

The Mountain Herald

April 2017

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

April Celebrations

4/1

Judy Willson

4/8

Kelly Evans

4/12

Pat Williams

4/13

James Hubbard

4/14

Matthew & Sarah

Holsapple

4/25

Gordon & Rachel

DelChamps

4/26

Robin Heiser

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?
Please call the Parish Office.

From the Rector's Desk

"Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love."
(The Book of Common Prayer, p. 836)

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Giving thanks, expressing gratitude, acknowledging all the gifts that God has bestowed--these are the actions of a faithful people. Even in the depths of sorrow and loss, in the anguish of self-doubt, or when confronted by seemingly impossible odds, our desire to give thanks and praise to our Creator remains perhaps our strongest means of healing and hope. We are not so beaten, we are not so lost when we can lift our hearts to heaven and say, "Thank you, Lord."

The practiced virtue of thanksgiving seems all the more needed at the present moment. By acknowledging God's abundant gifts--the beauty of our imperiled planet, the preciousness of human existence, our own embattled heritage of liberty and law, and so much more--we are reminded again of what it is that we cherish and need to preserve, what it is that we are fighting for. And we are made more courageous by the awareness that with God's bounty comes God's power. In celebrating the mysteries of life and love, by being thankful, we are further emboldened to meet the many and stern challenges ahead.

This same courage and boldness also reaches into the depths of our personal relationships. The same abiding peace we yearn for in our community and country is the peace we seek in our homes and among our families and friends. The same embracing love we hope to share among races and nations is the love we seek to shower on those closest to us. By giving thanks we are making those unique bonds even stronger. By honoring God's gifts through lives of thankfulness we are honoring the gifts that are you and me and all the created world.

Still, as Christians, we reserve our deepest gratitude for the gift of redemption--for the bending down of God's love and for that love taking flesh in the person of our Lord Jesus. The saving mystery of his passion, death, and resurrection is both the climax and fulfillment of our Lenten journey and is the reason for all our hope. Or as the author of our Prayer Book's most eloquent thanksgiving puts it: "Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ, for the truth of his Word and the example of his life . . . for his dying through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom."

So for the sake of that great gift, and as a Resurrection people, let us never cease to give thanks. As we work for justice in our political and social systems, let us not forget the gratitude we owe to our just and merciful God. As we struggle to keep our freedoms secure, let us not for-

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Rector Letter - *from p. 1*

get the praise we owe to the Author of freedom. As we strive to nurture love within our most intimate circles, let us ever honor that divine Love--"all loves excelling"--that is the living Christ dwelling among us.

A most Blessed and Happy--and Thankful--Easter to you and yours!

Fr. Gordon +

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m. - *Holy Eucharist*

10:15 a.m. - *Holy Eucharist with Music*

Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. - *Choral Eucharist*

Good Friday

12:00 a.m. - *Liturgy with Stations of the Cross*

Easter Sunday

6:00 a.m. - *Sunrise Holy Eucharist*

10:15 a.m. - *Festal Choral Eucharist*

Ladies Lunch

The COTT Ladies Lunch group met at Bob Evans Restaurant on Highway 40 at noon on Tuesday, March 21. We have enjoyed meeting at Bob Evans for the past 5 months, but are looking forward to our return to Memorial Hall. However, we don't know for sure how soon that will happen, so we anticipate that we may need to meet at the Bob Evans Restaurant one last time next month on Tuesday, April 18 at noon. Look for information in the bulletin.



Please call Linda Galloway (301-371-6326) or Susan Wirths (301-644-4274) for the latest information.

Outreach

The Church of the Transfiguration Outreach Committee sent \$1000 to support Rendez-vous Haiti, a non-profit organization created by Loyola Modern Languages French instructor, Catherine Savell, in the wake of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. This year, Loyola student volunteers accompanied Dr. Savell to the Village Notre Dame de Lourdes, to contribute to the ongoing construction of this village that houses a community of 96 orphans, street children, and rescued "restavek" children and adolescents so devastated by the earthquake and its aftermath. Students in this "spring break outreach" program funded their own trips, and worked to create a more sustainable future for the people of this village.

Many others have contributed to Rondez-vous Haiti this year, and a full report of the fruits of that funding can be found in the report hanging on the bulletin board in the COTT narthex. Specifically, Dr. Savell and the sisters that run the orphanage earmarked the \$1000 funding from Loyola to rebuild the damaged home for a widowed mother of 3, pictured here (I can only imagine the smile must have been this big when she learned of this great news). Nadege and her children have been living in a tent, so repairs to their home must be a huge relief.

Mother Theresa once said, "we have forgotten that we belong to one another" when explaining why peace is so difficult to achieve. This can act as a great reminder that "it takes a village" and how connected we are to all people.

There is still time to include your own donation to the COTT outreach for Food for the Poor. We will send the donation covering the cost of a new home with running water and sanitation right after Easter.

Submitted by Bernadette Roche



April 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Healing - both services 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 6:00p Chorale	3 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	4 7:00p Chorale	5 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 6:30p Lenten Soup & Study	6 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30p Choir	7 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	8
9 PALM SUNDAY 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 6:00p Chorale	10 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30p Outreach	11 9:00a Morning Prayer 7:00p B & F 7:00p Chorale	12 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	13 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30p Choral Eucharist	14 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00p Liturgy with Stations of the Cross 8:30p AA	15
16 EASTER 6:00a Sunrise H.E. II 10:15a Festal Choral Eucharist 11:15 Hospitality	17 12:00p AA	18 12:00p Ladies' Lunch 7:00p Chorale	19 12:00p AA	20 12:00p AA 7:30p Choir	21 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	22
Rector Vacation						
23 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 6:00p Chorale	24 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 6:30p Men's Dinner	25 9:00a Morning Prayer 7:00p Chorale 7:30p Vestry	26 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	27 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30p Choir	28 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	29
30 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 6:00p Chorale						

Do you have a question about anything regarding C.O.T.T?

Our Vestry members are here to help

-
talk to one of them or
Fr. Gordon any time.

VESTRY

<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
Barbara Collins	Mel Galloway	Scott Myers
Richard Galliher	Jim Hubbard	Bernadette Roche
Debbie Knipe	Tony Traini	Emily Stetler

Janet Roberts – Sr. Warden
Brad Staup – Jr. Warden
Craig Zearfoss – Treasurer
Marsha Burrell - Clerk

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Christian Education for All

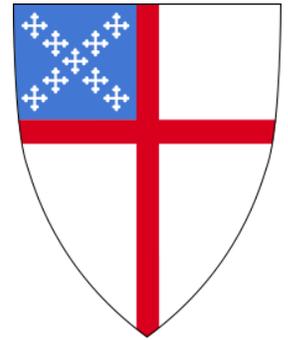
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:30 a.m. Hospitality

1st Sunday of each month Anointing and Prayers for Healing
follow each service

Morning Prayer - Mon through Friday - 9:00 a.m.

Vespers with Rite of Healing - Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.



CONTACT US

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Rectory Phone Number: 301-371-6227

Church E-mail Address: transfiguration1@verizon.net

For Pastoral Emergencies, Church Members should contact the office at 301-371-7505 or via e-mail at transfiguration1@verizon.net

Email Rev. Gordon De La Vars at fr.gordoncott@gmail.com

Contact Associate Pastor Rev. Ellen Hurwitz at (301) 293-1514

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