



Saint John's

Inter Change

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The parish newsletter for the people of God called to the Christian community of Saint John's Episcopal Church, Quarrier at Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, West Virginia

Our Mission: We reach out to the world in Christ's name in the hope that all might find a home in God's healing love.

SUNDAYS MARCH 23 AND 30 AND APRIL 6, 2008 EASTER DAY AND SECOND AND THIRD SUNDAYS OF EASTER

- 6:00 a.m. **March 23, Easter Vigil**
- 8:00 a.m. **March 30 and April 6, Holy Eucharist**
- 8:45 a.m. **Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library**
- 9:30 a.m. **Adult Forum, March 23, No Adult Forum; March 30,**
In an open "gabfest," the Rev. Jim Lewis, a former rector of St. John's, will discuss the multi-faceted possibilities of "Christ's Church and the World"; **April 6,** Parishioner Elliott Birkhead, attorney with DHHR, will address the current crisis in the field of mental health, Room 109.
- 10:10 a.m. **Parents' Fellowship, Room 208**
- 10:10 a.m. **Chapel for Older Children, Room 225**
- 10:30 a.m. **Classes for toddlers through Grade 5:** Toddlers, Room 298; Godly Play, 4 to 8 years old, Room 299; St. John's Eagles, 3rd to 5th Grades, Room 221.
- 10:30 a.m. **Holy Eucharist, with choir**
- 11:30 a.m. **Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall**

New Class to Focus on History of Baptism

How many of you are familiar with history of baptism in particular? Need a refresher or want to learn more? If so, you are in luck because Maggie McCabe (Latimer) will be facilitating a 4-week class entitled Baptism Past and Present at 9:30 a.m. Sundays April 6, 13, 20 and 27 in Room 209. Come, join us in this season of Easter to learn or refresh about the historical ideals in the Old and New Testaments along with today's traditions concerning baptism in the Episcopal Church.

*“I believe in ...
the resurrection of the body,”*

(The Apostles’ Creed)

Easter comes very early this year, only one day short of being at its earliest. We will soon be immersed in Peeps, Cadbury eggs, and chocolate bunnies. Easter has never been given the same billing in the commercial world as Christmas. The Christmas hype begins before Thanksgiving. Easter just doesn’t have the same draw! And yet, without Easter there would be no Christmas.

Remember that the whole reason we are Christians is Easter and the celebration of Resurrection. Resurrection is the key to Christianity and yet it is often misconstrued by many today. We have come to equate resurrection and immortality. The first comes from our Hebrew theology and the second from our Greek philosophy.

My literary friend, Frederick Buechner in *Wishful Thinking*, helps me think about this distinction when he writes:

“Those who believe in the immortality of the soul believe that life after death is as natural a function of man as digestion after a meal. The Bible instead speaks of resurrection. It is entirely unnatural. Man does not go on living beyond the grave because that’s how he is made. Rather, he goes to his grave as dead as a doornail and is given his life back again by God (i.e., resurrected) just as he was given it by God in the first place, because that is the way God is made.

“All the major Christian creeds affirm belief in resurrection *of the body*. In other words they affirm the belief that what God, in spite of everything, prizes enough to bring back to life is not just some disembodied echo of a human being, but a new and revised version of all the things which made him the particular human being he was and which he needs something like a body to express: his personality, the way he looked, the sound of his voice, his peculiar capacity for creating and loving, in some sense his *face*.

“The idea of the immortality of the soul is based on the experience of man’s indomitable spirit. The idea of the resurrection of the body is based on the experience of God’s unspeakable love.”

“God’s unspeakable love” as expressed in the person of Jesus the Christ: “God so loved the world that he gave his only son...” “God’s unspeakable love” as seen in his suffering, dying, and being raised on the third day. This is what we celebrate. This is our hope, this is our promise, this is our Easter joy!

Yours in the Resurrection faith,

David+

Kenya Still Needs Your Help

I continue to hear from Isabel, our Colors for Life Africa contact in Kenya. I wanted to share some recent comments:

"It is okay to share with your fellowship what I write for we are in need of intercessory prayers. Many women have been physically attacked and died, and children have also died. AIDS/HIV is on the increase and many people are still displaced. I hope your group might donate some dollars to help those affected by the post-election violence -- we need blankets, medicine, hygiene products, mosquito nets, etc. The Red Cross is providing food short term.

"Thank you for your prayers. Despite all the problems, we in Kenya still have a warm heart." - Isabel

If you would like to make a donation for requested items, please make your check payable to St. John's Episcopal Church and in the memo section write "COLA -- relief items." These could go to Brenda Dearien or Donna Hamra, Outreach chairperson.

- Karen Glazier

Evangelism is Our Future

What does the word Evangelism mean? For some folks, it can seem a scary term. If you are intrigued by the definition, please come to an introductory meeting on Thursday, April 3, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 109. The future of the St. John's Episcopal Church relies on evangelism and member incorporation. We are very interested in your ideas. This meeting will be limited to one hour. Please contact Maggie McCabe (Latimer) or Joe Bolyard for additional information. Or just come and have fun with us on Thursday, April 3.

Time for Easter Flowers

If you would like to give Easter flowers in memory or in honor of someone, please contact Brenda Dearien, St. John's Episcopal Church, 1105 Quarrier St., Charleston, WV, 25301, **by Wednesday, March 19**. The cost is \$25. Please include your name and address, how you want this listed in the bulletin and your check, with Easter flowers in the memo line.

Phone Tree, Anyone?

The Pastoral Care Committee, responding to a need for communicating with members of the parish who don't have computers, has compiled a listing of parishioners to be called by telephone when a general parish announcement needs to be made. Now the committee appeals to the Saints of John who are willing to make the phone calls when the occasional need arises. If you would like to be a part of this phone-tree ministry please call Phyllis Atwood, chair of Pastoral Care, at 343-9859.

News About Our Former Rector

Beginning May 1, The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan, a former rector of St. John's will begin serving as Canon for Life Formation with the Diocese of Southern Ohio. He and Mary are relocating to Columbus at the end of April.

Interchange Deadline

Our next issue will be for the weeks of April 13 and 20. Please submit items to:

julkemp@verizon.net

or bdearien@stjohnswv.org

by **Tuesday, April 1, at 4 p.m.**

Women's Health Center Got Its Start at St. John's

Did you know that the Women's Health Center began at St John's because of Jane Mason McCabe, the mother of Brooks McCabe and Maggie McCabe?

To celebrate the continued health care of women, the Women's Health Center of WV will hold its annual fundraiser, "Cocktails for Choice," on Friday, April 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Edgewood Country Club. There will be hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, and silent auction. The donation is \$50 per person. If you are interested in supporting this cause, please respond to the Women's Health Center of WV, 510 Washington Street West, Charleston, WV, 25302 by March 21.

Get Involved in Spokes For Folks

Spokes For Folks, a ministry of St. John's that uses the bicycle as a means for economic empowerment and social change, has a new chair. Bruce Wilson has agreed to take it over. At this time, we repair old bicycles and give them to Manna Meal clients; after a hiatus, we are planning another giveaway some time in the spring. We also are working on ideas for other activities. Anyone wishing to become involved, please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Spokes4Folks/> and sign up, giving a short introduction. If you will go to another web site, www.bikecolletives.com, you will see the sort of things that other bike ministries around the country are doing.

From the Archives - Did You Know?

The 16th of February, 1835, is an important date in the history of St. John's Parish. On that day the deed was made for a lot on which was erected the first Episcopal church in this community. It was conveyed to the trustees, A.W. Quarrier, Joel Shrewsbury Jr., Henry Rogers, James Craik, William Meade, Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, and John B. Martin, Rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Parish of Kanawha, in consideration of the sum of \$275. The location, "on Main Street, running back towards the hill," is now the northeast corner of Virginia and McFarland Streets.

We Hope Interchange Never Makes This List

For your amusement, we offer some announcements that actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services (not at St. John's, of course).

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing "Break Forth Into Joy."

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.