



Holy Week Liturgies Focus on Baptism as Death and Resurrection

Baptism is the focus of our Lenten pilgrimage this year. Baptism is two things. It is, first, a once-and-for-all initiation into the community of Christ, which we know as the Church. And baptism is the entirety of the Christian life lived in that community.

But what baptism is not is private. (We long ago stopped celebrating baptisms privately as a matter of norm because you simply cannot have much of an initiation ceremony into a community without the community's being present.) Baptism is what we all share as Christians. The life that flows from the font we live together.

So Holy Week in St. Stephen's this year will accentuate the communal aspect of baptism as the center of our experience of death and resurrection. Palm

Sunday launches the climax of Lent (the only time in the Church Year when two seasons overlap). The community re-enacts Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem by processing with palms around the church. When the liturgy of the Word begins on Palm Sunday—also known as Passion Sunday—we are deep into Holy Week, the morning's hosannas already faded. This year we read St. Luke's passion story. Expect to see some movement added to the reading, as the congregation and various individuals assume the parts of the narrative.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week prepare us for the Triduum, the three great days preceding Easter. The community gathers for the Holy Eucharist at 8:00 am each of those mornings. Tenebrae, a ü page 2

BREAD

March 18, 2007

The Fourth
Sunday in Lent

Number 1570

Holy Week Services

Sunday, April 1

- **Palm Sunday** Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of Palms: 8am, 10:30am, 5pm

Monday, April 2

- **Holy Eucharist:** 8am

Tuesday, April 3

- **Holy Eucharist:** 8am

Wednesday, April 4

- **Holy Eucharist:** 8am
- **Tenebrae:** 7pm

Thursday, April 5

- **Maundy Thursday:** Dinner at 5:30; Liturgy at 7pm

Friday, April 6

- **Good Friday** Liturgy: Noon, 7pm

Saturday, April 7

- **Holy Saturday** Liturgy followed by preparing the church for Easter: 10am
- **The Great Vigil of Easter:** 8pm

Sunday, April 8

- **Easter Day** Holy Eucharist: 8am, 10:30am, 5pm

REMINDER!

LENT QUIET DAY:
SATURDAY, MARCH
17, 9-3

FRIDAYS IN LENT
FRIDAYS THROUGH
MARCH 30,
6-8PM.
BI-LINGUAL
STATIONS OF THE
CROSS, SUPPER,
PROGRAMS

ü *page 1* service growing in popularity, is a moving and beautiful office whose name means “shadows.” At 7:00 pm that Wednesday, it moves us towards the Triduum.

Maundy Thursday has twin emphases. Following the chronology of the first three gospels, we mark Christ’s giving us the Holy Communion on the night when he was betrayed. Following the sequence of events in John’s gospel we commemorate the washing of feet as the annual ritual recalling us to the standard of Love within the Christian community and its expression in selflessly serving the world in Christ’s name. As we grouped ourselves around the baptismal font on Ash Wednesday, so we will return to the font on Maundy Thursday for the annual foot washing. Everyone will be invited to participate. Those who wish to do so may lay hands on and pray for others while their feet are being washed. Planners are attempting to construct the foot-washing liturgy in a way that we are inescapably mindful of community, not engaging in a fundamentally private devotional act. Following the communion, the Blessed Sacrament will be taken from the altar and solemnly processed to the font where it will be placed and kept until Good Friday. This will remind us that the font is the place of burial: “by baptism we were buried with Christ and lay dead...” (Romans 6:4).

On Good Friday, after The Way of the Cross in which we again trace the story and the steps of Christ’s passion, the Good Friday Liturgy includes the reading of the St. John Passion, solemn prayers for the Church and the world, and the veneration of the cross. As with the foot-washing on Thursday night, the community will go to the font for the veneration. Led by the cross, we will as-

semble around the font, singing the traditional hymns and anthems thanking God for the gift of Jesus’ life and saving death on the cross. By encircling the font, we will again recall how our humanity in baptism is united to the humanity of Jesus, and how in baptism our mortality is redeemed and blessed by his death. We venerate the cross not in a private, personal act, but in a communal recognition that on the cross, Jesus draws all humans to himself and to each other. Following the hymns and anthems extolling the glory of the cross, the Blessed Sacrament will be taken from the font, processed to the altar where we will receive communion in thanksgiving for Jesus’ death and in anticipation of the resurrection.

Holy Saturday’s Liturgy will again be led this year by our seminarian, Fletcher Wells. It is a Liturgy of the Word, quiet and meditative. Following the liturgy, we will decorate the church for Easter.

At 8:00 on Saturday night, the Great Vigil of Easter begins. As Moxie Dyro is being baptized that evening-and as members of the Misa Alegria congregation are baptized the following evening at their Easter celebration-our whole community will renew our baptismal vows. Easter thus becomes a celebration not only of Christ’s resurrection, but our resurrection to Life in Christ through baptism.

It all begins and ends at the waters of life, which you will find in the baptismal font right at the door of your church.

-The Rev. Frank Dunn, Senior Priest

BREAD

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To Grow or Not To Grow: What You've Said (So Far!)

On February 11, almost 50 people participated in the meeting called by the To Grow or Not to Grow team. We invited responses to two questions: what enhances growth, and what inhibits growth in our parish?

We have sorted through the answers and have learned much. Overall, there is little resistance to the idea, indeed to the fact, that St. Stephen's is growing. There are, however, crunch points, ranging from critical needs to address in our aging building, to a need to improve our children's Christian formation ministries.

In the box below are summaries of both categories. But beware! Many comments were made that flesh out these tags, and there is simply not enough space in this issue of BREAD to report them all.

As we continue to work this diocesan program, we will be having conversations with both vestry and congregation from time to time. Meanwhile, let us hear your questions, comments, and observations. The "To Grow" team: Jane Bishop, Frank Dunn, Elizabeth Finley, Linda Kaufman, Bill MacKaye.

-The Rev. Frank Dunn, Senior Priest

Summary of Things that Enhance Growth:

- Community
- Worship/Liturgy
- Welcome/coffee hour
- Social Justice
- Also: Frank and priests, diversity, music, lay leadership, art, energy/vitality

Summary of Hindrances to Growth:

- Building and grounds: seating, heating, lighting, toilets, space, parking, growing pains
- liturgy: too much incense, too few prayer books and hymnals, wrong music, over-political prayers and sermons
- weak children's and youth education
- insufficient pastoral care
- adult education
- not enough outreach

Next steps include

- small things: emergency kit, first aid, defibrillator, mixer (to bring people together)
- big things: seating, lighting, Keep enhancements the focus; Strengthen assets
- change pews; more comfortable seating
- get-togethers; focus groups, socials, etc.

WORSHIP

at St. Stephen's

Sundays

8:00a—

Holy Eucharist,
Rite I

10:30a—

Holy Eucharist,
Rite II with
Children's
Spiritual
Formation

5:00pm—

Misa en Español

Celebrants and
Preachers

3/18: The Rev.
Linda Kaufman

3/25: The Rev.
Joe Clark

Vestry Actions and Parish Finances

At its January meeting, the Vestry gave conditional approval to the 2007 budget, and after some technical changes were made, gave its full approval at the February meeting. This action is the culmination of several months of budget preparation and review by our Treasurer, Harry Leich, and the Finance Committee, chaired by Tom Bell, with support from our Bookkeeper, Bill Bonwitt, and Parish Administrator, Brian Best.

In addition to considering 2007 finances, the Vestry also received and discussed a report on 2006 parish finances. The disappointing news is that we ended the year with a deficit. Analysis of the reasons showed that, first of all, our pledge income and special gifts were lower than the amount projected in the 2006 budget. Secondly, the Loaves and Fishes feeding program experienced serious financial difficulties. There were other contributing factors, such as a slight decrease in space user income as the Washington Free Clinic began to experience financial problems. In any event all these factors were taken into account in preparing the 2007 budget, and we will continue to monitor our budget performance. On a brighter note the parish has had some success in raising funds for needed improvements to the building and for support of the Latino ministry.

The Vestry has also begun to work very closely with the Loaves and Fishes management group as they strengthen their fundraising efforts. The management group reported their plans to the Vestry at its February meeting and will continue to report their financial status on a quarterly basis. Meanwhile, as an outgrowth of the July 15th goal-setting

meeting the Vestry and parish had last year, a task force was created. Over the course of the year it has assisted Loaves and Fishes in organizing its fundraising efforts and has been examining the program's mission, management and operations. In April the Vestry will be hearing the results of their investigation and recommendations for the future.

I want to thank the Vestry, Treasurer, Finance Committee, Loaves and Fishes task force and management group and church staff for their hard work in these very challenging times.

(A copy of the 2007 budget and summary of 2006 is available to parishioners on request. Please see Harry Leich, Treasurer.)

-Fern Hunt, Senior Warden

Loaves and Fishes Benefit

On Saturday, April 28 at 2 pm in the church, Mary Lee Barker will give her last vocal recital to benefit Loaves and Fishes. During her 12-year period as a member of St. Stephen's, Mary Lee painted many watercolor portraits of Loaves and Fishes guests (some of which you can see on the Loaves and Fishes page on our website).

In 2000 she began to perform on her cello and to sing regularly during the meal. Two Loaves and Fishes guest performers, Christian Ferrari, trumpet, and Rev Al Higgs, tenor, will share the program with her.

A show of portraits of Mary Lee's Loaves and Fishes paintings and prints opened March 10 at The Potter's House Gallery, 1658 Columbia Rd. The party to meet the artist is on May 12. All are welcome. Sales from paintings benefit Loaves and Fishes.

A Word on Books

“Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart” *Gordon Livingston, M.D. Marlowe 2004 \$18.*

Near the end of this short book, Livingston writes that he lost his faith when his son died of leukemia at age six. Yet, he continues, “I hope for a reunion with [his] soul., so what kind of Agnostic am I?” He’s a psychiatrist, actually, who lives in Columbia, MD. The book is a manual of hard, but meaningful, truths, and when it was first published, a reviewer called him “Job”; his profession requires that he look at the hardest parts of life. The second chapter in this short book (170 pages) is “We Are What We Do”. Our lives, Livingston says, are not what we want or intend, but what we do. He believes we will never be good judges of other people or of situations until we know that.

“A Word on Books” is looking for titles! Know a good book you’d like to recommend? Email Kaaren Holum at with your suggestion

Some Things are Better Off Not Put Off

Planning your funeral or memorial service is not something that must wait until you are past your 80th birthday. You can do it now. And if you have children, a spouse or partner, or others who are dependent on you, you will be doing them a great favor to have anticipated and faced major questions which otherwise they will have to answer.

I have an outline which makes planning your service (and supporting rites) quite simple and covers all the bases

Adult Forum

Our Lenten series, “Dying on Our Own Terms” is a 4-week exploration of mortality and our response to it, in our own lives and the lives of those we love. This series ends on Sunday, March 25.

On Palm Sunday, join Frank Dunn for an exploration of Holy Week — the theology, the liturgies, the meaning.

Forum will take a break on Easter Sunday.

Explore new ways to worship by immersion in the textile arts April 15 - 29, when we’ll focus on prayer beads, prayer shawl knitting, and vestments. More info in the next issue of BREAD.

If anyone wants to join in the brainstorming and planning for adult forum, our next meeting is at 9am on Saturday, March 31, at Jane Lincoln’s apartment, with fresh coffee, bagels and juice served. Otherwise, see you at Forum: Sundays, 9:15am.

-Jane Lincoln, coordinator of Adult Forum

and options. This outline is available from the church office. I will be happy to meet with you and talk over your plans, which may well constitute one of the most important pieces of Christian witness you will ever make.

Call or email me to make an appointment.

-The Rev. Frank Dunn, Senior Priest

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays,
9:15am,

Adult Forum:

• “Dying on Our Own Terms” — All Sundays in March

• “Holy Week” — Palm Sunday (April 1)

Fridays in Lent through March 30, 6-8pm:

Las Aguas de Vida / Waters of Life

Saturday, March 17, 9-3:

Lenten Quiet Day

LECTIONS

3rd Sunday in Lent
(March 18)

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

II Corinthians 5:
16-21

Luke 15:1-3,
11b-32

4th Sunday in Lent
(March 25)

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:
4b-14

John 12:1-8

THE SAINTS

Monday, March 19

SAINT JOSEPH

Tuesday, March 20

CUTHBERT, BISHOP OF LINDISFARNE, 687

*Birthday: Julian Bright,
Hannah Crocheron*

Wednesday, March 21

THOMAS KEN, BISHOP OF BATH AND
WELLS, 1711

*Heavenly Birthday: Benjamin
Blackman*

Thursday, March 22

JAMES DE KOVEN, PRIEST, 1879

Friday, March 23

GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR, BISHOP AND
MISSIONARY OF ARMENIA, c.332

Birthday: Keith Preddie

Sunday, March 25

Birthday: Jonah Best

Monday, March 26

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

Birthday: Claude Hermonstine

Tuesday, March 27

CHARLES HENRY BRENT, BISHOP OF THE
PHILIPPINES, AND OF WESTERN NEW
YORK, 1929

Birthday: Anna Gilcher

Wednesday, March 28

*Heavenly Birthday: Grady
Jemison, 1980*

Thursday, March 29

JOHN KEBLE, PRIEST, 1866

*Heavenly Birthday: Eldica
Thompson, 1991*

Friday, March 30

Birthday: Gloria Glasgow

Saturday, March 31

JOHN DONNE, PRIEST, 1631

THE PRAYERS

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

•Patricia Davis-Muffett and her baby-in-the-making;

•Moxie Ann Dyro, to be baptized during the Easter Vigil;

•Ridgely Bennett, Terrey Danley, Linda Kaufman, Leota Lawrence, 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;

•Chloe (granddaughter of friend of Pat Gray), Duane Bonds, Helen Bonds (mother of Duane), the Brown family, Carol Ann Mericle (mother of Patricia Davis-Muffett), Mary Kay Silver (friend of Martha Brown), and all those who have been commended to our prayers;

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