

THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL CHURCH IN WAXAHACHIE

Founded 1876

WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS

April 2010



Holy Week has Begun!

On Palm Sunday we began our journey through the Passion -- the betrayal and death of the Lord. We processed with our palm branches, symbolically welcoming our King into the Holy City of Jerusalem and then used our voices to echo the cry, "Crucify Him!". And many of us painfully hammered nails into the cross, remembering with each blow that his crucifixion was for our redemption.

Our journey continues throughout Holy Week, the week of Christ's Passion. Each service and event of Holy Week offers opportunities to connect to Christ's acts during the days leading up to his crucifixion. This is the most powerful week of the Christian year.

Maunder Thursday, April 1

At six o'clock in the evening we'll gather for a soup supper prior to worship. This is the day we recreate the Last Supper, and our meal together is a nod to the traditional Passover meal that Christ shared with his disciples.

At seven o'clock we'll worship together. The service begins as a traditional Eucharist. But after the reading of the gospel, there will be a reenactment of Jesus' washing of the feet of the disciples. *"The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, 'Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done.'" (BCP)* With this, we remember that Christ gave to us a new commandment, to love one another as He loves us.

The service continues with Holy Communion, after which the altar and sanctuary are stripped, a dramatic symbol of looking toward Good Friday. This is when the tabernacle is processed to the Altar of Repose, in preparation for an overnight prayer vigil. After the service the congregation leaves in silent reflection.

Prayer Vigil at the Altar of Repose, April 1-2

The prayer vigil recognizes the apostles' failed watch while Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, and offers us an opportunity to sit with Him, talk to Him, and pray with Him. For those who have never participated in a prayer vigil, please know that it is an amazing time to welcome the Holy Spirit into your prayers. And it is made

even more amazing by the presence of the Altar of Repose. The vigil begins immediately after the Maunday Thursday service, and continues until noon on Good Friday. The church will be securely open throughout the night and you will not be alone on the campus. You may come and go as you like, and books will be available for your use while you are at the vigil.

Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, April 2

There is no communion on Good Friday, as observance of the sign of his resurrection is suspended. Beginning at 7 p.m., there will be two parallel services of the Stations of the Cross. There are fourteen stations, pictures depicting incidents in the narrative of Christ's passion from Pilate's house to the entombment, which will be visited in turn. At each station there will be a pause for a reading and response. One walk will be inside the church. The second will be outside, travelling the property. Make your own choice of which one you will travel.

Easter Sunday, Festival of the Resurrection, April 4

Easter is the oldest and greatest feast in the church year, during which we will share in glorious celebration, once again able to shout "Alleluia!" in our worship. *(Services will be at our regular times, 8 and 10:30 a.m.)* Between services, from 9:30 until 10:15, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt -- "rain or shine" -- for kids through the fifth grade.

We pray you will participate fully in Holy Week. Engage in the wonder and power of all that Christ did for us, and make plans to attend one or all of these events.

Please . . .

. . . join the journey.✦



This month we answer questions about why Christians celebrate Holy week, as outlined in "The Christian Book of Why" by John C. McCollister.

Why do Christians celebrate Maundy Thursday? Christians throughout the world observe the Thursday before Easter in commemoration of the time when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning "mandate" or "commandment." On this night, Jesus gave a new command to his apostles to love one another as he had loved them (*John 13:34*). Also at this time, during the Passover, Jesus commanded them to repeat the custom of breaking bread and drinking wine whenever they met in remembrance of him (*I Corinthians 11:23-26*)

Why do some Christians conduct a ritual of foot washing on Maundy Thursday? The washing of the feet was a common practice in biblical times. Weary travelers who walked dusty roads while wearing sandals were greeted in the homes of their friends by a servant who would wash the dust from their feet. Jesus, through his gesture, demonstrated that he was about to become the servant of all humankind through his death on the cross the next night. (*from John 13:3-11*)

Why do Christians celebrate Easter? The most celebrated day in the Church year for the faithful is Easter -- the festival which commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Easter, then, becomes the center of all Christian theology. Christians believe that Jesus' resurrection provided proof that he was the Son of God and has given to all his followers eternal life. "As by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." (*I Corinthians 15:21-22*)

Everyday Mission

Live out Christ's Love in World-Changing Ways

by Daryl Anne Tillery

A recent adult Sunday class series "Becoming A Good Samaritan" was a truly inspiring look at ways to 'love thy neighbor as thyself.' A major theme of the series was "I can't do everything, but I can do something." I don't know about anyone else, but I left every Sunday feeling a little more guilty about what I don't do to fulfill God's command -- and I consider this a really good thing.

At St. Paul, our "Everyday Mission" program gives everyone an opportunity to participate in loving our neighbors and sharing the bounty of God's blessings every day, right here. We currently support three excellent community resources: Waxahachie Care, Common Ground Ministries and WRC Pregnancy Center of Ellis County. All three mostly depend on contributions of time, goods, and money to do their work. A list of their needs and baskets for collections are located in the foyer. So stop by the 'collection depot' -- see what these ministries are about and what they need, so that the next time you come to church you can add something to a basket. It will mean the world to someone.

Waxahachie Care provides financial assistance for rent, utilities, prescriptions, transportation, and food to people in the Waxahachie area who are working or seeking employment, on social security, unemployment or worker's comp.

Common Ground Ministries provides a safe and structured environment for school children and youth to meet their educational, physical and spiritual needs. They care for children grade K -- 12 after school, during school breaks and summer.

WRC Pregnancy Center of Ellis County provides for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of pregnant women. They have counseling, parenting classes, bible studies and prayer for expectant mothers and for women and men with children under 24 months of age.

April 11 Sunday Spa for Women



This month's spa is called "Living in New Life", and we'll gather from 2 - 5 p.m. in the foyer area. A light meal is served at 5 p.m. **Relax**, through meditative journaling; **Learn** and be inspired by Carrie Boren; and, **Create** a hand woven prayer pouch. Cost is \$5 if you pre-register by Wednesday, April 7, or \$10 if you pay at the door. Ladies, please come, and bring a friend! ✦

Adult Class Series

He is Risen! He's Alive!

We celebrate a Risen Lord. The fact that Jesus Christ died on a cross and rose from the dead is the central belief of the Christian faith. Yet, when people of other faiths or people of no faith ask us why we are so sure of the resurrection, we sometimes stumble on how to articulate what we believe. We need to know the facts to strengthen our own faith-life and to share them with the world. This three-part teaching series is designed to help each of us clearly and concisely communicate the Greatest News ever given -- **Jesus is Alive!!!**

Please join us from 9:30 - 10:15 on the three Sundays after Easter -- April 11, 18 & 25 -- to learn the facts. ✦

SPY Every Sunday!

The Youth gather every Sunday between 9:30 and 10:15 (in the Youth room) to experience **liquid**, a Bible study DVD series that translates ancient stories into the language of today's culture. They also meet on alternate Wednesday evenings. All sixth through twelve grade youth are invited ✦

Organizations & Committees

What They Do & Who to Call

ORGANIZATIONS

Men's Breakfast Ron Tarrant 972-937-1589
Breakfast for all men, 2nd Saturday, 8 AM

Daughters of the King (DOK)
..... Carol Bryant, 972-938-8629
Women of Prayer, Meetings 1st Sat, 9:30 AM

ECW Elizabeth Hamaker, 972-723-8042
All women meet 1st Saturday, 10:30 AM

VESTRY & Committees

Sr. Warden (2012) Dick Jones, 972-923-1412

Jr. Warden (2011) ... John Hamaker, 972-723-8042

Class of 2011 Gloria Brown, 972-937-7710

Class of 2011 Carol Bryant, 972-938-8629

Class of 2012 Julia Johnson, 972-617-2934

Class of 2012 .. Daryl Anne Tillery, 972-937-7023

Class of 2013 Pete Raynor, 972-268-5564

Class of 2013 Sharon Smith, 972-937-3811

Class of 2013 .. Stephanie Walters, 214-663-4518

Clerk of Vestry Denise Osteen, 214-587-7869

Treasurer Rebecca Wellborn, 972-723-2921

Choir Director Gloria Self, 972-937-4373

SPY Brittany & Victor Songer, 469-358-9254

Worship & Music .. Chuck Fitzhugh, 214-668-0572

Layreaders Larry Zuber, 972-775-4915

Acolytes Matt Perkins, 972-937-8077

Altar Guild Anne Tuley, 972-938-8024

Sign up to be in a Foyer Group -- for Fun and Fellowship

Sign up for a Foyer Group! These are small groups of people who get together for fun and fellowship. Traditionally the groups meet in members' homes for dinner. This is for adults only, but not just for couples. The groups are assigned at random, making sure that both couples and singles are accommodated. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. This is a terrific way to get to know people better than you can just seeing them on Sunday mornings. Groups stay together for approximately one year before they are "re-shuffled." ✠

Get your Picture Taken on Easter Sunday!!

About twenty newcomers were at the Reisner home for dinner on March 26! Isn't it wonderful that our new photo directory is becoming outdated? But there is room to add names, with photos, and photographers will be on hand on Easter morning to photograph new members and others who do not have their picture in the current photo directory. If your picture is not in the directory, please make sure you find a photographer on Easter morning! ✠

Why the Dogwood Symbolizes Jesus' Crucifixion.

According to a legend which began as early as the second century, the dogwood tree was the size of the mighty oak and other trees of the forest until the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

The timber of the dogwood was so firm and strong that it was chosen for the cross of Jesus. God, then, cursed the tree so that it would never again grow large enough to be used for such a cruel purpose. On that day, according to the same tradition, the dogwood became slender, bent, and twisted and its blossoms had two long and two short petals in the form of a cross. In the center of each petal's outer edge were nail prints, brown with rust and stained blood-red. A crown of thorns was at the flower's center to remind the faithful throughout history of the curse of the dogwood. ✠



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The Monthly Newsletter of

ST. PAUL CHURCH

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THE REV. TERRY REISNER
VICAR



"Our Mission is to Love God, to
Love and Care for Others, and to
Grow the Church"



*Traditional, Biblical Worship
in a prayerful, loving
Christian Community.*