our lunches or events, please contact Marge Clarke by phone 410-451-0833 or by email mhclark@verizon.net.

Join us on our next adventure. You'll be *Gadabout* it!



Spring Cleaning!

CCPC will be having an
Annual Spring Cleanup

Saturday, April 5 from 9 to Noon

We will be weeding, mulching, and cleaning up the outside grounds of the church. If you can't make it that day and want to participate, you can come in earlier that week and do some weeding — that would be a big help in preparing for the mulching.

So, roll up your sleeves and let's get our church grounds looking good!



CHILI Competition



Come one, Come all!
CCPC Choirs Chili Cook Off 2014 is
Sunday, March 30 after the 10 AM service!

Sample more than ten different types of chili (from vegetarian to mega-spicy!), and enjoy salad, cornbread, and dessert with the CCPC Choirs after church on Sunday.

You can vote for your favorite chili recipe, converse with your friends and neighbors, and not have to do the cooking! There will be non-chili luncheon options available as well.

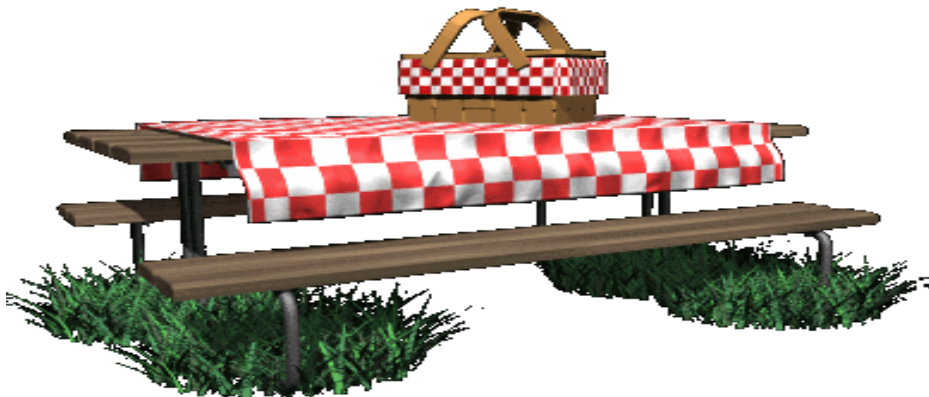
See you Sunday!

Old Fashioned Church Picnic

On April 13th at 11:15 AM in Dodds Hall,
Children's Ministry will host a Lenten luncheon and
provide delicious fried chicken from Popeyes!

Please bring "picnic food" sides
and desserts to share.

Come Join the Fun!



Friendly Reminders!

4/12: Elijah's Bowl — CCPC's day of
service at Grace Lutheran Church

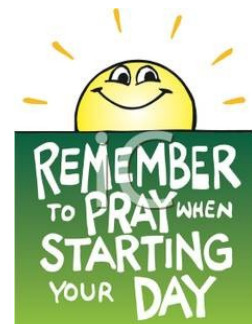
4/13 and 4/20: One Great Hour of Sharing,
during worship services

4/26: Share Shop, 7:30 AM in Dodds Hall

6/15: Registration deadline for *Moses!*

8/3: Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity
Week

And, . . .



The next Caller will be sent out on April 15th. Please have all articles in by 9 AM on Tuesday, April 8th.
Any questions, please call the office.

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CCPC, the first Protestant church in Levitt Bowie, was born from a passion for Christian mission in the local community, and this focus continues.

*Our Mission: To worship God, to grow in faith and community,
and to place our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ.*



Belair Cooperative Nursery School

The school is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization. It's located in the CE Building of Christian Community Presbyterian Church.

Call 301-464-5782 or Email info@belaircoop.org

www.belaircoop.org



Imagine - Yoga & Wellness Center



Located in the CE building, offers yoga and a variety of wellness programs to CCPC members and the community. For more information, visit www.ImagineThePlace.com, call 443-510-6308, or e-mail Ann@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

