



THE CLOAK

A monthly publication of

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

May 2017

Easter 2017 Message

It's taken me some years to realize it, but Jesus didn't just happen to be in Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. He wasn't on vacation. He wasn't just hanging out in town. Jesus was in Jerusalem on purpose. He arrived in Jerusalem about the time of the Passover when pilgrims were in the city. When people's hopes and expectations for the dawn of freedom that Moses had promised in the first Passover might suddenly be realized for them in their time.

Jesus arranged his entrance into Jerusalem to send a message. He entered the city, having come in on one side of the city, the scholars tell us, at just about the same time that Pontius Pilate made his entrance on the exact opposite side of the city. Pilate, coming forth on a warhorse. Pilate, with soldiers around him. Pilate, with the insignias of Rome's Empire. Pilate, representing the Caesars who claimed to be son of god. Pilate, who had conquered through Rome the people of Jerusalem. Pilate, representing the Empire that had taken away their freedom. Pilate, who represented the Empire that would maintain the colonial status of the Jewish people by brute force and violence.

Jesus entered the city on the other side, not on a warhorse, but on a donkey, recalling the words of Zechariah:

*Behold your King comes to you
Triumphant and victorious is He
Humble and riding on a donkey*

Jesus entered the city at the same time as Pilate to show them, and to show us, that God has another way. That violence is not the way. That hatred is not the way. That brute force and brutality are not the way.

Jesus came to show us there is another way. The way of unselfish, sacrificial love. That's why he entered Jerusalem. That's why he went to the cross. It was the power of that love poured out from the throne of God, that even after the horror of the crucifixion would raise him from death to life.

God came among us in the person of Jesus to start a movement. A movement to change the face of the earth. A movement to change us who dwell upon the earth. A movement to change the creation from the nightmare that is often made of it into the dream that God intends for it.

He didn't just happen to be in Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday. He went to Jerusalem for a reason. To send a message. That not even the titanic powers of death can stop the love of God. On that Easter morning, he rose from the dead, and proclaimed love wins.

So you have a blessed Easter Season. Go forth to be people of the Resurrection. Follow in the way of Jesus. Don't be ashamed to love. Don't be ashamed to follow Jesus. Have a blessed Easter. And bless the world. Amen.

**The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church**

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2017/04/03/presiding-bishop-michael-currys-easter-message-2017/>

Join us in Worship Sundays at 10 a.m.

- ✦ May 7 – 4th Sunday of Easter. Holy Eucharist & Healing Prayers
- ✦ May 14 – 5th Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Mother's Day
- ✦ May 21 – 6th Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist & Healing Prayers
- ✦ May 28 – 7th Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist

In this issue:

- Rector's Letter
- Helen's Health Corner
- Photos from the TEA
- Vestry Snapshot
- "One Buck Seminary"
- Scout News
- And more.....

Helen's Health Corner

It's Spring, and We are Sneezing!

Here are some allergy tips from *AARP Bulletin* April 2017 issue:

It is possible to develop allergies later in life. An allergy develops when your immune system goes haywire in reaction to a foreign substance, such as grass, pollen or pet hair. As we age, immunity naturally begins to wane, and some people who have suffered for years may find that they can breathe more easily when spring rolls around... But occasionally people develop an allergy later in life. Linn County is the "Grass Seed Capital of the World."

Allergies can be underdiagnosed if the physician is focusing on a chronic issue. Be sure to mention it on your next visit.

Treatments can be tough to figure out. Be patient. Some allergy drugs can affect existing problems....On the flip side, some of the medications you're taking to manage chronic conditions may be causing an allergic reaction.

A runny nose and watery eyes may not be an allergy at all. If you have a chronically runny nose, you (and your doctor) may suspect seasonal allergies, but you might actually have what's called non-allergic rhinitis.

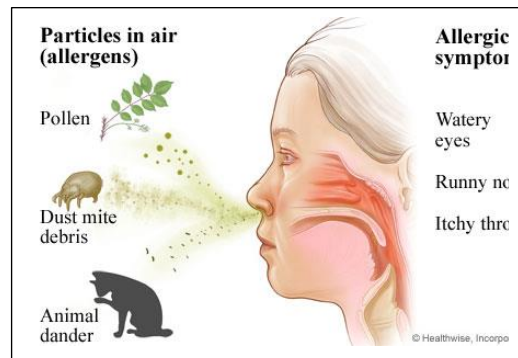
Congested? Don't immediately run to allergy medicine. Make sure you are well hydrated and try plain saline nasal spray first.

Two scary thoughts:

Allergies may increase the risk of stroke. People who have a history of hay fever have an 87 percent higher risk of stroke compared with folks without hay fever, according to a study of nearly 10,000 adults who were 45 or older.

Some allergy meds could make you more prone to dementia. Some allergy meds fall under the umbrella of anticholinergic drugs, and two recent studies, published in the journals *JAMA Neurology* and *JAMA Internal Medicine*, suggest a link between these drugs and a greater risk of dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

<http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2017/allergy-medication-triggers-treatments.html>



Biz Expo Report



Thanks to Rev. Melodie+, Barbi Thomson, Sara Jameson, Larry & Jeanne James, Loyce & Jim Rutledge, Michelle Hamilton, and Sam Blankenship for staffing our booth at the 2017 Biz Expo all day.

St. Martin's was the only church represented, and we talked to many people about our outreach activities in the community, gave out palm crosses, fact sheets, Lenten booklets and Forward Day by Day, etc.



Rector's Easter Letter

GOOD NEWS! EASTER IS NOT OVER IT IS JUST BEGINNING. READ THE STORY BELOW AND SEE WHY

Jesus said I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. Last year the Sunday after Easter I worshiped at Holy Trinity Anglican Church Greece, located in the Old Town of Corfu as part of an After Easter retreat. Easter is not just one day, but lasts 40 days and often gets overlooked after Lent ends and the great celebration on Easter day.

The sermon at Holy Trinity highlighted this continuing celebration with 14 stations of the resurrection, consisting of Bible readings and prayers about the days before Jesus' ascension. The readings described how Jesus continued to appear to the disciples and others in the days before his rising in glory. On the road to Emmaus, events such as fishing, breaking of bread, and he even made them breakfast on the beach!

On Sunday evening at 7:30 pm I also attended an outreach service in the village of Kassiopi on the north part of the island in a local neighborhood at the Lekas Taverna. This gathering was of some church members and locals joining together led by the chaplain. It consisted of a Bible reading/ video clips of Jesus Christ Superstar, a quiz about Easter and some personal sharing by people attending this Easter Celebration (we all were asked the question why we were in Greece) and ended with singing together: Thine Be the Glory, complete with each person being given a decorated candle and sparklers inside. No health and safety there!

It was a joyful experience and the views traveling in the mountains were beautiful, especially the crystal clear blue water. The outreach in the community was similar to the disciples in our lessons (the new Christians). They were to go out and tell the Good News of the resurrection. They/ We are all being observed how we treat each other. We are reminded to love one another and not judge each other. The readings highlighted once again how Jesus has changed the rules: it is more important to love and show hospitality than to observe dietary laws.

In Greece it was the last week of Lent in the Orthodox tradition. There were decorated candles for sale in all the shops as there will be great celebrations Holy Week. It begins on Good Friday with Processions by all the churches in the streets in memory of the burial of Christ and goes on until late in the evening. There are great crowds that follow the processions. On Holy Saturday their patron saint is carried into the streets in a gold coffin upright so the people can see his face.

Continued page 5 →

VESTRY SNAPSHOT

Following a unanimous vote from vestry members Wednesday, April 19, 2017, St. Martin's will be re-contracting with "our" Scout troop. The former Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop and Venture Crew 420 have received approval to change their number designation in order to provide some distance from the number associated with recent criminal charges against their Scoutmaster. The new number is 404. In receiving a new number, however, the group needed to recharter with its sponsor and asked to continue to be sponsored by St. Martin's Episcopal.

Sara Jameson, St. Martin's Chartered Organization Representative to the group, recommended to the vestry that the rechartering move forward to allow Scouts to continue along their current badge paths and enjoy a quality Scout experience. Sara reported that she and I met with the new Scoutmaster, Jeremy Brett, and Unit Chair, Jay Thornhill, and the groups are very eager to develop a closer partnership with the church, although they will continue to meet elsewhere as St. Martin's doesn't have the room to accommodate their activities or storage needs.

The Cub Scout Pack has just two members remaining, who will soon advance to the Boy Scout level. The re-formed organization includes approximately 15 Scouts and 10 Venture Crew members.

Vestry members agreed to the rechartering and said they'd like to invite Scouts to the next soup supper in May so both groups can get to know one another better.

A proposed new fee schedule for use of the church's facilities was received from the Finance Committee. Additional information is being sought; it was agreed to implement the recommendation as presented, with consideration of modifications on a case by case basis. The fee schedule is available for your review.

Sara and Barbi Thomson reported on the church's experience at the 2017 Biz Expo, which drew at least 1,800 people to the River Center on April 11.

Vestry members are still looking for a way to solve the problem with the leak in the sanctuary roof. The metal strip on the threshold between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall also needs to be repaired. Research continues on a new, outdoor "St. Martin's" sign.

With the full solar eclipse coming up on Monday, August 21, Larry James suggested that we might want to consider renting parking space and grassy areas for RV campers. The vestry agreed to discuss this at its May meeting.

Two trainings -- "Safeguarding God's Children" and "Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Harassment" -- are scheduled for Saturday, May 20, (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) at St Mary's in Eugene. Each class is \$10 and is good for 10 years. Vestry members are encouraged to sign up on the diocese website, and Melodie+ is checking to see whether the training can be offered at St. Martin's to save the drive.

Submitted by Jim Rutledge, Senior Warden

May Birthdays

Nicole Libra , Ron Hartung, Larry James, Adam Taylor-Young, Douglas Young, Jr., and Sue Coakley

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please **help us update** our Birthday and Anniversary list by sending your special days to the office.

Rector Letter, Continued

At 11:00 everyone goes inside, the police clear the streets and pottery is hurled out the high windows to display the anger at Judas for betraying Jesus. At midnight the Bishop announces the miracle of the Resurrection, chanting the traditional words Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! Bands play, fireworks are set off. Then everyone processes home with a candle.

During my visit, I also visited the church of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church a few times. St Spyridon's preserved body lies in state, and he has special red and gold slippers on his feet. The faithful go past him and kiss his feet. He is the patron of pottery and is credited with saving Corfu Island from two attacks and from famine 400 years ago. It seems to some he gets more attention than Jesus! He also was known for being a wonder worker for having brought a child back to life and for how he treated strangers. It is said: "On one occasion the saint had a guest arrive during Lent. They had no flour or bread in the house so he had his daughter cook a ham for the guest quoting Titus 1:15, "Unto the pure all things are pure." He put the pastoral needs of the guest before tradition.

It took time for the new Christians in our lessons of Jesus' day to accept that God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life. This is illustrated by Peter's not imposing his view on others, but rather explaining his experience step by step. He imitates Jesus whose farewell talks recognize that it will take those he loves time to understand. From their own experience, that his departure from them is glorification, they see the fulfilment of his Father's promise that "I will be with you," as turned around as that seems.

Jesus was essentially saying to Peter that the most important thing is loving one another. This meant there is no exclusivity in receiving the gifts of the spirit either. The Holy Spirit fell on "the uncircumcised" the same way it had on the disciples, said Peter as he explained to those who criticized him for eating with the uncircumcised. "If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

We in the Episcopal Church in America may not venerate icons or kiss saints' feet, but we all have been given the same gift of the spirit. The devotion of the people in Greece is inspiring. It was a lovely place to be. And it showed me once again that we are to bless each other and celebrate the whole of the Easter season, not just on Easter day, but always. Christos Anesti (He is risen). The Lord is risen indeed!

Blessings and Peace, Rev. Melodie+

SCOUT Troop & VENTURING Crew Activities

The Archery Hut is a great place for youth to practice and have fun.



On April 29, Venturers are going to Powell's Books for Table Top Gaming, with a stop for Voodoo Donuts. Yum!



On May 5-7, the Calapooia District Camporee will take place at E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area near Monmouth. Let's wish them good weather!

Jeremy Brett, Scoutmaster
Jay Thornhill, Unit Chair



Saturday, May 6, 8 a.m. next meeting of the One Buck Seminary led by Bishop Thornton, on the topic of "Church & State"



Reading packets are now available to pick up at the church. Contact the office if you need one mailed.



Fun at the Tea!

Easter Flowers Thank You

Thanks to those who lent willing hands to provide our traditional palm crosses as a part of the observance of Palm Sunday.

And thanks again for Easter Flowers. Easter Sunday's service was made joyfully beautiful by the colorful flowers given by members. Our flowered cross was lovely again this year. Thanks to all who helped make Holy Week meaningful at St. Martin's.



ECW Brief Notes:

ECW includes all women of St. Martin's!

We enjoyed a very successful Tea in April making in excess of \$700 for our community outreach activities. The women of our church always step up to the plate when the need is there.

Our next big fundraiser will be our Trunk Sale so start looking for items to donate. We will meet again on Friday, July 28 at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall to discuss plans for the Trunk Sale, tentatively set for Saturday, August 12.

Ladies Fun Lunch: The next Fun Lunch will be at the Covered Bridge Coffee House in Scio on Wednesday, May 10 because they are closed on Mondays. It's at 38765 N Main St, on the right hand side going north through town, between 1st & 2nd Streets. (503) 394-3009. We will carpool from church. **MEET at noon to arrive in Scio at 12:30. Let Florence know if you are going so we have a head-count for the café.**

Heartfelt thanks to Jeanne James for her work as President of ECW the past few years. Our new president is Dena Losier.



More Tea Fun!



St. Martin's 2017 Spring Tea: "It's Tea Time"

We are all enjoying the pleasant feelings of success following our annual Spring St. Martin's Tea.

I think all who attended enjoyed the day despite the rain, with lovely decorations filling the parish hall, delightful music by our wonderful Ray Hendricks, and Name that Tune, and many wonderful prizes.

We had a nice selection of attractive delicious foods for our buffet table and many members helped with the set-up and the clean-up.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a successful event.

It is not too early to start thinking about our next Spring Tea. Theme suggestions and entertainment ideas help make the planning move forward. Keep thinking for next year!

Lorna Myrtue

Episcopal Church Women Spirituality Day:

"Seeking Wellness: Keep It Simple Sister" is the theme for this one day retreat.

St. Paul, Salem.
Saturday, May 20,
8 am - 4 pm

Workshops include
Walking the Labyrinth
Healing Touch
Call to Self-Care
Centering Prayer
Anglican Prayer Beads
The "T" in LGBTQ

Register online \$25
includes lunch

Lessons for May Read Along and Think

May 7 - 4th Sunday of Easter

- Acts 2:42-47
- 1 Peter 2:19-25
- John 10:1-10
- Psalm 23

May 14 - 5th Sunday of Easter

- Acts 7:55-60
- 1 Peter 2:2-10
- John 14:1-14
- Psalm 31:1-5,
15-16

May 12 - 6th Sunday of Easter

- Acts 17:22-31
- 1 Peter 3:13-22
- John 14:15-21
- Psalm 66:7-18

May 28 - 7th Sunday of Easter

- Acts 1:6-14
- 1 Peter 4:12-14;
5:6-11
- John 17:1-11
- Psalm 68:1-10,
33-36

You can always find the readings in the Revised Common Lectionary online at **The Lectionary Page**
<http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

Personal Care Kits

Thanks to everyone for the donations for our **April 28** visit, where over 90 people attended! Special thanks to those – including Scouts! - who helped assemble the kits and give them away.

Our next visit is **June 30**. Watch for SUDSY SUNDAYS in June. Donations can be made at any time to help purchase items.

Please fill out an “in kind” donation form so we can show how the parish supports this outreach ministry.

THANK YOU!

**Next Soup Supper is on Wednesday May 3,
6 p.m.
Come Eat, Meet, and Greet!**

SAVE THE DATE ---

If you get the CLOAK by email, you can find the monthly event calendar on the webpage. Please pick up your CLOAKS to save the postage of mailing

Treasurer's financial snapshot

Due to busy tax season, our snapshot is postponed until the books are updated. Meanwhile, you can always ask our Senior Warden for details, if you have questions or concerns.



And even more Tea Fun!

THE CLOAK A monthly publication of
St. Martin's Episcopal Church

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
257 E Milton Street, Lebanon, OR 97355
541-451-1159; Office Tues-Fri 9-12.

Find & Like Us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St.Martins.Lebanon>

Visit our Webpage

<http://www.stmartinslebanon.org/>

Use our Email

stmartinslebanon@gmail.com