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St. Philip's Church

CommonLife

March 2016 Volume 6 Issue 3

Welcoming the weary, dedicated to discipleship

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29)

Rector's Message



Rev. Kathryn Boswell
Rector

Dear brothers and sisters,

Death is a big bully. I don't know about you, but I get sick and tired of him taking away the people and sweet animals that are precious to me, one by one, year after year. Every time death strikes, it hurts. It leaves a scar. We sometimes find ourselves confused and discouraged, living in this in-between age when the Great Bully has indeed been vanquished – because he still hangs around the neighborhood, a shadowy menace, causing all the mischief he can.

The world, not knowing the power of Christ or death's inevitable fate, tries to make their uneasy alliances with the local Bully in various ways. Some try to dress him up in respectable clothes. Death, they say, is a beautiful part of the cycle of life, the closing season, the final peace for all creatures before they return to the dust of the earth. And when someone passes away quietly and full of years, surrounded by their loved ones, we might believe that. But death rarely plays the gentleman. He takes the very young, who have barely drawn breath in this world. He takes fathers and mothers who are still very much needed by their little ones. He strikes with brutality, with the drawn-out pain of cancer and the sudden violence of war. And even if our minds are sometimes able to accept the rightness of death's timing, our hearts still cry out in outrage every single time, because at our very core we know – every human being knows – we are created for life, not death.

Much of the modern world tries to cheat death in a frantic search for immortality. There are products to make us look young and feel young, scientific and medical advances designed keep us living longer: anything and everything to keep



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TO:

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death at bay. Anything and everything to maintain our fragile hold on this earthly life for as long as we possibly can. But behind all the world's delusion and desperation is the fearful and constant certainty that death wins in the end.

Except that he doesn't.

Because the truth is that we are not death's helpless victims any more.

**“Death is swallowed up in victory!” Paul wrote to the Corinthians.
“O death, where is your sting? O death, where is your victory?”**

We who are Easter people proclaim that our Lord Jesus met death on his own terms on a Roman cross two thousand years ago, and put him to shame, overcoming the power of death over his Father's creation once and for all. In his great love for us, his brothers and sisters, Jesus bore the scars of death, the nail prints in his hands and feet, and the mark of the sword in his side; these he bore in his lifeless body, down into the dark silence of the grave. And then, bearing those scars, he walked – he walked! – back out again into the joy and light of indestructible and abundant and unending life. He won.

The healing of the whole Creation began on that morning, and the breaking in of the kingdom of light and life. Death, that Great Bully, has no power left in this world beyond his shadow-weapons of fear and doubt. He might yet cause us pain; we may bear his scars in our hearts. But this much is true: if we bear the scars of death into the depths of the grave, we will most certainly bear them back out into the light and life of a new creation, following in the footsteps of our Risen Lord.

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!








Life wins!

With love, in our Risen Lord,

Kathryn+



March 2016

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	2	3 Common Cents 10-2pm	4 Noon Stations of the Cross 	5 Common Cents 10-Noon
6 The Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	7	8 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	9 Lenten luncheon Norwood Free Methodist Church noon	10 Common Cents 10-2pm	11 Noon Stations of the Cross 	12 Common Cents 10-Noon 10 am Vestry Meeting
13 The Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	14	15 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	16 Lenten luncheon Norwood United Ministry (Methodist Church) noon	17 Feast of St. Patrick Common Cents 10-2pm	18 Noon Stations of the Cross 	19 Common Cents 10-Noon
20 The Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday 10 am Holy Eucharist 	21	22 9am Morning Prayer 10am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	23 9am Morning Prayer	24 Maundy Thursday Common Cents –closed 5:30pm Agape meal & Holy Eucharist 	25 Good Friday Noon Stations of the Cross noon-3pm prayer & meditation 6:30 pm Good Friday service	26 Common Cents closed this morning 7pm The Great Vigil of Easter Holy Eucharist
27 The Sunday of the Resurrection Easter Day 10 am Holy Eucharist 	28	29 NO 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	30 5-6:30pm Community Dinner 	31 Common Cents 10-2pm		



I've Just Seen Jesus

We knew He was dead, it is finished, He said
 We had watched as His life ebbed away
 Then we all stood around till the guards took Him down
 Joseph begged for His body that day

It was late afternoon when we got to the tomb
 Wrapped His body and sealed up the grave
 So I know how you feel, His death was so real
 But please listen and hear what I say

I've just seen Jesus, I tell you He's alive
 I've just seen Jesus, our precious Lord alive
 And I knew He really saw me too
 As if till now I'd never lived
 All that I'd done before won't matter anymore
 I've just seen Jesus and I'll never be the same again
 It was His voice she first heard, those kind gentle words
 Asking what was her reason for tears
 And I sobbed in despair, my Lord is not there
 He said, "Child, it is I, I am here"

I've just seen Jesus, I tell you He's alive
 I've just seen Jesus, our precious Lord alive
 And I knew He really saw me too
 As if till now I'd never lived
 All that I'd done before won't matter anymore
 I've just seen Jesus, I've just seen Jesus
 I've just seen Jesus

All that I'd done before won't matter
 anymore
 I've just seen Jesus
 And I'll never be the same again
 I've just seen Jesus

- Bill Gaither



March Birthdays: 1—Felix Levison



Our good friend and sister and long-time pillar of the church, Alice, has gone to stay with her daughter Diane. She is much missed, but it is a good thing to know she is safe and well-cared-for and in the company of people who love her as much as we do. I am sure she would be very happy to hear from us. Here is her address and phone number:

Alice Goodrich
 c/o Diane Fiacco
 P.O. Box 474
 Newport, NY 13416
 315/845-8254



Hours: Tuesday: 10-2pm
 Thursday: 10-2pm
 Saturday: 10-noon

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Community Dinner
 30 March from 5-6:30 p.m.



CommunityDinner

Menu to be announced.....

(Please spread the word - because of the timing of Holy Week, this month's Community Dinner will be held on the fifth Wednesday of March, rather than the fourth. Let your neighbors know!)

In a special article on the North Country Public Radio website, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is quoted as saying that "prescription drug abuse 'has reached epidemic proportions' in the north country and across the state...health care facilities have experienced a staggering increase in the percentage of non-crisis admissions for substance abuse involving prescription narcotics.

In Franklin County, the number of people who sought such drug treatment for such patients more than quadrupled, from 34 to 127, from 2007 to 2010."

This year's Parish Leadership Conference focused on the problem of narcotics addiction, which has now become a serious problem in the North Country, especially among the young. The average age of those struggling with narcotics addiction has dropped dramatically over the past decades from adults in their forties or fifties to young adults in their twenties, affecting even high school students.

The churches in our Diocese met with leaders of local organizations and crisis centers to ask how we might help bring healing and hope to our communities. One small but important step we can take in lessening the availability of dangerous prescription narcotics is to make sure we dispose of painkillers and other controlled substances when we no longer need them, because it is increasingly the case that drugs are the focus of break-ins, rather than electronics or other valuables.

The Massena Police Department maintains a drop-off box for prescription narcotics that can be accessed 24/7. It is located at the back of the Town Hall, 60 Main Street in Massena. For more information you may call the Massena P.D. At 769-3577.



Thoughts on the trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin
from *24 Hours That Changed the World*
by Adam Hamilton
(pp. 51-52)

***The only thing necessary for evil to triumph
is for good men to do nothing.***

“I am certain that at least a few of those seventy-one Sanhedrin members must have questioned whether putting Jesus to death was the right thing to do. Some had to wonder whether this man might not truly be the Messiah. But there is nothing in any of the Gospel accounts to indicate that a single one of them, other than Joseph of Arimathea, disagreed when it came to the death sentence they sought from Pilate. [This is a] fact of human existence: Resisting those in leadership or in the majority, even when we believe they are doing wrong, is exceedingly difficult. When the tide is moving, we tend to be afraid to stand up and resist. I have seen this in myself from time to time. There have been occasions when people in authority said, “This is the way we ought to go,” and I did not speak out for fear that doing so would make me look foolish. I have the feeling there were people in that Sanhedrin who later on said, “Why didn't I say anything?”

Martin Niemoeller, a Lutheran pastor in Nazi Germany during World War II, saw the sins being committed against the Jewish people and at first decided not to object. Only later did he begin to speak out against what he had seen. Words attributed to Niemoeller movingly express his analysis of the situation: 'First they came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews and I did speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me and by that time there was no one left to speak up anymore.'

I am also reminded of a quotation from the eighteenth-century British philosopher and politician Edmund Burke: 'The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.' Keeping silent, doing nothing when you see that something is wrong, is a sin.

No one spoke up in the Sanhedrin. No one asked, 'Is this really in keeping with our faith?' How many times in recent history has the same thing happened – during the Holocaust, in Jim Crow America, in South Africa, at Abu Ghraib, and in your life and mine. How many times have we known something was wrong but were afraid to speak up? I am not talking about simply pointing out other people's sins. We all know Christians who freely point out the sins of others; they are not being courageous, just obnoxious. I am talking about those times when you are part of a group about to do something that is clearly wrong or when you see injustice being done to someone and all it would take would be one person speaking up, but everyone remains silent. What would have happened if one or two or three of those Sanhedrin members had simply said, 'This isn't right, regardless of what we think about this man. It's not in keeping with what God teaches us.' In our own situations we must be able to say, with great humility and despite our fear, 'You know, this just doesn't feel right.' ***In that pivotal moment when 'Say something' and 'You dare not say anything' are both pounding in your head, say something.***”



Holy Week at St. Philip's

Thursday 24 March

Maundy Thursday

*Agape meal and Holy Eucharist 5:30 p.m.
Watch in the Chapel until 10 p.m.*

Friday 25 March

Good Friday

*Stations of the Cross at noon
Silent prayer and meditation noon-3:00 p.m.
(Reconciliation available for those who wish)
Service with Communion 6:30 p.m.*

Saturday 26 March

The Great Vigil of Easter

Holy Eucharist 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 27 March

Easter Sunday!

*Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.
Celebration Brunch following the service*