



May 2021 Newsletter

FROM THE RECTOR

Blessed Easter Season to you all! Pam Kevin and the choir provided some wonderful music for our Easter celebration, and despite a forecast of high winds and temperatures in the 40's for our little outdoor Easter service, it turned out to be beautiful.

We've been doing planning for future services. As I am writing this letter, according to Covidactnow, the infection rate which had surged again in March and April is finally dropping. We are still a ways away from resuming indoor services (daily cases less than 7), but now that the weather is warmer, we're planning on starting up outdoor services. The question has been whether or not it is possible to have what we're calling a hybrid service in which both people on zoom and those in person could worship together at the same time. Kevin Smith, Richard Boucher, Carla Boucher, and I, obtained some needed adaptors, ran an ethernet wire connecting the modem in the office to my computer for a strong signal, and set everything up to figure out the sound system, and it looks like a go!

So the plan is to start offering a weekly hybrid service at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings starting May 16. When I send the invitations and bulletin out either Friday or Saturday am, I will let you know if the outdoor service is being cancelled for weather reasons. For right now we'll keep the same safety protocols – bring a mask and keep social distance. Also bring some bread to be blessed at communion and a chair if you have one. Zoom people – just log on the way you always do. We'll especially be wanting feedback from you about your experience of the service. This congregation has been so wonderful with your patience and flexibility as we've experimented with these new technologies! But with them we are making church available not only to those that can come at a certain time on a Sunday, but those geographically distant or homebound, and those who are tied up Sunday mornings but can at least watch the service at another time. May the Holy Spirit guide us and bless us as we move forward in new ways!
Carolyn

PS. A final word on worship. We welcome new readers whether from zoom or in person! Print out a bulletin or pick one up and volunteer on Sunday mornings! Also when we have the prayers of the people and invite those on your hearts and minds – I encourage you to lift up aloud that person or persons in prayer, or something for which you wish to give God thanks. Then the whole congregation will be joining you in your prayers to God.

SACRED GROUND

The Sacred Ground class on racial reconciliation finished up in April. It was a powerful course through documentary films and articles that made us aware of a long history of racism and racist policies against many groups (much history that we had never learned about) that really helped us understand many of the issues and tensions that plague us to this day. The Episcopal Church is committed to the work of bringing greater understanding and reconciliation, and our group hopes to plan a way to have a conversation with the congregation about what was learned and what we can do.

OUTREACH

Lancaster Elementary School

One of the commissions of our diocese is called “Our Kids”. It supports work with all children, but especially wants to support efforts to minimize the opportunity gap between children of families with resources and those less advantaged. They gave each congregation \$500. We spoke with Adam Pagliarulo, the principal of Lancaster Elementary School (with whom we have been partnering for several years) about any needs the school may have for this money. He said that between stimulus money and town funds focusing on social and emotional wellness, they have not had the need to come to us for financial help during the pandemic. He did, however, give some suggestions as to how they could use the money.

- 1) Supplies for a staff member who works with children struggling with behavioral challenges,
- 2) Gift cards for families with kids that need clothes and other basic needs,
- 3) Doing something fun for all the children to celebrate the conclusion of a very challenging school year and a thank you for their efforts to stay safe and healthy.
- 4) Finally he mentioned that the Key Club at the high school is struggling to raise the money for Make A Wish.

The group of members who have helped with Lancaster and Carolyn McElroy who is a teacher there met and decided that the \$500 would go to do something special for the kids at the end of the year, but we would reiterate that the Kagan fund would be available to help the behaviorist teacher and to provide gift cards as needed by the school counselors. We are in the process of contacting the advisor for the Key Club as to the timing and need of their fundraiser, and may make it one of our monthly outreach efforts. Finally, we will be delivering a thank you card to all the teachers and staff for the incredible job they did this year.

Dave Hall Fund

There were no birthdays for the foster children at the group home in April, but we will be providing gifts for some in May.

Hike for Hope

Thank you for your generous support for Lazarus House in their annual "Hike for Hope". We'll let you know the final amount of your donations when everything is fully tallied.

Apartment/Trailer rental needed

Isaiah 58 Ministries was notified that several apartments that had been leased to them and used to help house low-income residents are going to be put on the market. One of our members and her roommate will likely soon be losing their housing. Please let Carolyn know of any low cost rentals in the greater Salem area. Thank you!

CRAFT FAIR

St. David's annual Fall Craft Fair will be held September 18 (assuming covid numbers continue to improve). We'll be trying this as a one day event instead of two. Crafter applications are currently being accepted. So if you know of crafters or attend any fairs, invite them to go to our website for detailed information.

DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

Want to keep up with all the happenings in the diocese? An e-newsletter is emailed out every other week. Simply send an email to ajboots@nhepiscopal.org and asked to be put on the mailing list. (Her name is Ashley-Jane Boots).

EARTH CARE

On Earth Care Sunday, Carolyn mentioned in her sermon the tool put out by The Episcopal Church to help households reduce their carbon footprint. The program is called Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home. Go to <https://www.sustainislandhome.org/> to get started.

AVAILABLE IN THE FOYER free for taking and sharing

Parish Directories

the latest **Episcopal Newspaper**

Day by Day devotional booklets for May, June, and July

Bulletins for the upcoming Sunday are usually there by Tuesday afternoon.

A Prayer by St. Teresa of Avila (1582) you may relate to:

Lord, you know better than I myself
that I am growing older and will someday be old.
Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking
I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to
straighten out everybody's affairs.
Make me thoughtful but not moody;
helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom,
it seems a pity not to use it all;
but you know, Lord,
that I want a few friends at the end.
Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;
give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains;
they are increasing, and love of rehearsing them
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for improved memory,
but for a growing humility and a lessening cock-sureness
when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet, for a sour old person
is one of the crowning works of the devil.
Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places
and talents in unexpected people;
and give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

