



St. Mary's Messenger

*Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!
The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!*

At the mid-point of Holy Week it seems really strange to be writing this article - which will appear the second week of Easter, yet I am thinking about a life-giving ministry. It is a ministry of presence and it is a ministry of feeding. What I am thinking about is the fourth Monday night of each month with a group of truly amazing children and amazing followers of Jesus.

His Kids is one the most inspiring things that I have had the privilege to be involved in. The dedication of those who go each month to spend time with a group of children is truly a blessing in my life. The children give to us more than we can ever give them.

Have you taken a fourth Monday and helped out at the Holiday House? If not, why not? Have you helped prepare the food? If not, why not? Do you remember when Jesus would not let the children be kept from him? In fact Jesus said that the Kingdom belonged to them - the children. Jesus was always concerned with the "least" of society and as disciples of Jesus we should be too.

The mission of the church is not to be an inward looking insular society of false piety but a vibrant assembly of the faithful that is engaged with all of God's people. Through many things, most of all our work with His Kids we are becoming more and more that community. Another example of that engagement is when we gather to pick up trash on the highway. In that exercise of ministry we show our care for God's good creation.

The question that we have to ask God is, "What do you want us to do next?" What would God have us add to what we are doing? We are not called to every ministry under the sun but we are called to more than we think that we can do. We are called to "God sized" projects and engagement with the world. What do you think that looks like? Where is God calling us to engage next? Where is God calling **you** to minister? Jesus said in Matthew 22 that we are to love everyone and in Matthew 25 that when we serve others we serve Jesus. We promise to do that in our Baptismal Covenant in our answer to the fourth question on page 305 of the Book of Common Prayer.



I invite you into a time of prayer and discernment about what God would have us be up to next. Nothing formal, just a time of seeking, asking, and knocking, a time of listening to God. As God speaks to you write it down, that you won't forget. We may come up with things that we cannot do for we can't do

everything. But through prayer, listening, and discernment we will discover where God is calling us to minister next, not to replace our work that we are currently doing but in addition to.

If we are to be faithful to God's calling it will require the engagement of all of us if we want to be the people of faith that God desires us to be. If you have not helped on a fourth Monday night then you **need** to do so. You will be blessed more than you can imagine.

Peace,

Fr. Reid

Remember in your prayers....

LaVerne McMillin, who passed away on Thursday, April 28, 2011. LaVerne is the mother of Sue Zane Faulkner and Jane McMillin. LaVerne was 92 years old and a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Visitation will be at Sneed Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, May 3 from 6-8pm. Funeral services will be held Wednesday May 4, 2011 at 11am with reception following in Parish Hall. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, a memorial in LaVerne's behalf be made to St. Mary's Episcopal Church

*Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

EASTER 101

The word "Easter" comes from a Teutonic word "eostre", the name for the goddess of growing things. Easter also coincides with the Jewish Festival of Weeks, which begins at Passover and ended after 50 days on the Festival of Pentecost. It was both a feast to celebrate the harvest and also the giving of the law to Moses on Mt. Sinai. During the Great Fifty Days we will read a portion of the Acts of the Apostles rather than an Old Testament reading. The Gospel readings will feature Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to his disciples. From doubting Thomas, to the people on the road to Emmaus, to the fishermen on the beach, Jesus' comforting words to his disciples and the story of the Good Shepherd.

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Jan's Corner

GETTING BACK WHAT WE GIVE

An exercise that I engaged in as a therapist “in training” involved participating in a group standing outside on a tennis court in a circle around the “leader.” As we chatted about the events of the day, the leader casually tossed a beach ball to various participants and they tossed the ball back to him. Interestingly, I began to notice that if he tossed it lazily, most tossed it back the same way. When he batted it harder...guess what...most batted it harder back to him. Of course, it turned out that was the purpose of the exercise...to increase awareness that “WE GET BACK WHAT WE GIVE”. In translating this to every day life, have you noticed it to be true? Speak softly and kindly...you usually get it back. Speak harshly and rudely...you usually get it back. Do good deeds.....and.....good deeds come back.

I am currently serving on the stewardship committee of our church at the request of the committee leader, Richard Hammett. An initial task of the committee has been to define “stewardship”...just what does it mean. Sure...it's giving money to the church; that is a necessity. But, it's more. It's giving our time, our abilities. I witnessed an act of stewardship in action in our church on Palm Sunday morning. Mary Raring-Hart was tutoring a young girl, Chelsey, to serve as an usher. Chelsey has some physical disabilities, but I observed Mary and Tom patiently guide her and praise her as she learned. I later learned that Chelsey had visited St. Mary's as a result of meeting some of our folks who were serving at His Kids. They were kind to her, and she wanted to visit our church. I understand she has been baptized and become a new member of St. Mary's. She is giving back what was given to her.....and a wonderful return to stewardship. Welcome Chelsey!

I have a hanging on the play therapy wall of my office that I have always loved. It reads

*A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW,
It will not matter what my bank account was,
The type of house I lived in,
Or the kind of car I drove....
BUT THE WORLD MAY BE DIFFERENT
Because I was important in the life of a
CHILD!*

There are a lot of people doing good GIVING at St. Mary's. It's called stewardship. And we, as a church.....and as individuals..... are getting back.

Jan Denson



Bishop Andy Doyle writes:

The Easter 2011 Gospel is from [Matthew 28:1-10](#) and in it both the angel of the Lord and the risen Christ are clear: the women and the disciples are to go to Galilee. In Matthew's Gospel, Galilee is where the action is. In Galilee they are to be given the great commission. The Easter message is clear: go to where the mission is; go to where the ministry is. Go and meet God there in the form of the risen Christ in friend and neighbor, in brother and sister.

Worship God out in the world. Celebrate the risen Lord by aiding people with their doubt and with their seeking a living God; you have a role in helping others to find hope, experience hope, and live in hope.

The message is clear: you are to love and act for the good of our neighbor. To love and forgive as God forgives - generously. (Not as a quid pro quo; not as we desire people will do for us)

The resurrection is an event that was reserved for the end of human history, but it has happened in the midst of human history - the kingdom of God has broken into this world. This it seems to me is the proclamation of Easter Sunday - Jesus is raised for a purpose.

This resurrection is an apocalyptic event, a life changing, a world re-creating event, for those who experience it.

Every act of humility, hospitality, and kindness done because we follow the risen Christ and serve him through the power of the Holy Spirit, every work of true creativity - doing justice, making peace, healing families, healing individuals, resisting temptation, seeking and winning true freedom for those who are voiceless and powerless - is an earthly event in a long history of things that implement Jesus' own resurrection and anticipate the final new creation and act as signposts of hope. (Surprised by Hope, 293-294)

Jesus' resurrection is not about our dying and what happens next; it is about our living and what we can do today. The empty tomb, the message of the angel and Jesus to go towards life and mission, is about the remaking of the world around us.

Pope Benedict in his Encyclical on Hope wrote, "The Christian message [of hope] was not only 'informative' but 'performative'. That means: the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known-it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing. The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life. (Encyclical Letter, Spe Salvi, ¶2)

Our lives are shaped in a new way for the sake of the kingdom of God for the sake of others.

Our celebration of Easter reminds us of the hope we have, and how our hope might buoy up those in need, and how our actions empowered by hope may be vessels of God's grace and love to a world that is all too often hurting and in pain.

The gospel message of Easter is clear: we are to go. We are to go with hope and meet Jesus at home in our families, in our neighborhoods, at our workplaces, or in a place far, far away. We are to go to Galilee. We are to go and build up God's kingdom of hope. Our risen Lord Jesus Christ already goes before us and will meet us there. Christ is risen! Christo anesti!

GET TRASHY ON MAY 21

Victor says that our next scheduled trash pick-up is 21 May. We will start at 8:00 again at the Guyco Construction office. This will be our last pick-up until September. BBQ and post-trash feasting follows the trash. Come and see what treasures await you by the side of the highway! (Suzanne Tooley found money. Lola found something a little more “trashy” than that...) Prize goes to the weirdest find.



Welcome New Members...

Chelsey Lynn Stautzenberger is 17 years old. She attends Lampasas High School and loves jewelry. Chelsey has one brother. Chelsey learned about St. Mary's Episcopal when she met some of our "family" who were hosting dinner at His Kids. Chelsey's parents were excited and happy to see Chelsey get baptized at our Easter Vigil. Chelsey says her job is now to make sure her parents come to St. Mary's with her!



Gabriel Damien Craig Plunkett and **Cali Rose Peterson** are the children of Tiffany Peterson, a recent member of St. Mary's Episcopal. Gabriel is 8, and his sister is 4. These newest members learned about St. Mary's after hearing Randy Johnson witness to some students at CTC. Welcome all the Petersons to St. Mary's!!



GOOD EATS!

Kathleen Woodby brought a delicious antipasto salad to our Easter brunch. She shares her recipe here:

Antipasto Pasta Salad

From the episode: *Pizza Party*

Serves 6 to 8

We also liked the addition of 1 cup chopped, pitted kalamata olives or 1 cup jarred artichokes, drained and quartered. Use any curly-shaped pasta for this recipe.

INGREDIENTS

- 8 ounces sliced pepperoni , cut into 1/4-inch strips
- 8 ounces soppressata or salami, halved and cut into 1/4-inch strips
- 10 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 jar pepperoncini (12-ounce), drained, (2 tablespoons juice reserved), stemmed, and chopped coarse
- 4 garlic cloves , minced
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- Salt and pepper
- 1 pound fusilli or campanelle
- 1 pound white mushrooms , quartered
- 1 cup shredded provolone cheese , aged
- 12 ounces roasted red peppers , drained, patted dry, and chopped coarse
- 1 cup chopped fresh basil

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place one paper towel on microwave-safe plate. Arrange pepperoni in single layer on paper towel. Cover with another paper towel and layer soppressata on towel. Top with another paper towel and microwave on highest power until meat begins to render fat, about 1 minute. Set meat aside.
2. Whisk 5 tablespoons vinegar, olive oil, mayonnaise, pepperoncini juice, garlic, red pepper flakes, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper in medium bowl.
3. Bring 4 quarts water to boil in large pot. Add 1 tablespoon salt and pasta and cook until al dente. Drain pasta, return to pot, and toss with 1/2 cup dressing and remaining vinegar. Adjust seasonings, spread dressed pasta on rimmed baking sheet, and refrigerate until chilled, about 30 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, bring remaining dressing to simmer in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and cook until they release their juices and are lightly browned, about 8 minutes. Transfer to large bowl and cool.
5. Add meat, provolone, roasted red peppers, chopped pepperoncini, basil, and cooled pasta to mushrooms and toss well. Season with salt and pepper. Serve at room temperature. Salad can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.

I did not use fusilli or campanelle, I bought a fancy fluted pasta I found at HEB in Leander. I also saw it at Killeen's HEB, something like *annochinni*. But it was only 12 ounces, so I had to add some rottini to get up to the 1 lb. required. I got the *sopressata* and the pepperoni, #2 slice, at HEB in Leander (Cove and Lampasas don't have it).

The only thing I found confusing about the recipe was the *pepperocini* juice. The 2 tablespoons reserved is what you put into the sauce.

I also got the *provolone* - in one big chunk - at Leander, I then shredded it.

It is important to render the fat from the meats. We ended up with much more than two layers (I guess our microwave is small) -- so we microwaved in for a minute, rested, microwaved for a minute, rested, microwaved for a third and single time and let it rest. And don't skip the step of cooling the pasta or cooked mushrooms.

It's a complicated recipe, but it made a HUGE batch, and there wasn't a drop left at our Easter brunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ECW 11am Sunday School 8:45am	2	3 Bible Study 3:30 AA & AIAnon 8pm	4 Potluck 6:30 EYG/ACE Tutoring 5:30	5 AA 8pm	6	7
8 Sunday School 8:45am	9	10 Bible Study 3:30 AA & AIAnon 8pm	11 Vestry Mtg 6:30 EYG/ACe Tutoring 5:30	12 AA 8pm	13	14
15 Sunday School 8:45am	16	17 Bible Study 3:30 AA & AIAnon 8pm	18 Movie Night 6:30pm EYG/ACE Tutoring 5:30	19 AA 8pm	20	21 Trash Pickup 8am at Guyco
22 Sunday School 8:45am	23 His Kids 5:30	24 Bible Study 3:30 AA & AIAnon 8pm	25 EYG/ACE Tutoring 5:30	26 AA 8pm	27	28
29 Sunday School 8:45am	30					

Planning Ahead...

Anyone want to go to a Rangers or Astros baseball game? "Episcopalian Night" is at Minute Maid Park in Houston on Thursday, June 23 (Rangers vs Astros). Tom and Mary can't make this one - but we plan on going to a game sometime in July.

LAST LAUGH...

(If you have ever laughed at Garrison Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion" then you'll recognize this type of humor. I copied this from an essay he wrote.)

We make fun of Episcopalians for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in Des Moines, a relatively Episcopalianless place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Episcopalians, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach!... And down the road!

Many Episcopalians are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Episcopalians to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this, people: Episcopalians, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you are dying, they will comfort you. If you are lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

Episcopalians believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud. Episcopalians like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

Episcopalians believe their rectors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.

Episcopalians usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

Episcopalians believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.

Episcopalians feel that applauding for their children's choirs will not make the kids too proud and conceited.

Episcopalians think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

Episcopalians drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

Episcopalians feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Episcopalians are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.

Episcopalians still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and Episcopalians believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you are a Episcopalian when:

It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.

You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.

Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.

When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," and you respond, "And also with you."

And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye.

Happy Mother's Day ** May 8

