

## **From the Partlows**

Holy Week begins with a sense of anticipation as we take part in the Liturgy of the Palms on Palm/Passion Sunday. The service begins with joy but at the reading of the Passion, the mood changes – thus setting the stage for the remainder of Holy Week. We go from Palm Sunday and the retelling of the passion to the poignancy of Maundy Thursday. Good Friday follows with Jesus' crucifixion and burial. Holy Saturday brings silence. On Easter Day the mood turns to joy as we celebrate the triumph of life over death in Jesus' resurrection.

Lent comes to an end on Maundy Thursday with a whisper. With the observation of the Last Supper the "*Tridium*" (or three days) begins. Good Friday with its observance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus follows. The *Tridium* comes to a joyful conclusion with the celebration of the resurrection at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Day. The services are seen as a single worship unit – each expressing a part of the story of Jesus Christ. We believe that the more you participate in worship and take time for prayer and reflection over these three days, the more you will experience the awe, wonder and joy of Easter morning.

We invite each of you – wherever you are in your faith journey – to be present as we go from the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, through the contemplation of Jesus' crucifixion and death, and finally, joyfully entering in the celebration of the resurrection. This is the center and core of the Christian faith. Come, experience the profound mystery with us. Bob and Ruth

## **African Team Ministry items in the Parish House today**

After services visit the parish house to see the display of unique, one-of-a-kind items that are being offered for sale this year. African Team Ministries is an intermediary ministry between African and American churches, offering a wide variety of hand-crafted items: sculptures, musical instruments, and jewelry to support its work in orphan and refugee relief, missions and evangelism in East Africa. Your purchases will help provide funds to build drip irrigation systems, bringing relief and hope to the thousands of people who are suffering from drought in Kenya.

Visit <http://www.africanteamministries.org/Products.html> to see the products for sale. Thank you for supporting this valuable ministry. Amy Newell

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

The youth group is planning an Easter Egg hunt following the 10 AM service on Easter Sunday.

All children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or below are invited to participate. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be helpers for the younger children.

## **Special Youth Dates**

Sunday, April 27	10:00 AM	Children and Youth Sunday
Sunday, May 4	10:00 AM	Rite Thirteen Celebration

*All Youth Group meetings begin at 5 PM and are held in the Parish Hall. Mark your calendars for April 13, 27, May 4, June 1*

## **About Holy Week at Fork Church**

### **Palm Sunday: Sunday of the Passion**

**April 16 10:00 AM**

We will gather outside the Parish Hall to hear the reading from Matthew that tells the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Palms will be blessed and distributed. We will then go in procession to the church, waving our palms as the people did so long ago and singing *“All glory, laud and honor.”*

### **Maundy Thursday**

**Thursday, April 17 7:00 PM**

#### **Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing and the Stripping of the Altar**

This day commemorates Jesus' final preparation of his disciples for his absence. The name *“Maundy”* comes from the Latin *mandatum* which means *command*. It is a reference to the new command Jesus gave that night *“to love one another as I have loved you.”* During the *“last supper”* with his disciples, Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist as a living sacrament. Whenever it is celebrated, He is in our midst.

The Gospel of John also includes the account of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. This is a concrete demonstration of what it means to love and to serve. Jesus called on his disciples to do likewise. During this evening Jesus imparts words of wisdom and guidance meant not only for the disciples but for all who follow Jesus in the generations to come.

Join us for this special service which includes the opportunity to take part in the Foot Washing Ceremony and the Holy Eucharist. The service concludes with the solemn stripping of the Altar in which members of the Altar guild will remove all adornment and worship items in the church. This is a reminder of how empty and hopeless life would be without Jesus.

### **Good Friday**

**Friday, April 18 7:00 PM**

#### **Good Friday Liturgy**

In observance of Jesus' crucifixion and death, this quiet service allows time to hear various lessons including the passion according to John's gospel. Prayers and, hymns conclude the service.

## **Celebrations of the Resurrection**

The celebration of the Resurrection is the pivotal and most important feast day of the Christian faith. It also is the earliest feast day celebrated by the Church. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> century the celebration began with the Easter Vigil Saturday evening. The Paschal candle was lit,

salvation history retold, hymns sung, the catechumens were baptized, and finally at sunrise the first Eucharist of Easter was celebrated. Here at Fork Church we will celebrate with a modified Easter Vigil!

**Holy Saturday**

**Saturday, April 19 8:00 PM**

**The Easter Vigil**

The vigil begins in a darkened church with the Lighting of the Paschal Candle from “new” fire, followed by the singing of The Exultet. Salvation history is recounted in lesson and hymnody. Together we re-affirm our baptismal vows before moving into the\_The First Eucharist of Easter.

**Day of Resurrection: Easter Day Sunday, April 20 10:00 AM**

**Festive Eucharist**

Prior to the service Alleluias (buried the last Sunday of Epiphany) will be dug up by the children so that we may rejoice throughout the service singing alleluias. The Youth Choir will join the Adult Choir for special anthems. Following this service there will be an Easter egg hunt for the younger children and refreshments on the lawn.