



The Cross

Cross Street A.M.E Zion Church



"A Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is Lord of ALL"

"Making the Impossible Possible"

For with **God** nothing shall be
Impossible

Luke 1:37

Expecting Greater in 2016 !



March 20 - 27, 2016



HOLY WEEK

The key to many customs and traditions in Lent is what down through the ages has come to

be known as Holy Week, the last week in Lent. It has become a tradition to trace the activities of Jesus that led to the cross of Calvary. Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** as a reminder of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The people along the roadside waved palms and shouted "Hosanna" the Hebrew word for "save now." (See Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10, Luke

19:28-40, and John 12:12-19.) Many churches today bless the palms and distribute them in the form of crosses to be worn by the worshipers.



Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday lifts up the event of the Lord's Last Supper that was celebrated in the

Upper Room at the time of the Jewish Passover. It is the basis for the establishment of sacrament of Holy Communion. Historically, the Passover marked the Israelites' departure from

(Holy Week on page 8)

March/April 2016

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March 20, 2016

MEN'S DAY

See page 12 for more information

April 23, 2016

WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

See page 13 for more information



Rev. Jehiel Beaman

Jehiel Beaman 1789 — 1858

Jehiel Beaman, a free man of color from Colchester, was called to be the first regular pastor of Cross Street Church. Both of Jehiel Beaman's parents, Sarah and Caesar Berman, had been slaves. In Colchester, Jehiel Beaman worked as a shoemaker and an itinerant minister. He joined the New York Conference of the

(Beaman on page 9)



Visit our Facebook page



February 2016

Dear Faithful Members,

Greetings In the Name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

It is my prayer that you are enjoying all that is good and holy during this Lenten Season.

He is not here; he has risen! (Luke 24:6)

Christ lives today. Because Christ lives we have life, and have it to the fullest. He satisfies all of our needs. He brings us eternal life, abundant life, full and complete. Hallelujah.

Let us resolve as we approach Resurrection Sunday to experience the power of a new Zeal in Christ.

What is our resolved for this Lenten Season?

Let us resolve to live for Christ.

Let us resolve to allow the Risen Savior to dwell in us.

Let us resolve to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

Let us resolve to love and forgive others as Christ has done for us.

Let us resolve to be a better Christian.

Let us resolve to serve the Church with gladness.

Let us resolve to attend Church services regularly.

Let us resolve to bring the tithes and offering to the Lord.

Let us resolve to give generously for the mortgage fund.

Let us resolve to keep our commitments for Christ.

Let us resolve to invite others to share in our worship experience.

Let us resolve to win at least one soul this year to join the Cross Church of faith.

The Lord has promised us that he will meet our every need according to his riches in glory through His Son, Jesus Christ! Allow Christ to come anew in your life today. Christ Lives!

“Because He Lives I can face tomorrow; Because He Lives all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future, And Life is worth the living just because He Lives.”

The Lord continued **blessing for** you and yours real good. Have a Blessed Resurrection Sunday.

Much Love to all,

Pastor Harvill & First Lady Eledia

The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman...“He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the “beauty of the Lord will be upon us” (Psalm 90:17) and “we shall bring forth fruit unto God” (Romans 7:4).”

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: LOVE

One definition for Love can be found in 1 Corinthians 13. Read this chapter every day for a deeper understanding. Other scriptures are found in John 3:16; Romans 5:5-8; Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 4:2, 3; Romans 12:9, 10, to name a few.

“If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and in earth, but didn’t love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn’t love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. If I gave everything I have to the poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn’t love others, it would be of no value whatever. Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him and always stand your ground in defending him. All special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever. There are three things that remain faith, hope, and love and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13) The Living Bible.

Some signs that will help you recognize LOVE in action and will help you begin to cultivate the Fruit of LOVE in yourself: showing concern for others, obeying God’s commandments, saving kind words, helping someone with their homework, obeying parents, being patient, being loyal to a friend or to your faith not irritated easily, not envious, not boastful, reading to a small child, visiting the convalescent homes, visiting the sick and shut-ins, sending cards to the sick and shut-ins, hello by serving meals, forgiving someone, doing good deeds, encouraging others, helping an elderly person, being unselfish and sharing with others, being happy when the truth is revealed, letting others get the praise, not rude, not jealous, not proud, reading to an elderly person, visiting the prisons, calling the sick and shut-ins, going on errands cheerfully, helping someone understand God's word. The list can go on. Use your own good judgment and the words found in scriptures to help you identify other deeds of LOVE.

Catch someone showing LOVE this month and let someone catch you being LOVING!!!!

God’s Provision Prayer

Great is your faithfulness, O God, my Father. Morning by morning new mercies I see. I know that your hands will supply all that I need. Thank you, Lord, for your loving care and supply in my life. I claim the promises of your Word today. I believe your Word, and I look forward to all you are going to do in my life.

You are Jehovah-jeer, my provider. You know exactly what I need, when I need it, and how my needs will best be met. Thank you for the delight you experience as you give me the desires of my heart. I love you, and you love me.

Thank you, Father, for your great mercies which are new in my life each morning. Your grace and loving favor are upon me

and within me. Indeed, your loving kindness is better than life to me. Thank you for always providing me with my daily bread, and so much more. I rejoice in you and in the knowledge that you are the God of more than enough.

Thank you, Father, for caring about me and my loved ones. I know you want all needs to be met, and you cannot fail in meeting them. I praise you for the wonderful realization that you do fulfill all your promises in my life.

Thank you for your word which will never return to you void. I claim the promises of your Word for me, my family, and our lives. I take my stand upon the solid promises of your Word, Father. Thank you for meeting my every need. Amen

Great is your faithfulness, O God, my Father. Morning by morning new mercies I see. I know that your hands will supply all that I need. Thank you, Lord, for your loving care and supply in my life. I claim the promises of your Word today. I believe your Word, and I look forward to all you are going to do in my life.

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Thank you for your word which will never return to you void. I



SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

John Aiken Jr.
Bruce Andrew
Diane Anderson
Dora Anderson
Master Samuel Ardito
Beverly Arter
Michelle Arrington
Anaiah Arrington
Elizabeth Ashe
Sgt. Ann Barr
Rosa Babcock
Patricia Banks
Carl Banks
Edward Bass
Sylvio Belval
Cynthia Binford
Erica Dianna Bishop
Priscilla Bolden
Angela Bolfill
Mary Jo Boone
Rosalie Bostick
Ada Boyd
Felicia Boyd
Lance & Sheila Braggs
Marcus Brown
Richetta Brown
Glendo Burch
William Byrd
Bernice Butts
Ernest Caldwell
Oswald Cameron
Richard Campbell
Kathleen Carter
Camilli Cecere
Tiffany Chapuet & Family
Ethan Chief
Alexa Colavecchio
Mary Collins
Milton Cox
Kevin Costa Jr.
E.J. Davis
Essie Davis
Gwen Davis
Johnny Davis
Lisa Davis
Barbara Davis
Debra David
Sonia De Jesus
Juanita De Vance
Morris Dillard
Cecelia Dodson
Rich Durrant

Debra Edens
Tasha Edens
Booker Edwards
Michael Ehot & Family
Debra Ellegard
Atlas Elm
Bettie Farrington
Ta'Bron Fields
April Fergueson & Family
Paulov Fonesca
Kimberly Foye
Hazel Fox
Frank Galluzzo
Guy Garafalo
Joseph Garzone
Julia Gillian
Enrique Gonzalez
Mike Gowlok
Shawn Greaves
Cornelius Greenwood
Tracey Haines
Ethel Hall
Lei Lani Harris
Lashawnda Heath
Mark Henneberry
Leia Henderson
Hazel Hewitt
Geraldine Hickman
Johnney Hilton
Roy Hill
Roxanne Hodge
Barbara Ann Holley
Eric Holley
Inez Holmes
Shawn Holmes
Billy Hyman
Estelle Jackson
Trina Jackson
Betty Jackson
Stanley Jenkins
Mildred Jenkins
Joyce Jones
Twanda Jones
Mary Johnson
Matrice Johnson
Samantha Johnson
Eartha Johnson
Ethan Krawiec
Eunice Jackson
Cayla Jones
Charish King
Zionah King

Zechariah King
Billy King
Frances Lawrence
Jermaine Lawrence & Family
Margret Harris Leslie
Grace Larry
Yolanda Langlois
Wanda Lewis
Rachael Lockhart
Doug Loman
Nii Dan Lomotey
Isa Martinez
Samuel Mention
Raymond Maldonado
Linda McCue
Damion McDonald
Helena McDuffie
Evelyn McMillan
Marcus Mickens
Bruce Meggot
Brian Tammi Moody
Ransom Lee Moody
Ryoko Moody
William Spike Moody
Keith Moore
Rena Mooring
Beverly Mungo
Tony McMillan
Nina McWhite
Marion Nesmith-Toro
Frances Ocansey
Mary & Carol Owen
Larry Owens
Greg Parker
Jeffrey Patterson
Linda Pickens
Coreen Patas
Khadyah Peters
Quition Perry
Terrez Perry
Kit' Teryus Perry
Canty Polk
Susan Pope
Adriana Pratt
Rev. Nathan Proche
Richard Raynor
Darryl Raynor
Denise Raynor
Willie Raynor
James Raynor
Yaretza Pizarro
Danny Ready

Earlene Ready
Ruby Ready
Patrick & Jennifer Reynolds
Judy Ann Richardson
Jason Riddick
Kitty Riley
Marolyn Roberts
Louis Rodriquez
Crystal Rose
Darryl Rucker Jr.
J.R. & Janet Rush
Steven Sampson
Dahu Sansbury
Dasani Sansbury
Vanessa Sansbury
Valarie Sansbury
Neena Marie & Kendrick
David Saylor
Ruby Shelton
Kat Simmons
Maude Simmons
Claudette Simmons
Nadine Smith
Lenard Smith
Richard Sneed
Mary Stearns & children
Robbie Stephen
Eleanor Stevens
Pierre Stewart
Raymond Stuckey
Mia Raye Swabski
Leonara Sweany
Lauren Sweeper
Josephine Teart
Christine Teape
Gergory Thomas
Pearl Thomas
Leon Tomlin
Collie Mae Turner
Leon Turner
Cleveland Tyrone Vereen Jr.
Terri Vickers
Laura Warcholic
Alfreida Watford
Linda Watson
Adell Weston
Bruce Weston
Mary Wells
James A. Weston
Christopher D. White
Israel White
Ronald Williams Jr.,

Josephine Williams
Kirra Wilson
Kyon Wilson
Mary Catherine Wood
Richard Wood
Doreen Wright
Mildred Wright
Dora Young
Robert Young Jr.



Sunday School is a Family Affair

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103
New Members Class meets at the same time.
(For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

Come Grow with US!

Holding Strong to Beliefs Resurrection Sunday – He Is Risen

Devotional Reading: Psalms 23
Scripture Reading: Mark 16:1-8

KEY VERSE: Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. Mark 16:6.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Another Test of Faith -- Resurrection Faith.

LESSON OBJECTIVE: To learn more about the reaction of the disciples and the women believers to the resurrection of Jesus.

1. When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4. When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to

Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you. "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Lesson Introduction

Today's lesson concludes the unit of study on the Test of Faith. Certainly, no day on the Christian calendar better reflects a historical event that tested our faith as the events of Resurrection Sunday. Failure to pass this test leaves the would-be believer with "no place to stand," "no higher ground," "no hope beyond tomorrow," "no other side of the river," and "no home in paradise."

In this lesson, faith is made to confront an empty tomb. I submit that this is the most Challenging test for most Christians. To have doubts about the resurrection is to make null and void the most critical promises of God. We now must consider Resurrection Faith. Remember, there is a repentant thief somewhere in paradise, waiting on the Living Lord.

Lesson Outline

- I. "When They Looked Up:" Mark 16:1-4
- II. A Natural Reaction in an Unnatural Situation: Vv. 5-6a.
- III. Come and See! Now Go and Tell!: Vv. 6b-8.

Lesson Comments

- I. "When They Looked Up:" Mark 16:1-4.

Resurrection Sunday morning was like a typical post Sabbath, except for the journey of three women to a tomb. Several days had come and gone since their arrival in Jerusalem. Their stay would soon end. However, before they departed, one last loving act had to be carried out. Time had not allowed them or others, to prepare the body of Jesus for burial. To do so would be their last act of love and faithfulness.

The dawn of day found them on their way to the tomb. Surely they were preoccupied in their thoughts. There was so much on which to reflect. Utmost, was the question of who would roll the stone away from the tomb. Circumstances had not made them less practical in that which they had to do.

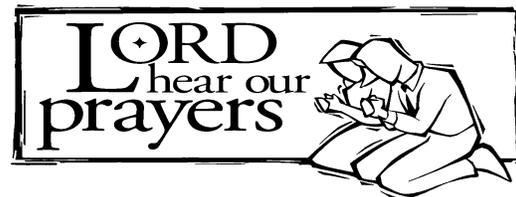
There was no need to worry, verse 4 says: "When they looked up, they saw that the stone...had already been rolled back." Looking up has its advantages. But it takes faith to look to the "hills" from where help comes when your heart aches and your burdens are heavy.

II. A Natural Reaction In an Unnatural Situation: Vv.5-6a.

Taking advantage of the way that had been prepared for them, the women entered the tomb. Looking for a dead man, they found (or at least they were told) that Jesus of Nazareth had been raised and He wasn't there. The young man-the messenger-told the women that Jesus had left word to tell His

(Risen on page 10)

Pray for all of our children, teens, young adults in this school years that God's hands will be upon them keeping them from all hurt, harm and danger. Also pray for all of our families, friends, and all of God's children.



God'

Great is your faithfulness, O God, my Father. Morning by morning new mercies I see. I know that your hands will supply all that I need. Thank you, Lord, for your loving care and supply in my life. I claim the promises of your Word today. I believe your Word, and I look forward to all you are going to do in my life.

You are Jehovah-jireh, my provider. You know exactly what I need, when I need it, and how my needs will best be met. Thank you for the delight you experience as you give me the desires of my heart. I love you, and you love me.

Thank you, Father, for your great mercies which are new in my life each morning. Your grace and loving favor are upon me and within me. Indeed, your loving kindness is better than life to me. Thank you for always providing me with my daily bread, and so much more. I rejoice in you and in the knowledge that you are the God of more than enough.

Thank you, Father, for caring about me and my loved ones. I know you want all needs to be met, and you cannot fail in meeting them. I praise you for the wonderful realization that you do fulfill all your promises in my life.

Thank you for your word which will never return to you void. I claim the promises of your Word for me, my family, and our lives. I take my stand upon the solid promises of your Word, Father. Thank you for meeting my every need. Amen

Giving God First Place

Key Scripture: *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty"* (Rev. 1:8).

Key Thought: You belong to God.

Prayer: Dear God, I realize I am not my own. I have been bought with a price - the price of the precious blood of Jesus.¹ I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live; yet it is not I, but it is Christ who lives within me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.² I embrace your Word which tells me that I am dead to sin, and my life is hid with Christ in God.³

Because of your great love, I am risen with Christ, and I will seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at your right hand.⁴ Father-God, I commit myself to giving you first place in my life at all times. I will seek first your kingdom, and your righteousness, and I thank you for taking care of me.⁵

Your Word declares that my heart will be found where my treasure is. Lord, I want you to be my treasure.⁶ You are the one God, the Father of all, and you are my Father. You are above all and through all, and in all believers.⁷ Help me, Father, to keep you first in my life, and to keep all the priorities of my life in line with yours.

Father, I am so honored to be your child, and I appreciate the presence of your Holy Spirit both with me and within me.⁸ Lord, it thrills me to know that you have first place in my life in the here-and-now, and I rejoice to know that this will continue throughout all eternity, and we will be together forever.⁹

You are my love, you are my life, you are my breath, you are my all in all.

References: (1) 1 Corinthians 6:20; (2) Galatians 2:20; (3) Colossians 3:3; (4) Colossians 3:1; (5) Matthew 6:33; (6) Matthew 6:21; (7) Ephesians 4:6; (8) John 14:17; (9) Revelation 19:6.

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy. Psalm 99:9

Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

MARCH	8 Judges 5-8	16 1 Samuel 8-10	24 2 Samuel 5-8
1 Joshua 7-9	9 Judges 9-12	17 1 Samuel 11-13	25 2 Samuel 9-12
2 Joshua 10-12	10 Judges 13-15	18 1 Samuel 14-16	26 2 Samuel 13-15
3 Joshua 13-15	11 Judges 16-18	19 1 Samuel 17-20	27 2 Samuel 16-18
4 Joshua 16-18	12 Judges 19-21	20 1 Samuel 21-24	28 2 Samuel 19-21
5 Joshua 19-21	13 Ruth 1-4	21 1 Samuel 25-28	29 Samuel 22-24
6 Joshua 22-24	14 1 Sam. 1-3	22 1 Samuel 22-24	30 1 Kings 1-4
7 Judges 1-4	15 1 Samuel 4-7	23 2 Samuel 1-4	31 1 Kings 5-7
 APRIL	 8 2 Kings 7-10	 16 1 Chronicles 7-9	 24 2 Chronicles 4-6
1 1 Kings 8-10	9 2 Kings 11-14	17 1 Chronicles 10-13	25 2 Chronicles 7-9
2 1 Kings 11-13	10 2 Kings 15-17	18 1 Chronicles 14-16	26 2 Chronicles 10-13
3 1 Kings 14-16	11 2 Kings 18-20	19 1 Chronicles 17-19	27 2 Chronicles 14-16
4 1 Kings 17-19	12 2 Kings 21-22	20 1 Chronicles 20-23	28 2 Chronicles 17-19
5 1 Kings 20-22	13 2 Kings 23-25	21 1 Chronicles 24-26	29 2 Chronicles 20-22
6 2 Kings 1-3	14 1 Chronicles 1-3	22 1 Chronicles 27-28	30 2 Chronicles 23-25
7 2 Kings 4-6	15 1 Chronicles 4-6	23 2 Chronicles 1-3	
 MAY	 8 Nehemiah 4-6	 16 Job 8-10	 24 Job 35-37
1 2 Chronicles 26-29	9 Nehemiah 7-9	17 Job 11-13	25 Job 38-42
2 2 Chronicles 30-32	10 Nehemiah 10-13	18 Job 14-17	26 Psalms 1-4
3 2 Chronicles 33-36	11 Esther 1-3	19 Job 18-20	27 Psalms 5-8
4 Ezra 1-4	12 Esther 4-7	20 Job 21-24	28 Psalms 9-12
5 Ezra 5-7	13 Esther 8-10	21 Job 25-27	29 Psalms 13-15
6 Ezra 8-10	14 Job 1-4	22 Job 28-31	30 Psalms 16-18
7 Nehemiah 1-3	15 Job 5-7	23 Job 32-34	31 Psalms 19-21

Lent
 Lent is the period of time to reflect on the events that led Jesus to Calvary. Its begins with Ash Wednesday and covers a period of forty days (excluding Sundays) culminating with Holy Week (including Passion/Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). Lent is a time of fasting, sacrifice, and preparation.

Color: Purple (violet or lilac) is the color used to denote royalty, praying, fasting, and penitence. It represents a symbol of the majesty of Christ, and Jesus' humanity, suffering, and fasting.

A guideline given by some money managers is as follows: Give 1/10 (tithe of your income to God). Put 1/10 in savings. Put 1/10 in an emergency account until three months of pay is set aside. Live on the remaining 7/10 with freedom to work towards giving as much as possible to God's work.

Name of God	Meaning	Application
JEHOVAH- JIREH	The Lord Will Provide	Just as God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, He provided His son Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice. God will meet all our needs.
JEHOVAH- MEKADDISHKEM	The Lord Who Sanctifies	God sets us apart as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, holy unto God, a people of His own. He cleanses our sin and helps us mature.
JEHOVAH-NISSI	The Lord is My Banner	God gives us victory against the flesh, the world and the devil. Our battles are His battles of light against darkness and good against evil.
JEHOVAH –RAPHA	The Lord Who Heals	God has provided the final cure for spiritual, physical, and emotional sickness in Jesus Christ. God can heal us.

(Holy Week from page 1)

Egypt when the final plague was cast upon the Egyptians to smite the first born dead (Exodus). The Hebrews received special instruction to kill a lamb the or goat for each household and to sprinkle the blood on the doorpost and the life of the first born would be spared. Every Jew/Hebrew was required to celebrate the Passover, and the Lord's Last Supper was Jesus' observance of the Passover. However, Jesus brought new meaning to this event as it commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage – all of humanity was delivered from sin.

The Lord's Supper was the last meal that Jesus shared with the disciples before going to Calvary. It occurred on what is called Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" is a variation of the Latin word "mandatum" meaning "commandment" (see John 13:34). The significance of God's love for humanity comes forth in this act because it was and is through Jesus' blood and body that persons are redeemed. Therefore, the new commandment requires persons to love one another just as God loves all persons. The Latin word "Mundo" means to wash, and some claim this is how Maundy Thursday came into being, since Jesus washed the disciples' feet on that day. Some denominations and congregations still carry out the practice of washing feet before Holy Communion, at least on Holy Thursday.

Yet another tradition credits the name to the word "maund" for basket and the practice of giving baskets of goodies to the poor. Whatever the source, Maundy Thursday is practiced in just about every Christian church with either a love feast or Holy Communion being participated in by all. One cannot but help call to mind the celebration of the feast of the Passover by Jews. Christians celebrate similarly, for this is in remembrance of the Lamb of God who willingly shed blood for the sins of the whole world.



GOOD FRIDAY

Most authors agree that the term "Good Friday" evolved from "God's Friday." It is one the three days that many persons make an effort to attend church, the other being Easter Sunday and Christmas Day.

Services in most churches last about three

hours since generally, the seven last words of Jesus are used. The Seven Last Words are:

- ◆ "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34
- ◆ "Today, you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43
- ◆ "Woman, here is your son, ...Son, Here is your Mother." John 19:26-27
- ◆ "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Mark 15:34 and Matthew 27:46
- ◆ I am thirsty." John 19:28
- ◆ "It is finished." John 19:30

- ◆ "Father, into your hands I commend My Spirit." Luke 23:46

More and more today, however, times and length of services are being arranged to meet the working schedules of most parishioners. Good Friday represents the day of that dreadful crucifixion and is not just a day of mourning. It is a day of remembrance of the events of the day, especially the time Jesus hung on the cross. It is appropriate to leave the alter bare and use no liturgical color. However, if desired, black may be used. In many countries, the old practice was (and in some instances still is) not to cook on Good Friday. Rather, one drinks some beverage and eat hot cross buns. Like most other customs and traditions, cross buns have pagan origins. According to Rudolph Brasch, it was part of a pagan festival of bread offered to idols at spring time. Horns were stamped on the buns. This, however became the mark of the cross. It not only was a symbol, but served a practical purpose. When these buns were used in love feasts, it was easier to divide one into four pieces.



Easter Sunday commemorates the glorious resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It is the other highest point of the Christian Year. Thus, joy and celebration engulfs the season as the Christian Church rejoices in the fact of the resurrection and its meaning to the Christian faith, hope, and life. Many wonder why Easter occurs on various Sundays from year to year? Easter does not occur on a set day like Christmas because it is determined by the moon and the seasons in nature. Thus, for most Protestants and Roman Catholics, Easter falls on the Sunday near the beginning of Spring, which is also after the first full moon. Because of the fluctuating cycle, Easter Sunday can occur anywhere between March 22 and April 25. Therefore, Easter is a determining factor in the cycle that sets the beginning and end of some of the seasons. The number of days in the season of advent (four Sundays weeks prior to Christmas), Christmas / Christmastide (from Christmas day to the day before Epiphany-January 6, twelve days), Lent (forty days, excluding the Sundays), and Eastertide (fifty days), are constant seasons in terms of length. The Season After Epiphany, The Season After Pentecost, and Kingdomtide experience the variation from year to year.

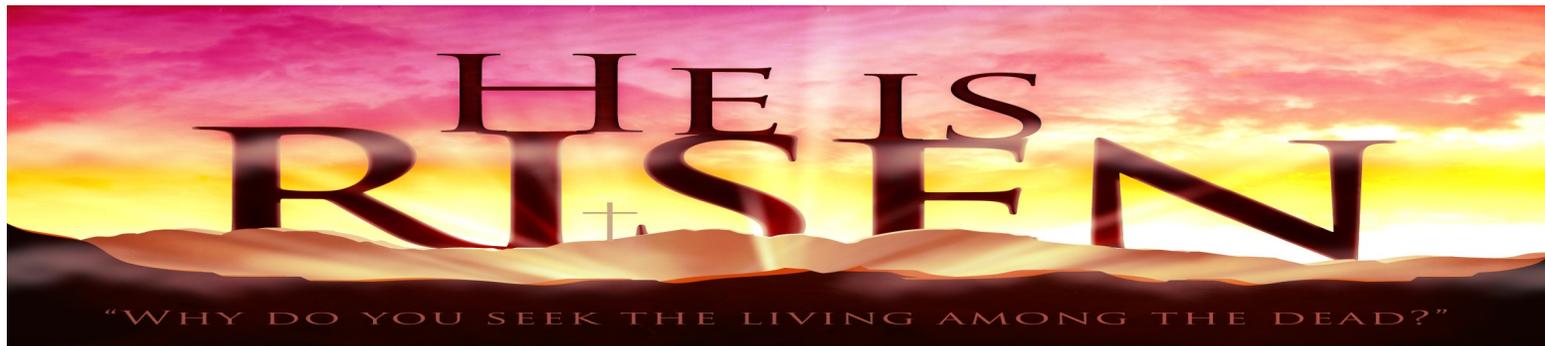
Easter has been described as the oldest festival of the church. It truly is the key to Christianity, since it emphasizes the redemption of humans. Note that in the early Christian Church, the word used for Easter was *Pascha*. This is from the Hebrew word for Passover. The closeness and similarity between the Jewish Passover and the celebration of Lent and Easter should be recalled and remembered. The Jews

(Holy Week on page 9)

(Holy Week from page 8)

observed the *Passing Over* of the houses of the Israelites who had the blood of the lamb smeared upon the posts of their houses, by the death angel during their sojourn in Egypt. This was the final plague before Pharaoh agreed to let God's people, the Israelites go. For Christians, the blood that saves persons from eternal damnation is the blood of Jesus, shed upon the cross at Calvary. Easter, like the word Lent, has nothing to do with the reason for celebrating these occasions. Rather, Easter comes from the name of an Anglo-Saxon spring goddess, *Eostre*, whose festival was observed at the spring equinox. Easter is indeed THE DAY of the days in the church calendar. This is the day that celebrates Christ's resurrection from the grave. Without the resurrection, there would be no Christian Church. This is why many Christians moved their day of worship to Sunday. So, not only is it a day of worship, but a little Easter, when persons remember that Christ rose from the dead. (See Matthew 28:1-7, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-10.)

The observance of Lent would have no meaning if it were not for that victorious first Easter. The crucifixion without the resurrection would not be a victory and would destroy the essence of the Christian faith and God's redemptive act. To be resurrection signifies that something or someone who was dead has return to a living state. Christ's resurrection was a demonstration of that fact and a revelation of God's power over sin and death. Thus, the agony and tragedy of the cross was transformed into a joyous celebration and God's fulfillment of the covenantal promise was affirmed. ALLELUIA! Jesus arose as a "mighty triumph over His foes" and lives forever. The liturgical color for Easter/Eastertide is white, symbolizing purity. Along with white, gold is often used to give emphasis to this most holy day of the church year.



(Beman from page 1)

A.M.E. Zion Church in 1830 and was soon appointed head of the Connecticut charges. Upon their arrival in Middletown, Rev. Beman and his family became strong leaders of the town's growing African-American community.

Jehiel Beman and his wife, Fanny, had seven children, Leverett, Amos, Sarah, Lydia, Harriet, Martha, and Aaron. Fanny died not long after the family moved to Middletown. Rev. Beman then married Nancy Scott. To make ends meet, Jehiel Beman operated a shop on William Street with his son, Leverett Berman. Shortly after Jehiel Beman came to Middletown, he built a house across the street from his church. The black neighborhood around the church grew. In 1847, Leverett Beman purchased several lots in the area of Cross Street, park (now Vine) Street, and Knowles Avenue, and resold them to other black people.

In addition to his tireless work on behalf of the abolition and temperance movements, JAM Beman organized meetings of all "colored citi-zens of Middletown" to encourage them to work together for common causes, particularly the right to vote. Both Jehiel and Amos Beman organized conventions of black people through-out the state.

A lifelong advocate of schooling for African Americans, Jehiel Beman wrote eloquently about the importance of education. In 1831, he solicited funds to found a black college in New Haven, but this plan was strongly opposed by white New Haven citizens, and the col-lege did not come to pass.

In 1838, Jehiel Beman was called to lead Boston's A.M.E. Zion church, and he left Middletown. lie became president of the Temperance Society in Boston. Throu11hout his life, he traveled extensively in New England and beyond, working against slavery, and helping to establish black churches and schools. Jehiel Beman returned quite often to Middletown, where his soil, Leverett, remained with his family. In 1854, he moved back to Middletown, where he died in 1858.

(Risen from page 5)

disciples “and Peter” that He was going on the Galilee, and they could see Him there.

This was an unnatural situation. Think about it. A young man (God’s angelic messenger), was sitting on the “right side” of the tomb, delivering messages from God who had appointed him to grave duty to await the arrival of the faithful-but not the fearful. Natural reaction were also evident as the three women--Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome--walked and pondered about the stone and who would roll it away. This was a natural reaction and so was their being alarmed at what they found. The fact that they were there was a natural reaction for the faithful, even in an unnatural situation.

This final illustration is another example of being natural in an unnatural situation. Again consider God’s messenger dressed in white. Much of the context at this point is unnatural. It reflects behavior which is often contrary to the norm. Nevertheless, a natural spirit of compassion, concern, consolation, and accommodation are felt in the action and reaction. He could have just given them the message of the meeting in Galilee. But rather, His words included some of the following: “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth... He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.” This is caring and comforting.

III. Come and See! Now Go and Tell!: Vv.6b-8.

Faith continues to contend with fear. The actions of these three women from Galilee, in an effort to maintain their struggle of faith in spite of God’s messenger, encouraging and enlisting them to be a part of God’s restoration plan, intended to engage the disciples and Peter in ministering to Jews and Gentiles. The early ministry would center near Galilee, so they were urged to return there.

A valuable lesson is taught at this point, as we briefly review the faithfulness of the two Marys and Salome. They were faithful in their duties and in their demonstration of their faithfulness: a) traveling with Jesus from Nazareth, b) other stops in Galilee, on up to Jerusalem, c) their presence at the trail and at Calvary, d) at the tomb on Friday and then on Sunday, e) and the preparation of the spices for His body. They were dependable, dutiful; and unlike the disciples, they were not deniers or deserters. However, even with the women, their faith had to contend with their fear.

Consequently, when they were told to “Come and see,” they did. But, when they were told to “Go and Tell,” fear overrode their faith. Verse 8 says that “They, went out and fled from the tomb.” Terror and amazement seized them. They then, were silent, not saying anything to anyone. We are told that they were afraid.

Lesson sidelights

Has it occurred to you that Jesus, even as the Risen Lord, was delayed in His earthly departure for His heavenly home for one reason, one reason only? Jesus had declared that He was thirsty. Could that strong desire—that thirst—have been for home? After all, He had been away for about thirty-three years, and it was time to go. But, His departure was delayed. He would not leave (could have), but would not leave until the day of Pentecost, the day that the comforter came. Jesus had announced on Mount Calvary that His assignment was finished. He was through. It was all over. His Spirit had been commended to the care of His Father.

The repentant thief had been waiting a long time in paradise. He wanted to see his friend Jesus who had promised to meet him there. However, the Lord’s departure was delayed because believers did not believe. The wonderfully faithful woman did not believe. Thomas, the doubter, did not believe. The other

disciples did not believe. Therefore, the Lord chose to wait a while longer, going in and out in their midst until they were ready to believe and ready to relieve Jesus of His earthly ministry.

Lesson Application

I found it interesting that the Risen Lord specifically included Peter in His message to the disciples (16:7). Had Peter been excluded from the group because of his acts and words of denial? Was his desertion somehow more offensive and grievous than that of the others? Maybe it was a sense that the Lord had. After all, He knew the emotional temperament of Peter, his impulsive nature, and his tendency of taking matters to heart. His was not a perfect faith, but it was a serious faith. While he wasn’t exempt from the fear-faith syndrome, his intention and desire was to please God and to be found obedient at all times and in all places. Knowing, then, the nature of Peter, Jesus knew that dreaded sorrow, deep pain, great shame, and profound guilt would keep Peter away in hiding, seeking a place of relief in isolation. Therefore, the inclusive language to tell the disciples and Peter was needed.

This small addendum, postscript, supplement intentionally was added that none under grace would need to feel denied or left out. Those whose faith is lacking are not forgotten. It was important for Peter to know that the Lord still included him in the circle of the disciples. You see, our inclusion is not based upon what we do or who we are. We are included because of who Jesus is and what He has done.

From The Young People-Adult Quarterly
(Ages 18 and up)
International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18
 "... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)
 Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)
 The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.

The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)
 Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)
 Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)
 Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)
 which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Ephesians 6:10-20 (New King James Version)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^[a] against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

MEN'S
ministry

of Cross St. AME Zion Church

Presents: Men's Day

Theme: Faithful Men
"Redeemed, Renewed,
and Regenerated"

Speaker: Deacon Michael A. Rankins,
Chief of Staff & Chief Operations Officer
The Park Ministries & Expo & International
Conference Center
Charlotte, North Carolina

Sunday, March 20th, 2016 10:00am
440 West St. Middletown, CT 06457

2016 Men's Ministry Events

Men's Health Conference-To Be Scheduled

Pastoral Oversight: Rev. William D. Wilson

Co-Chairs: James E. Riddick & John Weston

Theme: Making the Impossible Possible: Expecting Greater &
"Faithful Men Redeemed, Renewed and Regenerated"

Spiritual Goal: Deepening our relationship with Christ

Financial Goal: \$20,000

Guest Preacher: Brother Michael Rankins,
Executive Administrator of the Park Church
with more than 9,000 members and
three locations within Charlotte, North Carolina

All men & women requested to give \$100.00
50 members requested to join Pastor in giving \$200.00.

All funds will go towards the mortgage.

6th Annual WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE OUTWARD IN 2016



SATURDAY
APRIL 23RD
2016

Featured Key Note Speaker
Ernestine Shepherd

An American body builder. She is best known for being, at one point, the oldest competitive female body builder in the world as declared by Guinness Book of World Records.



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AWESOME ENTERTAINMENT



Register online at www.crossstreetamezion.org or purchase tickets on eventbrite www.6thannulwhc.eventbrite.com
Early registration is required for food quantity. Thank you in advance. Contact Anita White 860-770-4644

CROSS ST. A.M.E. ZION CHURCH 440 WEST ST. MIDDLETOWN, CT

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TICKETS \$20

8:30AM
- 3PM

EASTER START

READ: John 20:24-31

Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe. John 20:27

One detail in the Easter story has always intrigued me. Why did Jesus keep the scars from His crucifixion? Presumably He could have had any resurrected body He wanted, and yet He chose one identifiable mainly by scars that could be seen and touched. Why?

I believe the story of Easter would be incomplete without those scars on the hands, feet, and the side of Jesus. (John 20:27) Human beings dream of pearly straight teeth and wrinkle-free skin and ideal body shapes. We dream of an unnatural state: the perfect body. But for Jesus, being confined in a skeleton and human skin was the unnatural state. The scars are a permanent reminder of His days of confinement and suffering on our planet.

From the perspective of heaven, those scars represent the most horrible event that has ever happened in the history of the universe. Even that event, though, turned into a memory. Because of Easter, we can hope that the tears we shed, the struggles we endure, the emotional pain, the heartache over lost friends and loved ones-all these will become memories, like Jesus' scars. Scars never completely go away, but neither do they hurt any longer. Someday we will have re-created bodies and a re-created heaven and earth (Rev.21:4). We will have a new start, an Easter start. --Philip Yancey

Thank You, Lord, for the hope that the resurrection of Jesus brings-- for now and for eternity. I put my trust in You today.

Christ's resurrection is the guarantee of our own.

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
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Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the "Hope Line" is in operation 24 hours per day. Please call 860-754-4606 if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis, **PLEASE** dial the "Hope Line". All information will be confidential.

CROSS STREET MINISTRY OF RECOVERY

We can't but through God, all things are possible. How might we pull on God's strength to help each other recover?

Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way

For more information contact:
Church office 860-344-9527.or
Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Church School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

2nd Sunday Senior Usher Board Meeting (following service)
Youth Meeting 1st & 4th Sunday's (following service)

Monday

7:00-9:00 p.m. Bible Study, Eddy Shelter
6:00 p.m. Zumba
7:00 Media Ministry (1st and 3rd of month)

Tuesday *Special Prayer for Pastor Harvill*

6:00—7:00 p.m. Prayer meeting and bible study.

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Zumba
6:00 p.m. Ministerial Staff (1st of month)
7:00 p.m.. Praise & Worship Choir rehearsal,
8:00 p.m. Men's Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Steward Board
7:00 p.m. Trustee Board (2nd of month)
7:00 p.m. Unity Choir Rehearsal

Friday *Day of Fasting*

6:00 p.m. Vision Choir (3rd & 4th of month)

Saturday

10:00 a.m. Pastors Aide (2nd)
11:00 a.m. Security Ministry Meeting (2nd Saturday of month)
12:00 noon Missionaries (2nd Saturday of month)

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Thursday, March 17th ☞ 7:00 p.m.

Pastor preaching at Hopewell Baptist Church, Windsor, CT. United Choir singing, combined ushers serving, ministers, officers and leaders encouraged to attend.

Thursday, March 17th & Friday March 18th

Hartford District Conference

To be held at Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church, New Britain, CT

Saturday, March 19th

Missionary Mass Meeting

To be held at Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church, New Britain, CT

Sunday, March 20th

Men's Day

Saturday, March 25th 12 noon

Good Friday Service

To be held at First Zion Baptist Church. United Choir Singing

Sunday, March 27th

Resurrection Sunday (Easter)

7:00 a.m. ☞ Early Morning Worship Service

8:45 a.m. ☞ Sunday School

10:00 a.m. ☞ Morning Worship Service

Doxology

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jude 24-25



CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
Organized in 1823

440 West Street P.O. Box 223
Middletown, CT 06457
Phone: 860-344-9527 Fax: 860-344-1740
crossstreetchurch@snet.net
www.crossstreetamezion.org

Sunday School — 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,
Pastor
Email: mharvill@snet.net

The Rev. Timothy Howard
Presiding Elder

Mrs. Lovetta J. Holmes
Missionary Supervisor

Mrs. Gwendolyn Brumfield
Associate Missionary Supervisor

The Right Reverend Mildred B. Hines
Bishop

Ministerial Staff

- Rev. Ella Frances Perry
- Rev. Karen Nesmith
- Rev. James Battle
- Rev. Myrtle Turner
- Rev. Jennifer Cherry-Woods
- Rev. Gregory Winborne
- Rev. Joyce Johnson
- Rev. Albert Bolden
- Rev. Earlene Grants
- Sister Felicia Freeman



"I am a Christian"

By Maya Angelou

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace, somehow!

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.



Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.
Habakkuk 2:2

The Jabez Prayer

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

"God's Word"

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"
Hebrews 4:12

Prayer: Forever, O Lord, your Word is settled in heaven. I bless you because you have given me rest according to all that you have promised to me. Not one word of all your good promises has ever failed. In light of this truth, I will walk in your Word at all times. I love your Word, Father, it is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. All of your words are pure, O God, and you are a shield to me. Lord God, your way is perfect, and

your Word is tried. You are a shield and a mighty buckler to me as I trust in you. With your Word you made the heavens, O Lord. all of your promises are yes in Christ, unto your glory, O God. You have spoken through your Word since ancient times, in order to give light to those who sit in darkness, and you guide my feet in the way of peace.

Your Word is quick, alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces even to the dividing asunder of my soul and spirit, and of my joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of my heart.

Father, I am thankful for your Word, and I will endeavor to walk in the light of your Word all the days of my life.

If you were to die today, do you know where you will spend eternity ???

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. If you have an article or information for current and future publications the deadline for this information is the Monday after the 2nd Sunday of each Month. **You may submit your information in the following ways:** place the information on a CD (Window format) and leave it in the Cross Street office with Verna Boyce Or, E-mail Ken Simmons (Ken46@snet.net), or give it to him **Praise God!!!**