



Church of the Holy Comforter

April 2016

THE DOVE

The Rector's Column *The Rev. Dr. Jason Parkin, Rector*

Upon Christ throw all away; know ye, this is
Easter Day.
Gather gladness from the skies; take a lesson
from the ground;
Flowers do ope their heavenward eyes and a
Spring-time joy have found;
Earth throws Winter's robes away, decks
herself for Easter Day.
Seek God's house in happy throng; crowded
let His table be;
Mingle praises, prayer and song, singing to
the Trinity.
Henceforth let your souls always make each
morn an Easter Day.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Once again, we have journeyed through the holiest days of the Christian year, have passed through the Week of Weeks. In the space of a few short days, we walked with Jesus as he entered the holy city of Jerusalem for the last time, and waved palm branches to celebrate his arrival. Once again we gathered with him and the Twelve at the table of the Last Supper, celebrating his unending offering of himself in bread and wine become body and blood. We experienced the injustice of his betrayal and arrest, the long trek to the hill called Calvary. We witnessed once again--and participated in--the tragedy of his crucifixion. And then, after the long, lonely night, we stood in wonder as he emerged from the cave on broken feet toward the great conflagration of the New Day, bearing on his body the proud marks of the defeat which is victory, the magnificent defeat of fear and death and hell itself. In short, during Holy Week, as at no other time in life, we experienced the full range of human emotion and experience.

And now that it is all over (but, of course, we know that Holy Week and Easter are never "over"): what then? Will we succumb to the temptation to pick up

after Easter right where we left off on the Friday before Palm Sunday, none the worse but perhaps none the better for the journey? Or will we, instead, become **new**, living in such a way that our lives would not make sense but for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead? Ours is not a faith in the empty tomb. Ours is a faith in a living Lord; and that living Lord calls us to enter and engage and encounter the world as reflections of his light and life; to become the ongoing evidence of the new life and the new world God has wrought through the Son. What an astonishing vocation; and what a marvelous privilege.

Easter People

For many in the parish, the annual Easter People presentations provide two of the spiritual highlights of the entire year.

This year, we will be blessed to welcome two beloved Holy Comforter parishioners as our Easter People: on **Sunday, April 3, Chris Wiedrich** will present her reflection on her journey of faith; and on **Sunday, April 17, Richard Campitelli** will offer his thoughts and insights into his road to the present. Both of these events will take place during the formation hour at 10:00 a.m., in the Great Room.

For those not familiar with the Easter People tradition: for the last 23 years, different members of Holy Comforter—representing a wide range of experiences, ages, and backgrounds—have discussed their lives of faith at the Adult Forum during the Easter season. We have Nancy Lovely to thank for initiating this marvelous practice and coordinating it for many years. Most years, we have been blessed by two such reflections, as will be the case this year. Easter People presentations are perennially one of the most popular and poignant events in our parish life, so please put these dates on your calendars now!

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands: Special Celebration, April 10, 9:00 a.m.

Last year, during the Easter season, we celebrated a special Eucharist featuring music from the Gospel and African-American Spirituals traditions. It proved so popular that we are going to reprise it this Easter season. "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" will take place on Sunday, April 10, at the 9:00 Eucharist. Ain't that good news?

This unique feast will include, among other music, an interactive song familiar to virtually everyone, the talents of our adult choir and some of our section leaders, and spirituals that will be new to most of us. There will be a surprise or two included in the celebration, as well.

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" will fall on the third Sunday of the Easter season, and will celebrate the joy of this time with what will surely be a lively, exuberant liturgy. We will hear and sing music not often offered in Episcopal churches, so bring the kids, invite the neighbors, get ready to sing, and join in the joy!

Don't forget the series of "Foundations of the Faith; Inquirers' Classes" that will begin on Monday evening, April 11, at 7:00!

Are you brand new to the Episcopal Church or even to the Christian faith? Or have you perhaps forgotten most everything you learned in the Confirmation Class you attended when you were a teenager? Do you want to know more about the foundations of the Christian story or harbor questions about the history and theology of the Episcopal Church? Ever wondered how the Episcopal Church differs from, and is similar to, other Christian bodies? Curious about the story behind some of our worship practices? Well, now you

have an opportunity to learn more about language, traditions, practices, and beliefs of the Episcopal Church and its brother and sister communities in the larger Christian world.

Beginning on April 11, and continuing through May 2, Foundations of the Faith Classes will be offered at Holy Comforter. These sessions are designed to offer an overview of our faith and heritage as Episcopalians and Christians. **They are appropriate for people who are new to Holy Comforter or the Episcopal Church, but are also certainly intended for people who want to brush up on their knowledge of Church history, theology, and related issues.** No topic is too mundane, no question too basic for these sessions.

The classes will run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., and will take place in the parish library. Wherever you are on your journey of discovery in Christ, please consider joining the Inquirers' Classes. It is a wonderful way to become better acquainted with others in the parish family, and to grow in knowledge and faith. If you intend to participate, please write jlarkin@holycomforter.org to let me know, or if you have any questions, call me at 847/251-6120, ext. 115. See you on April 11th.



"CHUBER RIDES"
**Need a ride to Fr. Chris' Wednesday
Adult Class or to Sunday Eucharist?**
**Call the Parish Office at 847/251-6120
and we can help to arrange a ride for you.**

Adult Forum Programming for April *Chris Hardman*

Our Building Bridges Lenten Program was a great success! Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, the Waraich family, James Crockett, and Detective Loyce Spells inspired and challenged us all. On April 10th we are going to discuss each of these thought-provoking presentations. What did you find inspiring or challenging? Then, on May 1st we will present an “action plan” that will move us past just listening and toward doing.

April also includes our much anticipated “Easter People” presentations. On April 3rd, Chris Wiedrich will share her faith journey with us. Then, on April 17th, Richard Campitelli will do the same. You will not want to miss these heart felt stories. (See more elsewhere in this issue of the Dove.)

On April 24th we have a special guest preacher and forum leader, Catharine Quinn.

Catharine, known as Cat, grew up in Wilmette and was a member of Holy Comforter from Kindergarten, was in the church choir, and was married here. She has been a community health nurse for 24 years and has worked internationally in Honduras and Guatemala, and nationally in Chicago and California. Cat attended the University of Michigan, earning her BSN, and the University of Illinois in Chicago for her MPH. For the past eight years she has been the Coordinator of Field

Programs with Concern America, an international development and refugee aid organization located in Santa Ana, California. She is responsible for Concern America’s programs and field personnel in Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia and Mozambique.

Cat is the daughter of our own Vince and Gretchen Quinn. She is married to John Straw and has two children, Quinn age 17 and Kahlo age 14. Her presentation will include some “fair trade” items for sale. In an international sense this program will expand our “Building Bridges” Lenten theme.

April 3rd Chris Wiedrich-
Easter People presentation.

April 10th Building Bridges discussion session.

April 17th Richard Campitelli-
Easter People presentation

April 24th Catharine Quinn, Concern America

This is going to be a great forum month. Please join us and bring your friends.

Adult Education Wednesday Class Resumes *Chris Hardman*

Our adult education class resumes on Wednesday, April 6, at 9:45 am in the library. For the next couple of months we will look at the **“Trinity and the Gospel of John.”** The development of our understanding of God was much influenced by the Gospel of John, the last of the Gospels to be written. In this Gospel we become aware of Jesus’ mystical relationship with God and with us. We will study this Gospel and discuss how it molded our understanding of God.

Please prepare for this class by reading John 1: 1-18, John’s prologue. Know that this is a new series and not dependent on what we have done before. Everyone is welcome.



Surrender and Gratitude *by Heath Howe*

"Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but simply surrender and gratitude."

St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)
Carmelite Nun

Eastertide has always been a season of activity for my family and me. The season always falls in the spring which means it holds both Sophie's and Eli's birthdays. Spring means the end of the school year and the busyness that brings. Sunday mornings in chapel and church school are full as we try to squeeze in those Bible lessons before everyone goes off to camp and vacation during the summer. In the adult forum we hear the spiritual journeys of our beloved Easter People, and we listen to our high school-aged parishioners share their experiences of past mission trips and the excitement of the one coming up just around the corner. Creation itself seems to join us (or lead us) into great activity as the earth moves out of sleepy, quiet winter and into life-giving, bright springtime. It is no wonder I find myself busier than ever this time of year.

However, when I read the Biblical passages of Jesus after his resurrection I do not hear a call to busyness at all. Jesus' greeting to his disciples and friends in each resurrection encounter is "Peace..." He does call us to go and make disciples of all people but not at first. At first he says, "Peace." What a wonderful gift he is giving us, peace.

As I try to live more and more each Easter season as an Easter Person, one who believes that nothing can separate us from Love, and as I try to raise my children with this same perspective, I am tempted, so tempted, to go into action. I must try and find an

activity, a discipline, and event that will really make an impact. Our family will bring the risen Love of God into the world by DOING (fill in the blank) from now on!

Jesus says, "Peace..." or "Receive my peace."

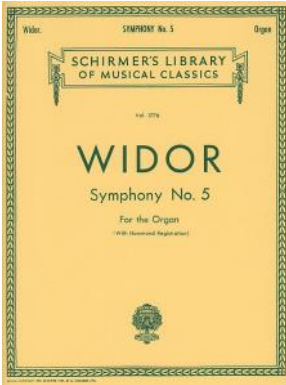
Peace is exactly what we need to receive as the first sign of new life, as peace is oxygen to our souls. Without it we cannot function as healthy spiritual beings. We must take peace in regularly. For a "doer" like me that means being still at least once a day. In my stillness I let go, surrender. Once I am still I find I naturally give thanks. When I do this I notice that I feel stronger spiritually. My anxiety is less and my busy life does not feel heavy. All the activities spring brings are not tasks on my to-do list but are moments when I can give and receive love. I try to teach my children the same practice, for they live in an anxious time. At only 13 and 16 years old they and their friends use words like, "stressed out" or "over worked." I hear my younger friends too at only four, eight, or 11 years old say, "I just need to relax." I look at the world beyond my own daily life and see many other "doers" busy at work.

There is a good deal of work to do if we are to really spread the Good News that Christ is risen. The world is starved to taste and know the love of God, a love greater than anything else. However, we cannot do that work if we are exhausted. If we have learned anything during Lent, let it be the power and necessity of surrender. If we hear anything from our risen Lord let it be, "Peace." Once filled, let us give thanks. Maybe then we will be ready to spring into action.

Happy Easter!



A Special Performance *by Dr. Derek Nickels*



Charles-Marie Widor's famous Toccata from his Fifth Organ Symphony is often associated with Easter and other festive occasions, including weddings. However, Widor's last organ symphony, the *Symphonie Romane*, is based entirely on portions of two Gregorian chants for the Easter season: the *Haec dies* (an antiphon text that is used as the gradual on Easter Sunday), and the *Victimae Paschali* (another text associated with Easter

Sunday). Completed and premiered by the composer in January 1900, it is dedicated to the Romanesque Basilica of St. Sernin in Toulouse, France, which houses one of the magnificent instruments built by the legendary organ builder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll. I will be performing this work along with two other French pieces by Jean-Jules Roger-Ducasse and Jean Langlais on Sunday, April 17th at 3:00 p.m. at Loyola University's Madonna della Strada Chapel, 1032 W. Sheridan Road in Chicago. If you've never been to Madonna della Strada, it is certainly worth the drive down Sheridan. Parking in the adjacent parking garage is free on Sundays.

Flower Ministry Workshop 2016

The Flower Ministry of Holy Comforter is celebrating its 25th year. The Ministry has had many talented members since its inception. Some come with a lot of previous skill honed through work in their garden clubs while others learn "on the job" mentored by seasoned members' greater experience. Through this ministry, members not only serve the church, they gain knowledge, make new friends and have a lot of fun.

On Saturday, May 7, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. the Flower Ministry will hold a workshop in the Great Hall for anyone interested in learning about floral arranging at Holy Comforter. Flower Ministry member

Ginny Noyes will share her wisdom and expertise as she leads the demonstration.

Donna Petersen, Chairperson of the Flower Ministry, invites all members of the congregation and the Flower Ministry to attend. Please call Donna at 847.251.4909 with any questions. To let us know if you wish to attend, please call Laurel in the church office at 847.251.6120.



Stephen Ministry: Gifted to Care



Spiritual Gifts are gifts to give away. How are you using your gifts? Are you looking for new ways to use them? If your spiritual gifts include faith, compassion, encouragement or patience, consider Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry is a Holy Comforter's one-to-one layperson caring ministry. As part of the Stephen Ministry team, you will be able to put your talent into action. We will be starting our next training class for Stephen Ministers this fall. Please attend one of the Q&A sessions about Stephen Ministry on either Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. or Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the Church Library. If you have additional questions, please contact Cindy Mancillas, Stephen Leader Awareness Coordinator (224) 628-5970.

Finding Inner Peace *Mary Johnson, Children's Ministries & Director of ATB&B*



Throughout this spring, the Adult Forum has been focused on the topic of Building Bridges. Through a number of guest speakers we have

covered a range of topics including social justice, world religions, escaping gang violence and the complex nature of police/community relations. As evidenced by these speakers, there is not just one “right answer” to any of these issues affecting so many. And individuals will look for answers or resolutions in a variety of places.

The Winnetka Interfaith Council invites the diverse communities of faith in our area to come together to continue these conversations. “Finding Inner Peace: What Do the Sacred Texts Teach?” is the next such offering to be held on Sunday, April 17, from 3:30—5:30 p.m. at the Winnetka Presbyterian Church. Representatives from Temple Jeremiah, First Congregational Church in Wilmette, the Baha'i Faith and the Director of Interfaith Engagement at Northwestern University will serve on a panel moderated by the Rev. Jeff Braun of Winnetka Congregational Church. The topic is: *Finding Inner*

Peace: What Do the Sacred Texts Teach? Each member of the panel will offer specific text/scripture that speak to them when considering finding their personal inner peace.

As I look forward to this presentation and engaging afternoon, I had to ask myself where I look in the sacred texts to find inner peace. The answer was obvious for me. I have the privilege of being with the children on Sunday mornings in the Children's Chapel and participating in the stories of the Godly Play lessons. In that room, during that time, is a very strong example of finding inner peace. The children ask the most wonderful questions and have the most insightful answers when asked “I wonder what you think about....?” The parents who get these children here on Sunday to build a strong faith foundation are giving a great gift to their children. It is a gift that will serve them well for many years to come.

One of the key goals for both the Sunday School component and the preschool classes offered by Holy Comforter is to instill in these children that they are life-long learners. And that is my hope for the adults in this parish as well. We all have the opportunity to be life-long learners and the April 17 panel is a very accessible way to prove that. I hope you can attend.

Soft Soap *Charlotte Long, Youth Ministry*

When we enter a specific unit in Youth Group or Sunday School that I get to lead, I try my darnedest to cover at least 3 Pathways into the subject: the Academic, the Spiritual and Tangible (Hands-On or Service). This is not a far cry from the 4 Keys of Vibrant Ministries that our staff uses to create curriculum and serve our families with take-homes (Tradition, Caring Conversations, Prayer and Service). These are not only all different pathways to learning any subject matter, but an acknowledgement that there are infinite pathways to discovering God. Parents recognize in their children early on if they are learners who need visual aids, if they process aural language quickly, or if they need to feel it in their hands to understand something. Wouldn't a God as expansive and incomprehensible as ours be consistently trying to talk to us in as many different ways as possible? I consider it my job to offer multiple “doors” for our youth to try and walk through. You never know

which door is going to lead them to their calling.

For example, we did a short unit on Islamophobia for Youth Group in January. Our first night was mostly intellectual: what is Islam? Why is there fighting in the Middle East? Why do we equate these two things with each other all the time? Where are hate crimes happening in the US? The kids had a surprising amount to say about it. They were well-informed already. Then we had an experiential night. We listened to a radio program about Syrian refugees, talked about casual racism at school and then used a sensory prayer table to pray for those affected by the violence in the Middle East and misunderstanding in our own country. The third week, we purchased Welcome Kits for RefugeeOne, the foremost Refugee assistance nonprofit in Chicago. As I said, there are many doors in.

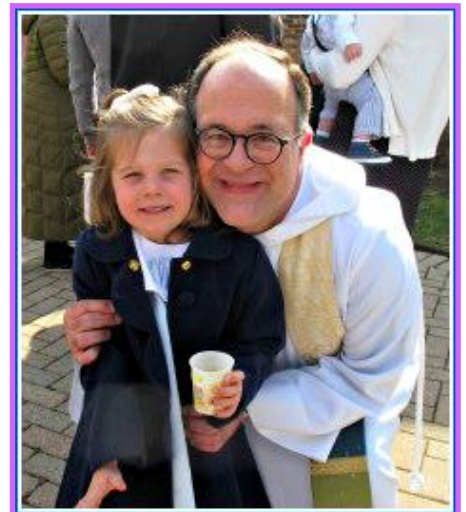
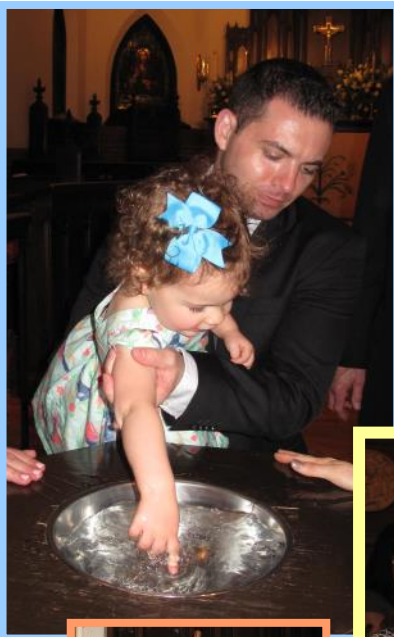
Often I find that faith requires much more of me than I am comfortable with. My relationship with God feels *nice* when I'm in prayer, when there's a lot of nice incense and I'm all like, "oooo, I'm so peaceful and holy right now." But that is just the Boot Room of the House of God. The kind of quiet peace we think of is not the kind of grand, all-consuming peace that Jesus offers us – "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives" (Jn 14:27) – the kind that LASTS because it permeates all that we do and say, not just our quiet moments. The kind that is a glue to our lives, not a sweet-smelling smoke. This is the true and difficult part of our faith, the kind that frees us and can cast out proverbial demons. And nothing about it is easy. As C.S. Lewis says, "If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth, only soft soap and wishful thinking..."

So where in our lives are we looking for comfort when we should be looking for truth? My first impulse is to say in racial, gender and class inequality. If we were really following Jesus as we say we wish to, we would be radicals. We would be beyond politics, beyond power and beyond the need for understanding or

control. We would be only filled with the humility of Love and it would guide all we did. Unfortunately, this feels drastic and unrealistic if we have families, jobs and lives that we're trying to keep together. Believe me, I'm right there with you. And I think God understands our need for peace and security. I think God is practical and that sometimes, for no reason at all, God gives us moments of quiet in a hectic day of errands and drama. I just also think God wants us to have something **greater**. To Rest in God, yes. And also to Go Forth, in God.

I encourage us to look at ourselves during this Easter People time, and see what facet of our lives is too comfortable. The teens go on our trip to ASP every year and they know firsthand that the kind of capital-P Peace that comes from the difficulty of labor in the sun and rain can sometimes far exceed the peace that comes from being surrounded by the comforts of home. Let's see what grand things God is calling us to; what great acts of tremulous Love; what shocking pushes into the Light.

Easter at CHC



In the Vineyard

Our prayers and condolences go forth to Tina Harlan on the death of her cousin, Barry Hermann, on February 26. Barry was only 56 at the time of his death, and his funeral was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, where he was very active. May he know life eternal and joyful, and may God support and strengthen his family and all who loved him.

We also hold in our hearts and prayers **Marilyn and Armand Norehad** on the death of Marilyn's brother, Charles Calderini, Jr., on Saturday, March 12, in Englewood, Colorado. Chuck was a native of the North Shore, and was 83 years old. May God embrace him with never-failing light and love, and envelop Marilyn, Armand, and Chuck's extended family with comfort and strength.

We welcome with Love to God's Family and the
Family of Church of the Holy Comforter

Charlotte Anne Holden

*Baptized on the
Great Vigil of Easter*

March 26, 2016

Parents:

Kathleen and Edward Holden

Godparents:

Molly Johnson and Joe Agati

Grand parents:

Pamela and William McGaghie

Church of the Holy Comforter

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