

ST. JAMES' NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 177, Montross, VA 22520

email: stjamesmontross@verizon.net

facebook.com: *St. James Episcopal Church of Montross*

website: <http://www.stjamesmontross.com>



April-May 2019

A LETTER TO THE PARISH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On March 31 each year the Church commemorates John Donne. John Donne was born in 1573 and died in 1631. He is both a major figure in the writing of English literature and in the expression of the spirituality of the Church of England. The spirituality of John Donne contributed greatly to what has come to be known as Anglican Spirituality. John Donne served as Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, but it is his contribution to the development of Anglican theology and spirituality that we principally remember when we commemorate his life.

I find it appropriate to think of John Donne as I contemplate the meaning of this season of the death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On Easter Sunday the Paschal Candle again will be burning, and it will burn at every service through the Feast of Pentecost. The light of the Paschal Candle is the light of Christ. That Light has triumphed over death. The Paschal Candle symbolizes the Resurrection of Christ and the life of the resurrection into which we as baptized Christians are called. It is lit for all baptisms, for baptisms and funerals are closely linked and both are Easter Events. On page 507 of the Book of Common Prayer we read: "The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy... This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn."

The most appropriate occasion for Christian Baptism is Easter. In the thanksgiving over the water we pray, "We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn in the Holy Spirit."

♦ IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS ♦

St. James' Parish Office: 804-493-8285
 The Rev. Dr. Chris Agnew: 1-540-775-6245
 Bill Jenkins – Senior Warden: 804-493-7777
 Phil McKenney – Junior Warden: 804-493-9030

♦April-May Ushers♦

APRIL		MAY	
7	Ferdie Fax Chandler Phil McKenney	5	Bill Jenkins Eddie Weston
21	Bill Jenkins Robert Chapman	19	John Harvey Jenkins Robert Chapman

♦April-May Readers♦

APRIL		MAY	
7	Lora Lemons	5	Bonnie Chandler Phil McKenney
21	Elizabeth Beckham Robert Chapman	19	Elizabeth Beckham Robert Chapman

♦April-May Altar Guild♦

APRIL	MAY
Lucylin Jenkins	Bonnie Cooke & Volunteers

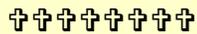
These thoughts take me back to John Donne who wrote in his Meditation XVII: "The church is Catholic, universal, so are all her actions; all that she does belongs to all. When she baptizes a child, that action concerns me; for that child is thereby connected to that body which is my head too, and ingrafted into that body whereof I am a member. And when she buries a man, that action concerns me: all mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated; God employs several translators; . . . but God's hand is in every translation, and his hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again for that library where every book shall lie open to one another."

With Easter we find so much of the meaning of baptism and burial. With Easter, baptism, and burial we pass through death and sorrow to eternal life and joy. We also find with Easter, baptism, and burial our unity as a people. As John Donne wrote in that same Meditation XVII, ".... therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

If we truly embrace the life of the Resurrection we should know unity, for all our divisions will be so insignificant compared to our seeing our risen Lord face to face that they shall pass away and our true unity one with another in Christ will be fully revealed. This season of Easter then is a feast of joy. St. John Chrysostom wrote in his Easter sermon: "Let all then enter into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, keep the feast. You sober and you heedless celebrate the day. Rejoice today; both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; let all feast sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go away hungry. Let all enjoy the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of loving-kindness."

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Chris



Holy Week Services

- † April 14 - Palm Sunday, and we will begin with The Liturgy of the Palms in Saint Paul's Parish Hall and process from there into the church.
- † April 17 - Saint James' and Saint Paul's are responsible for the Lenten Service and lunch at Andrew Chapel. These Lenten services take place each Wednesday in Lent at 12 noon.
- † April 19 - Good Friday, and Saint James' will host the Montross Ministerial Association in observing the Good Friday Liturgy. The Rev. Kevin Elmore of Andrew Chapel will be the preacher.
- † April 21 - Easter Day
6:30 a.m. - Montross Ministerial Association Easter Sunrise Service, Westmoreland State Park led by the Rev. David Lagerveld
9 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite I, Saint Paul's
11:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II, Saint James'

Meals on Wheels

April is our month to deliver Meals on Wheels. Deliveries are each Tuesday and Thursday during the month. The schedule of volunteers is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. In addition, Anne Marie Sisson and her helpers will prepare a "goodie basket" to deliver to each recipient on one of the days. Small gift items are needed for the baskets, and your donations are welcome.

Mite Boxes

Once again, this year we encourage all of you to deposit your change each day in a "Hope Chest" for Episcopal Relief and Development. The boxes will be gathered on Easter morning. Please be generous with this offering, which helps people affected by disasters and emergencies around the world in Christ's name.

Bishop's Visit

On June 23, Bishop David Jones' will visit Saint Paul's, Nomini Grove. If you are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church at this service, please contact me no later than Easter Day. We need to schedule confirmation classes. If you are interested in having a baptism at this service please contact me. It is also not too late to schedule a baptism for Easter Day, April 21, or the Feast of Pentecost, June 9.

Happy April Birthdays

*Carley McCready Anne Marie Sisson
Betsey Fountain Ryan Six
Lora Lemons Frances O'Dell*

Happy April Anniversaries

*Chris & Elizabeth Agnew
Bill & Aggie Toone
Eddie & Brenda Weston
★★★★★★★★★★*

Happy May Birthdays

*Ben Morris Robert Chapman
Bill Jenkins*

Happy May Anniversary

Robert & Sarah Nevin