



# THE HERALD

FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 2016

## FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

by the Rev. T. James Kodera

Dear Friends in Christ,

Easter comes very early this year on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. In the Council of Nicea, held in 325 AD, convened by Emperor Constantine of Rome, the Church Fathers gathered to set a common creed to be recited by all believers, as we do today. They also decreed that Easter was to fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon, following the vernal, or spring, equinox when night and day are of equal length. When day grows longer than night, it was a symbol of life triumphing over death. The vernal equinox is March 21<sup>st</sup>.

According to the Gregorian calendar, which is in common use in Western Christian countries, Easter cannot, therefore, occur before March 22 or after April 25. The



Church Fathers' decision was based on the Biblical account that Jesus died and rose from the dead during the eight-day Passover, which the Jews observe to commemorate the Exodus event, the liberation of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt into freedom.

It is well for us to remember that the Season of Lent is a preparation for Easter. Both the Jewish and Christian communities, in fact also in Islam, the faithful undergo self-examination and penitence in order to prepare ourselves for God's deliverance of the faithful from slavery into freedom, from sin into righteousness. At the center is the Exodus of the Hebrews under the leadership of Moses. It is believed to have occurred around 1300 before the Common, or Christian, era. As a reminder of the hardships of slavery, the Jews work over observe Passover by sharing unleavened bread, *matzah*, and bitter herbs. The lamb, consumed by Christians, is a symbol of Christ whose resurrection from the dead recalls the Jewish Passover. "Lent" is a shortened form of the Old English word, *Lenten*, meaning spring, or spring time. The Latin, *Quadragesima*, meaning "forty," indicates the length of the season of

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preparation for Easter. Why forty days and forty nights? It is a common Biblical phrase for a "long time." Just as we endure the harsh winter for a long time in great anticipation of spring, when life returns to the earth, we undergo a period of fasting and prayer, self-denial and almsgiving, so that we may celebrate emancipation from sin. In this sense, Lent is more a preparation for spring than spring itself. Although winter this year is nowhere as trying as last year's with massive amount of snow that did not melt until early summer, we see little sign of spring, when life returns to the world all around us. Just as we spent the fall season, getting ready for winter by making sure that the windows and doors are tight, with ample supply of food and other supplies, Lent is a continuation of the preparation for the return of life to the earth. The flowers, with which we adorn our church and ourselves on Easter, signal the end of a long period of waiting. Lilies are the symbol of the Virgin Mother of Jesus, who endured the pain of her son's suffering and death, before his triumphant return to the fullness of life.

The liturgical calendar we observe repeats itself every year. And yet, the time of Lent and therefore of Easter changes every year, depending on the moon and the sun. Likewise, each year brings different challenges in life. And yet, the promise of hope, of life, remains constant. No matter what challenges we may encounter in life, God assures us that God is with us and for us. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. So, the Season of Lent can be understood as the season of hope, hope for freedom, for life, for joy. We strive hard toward it. And, for us, God is the source of all our hope. We do not live by hope alone, but in the absence of hope, we cannot be fully human.

Father Jim +

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## NEWS FROM THE PRIEST ASSOCIATE

by The Rev. Jennifer D. Beal

Greetings, dear, dear friends,

I find myself full with the abundant life of this season of Lent.

As I was reading about it, I wanted to share it with you in the same way as my instructed Eucharist last summer. I have inserted *in italics* my own comments into Meyers' text. What I quote for you are pages 173-175 from *Liturgical Spirituality*, the chapter entitled "The Easter Cycle" by Ruth Meyers, ed. Stephen Burns, 2013. "The Easter Cycle" refers to the half of our church year that is determined by the moveable date of Easter. Alternatively, the other half, "The Christmas Cycle", is determined by the fixed date of Christmas. Do you remember that from last summer?

Ruth Meyers writes, "The liturgies of the Easter, or "paschal" which comes from the Hebrew word 'pesach' for 'passover', cycle of the church year invite worshipers to remember and celebrate the heart of Christian faith: the paschal mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. *This is a powerful way to describe the heart of our faith!* Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, which focus on the events of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, are the high point of the cycle. *YES! Those three days are the high point of our current Lenten cycle.* Beginning with the ashes of Ash Wednesday, Lenten repentance and renewal build to their culmination in these services, and the Great Fifty Days of Easter flow from them as a time of joyous celebration that concludes with the fiery gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, *May 15<sup>th</sup> this year. I think this is a great single-sentence description of half our year!*

Christian communities began commemorating Jesus' death and resurrection in an annual feast as early as the second century. *Christians have been celebrating Easter for a very long time!*

Today, while each of these services - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter liturgy - focuses on one aspect of the redemptive event, together they are one great feast of redemption, celebrating Jesus' victory on the cross and in the resurrection, as well as our new life in Christ. The distinctive features of these liturgies and of the full paschal cycle, from Ash Wednesday through the day of Pentecost, arise from worship practices that developed over the course of several centuries.

In the Lenten journey of renewal, Christians recall the paschal mystery into which they were baptized as they prepare for their annual celebration of that mystery. ... Lent invites Christians to renew their minds and hearts, expressing repentance and deepening their commitment to love and service in the world. *This*

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is exactly what we are all about. Liturgical texts (no 'alleluias') and music, as well as vestments (so beautifully made by our own Fr. Jim) and the decoration of the church (by our faithful altar guild), set a tone that is more somber and austere than in other liturgical seasons. Yet, Lent is also characterized by joyful celebration of God's abundant mercy (*Praise God!*), as the extended preface for the *British Eucharistic prayer* proclaims: "as we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy." [Our *Book of Common Prayer*, on p. 346, says, "who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou has prepared for those who love thee." I think you can see how these two prayers are different versions of the same medieval original!]

I, Jennifer, look forward to continuing the Lenten journey with you through the miraculous joy of Easter and on to its fiftieth day in May. Keep the faith of our forbears as you cleanse your heart.

Your companion in Christ,

Jennifer +

## NOTES FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

by Bill Carnes, Senior Warden

### March 2016 Notes

Valentine's Day February 14<sup>th</sup> was one of the coldest Sundays that we have had in years. Temperatures ranged between -15 and -10 degrees F. I saw -12 degrees. This did not include the wind chill factor. We held church down stairs in the Ebens room, rather than try to heat the church. At best, the church would still be uncomfortable. It was also the beginning of school vacation week, so attendance would be down. That Sunday, my face hurt just walking in.

On the following Sunday Church was held down stairs to make things easier for the altar guild and since it was the end of school vacation week. The irony is that temperatures were unusually warm that Sunday.

In the late winter of 2016, there is much happening.

### Annual Meeting

We held our annual meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting included discussion of several reports and a review of the 2016 budget.

The following individuals were elected to the positions noted on a common slate:

Senior Warden:	Bill Carnes
Junior Warden:	Bill Pye
Treasurer:	Logan King
Vestry members:	Paul Cronis, D. Frizelle Mason-Jones

and Lisa Vickers

Diocesan Convention Delegates: Bill Carnes and Carol Hobbs

Deanery Delegate: Bill Carnes

The closing prayer was offered by the Reverend Jennifer Beal who asked that we renew our baptismal covenant. We responded to the covenant's five questions, "I will with God's help."

### Recent Building updates

The siding on the church steps to the third floor has been repaired. There was some rotten siding replaced and additional insulation added.

Railings and the door for the back entrance are "on order". Electrical work is planned for the kitchen to improve electrical power to the counter area over the organ blower.

We have several additional projects planned for 2016 as detailed earlier. Please help us with donations to the Can-Do fund. The funds help support building projects.

### Area Events

On May 7<sup>th</sup> there is an opportunity to participate in a "build day" for Habitat for Humanity on a project in Wayland. Contact [robinsons@diomassintern.org](mailto:robinsons@diomassintern.org) for details.

On Saturday, March 5 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, there is a spring learning event from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Details are at [diomass.org](http://diomass.org). Registration is required by March 2nd. The theme is Real Church, Real Mission, Holy Practices for Vibrant Churches.

### Daylight Savings Time

Remember that Daylight Savings time begins March 13<sup>th</sup>. Some of us with experience remember when it would start at the end of the month. It still seems early, but set your clocks ahead one hour that Saturday evening.

### Diocesan News - Mission Strategy

As some of you know, the diocese has been holding listening sessions around the diocese to develop a new mission strategy. In some statistics reported, two of us from St. Luke's attended these sessions thus showing greater

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interest than some of the larger churches in our area. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, there is a special final listening session at St. Elizabeth's Sudbury from 2 to 3:30 pm.

One take-away from the listening sessions, is that there is no one strategy that will serve the needs of our diverse diocese. We have the urban areas of Boston with classic city problems to ex-urban areas like our own and areas like Cape Cod where there are many retired people with unique needs. Some of these needs are being covered by the mission hubs, but issues remain unresolved. A lot of work is being done to determine the best strategies to recommend at diocesan convention this fall.

There also a developing interest in trans-diocesan collaboration. Not far from us are several Episcopal churches that are in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. They are still our neighbors, but in a "different" diocese. Look for more updates in future issues.

On Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup>, there was a special service for the Church of the Holy Spirit in Wayland: the Transfer of Ecclesiastical Authority. That church closed several months ago. The property was purchased by the Coptic Orthodox Church. This kept the church property from becoming secular.

#### **Mission Hub Notes**

At a recent meeting, we were reminded of the technical difficulties we have managing the programs with tuition, reimbursements and related matters. It was urged that we seek a new program director and executive director sooner rather than later.

#### **Last Issue's Quiz**

On St. Luke's website under people shows our choir. The picture was taken at the United Methodist Church, not our own. Go find it again.

Bill Carnes  
Senior warden, February 24, 2016



## Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday:	10 am Passion narrative and distribution of palms
Thursday, March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday:	7:30 pm Foot washing, Holy Eucharist, and stripping of the altar
Friday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday:	7:30 pm: We walk the Stations of the Cross and receive communion from reserved sacraments.
Saturday, March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Setup for Easter	9-11 am
Sunday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Easter	10 am



*May you  
have a  
Blessed  
Easter*



# In your Neighborhood

Did you know that Hudson, Marlborough and Northborough are Dementia friendly Communities? They are, and you can get more information about this from Day break at the Hudson Senior Center.

## A Recent letter sent to us from a Howard University Student

Hello,

My name is Alexis Grant, and I am contacting you because I am organizing a week long prayer and worship event in the metro west area. My vision comes from David's Tent, a 24/7 worship tent in Washington, DC that is hosting non stop worship that began September 11th, continuously going until the election in November. Please consider partnering with me there are many needs that I will list below. The proposed dates I have in mind are July 8th 15th, leading up to a huge gathering called Together 2016. Having a 24/7 worship for a week would be great, but I think based on the demographic of the Metrowest area, the event should be 5am midnight daily. The event itself aims to be the largest gathering of Christians (ever) on the national mall on July 16th. The only agenda is Jesus you can check out the web site [here](#).

Here are Several Ways to Partner:

- ◆ Promoting this event in your community
- ◆ Becoming a part of the planning committee, specifically for these early stages (assisting with promotion, communication, scheduling, etc)
- ◆ Hosting the event at your church for the week (keep in mind the hours)
- ◆ Volunteering for the event (volunteers scheduled in shifts the week of) providing prayer and helping it all run smoothly
- ◆ Recruiting or volunteering as worship leaders, teams, and choirs (1 hour worship sets)
- ◆ Supplying bibles to give away
- ◆ Sharing this email with other Christian leaders in your community
- ◆ Praying that all of the above will come together

My motivation for organizing this event is a growing desire for people to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. I think that many of us, regardless of where we are in life, should be offering up our worship to God more than we are. We forget how fragrant and pleasing our worship is to the Lord. We forget how worthy He is. We forget the power that comes from worship. The goal for this event is just for God to be praised, thereby being worship alone and nothing else.

The hope for this is that the desire to uplift God will mobilize believers all over the Metrowest region to act on their faith. I pray that the name of Jesus would spread within the community, catalyzed by people who are overflowing with praise. I pray that people would realize the gravity of His sacrifice for us and remember how worthy He is. I pray that churches and Christian leaders will come together and have complete joy and unity.

I hope that you would share this vision with me by partnering. Please feel free to email, call, or text me at 508 816 2689, [akrgrant@gmail.com](mailto:akrgrant@gmail.com).

About me: I am a graduating senior attending Howard University in Washington, DC, studying English and Psychology. I grew up in Framingham, MA. I attended church growing up, but I only became serious about God when I was 17. Since attending school in a new city, I have found a home church that helped cultivate my faith and talents as a worship leader. I am actively involved in several ministries in the DC area, including David's Tent (a 24/7 worship tent), the youth, homeless, and worship ministries at my church (Northwest Community Church), and a worship arts ministry at Howard University. I also have a blog, in which I post some reflections about the things I am reading and realizing about God and myself.

God Bless!

*Alexis Grant*

I wanted to share this letter with everyone as it is Lent and know that it is time to clear our minds and clean all the clutter that we sometimes carry within us. This might be one of those great ways to fill the gaps that we may begin to feel in the process.

*God Bless,*

*Your Parish Administrator*

*You were known by your creator even before you were born,  
and he continues to love you!*

# *Happy Birthday*

<u>Connie Elder</u>	<u>Feb-06</u>	<u>Ann Alera</u>	<u>Apr-03</u>
<u>William Sickle</u>	<u>Feb-09</u>	<u>Richard King</u>	<u>Apr-07</u>
<u>Scott Campbell</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Richard Adams</u>	<u>Apr-08</u>
<u>Alexandra A Joslyn</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>C. Susie King</u>	<u>Apr-10</u>
<u>Martin Miller</u>	<u>Feb-25</u>	<u>Luis Avery</u>	<u>Apr-10</u>
		<u>Max Winkler</u>	<u>Apr-21</u>
		<u>Josh Sathyaraj</u>	<u>Apr-21</u>
<u>Danielle B Avery</u>	<u>Mar-02</u>	<u>Stephen Geldart</u>	<u>Apr-22</u>
<u>William Campbell</u>	<u>Mar-03</u>	<u>Elizabeth Colley</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>
<u>Kitty Carr</u>	<u>Mar-06</u>	<u>Shirley Bausch</u>	<u>Apr-27</u>
<u>Mary L King</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Pamela Naves</u>	<u>Apr-30</u>
<u>Tucker VanAken</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>		
<u>Daniel Hogarty</u>	<u>Mar-23</u>		
<u>Joseph Hogarty</u>	<u>Mar-27</u>		
<u>Jayden Hogarty</u>	<u>Mar-27</u>		
<u>Ayako Barnum</u>	<u>Mar-30</u>		

## *Anniversaries*

<u>Mark &amp; Denise Reid</u>	<u>Feb-27</u>
<u>Richard &amp; Mary L King</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>
<u>George &amp; Karen Calnan</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>



## INTERCESSIONS

We offer prayers of healing and intercession for those named below:



*Lena Bowers*

*Gail*

*Debbie Kennedy*

*Kayla Weedon*

*Maddie*

*Maria Goss*

*Margaret Hedrick*

*JYM*

*Oscar Thayer*

*Tina Thayer*

*Natalie (Illsley)*

*Joyce LaMotte*

*Miyoko Cumberland*

*Bob & Shirley*

*Tony Campos*

*Marion E (Perry) Temple Balser Paquette*

*December 2, 1920 ~ January 25, 2016*

Marion E. (Perry) Temple Balser Paquette, 95, was the wife of the late Edward Paquette who died in 2002. She was also the wife of the late Leslie Temple who died in 1996 and the late Ralph Balser. She was born in Marlborough, the daughter of the late Michael McCarthy and the late Ethel Perry and lived here all of her life .

She was a very strong person, both mentally and physically. As she used to say, " The toughness and stubbornness of an Irish Woman and the dignity of an English lady, but most of all a very Patriotic American Woman". She had a never ending Love for all of her family.

*Thanks be to God!*





*St. Luke's Episcopal Church*

*The little brick church at the rotary!*

5 Washington Street Hudson, Massachusetts 01749 Tel: +1 (978) 562-2701

Email: [administrator@stlukeshudson.org](mailto:administrator@stlukeshudson.org)

Web.: [www.stlukeshudson.org](http://www.stlukeshudson.org)