

Antrim: St. John's Episcopal Church, March 2010

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Rector—The Reverend Gary W. Butterworth

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Church Office Hours

Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday 9 AM-3 PM

Thursday 9 AM-Noon Friday Closed

Rector's Message

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

As I write this I have just gotten home from our services on the First Sunday in Lent. During my sermon I spoke about challenging yourself this Lent and to not fall victim to becoming what the world is calling you to be but what God is calling you to be. In the not so recent past, observing Lent required that we “give something up” so that we might know the feeling, experience the pain and discomfort that our Lord experienced in the desert when faced with temptation. We have told ourselves that by giving up something we are better able to feel that we have done our Christian duty by suffering the lack of something that we hold dear. The fact is that I often recalled people saying that they were giving something up that they really didn't even care for. I mean what kind of sacrifice or hardship or temptation is that?

You might recall a film a few years ago titled “Chocolat.” The film relates the story of a small French town during Lent. Everyone is trying hard to avoid rich foods but what should open at the same time? A new and enticing chocolate shop. It is agony to walk past the shop with its velvety chocolate smells. You can't help but think that the townsfolk had missed the point - especially when one of the most self-righteous characters breaks into the shop and gorges on the chocolates inside.

Lent is not about that kind of self-denial. There is very little value in simply giving up stuff! It's not about giving up stuff, it's about GIVING stuff. Namely, the giving of your life to Christ. And how do we do that? By prayer, by time with our Lord in those precious periods of silence that we make for ourselves because those times are so rich and important. It's about giving our time, talent, and treasure to our Church family and to our community. It's about taking care of the poor, destitute, marginalized, and imprisoned to name just a few. Our Lord calls us to simply do what He did, to give it all away to those who have less than we have with the assurance that God's love and Jesus' presence in our lives is all that we need.

Let us not become like those who hang a wooden cross on their wall and then settle into their comfortable routines forgetting that we are called to love our neighbor deeply, no matter whether that neighbor is rich or poor, black or white, churched or non-churched. We are not called to blend in with those around us but to be extreme in our faith. By doing so we will be holy people instead of just nice and God will not moan at us but will rejoice that we have heard, and we have seen, and we have embarked on our annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem with loving and faithful hearts.

May this Lent find you stretching yourselves and becoming all that God is calling you to be.

Peace & Blessings,

Gary+



“Why do we celebrate Easter before Easter Sunday?”

The Great Vigil of Easter is a service held in many Christian churches as the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. It is considered to be the first celebration of Easter Day, since the Christian tradition considers feasts, and other days of observance where Masses are celebrated, to begin at sunset of the previous day. Historically, it is during this service that people are baptized and received into full communion with the Church.

In the churches of the Anglican Communion, the Easter Vigil is the most important Mass of the liturgical year as well as the first celebration of the Eucharist during the fifty-day long celebration of Easter, and is marked by the first use since the beginning of Lent of the acclamatory word "Alleluia", a distinctive feature of the liturgy of the Easter season.

The Easter Vigil will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Saturday April 3rd at 8:30 PM. Please plan on attending and experiencing this wonderful service.

Acolyte Festival

This year's Acolyte Festival will be held on October 9th at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. We are hoping to spend the weekend in Washington, D.C., to participate in all the festival events. Please place the date on your calendar and more details will follow.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who set up for, cooked during, and cleaned up after the pancake supper. Thank you to everyone who attended! This annual event at St. John's raised \$500 that will be put toward a trip for our children and youth to the Acolyte Festival.

If you missed the supper but would still like to help send our children and youth to the Acolyte Festival in October, you may make contributions to St. John's with the memo "EYC Fundraiser."

Monthly Sunday Fellowship Breakfast

The first Sunday of each month has been designated for a Sunday Fellowship Breakfast. The breakfast time is from 8:00-8:30 A.M. The meal and beverages will be provided. However, volunteers are needed each month to donate food and to cook. Please contact Don Bagwell if you are interested in helping.

Godly Play Training

Caroline Black, Canon Mission for Christian Formation will conduct Godly Play Training on March 27th at Trinity between 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. All teachers from Trinity and St. John's are encouraged to attend.

Treasurers' Note

Please indicate on the memo line of your check how your donation is to be used, especially if it is to be divided between two funds (i.e. "\$200 pledge and \$100 Restoration" or "all pledge" or "EYC in memory of John Doe"). This will reduce wear and tear on our Receiving and Recording Treasurers, and it will help reduce errors in recording your gift to the church.

Potluck at Trinity

Trinity Church is inviting all of Halifax County's Episcopal Churches to gather in fellowship at their monthly Potluck Supper, held on the 2nd Thursday at 6:30 PM. Please bring a dish to share that goes well with pinto beans and cornbread made by Trinity's own Carrington Powell.

Transitions

Alice Conner Dickerson, life-long member and "matriarch" of Emmanuel Church
Condolences may be sent to her son, Jackson Conner, 3084 Ball Park Loop in Halifax.

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Each Sunday we pray for individual members of our parish family.

March 7th

**Monty Epps; Allen, Derek
Dean Pryor
Carl & Bee Espy
Boo Evans
Holt & Nancy Evans
John Farrington**

March 14th

**Dorothy Fensterer & Garland Newton
Charles & Carol Pattarini; Stephen
Lucy Fuller
Armistead Fuller**

March 21st

**Beth Gillis; Grace
Bill & Susan Granger; Drew
Bob & Barbara Greene
Buddy & Edna Guthrie**

March 28th

**Hilda Hankins
Steve & Missy Henderson; Dru, Nan
Brandon & Ami Hudson
Elaine Hunt**

March Birthdays

Helen Dunavant—March 5th

Jacob Saunders—March 19th

Caroline Edmunds—March 24th

Fred Perkins—March 6th

Melissa Vachon—March 19th

Joe Simonson—March 24th

Hannah Parker—March 8th

Michael Boyd—March 20th

Dan Thompson—March 25th

Nicholas Thompson—March 8th

Jack Dunavant III—March 20th

Trauti Boyd—March 29th

Bill Caldwell—March 15th

Ami Hudson—March 22nd

McKenzie Daniel—March 30th

David Martin—March 18th

Boo Evans—March 23rd

Beth Robertson—March 30th

Elizabeth Bagwell Anderson—March 31st

March 2010

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

The Wednesday evening Adult Study Group will meet 4 times this month for a study of the Passion Narratives from the four Gospels.

Sunday Fellowship Breakfast 8:00-8:30 AM

	1 Morning Prayer service @ 9:00 AM in the Chapel	2	3 Healing Service 10 AM Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM NO ADULT SACK SUPPER and DISCUSSION	4 Brotherhood of St. Andrew Meeting at Christ Church 7:15 PM	5	6 Bishop's Day for Vestries and Leaders at Powhatan H.S. 8:15 AM-3:15 PM
7 Holy Eucharist service 9 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM	8 Morning Prayer service @ 9:00 AM in the Chapel Vestry Meeting 7:15 PM	9	10 Healing Service 10 AM Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM Adult Sack Supper and Discussion 6:30-8:00 PM	11 Prison Ministry 9:45 AM	12	13
14 Holy Eucharist service 9 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM	15 Morning Prayer service @ 9:00 AM in the Chapel	16	17 Healing Service 10 AM Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM Adult Sack Supper and Discussion 6:30-8:00 PM	18	19	20
21 Holy Eucharist service 9 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM	22 Morning Prayer service @ 9:00 AM in the Chapel	23	24 Healing Service 10 AM Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM Adult Sack Supper and Discussion 6:30-8:00 PM	25 Prison Ministry 9:45 AM Transition Ministry at Christ Church 7:15 PM	26	27
28 Holy Eucharist service 9 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM	29 Morning Prayer service @ 9:00 AM in the	30	31 Healing Service 10 AM Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM Adult Sack Supper and Discussion	April 1st Maundy Thursday service 5:30 P.M.	April 2nd Good Friday service 7:00 P.M.	April 3rd Easter Vigil service 8:30 P.M.



St. John's Episcopal Church

Halifax, Virginia

Father Gary is in his office at St. John's on Mondays and Wednesdays

Palm Sunday

HOLY WEEK SERVICES