



Adult Spiritual Formation Easter Class:

Living the Resurrection

What is the resurrection of Jesus, and how are we connected to it? Is resurrection a promise of life after death, or is it a reality here and now? And, if the latter, how does it change the way we live?

This is the theme of our Easter Adult Spiritual Formation class, which meets Sunday mornings at 9:15am. The class uses each Sunday's lection from the book of Acts as the jumping-off point for the discussion. All are invited to join us for any or all of the sessions.

April 3—Life Centered in the Risen Christ

We'll look at the differences of the way Luke, Paul, and John view life as it is centered in the Risen Christ. (Acts 2:14a, 22-32)

April 10—Responding to a “Corrupt Generation”

How are we to live the resurrection without becoming “otherworldly”? What can guide us in interacting with political insensitivity, financial insecurity, the abuses of power? Do we form our political opinions and then shape our religion to conform to them, or is there another way to approach life in a corrupt society? (Acts 2:14a, 36-41)

April 17—What's the Deal with Money?

Early Christians, we are told, shared everything in common. Why is money

the subject that Jesus talked most about? What is it about money that forms the greatest challenge to living in the resurrection? Is there a healthy spiritual poverty? And how do we face the overwhelming numbers of people in the world who have nothing? (Acts 2:42-47)

April 24—No session: Annual Meeting

May 1—Being Christian in a Pluralistic Society

It is one thing to live the resurrection with others who are likeminded. It is quite another to live “in Christ” surrounded by many other faiths and many other spiritualities. How do we stay grounded and at the same time have lively interaction with people of other faith traditions? What does “evangelism” mean to us? (Acts 7:55-60)

May 8—What to do When Jesus is Gone

The Ascension points to the fact that we no longer have the physical presence of Jesus with our community. How do we deal with those times when God seems so absent? (Acts 17:22-31)

May 15—Responding to Change

Pentecost was a breaking in of something radically fresh. Change is a gift, but usually a difficult one. How do we deal with change is a question that confronts everyone. Does “living in the resurrection” impact the way we deal with change and transition? (Acts 2:1-21)

BREAD

April 3, 2005

The Second Sunday of Easter

Number 1519

THE ANNUNCIATION
OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST TO THE
BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY

HOLY EUCHARIST

MONDAY, APRIL 4

8AM

Also During Easter:

“Welcome to St. Stephen's: A Class for Newcomers” Details page 3

ORGAN
REDEDICATION
CONCERT

Don't forget! On Saturday, April 16 at 3pm, J. Reilly Lewis will lead a mass choir as we rededicate our restored organ and celebrate the second anniversary of our music scholarship program. Other guests include the Bel Cantanti opera company, organist Ronald Stolk, and two handbell choirs.

BREAD

is the newsletter of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church

1525 Newton St. NW
Washington, DC
20010

Telephone:
202-232-0900

Fax:
202-797-0367

On the Web: www.saintstephensdc.org;
Email: staff@saintstephensdc.org

Easter Brings Changes to our Building

Soon, you'll hardly recognize the place.

Well, that may be a bit of an overstatement. But if all goes well, within a few months there'll be some very significant differences on the outside of our building.

Here's what's happening:

New crosses for our roof. Have you ever noticed that our roof lacks complete crosses on the front and back? The front cross was starting to topple a decade or so ago—or so goes the story that's been passed down since—and a creative-thinking person here asked the kind fire fighters at the end of the block if they'd be willing to help put the cross right. They bring their ladder truck down the street and extend the large ladder. They bring it over closer and closer to the cross—until it hits the cross, sending it plummeting down the roof.

The rear cross was broken apart when lightning hit the roof just below the cross a year and a half ago. To replace that cross with an accurate reproduction, plus to repair other lightning damage, would cost almost \$20,000, said the insurance company, which last year issued us a check.

Working with local stone carver Robert Alger, however, we're getting two new crosses carved from Indiana limestone, installed, for \$9,000. The new crosses have been on display in the rear of the nave and will be installed any day now, when the forecast shows temperatures not falling below 40 degrees for at least three days.

Garden Day. We expect to do a lot of basic landscaping work on the church yard this spring, planting some of the flowers purchased to decorate the altar

for Easter and putting down mulch. This work may happen May 21 as part of a large Greater DC Cares volunteer day; stay tuned for more information.

New sign in front of the church. Working with local architect Kendall Dorman, we've got a design for a new sign to go in front of the church. The sign will have two panels. One panel will always have regular service information, while the other will have information on upcoming special events. Both panels will be replaceable, so we can update the information whenever appropriate. We're currently awaiting the proper permit from the DC government; two months should be enough time to get the new sign fabricated and installed once we have the permit.

New trees. St. Stephen's received a grant from the Casey Trees Endowment to plant 10 trees around the church. We plant on Saturday, April 30 starting at 9am, and we need your help! We'll put crepe myrtles and maple trees behind our purple sign, red buds outside the dining room, and Japanese tree lilacs along the East side. You may have already noticed that the old maple tree in the East front yard has been taken down; it was slowly dying, and we wanted to remove it before putting the new trees in.

Interior Improvements. Also on tap in the coming months or year are two major improvements inside our church. Don Gray, son of Patricia Gray, has offered to repair the damaged plaster high up in the nave. And the Building and Grounds Committee is working on selecting a lighting designer who will plan out a new lighting system for the sanctuary and nave. The lighting project is likely to take quite a bit of time, so

WORSHIP

at St. Stephen's

Sundays

8:00a—

Holy Eucharist,
Rite I

10:30a—

Holy Eucharist,
Rite II with
Children's
Spiritual
Formation

Celebrants and
Preachers

4/3: The Rev.
Kathy Grieb

4/10: The Rev.
Ronald Conner
(8:00); The
Rev. Eugene
Sutton (10:30)

don't expect major changes soon, but know that improvements are in the works.

We have also now created the "Buildings and Grounds Improvement Fund" to better manage any resources that we receive or allocate for building improvement purposes. If there is a building improvement-related project toward which you would like to make a

contribution or for which you would be interested in helping to raise funds, or if you have any other comments or suggestions about improvement of the physical facilities, please get in touch with Brian Best or Priscilla Phelps, chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

-Brian Best, Parish Coordinator

Two Notes of Interest

Do you have any interest in helping to organize a planned giving workshop for your fellow parishioners? Contact Fern Hunt or Priscilla Phelps.

Kim Klein left Easter day on a six-week trip through Greece and Turkey. But she's not missing Easter—she'll be there for Orthodox Easter.

"Welcome to St. Stephen's"

All people new to St. Stephen's—or who simply want to learn more about St. Stephen's or the Episcopal Church—are invited to attend "Welcome to St. Stephen's." This class takes place in the church balcony on the Sundays after Easter, starting at 9:15am (prompt!). The class sessions are:

April 3: Where We've Been: Our Journeys in Faith

Regardless of our background or tradition, each of us comes to St. Stephen's with a story. During this first session we'll get to know a bit about each other and about what brings us to this particular community of faith.

April 10: The Way We Understand Ourselves

This is a chance to hear St. Stephen's story and to learn about The Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion of which we are a part.

April 17: The Way We Worship

Here is a chance to ask questions about processions, vestments, incense, and the way we celebrate the Eucharist from week to week and season to season.

April 24: No meeting (The Annual Meeting follows a single liturgy at 9:00)

May 1: The Way We Pray

We'll examine some of the means by which God sustains our individual and corporate lives through spiritual practices that can transform our moments and our days.

May 8: The Way We Minister

We will look at the variety of ministries in St. Stephen's, both ordained and lay, including ways we minister to the community through such efforts as Loaves and Fishes, and the way we minister to each other through the exercise of pastoral care.

LECTIONS

2nd Sunday of
Easter
(April 3)

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of
Easter
(April 10)

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

THE SAINTS

Sunday, April 3

RICHARD, BISHOP OF
CHICHESTER, 1253

Tuesday, April 5

Heavenly Birthday:
Christopher Hilton,
1985

Wednesday, April 6

Birthday: Gladys-Marie
Fry, Shernita Carty

Friday, April 8

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG,
PRIEST, 1877

Saturday, April 9

WILLIAM LAW, PRIEST, 1761
Heavenly Birthday:
Margaret Keys, 1986

Monday, April 11

GEORGE AUGUSTUS SELWYN,
FIRST MISSIONARY BISHOP OF
NEW ZEALAND, AND OF
LICHFIELD, 1878

THE PRAYERS

Here's who we've been praying for recently:

•Jennifer Blackman, Edith Eder, Millie Fenwick, Ruth Murphy, Daphne Piper, Hazel Shecut, and all who desire to be restored to health; those who are home-bound; and all who care for aging relatives, the sick and the homebound;

•Melissa Abel (sister of Kelsey Menehan), Connie Adeyeri, Duane Bonds, the Brown family, The Bright/Veneklasen family, Martha Carty, Roy Davis (father of Tricia Davis-Muffett), Romel Dick, Katie Finley (sister of Mary Alcuin Kelly), Sunny Jackson (Ernie Jackson's sister), Susie Johnson, Evelyn Jones (relative of Frank Dunn), Maia Lawrence, Deborah Mallory (friend of Mary Alcuin Kelly), Brother John Mathis, Robert Dean McClellan (friend of Mary Alcuin Kelly), Wil, Mary Lynn and Melissa Mefford (Michele Lewis's sister and family), Michelle Crocheron Montgomery (sister of Brian Crocheron), Barbara Oldland, Karl Palmberg (grandfather of Elizabeth Palmberg), Marisella Ruiz Ibarra (friend of Mary Alcuin Kelly), Diane Vickers (friend of Bill MacKaye), Christina Way & Jim Stipe, Willard Webster (brother of Ellen Baynard), Astrid West-Harrington (Daphne Piper's aunt), Ellen Williams, and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

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New Roof Cross

BREAD

is published every other Sunday by the people of
St. Stephen and the Incarnation
Episcopal Church
Brian Best, editor (202/232-0900)

POSTMASTER:

Send changes of address to: *Bread*,
1525 Newton Street NW, Washington, DC 20010.

(USPS Permit 063660)

Periodical Postage PAID at Washington, D.C.