

May 2016
Volume 19, Issue 5

Church of the Holy Spirit

News and Notes

ADVOCATIONS—MAY 2016

Dear Friends at Church of the Holy Spirit,

As we all endure ever strident debates in this presidential election year, the subject of income inequality and the plight of the least affluent among us is a constant topic of conversation. As followers of Jesus, we will no doubt find ourselves in different places on the political spectrum, with differing ideas on the roles of individuals, communities and governments in addressing economic issues. And that is fine.

I would, however, commend to you a little piece by Richard Rohr on what he calls "God's preferential option for the poor." Perhaps this might stimulate thoughtful conversations, rather than political debate, among us about our own roles in response to the needs of the impoverished.

Randy Dales

"One of the great themes of the Bible, which begins in the Hebrew Scriptures and is continued in Jesus and Paul, is called "the preferential option for the poor"; I call it "the bias toward the bottom." We see the beginnings of this theme about 1200 years before Christ with an enslaved people in Egypt. Through their history God chooses to engage humanity in a social and long-standing conversation. The Hebrew people's exodus out of slavery, through twists and turns and dead ends, finally brings them to the Promised Land, eventually called Israel. This is a standing archetype of the perennial spiritual journey from entrapment to liberation. It is the universal story.

Moses, himself a man at "the bottom" (a murderer on the run and caring for his father-in-law's sheep), first encounters God in a burning bush (Exodus 3:2). Like so many initial religious experiences, this happens while Moses is alone—externally and interiorly. The encounter is nature-based and transcendent at the same time: "Take off your shoes; this is holy ground" (see Exodus 3:5). This religious experience is immediately followed by a call to a very costly social concern for Moses' own oppressed people, whom he had not cared about up to then. God said, "I have

Happy Mother's Day



MOTHER'S DAY BENEDICTION

May the blessing of the Divine
Be an especially bright benediction
Upon mothers everywhere
On your blessed day
On Mother's Day.

May we remember
Mothers everywhere
Seen and unseen
Who by their love and kindness
Bless us always!

Love be with you dear mothers
Love be with you always!

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Advocations (Continued from page 1)

heard the groaning of my people in Egypt. You, Moses, are to go confront the Pharaoh and tell him to let my people go" (see Exodus 3:9-10).

There, at the very beginning of the Judeo-Christian tradition, is the perfect integration of action and contemplation. First, the transformative experience takes place through the burning bush. Immediately it has social, economic, historical, and political implications. How did we ever lose sight of this when our Scriptures and tradition begin this way? The connection is clear. There is no authentic God experience that does not situate you in the world in a very different way. After an encounter with True Presence you see things quite differently, and it gives you freedom from your usual loyalties and low-level payoffs—the system that gave you your security, your status, your economics, and your very identity. Your screen of life expands exponentially. This transformation has costly consequences. Moses had to leave Pharaoh's palace to ask new questions and become the liberator of his people."

**IMPORTANT TWO-PARISH MEETING****PLEASE ATTEND!**

There will be a very important two-parish meeting in the Undercroft on Sunday, May 1 following the 9:30 service. We will be discussing future steps in our shared ministry between Church of the Holy Spirit and St. Mark's. Please plan to attend to hear about and contribute to discussion about the future of our area parishes!

UTO INGATHERING - MAY 8

Have you been filling your UTO box? The next UTO collection will take place on Sunday, May 8th, so you have plenty of time to fill your box! If you need additional boxes or envelopes, they're available at the back of the church. Thank you for supporting this inspiring ministry--remember: "Our change changes lives!"

QUILTING - MAY 12

The quilters will meet on Thursday, May 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Griswold Hall. Please join them for this creative ministry. Please contact Lois Grant at 856-7197 if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE: CLEANUP DAY AND PICNIC!



Pentecost is coming in just a few weeks, on May 15, and it's the perfect time to celebrate the spring weather that's coming (slowly, but surely)! The Church of the Holy Spirit and St. Mark's will be celebrating a **Two-Church Pentecost Picnic** at 263 Highland St. following the 9:30 service on **May 15th**, and we'd love it if you'd join us! Randy will also be blessing the new flooring in Griswold Hall on that date. We're coordinating potluck items, so if you'd like to bring a dish, please contact the office or sign up at the back of the church to let us know (burgers, hot dogs, and

buns will be provided).

The beginning of May is quite full, so our clean-up day is scheduled the day before the picnic, on **Saturday, May 14th from 9 to 1**. We'll be looking for folks to rake, clear sand, wash windows, and maybe do a little painting, so dust off your tools and come help spruce up Griswold Hall and the CLC in time for summer! If you have a spare rake, shovel, or wheelbarrow, bring them along (feel free to contact us beforehand to see if you need to bring bulky items); we'll also be using gardening gloves and tools for the flowerbeds and bushes; and we may also have a little painting to do. If you'd like to bring supplies for any project, please contact our Junior Warden, Beno Lamontagne, at 603-419-9713 to see what we need!

THE POSTCARD MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Are you looking for a fun way to brighten people's day? Consider writing for the Postcard Ministry! It's easy and fun! Writing birthday, anniversary, and thinking of you cards would be a great family project! As our lives evolve, different months become available; currently, February, April (see below), and December are vacant. This April will be Anne Buttolph's last month on the Postcard Ministry after 10 years of faithful service! Thank you, Anne! We will miss you! To volunteer, please contact Kathy Lennox at 536-4779.

SEEKING GREETERS, READERS, & COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR MAY!

We're on the lookout for readers and greeters for several dates in May! If you know you will be at church and are willing to help out, please let Melissa know. We are seeking additional hosts for our Coffee Hours, held after the 9:30 a.m. Sunday services. If you are willing and able to be an occasional host, please contact Robin Bowers (via email at rbowers4000@roadrunner.com, or at 536-5889) with your name, phone number, and email address. Coffee is provided by the Church; you simply need to provide light refreshments for those attending the coffee hour. Robin will be glad to give you a "tour" of our kitchen facilities, if you wish. Many thanks for considering this very important--and tasty!--part of the church family!

MAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!!

Leon Desfosses
Jim Parziale
Sara Smith
Fred Gould
Lilah Piper
John Michaud
Mike McKinney
Ash Morgan
Lynn Ann Gallagher

Happy Anniversary!!

Carol & John Perkins
Dick & Stephanie Osborne
Jim & Jane Parziale
Jonathan & Marcia Santore

THURSDAY EUCCHARIST

Randy leads a weekly Healing Eucharist on Thursdays at Sherrill Hall, St. Mark's, Ashland at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend this shared ministry with St. Mark's! Please contact the office with any questions.

MAY VESTRY MEETING

The Vestry will hold its monthly meeting on the second Sunday of the month, immediately following the 9:30 service in the back of the church. The next meeting will be on **May 8**. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Please contact Joan Bowers or Randy to add an agenda item.

HOLY MEN & HOLY WOMEN: JOAN OF ARC

The Episcopal Church continues an ancient tradition from the early Church of honoring important and influential people of the Christian faith. In addition to the calendar of Saints Days in the Prayer Book, our Church has created a calendar of '*Holy Men & Holy Women*,' containing a number of persons important in the history of the church in



the United States and beyond. From time to time, we wish to highlight some of those people of faith.

On May 30, the Episcopal Calendar "Holy Men and Holy Women" remembers **Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc)**, Mystic and Soldier, 1431. Joan is the patron of France and of soldiers. Born to peasant parents in the village of Domremy, Joan (or Jehanne, as she signed her name in French) began to hear the voices (and sometimes see some kind of vision) of St Michael, St Catherine and St Margaret when she was thirteen. At first, they simply urged her to develop her piety but eventually began to direct her to become involved in the struggle to bring Charles, son of King Charles VI, to the contested French throne.

Obediently, 17-year old Joan traveled to the French court, took on male attire, and persisted in making her way through the layers of bureaucracy by predicting the outcome of certain military operations and then by recognizing the king in his disguise. She convinced him to allow her to command an army, and using a sword that had been buried behind the altar of St Catherine de Fierbois, she led her army to a spectacular victory over the English at Orleans. Charles' supporters were reinvigorated by the inspiration of this armored Maid of Orleans, and after a string of victories, Charles was crowned at the Cathedral in Rheims with Joan in attendance.

Later, she was captured, tried by the Inquisition, condemned as a heretic, and burned at the stake. In the 20th century, she was declared a saint. Her story has been the subject of hundreds of books, plays, musical compositions, and art.

Prayer for Joan of Arc: In the face of your enemies, in the face of harassment, ridicule, and doubt, you held firm in your faith. Even in your abandonment, alone and without friends, you held firm in your faith. Even as you faced your own mortality, you held firm in your faith. I pray that I may be as bold in my beliefs as you, St. Joan. I ask that you ride along beside me in my own battles. Help me be mindful that what is worthwhile can be won when I persist. Help me hold firm in my faith. Help me believe in my ability to act well and wisely. Amen.

ECW MEETING, BOOK SALE, AND FLEA MARKET!



Despite the rainy chill and technology foibles, 19 of us gathered to learn about migrating birds from Susan Fogleman for April's ECW meeting. Susan provided a couple of online links that anyone can use to track species as they make their way north. Simply visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at www.allaboutbirds.org or the Journey North site at www.journeynorth.org.

The next ECW meeting will be May 5 at noon at Trinity Church in Meredith. We'll enjoy each other's company and a brown bag lunch and homemade desserts by Pat L'Abbe and Shirley Stockwell. Barbara will be organizing a carpool, so if you're interested in attending, please let her know. All are welcome! Also, the Flea Market/Craft Sale will be on June 4 from 9-1 at 263 Highland Street. Want to be a vendor? Please contact Barbara Brooks (744-3597) to reserve an outdoor spot for \$10. Also, the next Book Sale will be April 28; we particularly need folks to help move books before and after the sale! Come get a great workout!

DONATE TO THE LOCAL FOOD BANK!



How often do you take food for granted? Local food banks are always looking for donated canned goods, and CHS has a collection basket at the church for you to donate when you come to church! Think of what one can of soup or fruit a week from each of us could do! You may bring your donated items directly to the Food

Bank (located at the Community Closet, across the street from Rite-Aid) on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-11--or you may place items in the basket at the back of the church, and Kathy Lennox will collect all donations each Monday to take to the Food Bank. It's an easy--and much appreciated!--community outreach!

GRISWOLD HALL CARPET REPLACEMENT

Mark Noyes will be installing the new carpeting in Griswold Hall the first weekend in May--just in time for summer activities! We've received \$855 in donations so far to help support this project--including donations from outside groups who use the building. The cost of the project is \$3,400, so every donation helps our church budget.

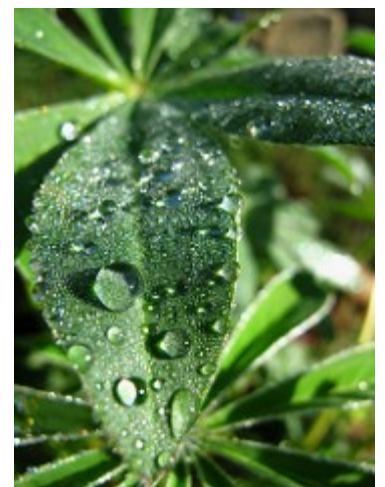
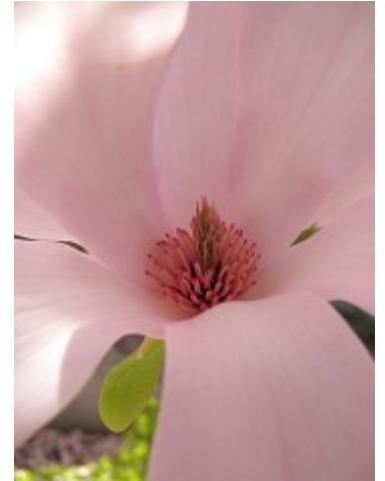
Want to help? You can mail in a check--or drop it in the offering plate (please write "Griswold Carpet" in the memo line!). Or you can make a contribution into the "Donation" box at the back of the church! This building is used by all of us and therefore needs the support of all, no matter what size donation you make, it will help us to continue our outreach work.

CALLING ALL BAKERS: FOOD FOR FINALS

Food for Finals is coming up, a time when Plymouth State's Catholic and United Campus Ministries deliver comfort food in the form of homemade goodies to residence halls and Centre Lodge the first night of Finals Week. If you are interested in providing batches of cookies or squares, please contact Melissa at the office with your name, phone number, what you will bake and the amount. Please drop off baked goods at the Reflection & Spiritual Care Center between 9:00 a.m. and noon on Saturday, May 7th. The Center is located on Highland St., across from Lamson Library, the next building up from Citizens Bank.

ASHLAND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join St. Mark's Church on the fourth Saturday of the month, from 8-9 a.m. Don't miss a homemade breakfast with eggs and St. Mark's famous French Toast! All are welcome to attend and assist; as well as to stay for the Concerned Christian Community meeting immediately following the breakfast. The next breakfast is on **May 27**. Please contact Deb Holland at 254-7192 with questions.

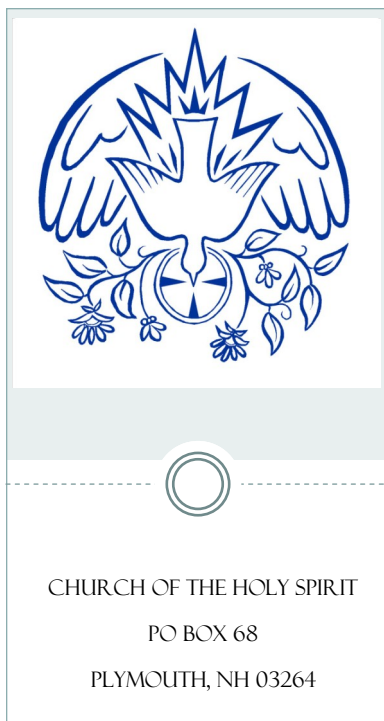


COMING UP SOON!

- May 1: Two-Church Meeting**, following 9:30 service, 170 Main St.
- May 5: ECW Meeting**, 12 p.m., Trinity Church, Meredith
- May 8: Vestry Meeting**, following 9:30 service, 170 Main St.
- May 12: Quilting**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Griswold Hall
- May 14: Safe Church Training**, 9 a.m.-noon, St. John's, Portsmouth
- May 14: Clean Up Day**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 263 Highland St.
- May 15: Two-Church Pentecost Picnic**, following 9:30 service, 263 Highland St.
- May 21: Community Breakfast**, 8-9 a.m., Sherrill Hall, St. Mark's, Ashland
- May 26: Book Sale**, 3-6 p.m., Griswold Hall

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

- Thursday Healing Eucharist:** 11 a.m., Sherrill Hall, St. Mark's, Ashland
- AA:** 7:30 a.m. Mon-Fri, Griswold Hall
- AA (mens' 50+ group):** 5 p.m. Mon, Griswold Hall
- AA (womens' group):** 7 p.m. Wed, Griswold Hall
- Al-Anon:** 7 p.m. Mon-Griswold Hall



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE