

## *St. Paul's Newsletter, May 2007*

### *Another report on things they didn't teach me in seminary*

By The Rev. Earl Beshears

I enjoy remembering my time in seminary. It was a time to sit at the feet of some wonderful theological thinkers and spiritual guides. The work of the Church seemed so clear then: bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ. The work of the priest seemed so clear: preach the good news, celebrate the sacraments and love the people. I still think of preaching and teaching, celebrating the sacraments and loving you as my priestly job description. However, occasionally things come up that they did not teach in seminary and that don't fit very easily into the job description.

For example, at a recent coffee hour, I was pouring myself a cup of coffee and I overheard two parishioners talking about our aging organ. These two gentlemen concluded that one day the organ would need replacing and it would be very expensive. As I walked from the coffee pot to the sweet rolls, they began to discuss a fundraiser where people paid so much per hundred feet for me to parachute from an airplane. I agree with my father, a veteran of 22 years in Navy aviation, who said: "only a crazy person jumps out of a perfectly sound airplane." Besides, what if you only collected enough for 500 feet; there would not be time for the parachute to open. Furthermore, they do not teach skydiving in seminary. In addition, a 39-year marriage would go down the drain. Lastly, skydiving is not part of my job description. So, forget it!

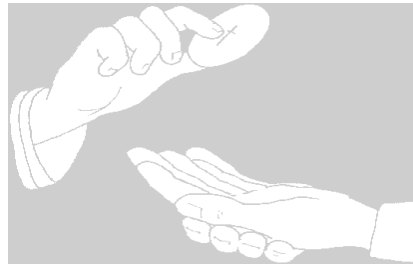
Another thing they did not talk about in seminary (at least I do not remember it) is the Easter Bunny. Easter morning at Saint Paul's was glorious. There were more than 70 people here for the Easter Vigil at 7:00 A.M. and another 50 plus at 10:30 worship. The music was beautiful. The church was beautiful. Our children were in their Easter best and Ruth Mires wore her Easter bonnet. The breakfast was spectacular – there was so much delicious variety and so much left over. The children had fun running through the cold and windy cemetery looking for candy. One of the children asked me "when did the Easter bunny hide the eggs." All I could answer was "I don't know." They did not teach me this in seminary. If any of you know when the Easter bunny hides the candy in our cemetery, please let me know.

In seminary, we spent much time discussing grace and how our very lives are a gift from God. We talked about how we are responsible for returning a portion of what God has given us back to God, so that we can continue Christ's ministry through the Church. Jean and I have taken this responsibility seriously for many years before and after seminary. We gradually increased our giving until we were and still are giving at least 10 percent of our income to our church each year. Saint Paul's finance committee and vestry are struggling with a budgetary shortfall. They are looking at what to cut and where to save money in our operations and programs budget. What the seminary did not teach me is: how to trim a bare bones budget, how to make soaring fuel prices go down, and how to

select which ministries to reduce or end (Youth? Worship? EAM? Flowers? Church maintenance? Newsletter? Bulletins? Priest?) What they did teach me at seminary was to trust God to speak to the hearts of the faithful that they might increase their giving to their church and continue Saint Paul's good works.

I recently received a ballot from Virginia Theological Seminary where I attended. The ballot included a classmate who is nominated for the Alumni/ae Association Executive Committee and my rector in Alexandria, where I served as her Seminarian Assistant, who is nominated to be a Trustee. I voted for both of them. If they are elected, maybe I will call them and ask them to include skydiving and the Easter Bunny in the curriculum to help future priests. Putting budget cutting in the curriculum will not be necessary. Saint Paul's is a strong, healthy parish, committed to loving and serving the Lord. God will speak to our hearts and through us, God will provide.

Through us, God will provide.



## Senior Warden's Report

Thanks go out to Ginny Wright this month for her planning and flawless execution of the youth group's lock-in. She took care of the organization of the event and all of the food. We had twelve kids attended and a great time was had by all. Next year we hope to get more adults to come play games with the young people of the church.

Along the same lines, I am looking for some adults to help organize youth events for the next few months. Burt and Carol Atallian have volunteered to host a pool party this summer for the youth group. If you know of fun/educational events for the youth, please let me know. I would like to see everyone take more interest in the youth and their activities.

As an update, the vestry is still looking into the replacement/upgrade of our heating and air conditioning system. We even hired an energy expert to come evaluate our current system and practices. We have recently received his report but have not had time to go over all of it. However, he did mention the best way to save on energy cost is to turn things off. So, please, if you see lights on (that don't need to be on), help us save money and energy by turning them off. I will try to keep you informed of any new information regarding the energy survey and the vestry's decisions on the heating and air conditioning systems.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter season. It has been unseasonably cold and I am sure that we are all looking forward to warmer weather. Don't forget to support the EAM team this summer. Also, be sure to sign your kids and/or grandkids up for Camp Arrowhead this summer. They won't have a better time anywhere else.

Yours in faith,  
Chris Bennett

from  
*"Interpreting the Proposed Anglican Covenant"*

By The Rev. A. Katherine Grieb  
for the House of Bishops, Monday, March 19, 2007

Theologically, biblically, I think we are at Antioch with Paul, in Jerusalem with Jeremiah, and walking the way of the Cross with that mysterious Son of Man. With Paul in Antioch, we have – perhaps without adequate consultation with Jerusalem – been having table fellowship (koinonia) with Gentiles, until the men from James came to tell us that we have to stop doing it. They want a moratorium on eating with Gentiles. This presents the community with a difficult decision. Peter and Barnabas pull away from the table physically and ritually separate themselves from the Gentiles. Paul says, "I can't do it." If he had not, most of us would not be here today, being Gentiles ourselves.

Jeremiah in Jerusalem before the exile told the frightened people to wake up and appreciate their situation. Their naïve belief that God would never allow the city of Jerusalem and its Temple to be taken by the Babylonians was not going to save them. They were going into exile, one way or another. They could do it the hard way or the easier way, but they were going into exile. I think the metaphor of "exile" captures something of the pain we can expect from being in less than full communion with the Primates, who will certainly distance themselves from us, if not in September, then later on down the line. But we might remember that our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters have long lived in exile and it will be a great privilege to go into exile in their company.

Finally, I think we are in the place of all potential disciples of Jesus when some Pharisees come to warn him about Herod. He will go his way today, and the next day, and the day after that, healing and teaching and casting out demons, but eventually he will end up in Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets.

Where is that mysterious Son of Man hidden today? What is the cross that we are to take up? This message is especially directed to those of us who are called to "stand with" a rejected category of persons. Dietrich Bonhoeffer recognized the hidden Son of Man in the persecuted Jews. Abraham Heschel, who marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., had eyes to see the Son of Man hidden in the rejected separate and unequal ones. Perhaps Mahatma Gandhi caught a glimpse of him in the Dalit, the "untouchables" of India. Since we shall have to answer for these things we do on the day of judgment, it may not hurt to ask ourselves ahead of time the question Jesus asks us: What good will it do any of us, even if we gain the whole world, if we forfeit our soul, our life, our self?"

*Kathy message to our bishops is in response to the possibility that the conservative Primates in the Anglican Communion will force the Episcopal Church in the United States out of the Anglican Communion.*

*Kathy teaches New Testament at Virginia Seminary and in my pilgrimage to Israel in 2000, I was fortunate to have Kathy as one of the interpreters. As a woman trying to be faithful to her calling in our church before the ordination of women was common, she must know first hand the pain of being a "gentile" or an "exile." Her life experience, her love of Christ and her deep knowledge of scripture feeds her theology and her communion with our*

*gay and lesbian brothers and sisters who have long lived in exile. Yes, it will be sad going into exile, cut off from our ecclesial roots, but it will be a privilege to go into exile in their company.*

The Rev. Earl Beshears

## THE HOLY STORY

by Barbara Crafton (4/23/07)



Oh, the redbuds! In bloom this morning, as they were not when I left for the weekend, and clearly visible in the front garden outside my office window. Their blooms are tiny and multiple, hundreds of little flowers hugging each branch, so that the tree is outlined a deep pink for a couple of weeks before its green leaves come in, a second beauty. Today, we are told, it might climb into the 80s Fahrenheit. At last. I have been so cold for so long.

The redbud's other folk name is the Judas Tree. The lore is that it was this tree upon which Judas hung himself after he realized what he had done, and that it has blushed with shame ever since. Our stories are full of plants and animals who participated in Jesus' life in some way: animals who talked at midnight the night he was born, a cross-shaped growth of black fur on the back of a donkey in honor of its royal rider as he entered Jerusalem, the dogwood's cross-shaped blossoms with their crown of thorns in the middle, their spot of blood on each petal.

That nature itself participates in our holy story is one thing, one charming thing. That nature is a holy story is another. But it is certainly so: surely the creation is as holy an event as its redemption by the same hand that brought it into being. We oppose our own importance to that of the creation, subordinating the protection of the earth to our need for a certain level of economic growth, never realizing how silly we sound: who will grow the economy if none of us are here?

It is possible to prosper and care for creation at the same time -- much more possible than we used to think it was. Some of our best minds are busily at work on it, turning recycled tires into sidewalks, corn into fuel, swapping, reusing, revisiting old practices in new ways. But make no mistake: a time will come when the choice will have to be made between our right to be as rich and as comfortable as we want to be and the integrity of the earth and the rest of its inhabitants. When the creative measures we are developing to decrease the size of our impact on the earth will not be optional. Right now you can still have an enormous house in which two people live and two or three cars the size of apartments, if you want to. But a time is coming when that will no longer be possible. I'm getting ready

now, by revising my approach to my own consumption as something other than a God-given right. That way, I won't experience the loss of some of it as an outrage.

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*Brothers in arms*

by Mark Knopfler

These mist covered mountains  
Are a home now for me  
But my home is the lowlands  
And always will be  
Some day you'll return to  
Your valleys and your farms  
And you'll no longer burn  
To be brothers in arms

Through these fields of destruction  
Baptisms of fire  
I've watched all your suffering  
As the battles raged higher  
And though they did hurt me so bad  
In the fear and alarm  
You did not desert me  
My brothers in arms

Theres so many different worlds  
So many differents suns  
And we have just one world  
But we live in different ones

Now the sun's gone to hell  
And the moon's riding high  
Let me bid you farewell  
Every man has to die  
But it's written in the starlight  
And every line on your palm  
We're fools to make war  
On our brothers in arms

*This poem, set to music, is the title song from the Dire Straits album Brothers in Arms. Perhaps the wrrior knows the foolishness of war better than anyone.*

## Diocesan Convention

Libby Stevenson, Bobbie Quillen, Ginny Wright, Fr. Earl and I went to the 222nd Diocesan Convention April 21st and 22nd in Smyrna. Many of you know that I do not do "early morning" very well, but I highly recommend the Saturday morning service of the convention. This is the second convention I have attended and have found both Saturday Morning services were "Wonderful"!! Great Singing, the Spirit of God everywhere, and just a peaceful time to pray and enjoy everything going on. **Mark your Calendars!!** Next year's convention will be at St. Phillip's Church in Laurel, DE. Put April 11th and 12th in your calendars now so you won't miss it. I will definitely be at Saturday's Service next year!!! I will also check out the vendor booths.

Judy Dean

**St Paul's 4TH annual Spring Concert will be May 6, 2007 at 3:00 PM.**

**Attached is a poster announcing the concert. Each year we support a different community concern. In the past, the concert proceeds went to Primeros Pasos, Habitat for Humanity, and Episcopal relief to benefit the tsunami victims in south Asia. In the last few years, several people at St. Paul's have received the care and compassion of Delaware Hospice and several parishioners volunteer with hospice. Therefore, this year we will give the proceeds to Delaware Hospice.**

**Please announce the concert in your churches; distribute the poster in your work place, neighborhood, church or other public places; and please join us for an afternoon of marvelous music supporting a most worthy cause.**

**Thank you,  
Earl**

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# *Attention Ladies!*



*Let's meet for lunch.*

*When?*

*May 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM*

*Where?*

*Flight Deck Restaurant*

*Georgetown Airport*

*Cost?*

*\$7.95 plus cost of your beverage for a buffet*

*lunch \_\_\_\_\_ will attend.*

## Big and Little Kids Page

After his resurrection Jesus appeared to the disciples. During a period of 40 days, Jesus showed himself to the disciples a number of times; so that they could be assured that he was really alive. Read in Luke 24:13-50 about two of these appearances and complete the word search puzzle below.

R	W	E	Q	Y	J	S	N	D	B	D	E	M	T	J	M	Q	Q	T	H
T	E	I	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	E	D	O	H	E	E	L	U	Q	E
Y	O	P	T	R	Q	F	I	P	L	T	B	R	A	S	N	S	D	G	A
S	N	M	E	N	J	C	J	O	M	O	L	N	N	U	W	E	Q	N	V
D	Q	N	B	N	E	Y	Q	W	D	Q	B	I	K	S	H	C	V	I	E
E	T	Y	A	W	T	S	M	E	T	P	B	N	S	C	I	A	S	S	N
S	L	F	I	J	G	A	S	R	G	V	M	G	A	E	W	Q	Y	I	G
I	S	Z	W	L	Q	P	N	E	S	D	R	E	H	V	P	F	O	A	D
M	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	C	S	O	R	E	Q	I	Y	M	J	R	E
O	M	R	J	D	K	M	C	Q	E	P	C	P	E	L	R	D	V	P	I
R	N	X	C	U	M	O	Q	A	B	A	O	Q	U	A	O	A	U	E	F
P	O	P	E	N	E	D	C	G	E	A	T	C	S	L	L	E	J	V	I
T	D	X	Q	I	Q	G	F	P	C	A	B	U	T	S	G	R	X	E	C
F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S	A	S	W	D	B	B	C	I	U
C	D	J	I	P	T	R	I	X	N	M	R	E	C	C	W	W	K	L	R
S	T	L	T	R	U	S	H	R	M	T	N	Y	W	O	J	A	R	E	C
Q	F	I	G	H	W	J	F	E	E	B	S	E	K	A	S	X	U	B	J
Z	L	D	Z	Y	S	C	W	J	H	R	Y	O	J	S	T	M	S	D	A

EMMAUS	JESUS	CRUCIFIED	TOMB	MORNING	EYES
ALIVE	BELIEVE	GLORY	BREAD	THANKS	JOY
OPENED	PEACE	REPENTANCE	POWER	PREACHED	
WITNESSES	POWER	FORGIVENESS	PROMISED	BLESSED	
HEAVEN	WORSHIPED		PRAISING		

- |     |    |                    |
|-----|----|--------------------|
| May | 1  | Daniel Goebel      |
|     | 3  | Kaye Bennett       |
|     | 10 | Paul LaFond        |
|     | 11 | Paddy Panzetta     |
|     | 13 | Michael Smith      |
|     | 14 | Peg Hudson         |
|     | 18 | Harmony Plum       |
|     | 18 | Phyllis Smith      |
|     | 20 | Allan Baker        |
|     | 21 | Mary Jane Rohlfing |
|     | 23 | Ruth Myers         |
|     |    | Prudy Green        |
|     |    | Shirley Murray     |
|     | 25 | Bobbie Quillen     |
|     | 26 | Charles Kruger     |
|     | 27 | Ella Messick       |

28 Kim Bailey  
 29 Shirley Plum  
 Elijah Goebel  
 30 Ray Wilkinson  
 31 Bea Megee

**Reader Schedule May 2007**

**8:00 AM**  
**Chalicer**

**May 6**  
 F.Dean

**May 13**  
 R.Henk

**May 20**  
 B.Richardson

**May 27**  
 N.Whelen

**10:30 AM**

**Chalicer**

C.Bennett

F.Dean

R.Henk

C.Marshall-Steele

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

C.Dryden

J.Dryden

C.Henk

M.Ewell

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

R.Mires

M.Mires

R.Myers

B.Richardson

**Intercessor**

J.Beshears

J.Jones

D.Bennett

J.Beshears

# Acolyte Schedule

May 2007					
	6	13	20	27	
	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am
Crucifer	Bryan	Hannah	Calvin	Bryan	
Torches	Ellen	Georgia	Ariel	Calvin	
	Rebekah	Mary	Ellen	Hannah	
Server	Hannah	Bryan	Georgia	Rebekah	
Gospel	Sarah	Rachel	Sarah	Rachel	
Other	Rachel	Sarah	Rebekah	Sarah	

Fr. Earl & Jean would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards, gifts and prayers at Easter.

Not much to say. Thought I'd give the luncheon schedule so that everyone can be prepared in plenty of time. Coffee hours in May look good. We'll keep plugging away. Don't know if anyone else is mentioning the Easter breakfast. It was super successful this year.

#### Schedule of Parish Luncheons

June 3 - Corey / Doug Marshall-Steele

July 1 - Annual 4th of July picnic - Nancy/ Bill Whelen

August 5 - Yearly Summer Salad - No Host; Potluck

September 2 - or September 9 - Back-to-School - Sub Sandwiches  
Bobbie/ Bill Quillen

Mark your calendars; check with hosts to see what they might need.

#### Coffee Chatter

Reminder to check the schedule in the Parish Hall. No hosts = no goodies!!

Easter Breakfast was outstanding thanks to the 25 people who brought in all manner of egg dishes, bread items, fruit, salads, eggs, and juices.

Nearly 90 persons ate and visited and shared Easter sunshine.

Thanks to several clean up volunteers, the kitchen was spotless, the carpet vacuumed, the trash carried out and everyone gone in record time.

#### Rhythm of Life

When I need to be baking bread,  
may I bake bread with all my heart!  
Let me not be baking bread  
when I need to be chasing butterflies.

When I need to be chasing butterflies,  
may I chase butterflies with all my heart!  
Let me not be chasing butterflies  
when I need to be reading a book.

When I need to be reading a book,  
may I read a book with all my heart!  
Let me not be reading a book,  
when I need to be praying.

When I need to be praying,  
may I pray with all my heart!  
Let me not be praying  
when I need to be helping my neighbor.

When I need to be helping my neighbor,  
may I help my neighbor with all my heart!  
For loving one another is our sacred work,  
it restores and re-creates our spirit,  
it awakens us to our purpose,  
and loving one another is the purest prayer  
and the most perfect praise  
we can offer our Father in heaven.

D. Goebel