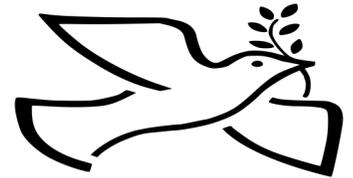




THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Dove



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FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR

Dear Ones,

It has been an odd season this Lent and Holy Week. It feels a bit like we gave up our worship space for Lent. But, we made it through. We have celebrated the Resurrection from our living rooms, and are well into the Great Fifty Days as I write this. We are in the midst of a unique time in history, and we are still together, still being the church— still loving one another and serving those in need in the world.

In this edition of the Dove you will get to hear from the staff about what is going on, and how the good work and ministries of the parish are continuing even in the present circumstances. I hope you will join me in thanking them for their faithful shepherding of us, and our many ministries in a difficult time.

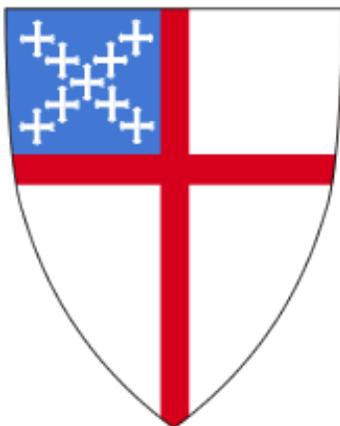
Easter Offering

As my Easter letter indicated, the Easter offering, in its entirety, is being split equally between The Place, Family Promise of Forsyth County, and Wendy's Place. At last count the total was close to \$5500. The monies will go to support the ministries in our area that are providing desperately needed support and services to our neighbors who are hurting. I am both grateful for your generosity and proud of the leadership of the Vestry in making these gifts possible. It is a wonderful act of faith, courage, and hope to practice such unselfish stewardship in a time of great need in the Cumming community.

Outreach

In Stitches, while not able to gather as they usually do on Wednesday mornings, the ladies are nonetheless working hard, continuing their ministry of stitching together love and care for the benefit of others. These days they have added the making of masks to their repertoire, distributing masks to various places in the area to help ensure people's safety.

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Interim Rector's Column (cont.)

And, the last Saturday in April, a small team of ECOHS regulars opened *Wendy's Place*, creatively adapting their procedures and processes to enable them to serve members of the community while keeping a safe social distance. They shared supplies (and masks) with 50 households—serving 183 individuals, including 15 seniors and 58 children. It is another example of ECOHS ingenuity and commitment to providing assistance to those in need.

Our Common Life

We are getting creative about how we stay connected for formation, fellowship and worship. Our *EfM* classes quickly adapted to gathering online using Zoom, as did our *Youth* with the guidance of Shannon David. Other formation offerings have slowly followed suit, with the Thursday morning *Bible/Book Study* making the change more recently. The *Choir* even joined the fun this past week.

We also have a new offering, a *Book Club*, on Monday mornings. The fun thing about this group is that you don't need to read any particular book. Folks share what they find interesting (or intriguing, or confounding) about whatever they happen to be reading. Tune in and you just might hear about a book too good to pass up.

We even had our first *Coffee Hour* by Zoom last Sunday. 25 households gathered to check in and share how they are doing in this time of societal distancing. It was a joy to be with so many, even virtually. Seeing beloved faces and hearing familiar voices was the highlight of my day. I am thankful for the tools we have to stay connected in this unusual time—while it will never be as good as being together, it is nonetheless a blessing. If you would like to participate in this week's Coffee Hour check your email for a link in this week's eBlast.

The *Pastoral Support* team has also been instrumental in staying connected with members of our parish family, helping to pick up groceries and other necessities, and calling to check on various members of our community. As ever, the commitment to caring and supporting one another continues to be a hallmark of ECOHS.

Parish Canvass

The members of your Vestry and CoHI (Community of Hope International) are busy calling every household in the parish to check in and see how things are. There is no agenda other than being in touch to hear how things are going and learn how we can care for and support one another in this strange season.

Finances

Thank you to everyone who has been intentional about keeping up your pledge. We encourage you to continue to do so. As you know, we started 2020 with a budgeted \$50K deficit, and your leadership and Vestry work hard to steward the treasure you share in a faithful and transparent manner. We appreciate your faithfulness and commitment to this parish family and to our mission and ministry in and around Cumming. Your attention and intention is allowing us to keep up with our financial obligations.

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Interim Rector's Column (cont. from pg. 1)

You may have heard about the PPP loans, those loans available to small businesses to help cover payroll expenses during this time of economic instability. I am pleased to share that, due to the timely wisdom and steady leadership of the Wardens and Vestry, ECOHS applied for a loan, and received the funds just as the media announced the temporary suspension of the program due to lack of funding. Hearty thanks go to Bruce Zavitz (Treasurer) for his diligence and tenacity, and to Cathy Schlecht (Parish Administrator) for getting together the endless figures and documentation needed to complete the loan process. These monies are a particular blessing as they have allowed us to continue to pay our dedicated Preschool teachers through the school year and ensure our ability to pay our church staff. We are thankful that, between your faithfulness and this loan, ECOHS is doing better than many other places in these turbulent times.

Worship in the Future

We began streaming worship from the church in the middle of March. We are at last beginning to prepare for what our return will look like. Many of us have imagined and looked forward to a return to worship— like a grand Easter celebration, with loads of Alleluias, a full choir, guest musicians, and all of our friends and ECOHS family together again.

It is becoming increasingly clear as parts of our state reopen, that when we return to the church for worship it will be in accordance with guidelines from the CDC, the Governor's office, and the national Church and Diocese to help us stay as safe and healthy as possible in the face of the continuing presence of Covid-19.

We will need your help as we move forward with planning and preparing for our return to the church campus. To that end we will be sending out a *Survey* next week. When it comes please take the time to fill it out. It will be brief, but will go a long way to helping us understand your hopes and needs as we create a plan and procedures around worship and work together in this new season. After we hear from each household, we will be better able to facilitate worship, which is meaningful, accessible and safe.

Friends, I do not know what the future holds— only that we are entrusted with the care of one another in the face of it. And that the One who entrusts us to one another is faithful, and is with us even in our present separation. I do not know how we will change, or how our life together will change— only that we will surely be changed.

In the days to come may we watch for God's hand at work in us and in the world around us. May we listen for the Spirit's quiet whisper; may we know God's abiding presence, and our Lord's abundant love. May we trust the working of the Spirit even now, knowing that we will emerge stronger, more faithful in worship, more devoted in study, more courageous in service, ever more committed and compassionate as individuals and as a community. As we walk this strange road together, let us trust in the slow work of the Spirit, and entrust ourselves to God's care and keeping, today and always.

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Interim Rector's Column (cont.)

Grace and peace to you all, I leave you with *Patient Trust*, a poem by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin that I find myself returning to again and again these days.

Grace and peace to you all,
And hugs!
(I miss your hugs)
Mother Mandy+

Patient Trust

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ
excerpted from *Hearts on Fire*

Calendar

Weekly Schedule:

Reminder: all buildings are closed to all parish worship, business and meetings until after May 24th.

Sunday

10:00 am Online Morning Prayer (Facebook Live)
11:00 am Coffee Hour (Zoom) (*link in the weekly eblast*)
11:00 am Youth Sunday School (Zoom)
8:00 pm Compline (Facebook Live)

Monday

11:00 am Book Club (Zoom)
5:30 pm EfM (Zoom)
8:00 pm Compline (Facebook Live)

Tuesday

10:30 am EfM (Zoom)
8:00 pm Compline (Facebook Live)

Wednesday

7:00 pm Storytime with Julie (Facebook Live)
8:00 pm Compline (Facebook Live)

Thursday

10:30 am Bible Study (Zoom) *
8:00 pm Compline (Facebook Live)

Friday

8:00 pm Compline (Facebook Live)

Saturday

8:00 pm Compline (Facebook Live)

* Starting next week Kathleen Norris' Quotidian Mysteries: Laundry, Liturgy and "Women's Work"

These are strange times for youth, and we have tried to adapt and continue our fellowship and education with whatever means we have at hand.

We have had an EYC on Zoom, and are having Zoom Sunday School every Sunday at 11. We started out separating middle- and high school, but moving forward we will all meet together at 11.

We also had a Netflix Party, and watched *Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse* together. It was fun sharing the comments, trivia, and jokes as we each watched in our own homes.

Moving into May, We will have one more watch party, and an end of year Zoom EYC celebration where we all provide our own snacks in the comfort of our own homes. Watch your Reminds for links. I look forward to being together for Sunday School – I miss your faces!

Shannon David
Youth Minister

Happy May Day! It seems during this uncertain and sometimes difficult period that saying Happy May Day may seem shallow and superfluous. I don't think so, while yes this is a strange time we have certainly been abundantly blessed with some of the most beautiful days and one of the most beautiful springs I can remember!

I associate spring with the blessing of Easter, new beginnings, flowers blooming, celebrating the growth of our children and moving onto the next stage. We are still doing all of these things. We are all growing and learning new things about ourselves and the world we live in. It may be that this season has helped us to more clearly see our blessings and recognize where we can grow to better care and serve those we love and know.

We are thrilled to schedule Vacation Bible School for Monday, July 20th. Right now I am not sure what VBS will look like. We will know more as each day passes. It is certain that we will have a plan A that looks much like the past years and a plan B that will look different.

If you are available to help with VBS in whatever manner it takes shape please email me and let me know. As always it is a fun and exciting ministry of our church and lets us all come together in joy and learning to create new memories and relationships. Plan to join us for the week of July 20th.

A few things to share with you. Preschool offers a story time daily (Monday-Friday) at 11:00 on the Preschool Facebook page via Facebook Live. We also have a story time on Wednesday's at 7:00. I'm not going to lie, I have forgotten that a couple of times. Those who know me know I am a morning person and after dinner things can slip off my list. I will make every effort to not miss another Wednesday night story time at 7:00 on our church Facebook page. Please feel free to join us any day for your daily dose of stories.

I am missing you and your children so much! Some days are better than others. When I log onto Facebook and hear their laughs or see an adorable picture it is heart wrenching. I am so looking forward to us being back together in our new normal, even though I am unsure at this time what that is going to look like.

Missing you all and thankful for our community!

Love,
Julie



Honduras Mission Team Update

Due to the global pandemic, the LAMB Institute has made the difficult decision to cancel all summer mission teams. While this is not what we had hoped for, we know that the decision was made with not only the health and safety concerns of the teams, but also for the children and staff in Honduras. We will miss being able to see the children in June, but know it is for the best.

We are currently exploring options for possibly scheduling a trip in late December 2020, like last year, but combining both Atlanta teams (ECOHS and St. David's). This was a unique experience for our team over this past New Years and would likely be special again for those that can make the trip. We will continue to collect the shower shoes we were planning to take in June knowing that they will eventually make it down to Honduras with one of our teams.

If you would like to contribute shower shoes, here is the link to the sign-up genius with names and ages of children and staff:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f44afa92cabfe3-shower>

Please keep the LAMB Institute, the children and their staff in both the US and Honduras in your prayers as they navigate this difficult time. Please also be aware that LAMB celebrated 20 years of mission work in Honduras on April 28th. That is a huge milestone!

Thanks for your continued support,

Jay Franklin
ECOHS Honduras Mission Team Leader



Following the lamb wherever He goes.

Ways to give at ECOHS

We are grateful for those who are doing their best to keep their giving to the church current. In this season when much of our life together is confined to virtual settings, the best ways to make a donation or pay your pledge are online or by check. There are some helpful hints for each below.

As always, if you are finding yourself in financial difficulty, and need to adjust your pledge, please reach out to Mother Mandy or to Cathy Schlecht. It will allow us to adjust our budget accordingly, as well as respond as we are able to support you during these turbulent times.

Easy ways to keep your giving up-to-date with the church:

ONLINE: Through the ECOHS website:

Go to the church website at www.ecohs.net. Click on the blue online giving button halfway down the home page on the left. Follow the prompts. You can set up recurring payments or a one time payment.

CHECKS:

You can mail a personal check or you can set up automatic online checks with your bank.

For all checks, please be sure to mail the checks to this address:

**ECOHS
P.O. Box 1010
Cumming, GA 30028**

Staff:

The Rev. Mandy Brady, Interim Rector - interim@ecohs.net
Cathy Schlecht, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper - office @ecohs.net
Nick Bowden, Organist/Choirmaster - music@ecohs.net
Julie Wilson, Preschool and Children's Christian Ed Director - children@ecohs.net
Shannon David, Interim Youth Minister – youth@ecohs.net

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

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2020 Vestry:

Mark Bohan	Sr. Warden/Admin/ Search
Shannon Darke	Jr. Warden/Admin/Worship
Russ McClelland	Nominating Committee
Marina Slemmons	Outreach
Joanie Anderton	Evangelism/Newcomers
Carmen Smith	Parish Life
Jeanie Lipscomb	Children/Preschool
Dane Bohnstedt	Building & Grounds
Fiona Norris	Youth
Open	Clerk
Bruce Zavitz	Treasurer

