



April 2016
Volume 19, Issue 4



Church of the Holy Spirit

News and Notes

ADVOCATIONS—APRIL 2016

Dear Friends at Church of the Holy Spirit,

This month, we're leading off with Bishop Hirschfeld's Easter message, but you can find recaps of Holy Week in Plymouth, as well as the first of a series of Everyday Saints.

Bishop Hirschfeld's 2016 Easter Message

The problem that every preacher has when approaching Easter is that the event it celebrates is simply too big, too meaningful, too life altering, too world-changing for words. Every attempt to condense the meaning of the Resurrection into a 10-15 minute homily always makes us feel so inadequate and futile. To borrow a poet's phrase, each of our attempts to describe the mystery of Jesus' rising from the dead is a "raid against the inarticulate."

But we try anyway. Once more we go, into the breaches of our rationality, our sense making. Once more into the Garden of Joseph of Arimathea, where we face the puzzlement of the Empty Tomb, once more on the road to Emmaus, once more onto the beach where the risen Jesus has prepared breakfast for us. We try anyway because we need to share the message, the Good News. It's as though there is a force of hope within the hardness and coldness of hearts that can't resist sharing hope, even in the face of hopelessness and terror.

We've been drowning in terrible news recently. The most recent is the horrific acts of terror in Brussels, the heart of the European Union, in the name of a twisted and hate-filled distortion of Islam. Closer to home, in 2015 over 400 of our neighbors in New Hampshire died to drug overdoses, and it's very likely that this year will see even more fall victim to drug deaths. The world where hopelessness, desperation, violence in word and deed seem to be reign, our world, is the same world where God has shown up in Jesus. It's the same world where Jesus is born and is baptized. Our fractured and frenzied world is the same world where Jesus heals, teaches, is ridiculed by frightened authorities, where he drives out demons and evil spirits from tortured minds, where he talks with outcasts, and makes friends with feared foreigners. It's this world where Jesus is among us, this world where Jesus is still being crucified, is suffering, longing to hold all human kind, all creation in an embrace of love that can change us by joining us to none other than God.

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Advocations (Continued from page 1)

Jesus is dying along with us, and Jesus is descending into the hell of our world and our histories to rescue us, and grabbing each of us by the wrist so that we won't get lost. Jesus is taking us out of the tombs of our sins, our fear, even our deaths, to new life.

This is news that I believe, news that I seek to throw my heart into. This is the extravagantly good news that I still believe, despite all evidence to the contrary, will change the world. It starts with you, and it starts with me.

The earliest witnesses to the resurrection were women like Mary Magdalene, who had no standing or legal status in the world of their day. And yet, through their word, the world was turned upside down. As we go into the Episcopal Churches of New Hampshire, this Easter weekend, I hope your vision of the world will also be turned upside down, so that you'll literally taste and see that God in the Risen Jesus is bringing us "out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life."

May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

--The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld
Bishop, Episcopal Church of New Hampshire



SEEKING GREETERS, READERS, AND COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

We're still looking for readers and greeters for April! If you know you will be at church and are willing to help out, please let Melissa know! We are also seeking additional hosts for our Coffee Hours, held after each of the 9:30 a.m. Sunday services. If you are willing and able to host a coffee hour for us about once every two or three months, please let our coordinator, Robin Bowers, know your name, phone number, and email address, so he can contact you to arrange the hosting. Coffee is provided by the Church; you simply need to provide light refreshments for those attending the coffee hour. Please call Robin at 536-5889 (where you can also leave a message), or email him at rbowers4000@roadrunner.com. He will be glad to give you a "tour" of our kitchen facilities, if you wish. Many thanks for considering this very important--and tasty!--part of the church family!

RANDY'S VACATION

Randy will be on vacation until April 5; join us in church on April 3, when Rev. John Allen will be guest preaching. Later this month, Randy will be away again from April 18-28. The Rev. Jane Van Zandt will be guest preaching on April 24.

MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL AND EUCHARIST

About 14 parishioners came to share a meal and celebrate Eucharist at the Maundy Thursday dinner and service on March 24. Participants shared a fantastic veggie minestrone soup prepared by the Hunnewells, as well as Amy Reiter's delicious homemade chicken noodle soup! Dinner was followed by the footwashing, brief Eucharist, and the Stripping of the Altar for Good Friday. Thanks to all who helped make the event run smoothly: everything from organizing and making food to coming early to make sure the church was warm by the time everyone arrived! It was a great evening!



EASTER SUNDAY

Here's hoping your Easter Sunday was full of joy; it certainly felt joyous on Sunday morning, despite the cold, gray morning, with many faces, voices, colorful flowers, and so much good energy. Many thanks for everyone's hard work that all came together for several services culminating in a wonderful Easter morning: our LEMs, Altar Guild, music director and choir members, Sunday School workers, greeters, ushers, Vestry (who also prepared delicious food for Coffee Hour following the 9:30 service), and those who step in to take care of all the small--yet very important!--details. There is so much that goes on before the candles are lit and the lights are on--from folks showing up early to make sure the building is warm for everyone, to those who stay late to make sure everything is in order and clean. Thank you all for helping!



APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!!

Cynthia Day
Nicholas Ring
Liz McKinney
Sally Peters
Tom Witmer
Robin Bowers
Meredith Sherman
Kate Donahue
Brint Woodward
Bob Cochran
Simon Mauchly
Libby Desfosses

Happy Anniversary!!

Neil & Jane Keller
Russ & Janet Carlisle

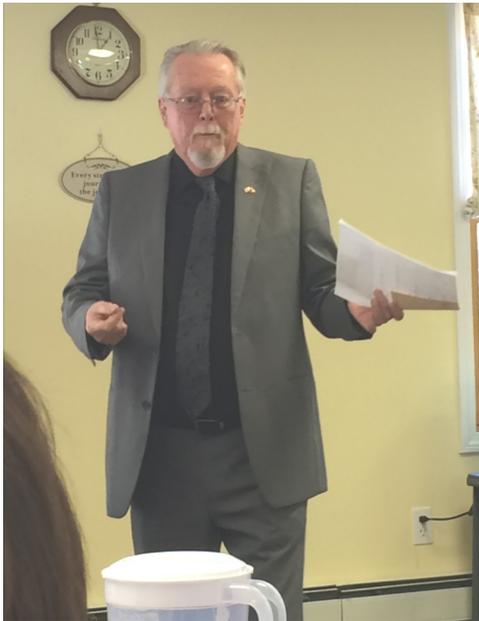
THURSDAY EUCHARIST

Randy leads a weekly Healing Eucharist on Thursdays at Sherrill Hall, St. Mark's, Ashland at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend this shared ministry with St. Mark's! Please contact the office with any questions.

APRIL VESTRY MEETING

The Vestry will hold its monthly meeting on the second Sunday of the month, immediately following the 9:30 service in the back of the church. The next meeting will be on **April 10**. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Please contact Joan Bowers or Randy to add an agenda item.

ECW MEETING, BOOK SALE, AND FLEA MARKET!



This month, the ECW will meet on **April 7** at noon in Griswold for a potluck lunch and a presentation by Susan Fogleman about local birds. Also, the first **Book Sale** of the year will be on **Thursday, March 31st** from 3-6 p.m. at Griswold Hall. Come check out what's been newly-donated...and we can always use helping hands to move books from upstairs! Finally, save the date for a Flea Market/ Craft Sale on **Saturday, June 4** from 9-1 at 263 Highland Street. Want to be a vendor? To reserve an outdoor space for \$10, please contact Barbara Brooks at 744-3597.



Nineteen people (both CHS members and friends!) gathered for a sumptuous potluck lunch for the ECW's March meeting. Barbara Brooks introduced Bill York of Hebron, who spoke on his Kairos ministry at the Federal Prison in Berlin, NH.

Their message is one of love and forgiveness for those incarcerated. The volunteers are trained and their three day visit at the prison included music, prayer and discussion. Bill also gave an interesting brief story of his recent trip on a cruise ship which was forced to return to home base before the trip was concluded.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Have you visited the newly-created Children's Pew near the back of the church, which has been providing a more comfortable place for families to be together in church! Also, we have had lovely children's processions to begin the 9:30 service, followed by a children's message, before the kids head to the "kid friendly" Undercroft with Nancy and Jean. Please come this Sunday at 9:30 and check it all out!



GRISWOLD HALL CARPET REPLACEMENT

The carpet replacement project for Griswold Hall, headed up by the ECW, has been contracted out to Mark Noyes and will take place in the spring when the winter weather is over. The cost is \$3,400. Several donations have come in to help support this necessary project--including financial support from outside groups who use Griswold for meetings.

Want to help? You can mail in a check--or drop it in the offering plate (please write "Griswold Carpet" in the memo line!). Or you can make a contribution into the "Donation" box at the back of the church! This building is used by all of us and therefore needs the support of all, no matter what size donation you make, it will help us to continue our outreach work.

REGISTER FOR LAY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Episcopal Church of NH will hold the annual Lay Leadership Institute at Rundlett Middle School in Concord on May 6 & 7. This is a great experience for new and experienced Vestry alike! Past seminars have included a Wardens' Roundtable and seminars on Leadership in the Church; Expanding Communication; and Listening Please visit www.nhepiscopal.org/lay-leadership to register, or call Lynn Eaton at 244-1914.

UPCOMING SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS

Are you due for a Safe Church refresher? There are two Safe Church Trainings scheduled for this month: on **Monday, April 18** from 6-8 p.m. at **St. Andrew's, Tamworth**, and on **Thursday, April 28** from 9 a.m. to noon at the Barbara **C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield**. All online modules should be completed prior to the training and Certificates of Completion should be brought to the training. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Lynn Eaton at the Diocese by calling 224-1914 or emailing at leaton@nhepiscopal.org.

ASHLAND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join St. Mark's Church on the fourth Saturday of the month, from 8-9 a.m. Don't miss a homemade breakfast with eggs and St. Mark's famous French Toast! All are welcome to attend and assist; as well as to stay for the Concerned Christian Community meeting immediately following the breakfast. The next breakfast is on April 23. Please contact Jean Murphy at 253-7294 if you have any questions.



HOLY MEN & HOLY WOMEN: SOJOURNER TRUTH

The Episcopal Church continues an ancient tradition from the early Church of honoring important and influential people of the Christian faith. In addition to the calendar of Saints Days in the Prayer Book, our Church has created a calendar of *'Holy Men & Holy Women,'* containing a number of persons important in the history of the church in the United States and beyond. From time to time, we wish to highlight some of those people of faith.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

Sojourner Truth was born into slavery, but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. After going to court to recover her son, in 1828 she became the first black woman to win such a case against a white man. She gave a famous speech about women's rights that had the catch phrase, "Ain't I a woman?" which made her sound folksy. But that does not describe how brilliant she was. She spoke Dutch and English fluently. She spoke extemporaneously about political and social issues with more persuasion than men like Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. She carved out a place and a name for herself with little more than her wits.



Sojourner was so prescient as to be eerie. Her advocacy of prison reform, for the abolition of capital punishment, for the rights of women, and for Black women specifically, reflect concerns that few others were talking about at the time, but would occupy American politics years in the future (and continue to occupy us today). Before the end of the Civil



War, she asserted that newly-freed slaves would need reparations, and access to the property that had been confiscated from former Confederates, because otherwise they would be restricted to sharecropping, and other forms of economic slavery, and she was right.

But it would be a grave mistake to relegate Sojourner to being only a social activist. She did everything she did because of her unshakeable faith in Jesus Christ, and in her identity as a beloved and chosen child of God. She walked away from her life in bondage because Jesus told her to go. She changed her name because Jesus told her she had a job to seek the truth. She traveled the country, preaching the Good News of the equality that was the reality in God's kingdom, and how

to make that a reality in the kingdoms of the world. And she fought, tooth and nail, to live her life to make that true. Her every action was grounded in her faith in Christ.

Her life was filled with tragedy from a young age; not to mention what she faced from society at large. Yet, in the face of all that was arrayed against her, Sojourner held on to her faith, and her vision of what Jesus called this world to be. In her own words, "The truth is powerful, and will prevail."

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

On April 9, this calendar recognizes and honors the life of **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in Germany in 1906. After earning a doctorate in theology, he studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York City from 1930 to 1931. As the Nazi party was gaining notoriety and power in Germany, many of Bonhoeffer's friends urged him to stay in the United States rather than return to Germany, but he opted to go home.

Upon his return to Germany, he began teaching confirmation classes for adolescent males in a Berlin slum. When Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, Bonhoeffer became a leading spokesman for the center of Protestant resistance to the Nazis, the Confessing Church. He spoke out not just about Hitler's dictatorship but also against his program of genocide and the Jewish Holocaust, and he organized an underground seminary.

In 1939, Bonhoeffer's brother-in-law introduced him to a group planning to overthrow Hitler. Because of this affiliation, in April, 1943 Bonhoeffer was arrested and taken to prison. He was later moved to a concentration camp. On April 9, 1945, just days before the American army would liberate the camp, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was hanged at the age of thirty-nine.

Pastor, theologian, poet, and courageous truth-teller: Bonhoeffer's passion for living his faith fueled his political stance and cost him his life. Through his prolific writings, much of which came from his time in the concentration camp, he continues to serve as a prophetic and inspiring voice for the Church.



COMING UP SOON!

April 7: ECW Meeting, 12 p.m., Griswold Hall

April 10: Vestry Meeting, following 9:30 service, 170 Main St.

April 18: Safe Church Training, 6-8 p.m., St. Andrew's, Tamworth

April 23: Community Breakfast, 8-9 a.m., Sherrill Hall, St. Mark's, Ashland

April 28: Safe Church Training, 9 a.m.-noon, Barbara C. Harris Conference Center, Greenfield

April 28: Book Sale, 3-6 p.m., Griswold Hall

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

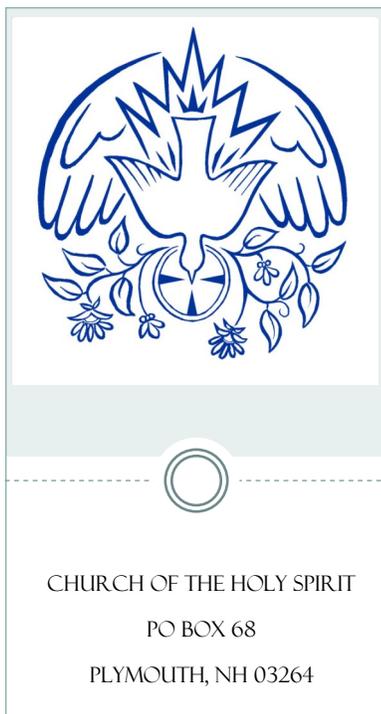
Thursday Healing Eucharist: 11 a.m., Sherrill Hall, St. Mark's, Ashland

AA: 7:30 a.m. Mon-Fri, Griswold Hall

AA (mens' 50+ group): 5 p.m. Mon, Griswold Hall

AA (womens' group): 7 p.m. Wed, Griswold Hall

Al-Anon: 7 p.m. Mon-Griswold Hall



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE