



Lenten Series

A special **thank you** to the ladies who portrayed the biblical women and helped us walk through the life of Jesus. Each one was powerful and informative and the first person telling reminded those in attendance of the reality of the experience. Gratitude is also expressed to those who provided the wonderful meals, the music and the PowerPoint presentation. Our bodies and souls were well nourished this Lenten Season.

The **grief group** that was held during the month of March has ended, but hopefully those who attended and who are walking the journey of grief found guidance, comfort and hope. This group can be offered at other times should the needs rise. Contact Beth Brittain for information.

Reminder: There will be **no Sunday School on April 8** due to the Sunrise service followed by the breakfast and the 10:30 am service. Sunday School **will resume on Sunday April 15** with a new story for the Pre-K through God's Eden group... "The Storm."

Please place **Vacation Bible School** on your calendars for **2012**. We have invited the **Grey Seal Puppets** to deliver their *Virtue Program* at Holy

Comforter at 10:00 am on **Saturday, June 16** as part of our VBS program. **Please mark June 15 and 16 on your calendars as reserved for VBS.**

EASTER: The exact origins of this religious feast day's name are unknown. Some sources claim the word Easter is derived from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility.

Other accounts trace Easter to the Latin term hebdomada alba, or white week, an ancient reference to Easter week and the white clothing donned by people who were baptized during that time. Through a translation error, the term later appeared as esostarum in Old High German, which eventually became Easter in English. In Spanish, Easter is known as Pascua; in French, Paques. These words are derived from the Greek and Latin Pascha or Pasch, for *Passover*. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection occurred after he went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover (or Pesach in Hebrew), the Jewish festival commemorating the ancient Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt. Pascha eventually came to mean Easter.

Easter is really an entire season of the Christian church year, as opposed to a single-day observance. Lent, the 40-day period leading up to Easter Sunday, is a time of reflection and penance and represents the 40 days that Jesus spent alone in the wilderness before starting his ministry, a time in which Christians believe he survived various temptations by the devil. The day before Lent, known as *Mardi Gras* or Fat Tuesday, is a last hurrah of food and fun before the fasting begins. The week preceding Easter is called Holy Week and includes Maundy Thursday, which commemorates Jesus' last supper with his disciples; Good Friday, which honors the day of his crucifixion; and Holy Saturday, which focuses on the transition between the crucifixion and resurrection. The 50-day period following Easter Sunday is called Eastertide and includes a celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Taken from History.com.

Holy Comforter Comment

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Dr. K. Michael Varn, Pastor
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But 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. Mark 16:5-6

Communion Opportunities For April

April 1 Palm Sunday
April 5 Maundy Thursday
April 8 Resurrection of Our Lord
April 22 3rd Sunday of Easter

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Jane Deaton, Reporter
Volume 33, No. 4

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church Office Hours Monday-Friday
8:30 am—3:00 pm



By 988 A. D. Ukrainians adopted Christianity, and decorated eggs took on a meaning we embrace today. The eggs were used to symbolized the rebirth of Christ, incorporating Christian symbols into traditional pysanky designs.

By 1200 Christians in Mesopotamia began exchanging colored eggs during their Easter celebration. These were the first Easter eggs.

The egg is seen by followers of Christianity as a symbol of resurrection: while being dormant it contains a new life sealed within it. *When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.³They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?'⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.* (Mark 16)

In the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Easter eggs are dyed red to represent **the blood of Christ**, shed on the Cross, and the hard shell of the egg symbolized the sealed Tomb of Christ — the cracking of which symbolized His **Resurrection from the dead**. Easter eggs are blessed by the priest at the end of the Paschal Vigil (which is equivalent to our Holy Saturday), and distributed to the faithful. Each household also brings an Easter basket to church, filled with Easter eggs. Lynn's father was a pysanky egg artist.

Since we exchange presents at Christmas, I wonder why we don't **celebrate the most important day in Christianity** by exchanging symbols of the Resurrection with each other. In Latvia, breaking eggs is the aim of an Easter children's game. Competitors bang the ends of the eggs together, striking the broad end together first then the narrow end, until one player's egg breaks. The winner is the player with the stronger egg. In Romania, visitors strike red eggs against one held by the head of the household and exchange the greetings "Christ is risen!" and "He is risen indeed!" The person who keeps an unbroken egg is said to enjoy the longest life. But there is meaning beyond the popular icon and the show.

At the very least we can exchange the traditional greeting of "Christ is Risen!" because we will all experience "the longest life", **eternal life with Christ** our Lord.

Pax, Pastor Mike 

Deadline for May newsletter info and articles is April 20th. Please get to Dianne by this date.

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, April 1 Palm Sunday
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
Wednesday, April 4 Morning Circle
11:00 am Church Fellowship Hall
Thursday, April 5 Maundy Thursday
7:30 pm Service with Holy Communion
Friday, April 6 Good Friday
7:30 pm Service w/Stripping of the Altar
Saturday, April 7 Easter Egg Hunt
11:00 am Prizes & Lunch
Sunday, April 8 Resurrection of Our Lord
7:30 am Sunrise Service
Breakfast after
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:50 am Chamber Choir
10:00 am Church Choir
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
Saturday, April 14 Confirmation
8:30 am Meet to carpool to???
Sunday, April 15 2nd Sunday of Easter
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Sunday, April 22 3rd Sunday of Easter
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
Sunday, April 29 4th Sunday of Easter
9:30 am Sunday School
1 0:30 am The Service
Sundays: 10:10 am Choir
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon
Tuesdays: 2:30-4:30 pm Tutoring
7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer's Report (Warren Heller)		
Report for Month	February	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$18,559.25	\$37,118.50
Actual Receipts:	15,797.19	32,209.36
Actual Expenses:	17,943.36	34,846.57
Loss for Month:	< \$2,146.17>	
Loss Year-to-Date:	< \$ 2,637.21>	

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye + the following:
April 1-8: Julia Gunter
April 15-29: Jo Singleton

ACOLYTES: Becca Gatlin, Gage Gatlin

CRUCIFERS: Evan Howard, Dylan Fox

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)
Louise Day, Co-Captain
Brenda Daly, Co-Captain
Courtney Gatlin Becky Richards
Nancy Powell

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team A)
Cindy Braddy Greg Garrison
Monique Estelle Gisela Stone

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:
April 1: Sue Lahr, Nancy Powell
April 5: Paul & Tracey Nault (Maundy Thurs.)
April 8: Trudy Whitener, Beth Brittain
April 22: Courtney & Becca Gatlin

GREETERS:
April 1: Katie Kessen
April 5: Pat Long (Maundy Thursday)
April 6: Shirley Causby (Good Friday)
April 8: Trudy Whitener (Easter)
April 15: Richard & Cheryl Fox
April 22: Bill Hollar
April 29: Tommy Causby

USHERS: Gary Rogers + Volunteer/s

FLOWERS:
April 1: Courtney Gatlin
Gisela Stone
April 5: Tim & Shelia Kelly (Maundy Thurs.)
April 8: Tommy Causby
Dean Burwell
April 15: The Schollers
April 22: Greg Garrison
Tim & Angela Baakko
April 29: Sarah, Jack, Laura & Elizabeth
Tench



Birthstone: Aquamarine
Birth Flower: Daffodil

1: 1st dishwashing machine marketed. (Chicago) 1889
1: 1st US national women's swimming championships held. 1916
1: 1st army helicopter battalion forms, Ft. Bragg, NC. 1954
3: Pony Express began between St. Joseph, MO & Sacramento, CA. 1860
3: Harry Truman signs Marshall Plan (\$5B aid to 16 European countries). 1948
3: 1st portable cell phone call is made in New York City. 1973
5: American Indian princess Pocahontas, daughter of chief Powhatan, marries English colonist John Rolfe. 1614
5: 1st modern Olympic Games officially opens in Athens. 1896
10: 1st Arbor Day is celebrated in Nebraska. 1874
10: Dr. Jonas Salk successfully tests Polio vaccine. 1955
14: 1st edition of Noah Webster's dictionary is published. 1828
14: Harriet Tubman began her Underground Railroad, helping slaves escape. 1853
14: US Secret Service is created to fight counterfeiting. 1865
15: 1st American school for the deaf opens (Hartford Conn). 1817
15: An early 50-mile race is won by an **electric car** in over 2 hrs. 1900
15: *Titanic* sinks at 2:27 am off Newfoundland. 1912
19: Sally Ride announced as 1st woman astronaut. 1982
25: Sigmund Freud opens practice in Vienna. 1886
26: 1st Easter. 1478
26: Smallpox vaccination is first administered. 1721

MUSIC NEWS

Palm Sunday—Easter Sunday perhaps rivals Christmas, so far as demand on any Christian Church music program. Holy Comforter is no exception. The following is but a partial list of musical offerings:

Palm Sunday: Our church choir performs a new composition, "Hosannas Everywhere" by Robert Hobby. The anthem, involving participation by the congregation, tells the story of the King riding into town and the struggle of the Passion.

Maundy Thursday: The service begins with a slow rendition of "Now the Green Blade Rises" by handbell choir. The church choir leads the congregation in song, followed by "Mandatum," (I Give You a New Commandment, that you Love One Another) sung by the chamber choir.

Good Friday: This most solemn of worship experiences features Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Pie Jesu." The Latin selection features the church choir, with duet by Leslie Crist and Meredith Varn. At the conclusion of the service the church choir sings "Jesus Remember Me," followed by the closing of the book.

Easter Sunrise: The church choir will (Wake the Dead) with the Vivaldi's Easter Proclamation, "The Lord Is Arisen, The Lord Is Alive."

Easter 10:30 am Service: Solo trumpeter, Brandon McCotter, son of Leslie and John Crist, will accompany the choirs and congregation as we proclaim the Risen Christ. Easter Fanfares and Handel's, "This is the Day the Lord has Made," as well as the spiritual "Steal Away," presented by the Chamber Choir, promises to be a celebration of New Life not soon forgotten.

Invite your family and friends to these worship and witness opportunities.

Greg Cline



In The Spotlight

Pastor Mike has many, many qualities that I admire and treasure. The first to come to mind is his love and delight of his family. When we joined HCL in 1985, he had two young daughters and his forever beautiful Lynn. As they each grew and changed, he remained ever constant in his devotion to them, his protection of them and his appreciation of them seemed to know no bounds. What a blessed lesson for all of us.

Secondly, I love his sermons (and not just for the brevity) but for the thought, effort, and the background that it takes to make the truths of our faith real. Notes from Pastor Mike's sermons have spiritually shaped me for they have served as material for personal reflection; as devotions for meetings; and as inspiration for sharing the **Good News of Christ** to others.

As much as these aspects of Pastor Mike's life have meant to me, nothing has given me a better look at what he stands for than his actions in the wake of the storm that nearly destroyed our Education Building last fall. On day two of the event (Sunday) he proclaimed to us that we are a community of faith and worship for we know that God is with us in all things. On Monday of that week and in the weeks and months to follow, Pastor Mike led us with a positive attitude; hard work; long hours; and constant assurance that all will be well.

As completion was close at hand, a new tragedy struck—vandalism that seemed shockingly horrific and insulting. Pastor Mike reminded us again (and the press) that we are God's people called to forgiveness and to action. He led us to walk through the anger and hurt to prayer, forgiveness and pity for the vandal(s). And...at last, the wonderfully new facility was ready. Pastor Mike led us to rejoice, give thanks to God and to all who made it possible. We have been healed, grown closer as a church family and as always our Servant Leader, Pastor Mike, leads us to recall who we are; who we belong to; and who we are to be in this world.

Pastor Mike tells us these things in his life and in every sermon; he leads us to be all that we can be with God help everyday of our lives.

Jo Singleton










CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Evan Howard** who scored on the *proficiency level* as a member of South Point High's Sports Marketing Team at the 68th DECA Career Development Marketing Conference held in Greensboro, NC in early March.

April 2012

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of April. We are thankful for the life and spirit of those we celebrate. May the blessings of God flow in the life of each of you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 The Sunday of Passion 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon 	2	3 2:30–4:30 pm Tutoring 7:00 pm Chamber Choir	4 11:00 am Morning Circle Meets at the church	5 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service With Holy Communion	6  7:30 pm Good Friday Service	7 Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am Start Prizes and Lunch Newborns-5thGrade Invited  
8 Resurrection of Our Lord 7:00am Sunrise Service Handbell Practice after Breakfast after the service No Sunday School 9:50 am Chamber Choir 10:00 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/HC 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	9	10 2:30–4:30 pm Tutoring	11	12	13	14
15 2nd Sunday after Easter 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	16	17 2:30–4:30 pm Tutoring 7:00 pm Chamber Choir	18	19	20	21
22 3rd Sunday after Easter 9:30am Sunday school 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	23	24 2:30–4:30 pm Tutoring 7:00 pm Chamber Choir	25 St. Mark, Evangelist	26	27	28
29 4th Sunday after Easter 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	30	2:30–4:30 pm Tutoring 7:00 pm Chamber Choir	 Easter Breakfast Served after Sunrise Service.	Bring flowers to "flower the Cross" after the Sunrise Service. 	May 5 Golf Tournament To benefit Zac' Hullander  Get brochure and/or information from Greg Garrison.	

April 1 Barbara Kasmer
 April 3 Garrett Carpenter
 April 4 Sherry Alexander
 Sandra Cline
 Myra Yount
 April 5 Angela Baakko
 Taylor Buchanan
 April 8 Shirley Causby
 Fran Holland
 April 10 Bryan Fleming
 April 11 Matthew Mitchell
 April 12 Elizabeth Burwell
 April 16 Misty Koehler
 Debbie Neagle
 April 17 Patrick Daly
 Jody Flowers
 April 19 Henry Abernethy
 Dallas Foscue
 Jake MacDonald
 April 23 Tim Baker
 April 24 Mark Kline
 April 25 Julia Gunter
 April 27 Bobby Lingerfelt
 Gisela Stone
 April 28 Joseph Mitchell
 Rita Stewart

NOTE: If we have unintentionally left any member's name off this list, or if there are any errors, please call the church office.