

The Messenger

The Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls, NY
A Non-Network Parish in the Diocese of Albany

Holy Week/ Easter 2009

The Liturgical Drama of Passiontide and Easter

April 5th in our Liturgical Calendar is observed as **“The Sunday of the Passion”**, commonly called “Palm Sunday. In our former liturgical calendar in the Episcopal Church, this Sunday was simply called “Palm Sunday”.and the Sunday before it was called “Passion Sunday.” The word “Passion” is Latin for “Suffering” and Passiontide refers to the week where we recount the sufferings of Jesus in his final days on earth. Thus the members of our liturgical commission felt that this Sunday, which ushers in the week-long observance of Jesus’ sufferings, should be called “Sunday of the Passion” since the story of Jesus’ Palm Procession into Jerusalem is only one part of the theme of this day. We begin this Sunday with the blessing and distribution of the Palms, a Gospel reading which tells the story of Jesus’ final entry into Jerusalem with the crowds shouting “Hosanna”and waving palm branches as he passed them sitting astride a donkey. Very soon the mood of the liturgy changes as we engage in a dramatic reading of the passion story with parishioners taking the various roles of those involved in the story (Jesus, Pilate, the High Priest, etc.) and the theme of the week ahead is set. The liturgical color for Passiontide is crimson - the color of the blood that Jesus shed on the cross.

April 9th is **“Maundy Thursday.”** The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin word “mandatum” - a mandate or law for on this day, when Jesus celebrated his “Last Supper” with his disciples he preceded the dinner by washing his disciples’ feet - the role usually assumed by the lowliest of the household servants - saying as he did, “A new mandate (commandment, law)I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (In another place Jesus had said, “He or she who would be greatest among you must be the servant of all.) Loving service. That’s what the Christian life is all about following the example and teachings of Jesus. In many Episcopal churches an actual re-enactment of that foot washing takes place, with priest and parishioners washing each other’s feet. The Last Supper was actually a Passover Seder, and agin, in many Episcopal Churches (including our own) the Maundy Thursday Eucharist is preceded by a model Jewish Passover Seder. The Eucharist on Maundy Thursday is called the “Eucharist of the Presanctified” for at that Eucharist hosts are consecrated that will be distributed on Good Friday. At the end of the liturgy, the Priest processes to a garden-like side altar, symbolizing the garden of Gethsemane to which Jesus withdrew with his disciples after the Supper, and the church remains open for a period of time for people who wish to spend time in quiet meditation before it in response to Jesus’ question to his disciples, “Could you not watch with me one hour?” Then the altar and sanctuary appointments are stripped providing a stark setting for the next day’s observance of Good Friday.

April 10th is **“Good Friday”** because Christ’s death effected our salvation and proclaimed the great gift of God’s unconditional love for us - a love “to the death.” During the Good Friday liturgy the Passion narrative is rehearsed once again for the Gospel reading. The Solemn Collects follow during which we pray for “all sorts and conditions of humankind” since Christ died for the whole world. Then a plain wooden cross is carried into the church by the priest symbolizing Christ’s carrying his cross to Golgotha - the site of his crucifixion -and we kneel in adoration before

it singing a hymn of praise to this act of overwhelming love. Finally, the priest returns to the Gethsemane Altar and takes the pre-consecrated "Body of Christ", symbolizing Christ's being seized in the garden, and returns to the Altar where the Bread is Broken, symbolizing Christ's body being broken on the cross. And all receive Holy Communion from the hosts that had been consecrated at the Maundy Thursday liturgy. (The wine is not administered on Good Friday.) And we leave the Church in reverent silence.

The liturgies of Passiontide are among the richest of the Christian Year, allowing us to relive the events which finally opened for us the gates of new and eternal Resurrected life. Plan to join us.

All best wishes,

Father Walt

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Where in the World is Father John?

Father Thompson has continued his tour of Hudson Valley health facilities by returning to the Whittier Nursing Center in Ghent for rehabilitation care following surgery for an aortic aneurysm. He has had a distressingly long and severe round of treatments and surgery for his medical conditions. Beginning with local doctors he spent time at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson, then went to the Whittier Skilled Nursing Center in Ghent for continuing antibiotic therapy. Then he was shipped to St. Peter's Hospital in Albany for evaluation and treatment. He landed finally in Albany Medical Center for very major and scary surgery. Now he is back at Whittier gradually recovering the use of his leg which had nerve damage during surgery. He is recuperating well from the infection and aneurysm surgery and, as a bonus, has grown a truly biblical beard.

As Spring returns to Copake Falls, we hope Father John will return with the daffodils and bluebirds! When we called him to be our rector we fully expected him to bring a prophetic ministry to our parish, but we hope that he can move on to other prophets soon. He has covered Job's trials

long enough! The story of Job ended well. May it be so with our rector.

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Ecumenical Lenten Program

We have been invited, as a parish, to an ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper and Program at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ancram on Wednesday, April 1st. The Soup Supper will begin at 6 PM followed by the program at 7 PM presented by Pastor Mark Frickey. Take advantage of this opportunity to get together for fellowship, worship and study with our neighbors in the Roe Jan area.

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Episcopal Church Women

The ECW held their first meeting in 2009 on March 3rd. The women discussed many upcoming events for 2009. The Country Fair is being co-chaired by Susan Mollo and Lucy Eldridge. The Auction Chairman is Harry Koeppel. The ECW will obtain the raffle tickets and mail to parishioners, etc.. The ECW is donating the 2nd prize. The prizes are

- First - a hand-stitched Star Quilt made and donated by Pauline Royal
- Second - a Thomas Kincaide "Faith

Mountain” Lighted Tree.

Third - a queen sized crocheted Granny Afghan made and donated by Edie Froggatt.

The drawing will be on July 11 during the Auction.

The women voted to retain the current officers:

- President - Marge McClurg
- Vice President - Babs Croteau
- Secretary - Susan Mollo
- Treasurer - Bea Baxter

Copake Falls Day will be August 22, 2009. There will be races in the morning and it has been suggested that St. John’s provide blueberry muffins and a drink for the racers. There may be a charge or a free will offering. Volunteers are needed to bake for this event. Contact Mibs Zelley for further information.

The next meeting of the ECW will be April 7th at 1:00 in Burke Hall. Come one, come all.

Bea/Babs Croteau, Vice President

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Birthdays in April



April 5

Fr.
John
Thompson

- April 11 Beatrice Baxter
- April 12 Marge McClurg
- April 14 Pauline Royal
- April 15 Arthur Royal
- April 18 Kent Kay

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UTO Spring Ingathering

The Spring Ingathering of the United Thank Offering will be between April 19th and May 24th. Please return your “Blue Boxes” or envelopes to Dorothy Baker no later than May 24th.

Buildings and Grounds

Yes, Spring is here, but unfortunately somebody didn’t tell the weatherman. However, warmer temperatures will be upon us before we know it. And the warmer weather will get most of us outside cleaning up our yards after the exodus of old man winter and the horrific messes he left us with. Unfortunately, St. Johns didn’t escape the winter aftermath and we need to schedule a Saturday when, those of us who are able, can give Harry Garrett a hand in a Spring Clean-up. I would think a Saturday morning in mid-April (April showers and Harry’s schedule permitting) might be a good time. I’m sure he would appreciate the help.

Now here is the rest of the story - A Buildings and Grounds committee consisting of Charles Fox, Jane Peck, Robert Flynn, Harry Garrett and myself, have been charged by the Vestry with the responsibility of maintenance and repair of our physical plant. However, we might not be aware of all the little problems that might arise. Insignificant as the problems might seem, we still need you as parishioners to let one of us know if you come upon a problem.

There are a couple of major items to be addressed. We will be coordinating them as soon as the weather permits. The number one item is the roof on the parish office and secondly the construction of a badly needed handicap accessible entrance for the church which will conform to the standards of the

industry and preserve the esthetics of the building, be unobtrusive to the snowplow and still be within the financial restraints of our budget. These, I feel, are major in comparison to the minuscule day to day items that we as homeowners are continually plagued with. As time, funding and manpower permit and with your help, your committee will strive to restore/maintain the beauty of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness.

Hank Croteau, Chairman, Bldgs. & Grounds



Figure 2

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**Mark Your
Calendars!**

July 11 and 12

The tent has been ordered, the Auctioneer booked! You know what that means! The Country Fair and Auction and The Pork Barbecue is scheduled for July 11th and 12th!

It's time to start looking through your attic and garage and spare rooms for items to be auctioned or sold at the Fair. If you know someone who is moving and would like to donate furniture. Household items, etc., please let them know we are interested.

Please remember that all items must be **clean and in working order**, If you donate items that have parts make sure that all parts are included. Over the years we have had top use expensive dumpster space to get rid of items that were not suitable. We **do not** take large appliances or clothing. We cannot emphasize enough that we need clean, saleable items.

The first organizational meeting for the CF&A is scheduled for Sunday, April 26th at Coffee Hour.

As we begin the planning for this year's Country Fair and Auction and the Pork BBQ that follows we are making a special request. This event, held for more then the last 40 years at St. John's in the Wilderness has contributed in important ways to the operating budget of the parish. We are asking you to help out this year with the up-front costs of mounting this event. Last year our expenses were @4,179.99, our income was \$7,300.38 for a net profit of \$5,130.39. The expenses covered the cost of the tent (\$1,000), food (\$525.35), advertising (\$179.61), paper items, dumpster (\$317), Auctioneer (gift certificate \$100). Although we work very hard to get the best discounted prices on these items and, indeed, many things are donated by parishioners, the cost still adds up. Volunteer effort, "sweat equity", is a big part and adds to the fun and vitality of the event.

We want you to be aware of the costs involved in the Fair and hope that you will consider making a donation. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Send contributions to *Susan Mollo*
Box 95
Copake Falls, NY 12517
or place an envelope marked *CF&A* in the offering plate on Sunday.

With your help the Country Fair and Auction, a wonderful community tradition in Copake Falls, will be a spirited success once again.

Many thanks,
Susan Mollo and Lucy Eldridge
Co-chairmen
Country Fair and Auction

The Lectionary Readings

Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 29

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-13
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Sunday of the Passion - April 5

Liturgy of the Palms:
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Mark 11:1-11
Liturgy of the Word:
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippines 2:5-11
 Mark 14:1-15:47

Maundy Thursday

Psalm 116:1,10-17
Exodus 12:1-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

Psalm 22
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm, 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18

Prayers From the Earth

Earth teach me freedom
as the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth teach me regeneration
as the seed which rises in the spring.
Earth teach me to forget myself
as melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach me to remember kindness
as dry fields weep with rain.

From Ute prayer

Belonging by Ann Weems

Full communion in the church
doesn't mean what it used to.
Even those who belong don't belong
if they don't have the rights
and privileges of the others
The list of non-belonging belongers is long.
If you're included in the list
(which means you're excluded),
you know it,
even though you've been assured
that the belonging believers
have compassion for your plight.

Fortunately, you know from
the scriptures and confessions
that you belong where it counts.
Your options include
turning the other cheek
and assuring the belonging believers
that you have compassion for their plight.
Blessed are the poor in privilege,
for they belong to God.