



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

St. John's Church, Salisbury, Connecticut 06068

The Rev. John F. Carter, Rector

March/April, 2009

Gaile Binzen, Editor
Karen Byers, Layout Design

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sabbatical Letter from the Rector	1
The Liturgical Drama of Passiontide and Easter	2
Holy Week at St. John's	3
Message from the Bishop	3
Francis Thorne Award	4
Vestry Meeting Prayer	4
Jesus Doll	6
Easter Egg Hunt	6
Owl's Kitchen	7
Rev. Lance Beizer on Evolution	7
Letter to the Editor	7
Email about Drumming	8
Christianity for the Rest of Us	8
Beer	8
People who Make a Difference: Steve and Peggy Bolmer	9
Birthdays	10
Life in the Parish	10
Calendar	11



Photo of the Chapel at the Desert House of Prayer
Drawings signed PB are by Paul Bacon.

The Rector's Corner

A SABBATICAL LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Ministry:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I hope this finds you well. You are in my daily thoughts and prayers.

I am writing to give you a sketch of how I have been spending my time since I left you a few weeks ago. I am entering my third and final week at the Desert House of Prayer in Cortaro, AZ, just north of Tucson. This is my sixth year of taking retreats here. It feels like home, but there are always new things to learn and new friends to meet. Most of the time is silent. Right now we are in the midst of a 4-day period of silence that happens once a month.

When I first arrived here a few weeks ago, I found myself dieseling a lot. What is dieseling? It's when you turn off the ignition of your car on a hot day, and though the power is off, the cylinders keep firing. The engine is hot and will not stop. It can be rather embarrassing in a public place because there are often cacophonous bursts of noise and oily smoke from the tailpipe as the car shakes, rattles and rolls. Finally, with one final convulsive tremor and blast, the engine stops and all is quiet. Thanks be - I may still be sputtering but I'm quieting down!

I spend my days in the following ways: Contemplative prayer with other retreatants and staff is offered three times a day in the Chapel. There is a huge plain glass window behind the altar that looks out on desert cacti, birds and other critters. Yesterday morning a javelina ambled by.

Continued on p. 5

THE LITURGICAL DRAMA OF PASSIONTIDE AND EASTER

by the Reverend E. Walton Zelle, Jr.

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” comes from the Latin word for “suffering,” and Passiontide refers to the week where we recount the sufferings of Jesus in his final days on this earth. Thus the members of our liturgical commission felt that this Sunday, which ushers in the weeklong 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 palms, and a Gospel reading which tells the story of Jesus’ final entry into Jerusalem with the crowds shouting “Hosannah” and waving palm branches as he passed by them astride a donkey. But 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 Priests, 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 so, “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 the 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 again in many Episcopal Churches 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 puts the pre-sanctified hosts on that altar. The church remains open for a period of time so people who wish to can spend some 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, “Good” 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,”

Continued on p.4



HOLY WEEK AT ST JOHN'S

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 5TH

- 9:50 Meet With Congregational Church on the Green
for Blessing and Procession of Palms
10:10 Holy Eucharist with Bilingual drama of the Passion

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 9TH

- 7:00 Maundy Thursday Eucharist of the Presanctified
Stripping of the Altar and the Watch

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 10TH

- 12:00-3:00 Quiet Prayer Time in Church
7:00 Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross,
and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

EASTER DAY APRIL 12TH

- 8:00 Festal Eucharist with Choir
10:00 Festal Eucharist with Choir
12:00 Misa Solemne de Resurrección
1:15 Easter egg hunt - Busca de Huevos de Pascua

A message from the Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith:

Good Friday Offering

As in past years, the Presiding Bishop has written to parishes to request support of the Good Friday Offering. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the work of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, including the Gulf States, Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Jordan, on Cyprus, and across the Mediterranean coast of Africa from Egypt to Algeria, and from Iraq to Ethiopia.

Continued from p.1

There is a daily Eucharist in the morning that I often attend. Nothing is obligatory here except the silence, and respect for others. After the meals, everyone pitches in to wash the dishes and clean up. The food is very good. Silence often enhances the enjoyment of nourishment taken in the midst of community.

The last few days I have been doing a little tree pruning, and last week I went to Naco, Mexico with Padre Ricardo, a remarkable Redemptorist Priest who has devoted his life to border ministry. In Naco, we visited a hospitality center and overnight shelter for deportees who have just been returned to Mexico by the Border Patrol. There is much pain and suffering and any assistance in the way of food, clothing and shelter are tender gifts.

One of my objectives during this Professional Development Leave is to acquire some technology skills, to catch up a decade or so! I have a new Macintosh laptop (MacBook), and a new cell phone. While technology is not my forte, it has been gratifying to have enough time to make a little progress in these areas. As a neophyte, it is astounding to me the number of tasks these two devices can perform.

I have spent a lot of time reading, taking selective ³bites² out of some books and reading others from beginning to end. Some I am just starting. Here's my diet:

Therapy by David Lodge
MacBook for Dummies by Mark Chambers
The Senator's Wife by Sue Miller
Everything Must Change by Brian McLaren
The White Tiger by Aravind Adiga
The Longest Winter by David Halberstam
The Practicing Congregation by Diana Butler Bass
Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diana Butler Bass
Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening by Cynthia Bourgeault
The Zookeeper's Wife by Diana Ackerman

By the way, if you missed out receiving a copy of *Christianity for the Rest of Us* and would like to read along with the 25 folks who have copies, please let Lisa know and she will order you one.

I take daily hikes that average about 4 miles and sometimes up to 8. This is spectacular hiking

country and I am blessed to have this among all the other opportunities described above. Desert House of Prayer borders the western section of the Saguaro National Forest, and trails into the preserve leave right from the retreat center. Along the trails there are petroglyphs inscribed centuries ago by the Hohokum Indians. The desert is very alive with all sorts of animals. Many plants are flowering now, especially at the higher elevations. The desert is where beauty and danger co-mingle.

Aside from the great rewards of the hikes themselves, I am also training and rehearsing for my time on the Santiago Camino in Spain, in May. My body with its several idiosyncrasies is gradually catching up with my imagination. Yes, I think this just might work out. In recent days, I have carried a backpack with some weight in it, adding to the weight in small increments. I will be heading out from Pomplona (not during the time of the ³running of the bulls² - maybe next time!) Many people, including you, have given me enthusiastic support and prayers as I approach the challenge and privilege of being a pilgrim on the Camino.

After I leave the Desert House of Prayer I will fly to Guatemala to meet up with Deborah. We will spend a week there, where we plan to see our goddaughter, Kelyn. Then on together to Oaxaca, Mexico for 2 weeks of language study. Then to Los Angeles to see our granddaughter, Maya, and of course her parents, Caleb and Sachiko. Then back here together for a weeklong workshop/conference on border issues with a focus on deportation centers. Then I leave for Spain and Deborah returns to a beautiful May in the Northwest Corner.

I hope to share more with you, of a reflective nature, as time goes by. I also, *deo volente*, will get some photos on our website, stjohnssalisbury.org <http://stjohnssalisbury.org/>.

God's peace and blessings be with you now during this holy season of Lent. May you know the joy and renewal of Easter. I give thanks for the ministry we share.

Peace,
John

The Jesus Doll Loves to Visit Your Home

He was given to us by Bishop Smith. He brings his Journal with him on visits, and there are many interesting stories in it, of his adventures with children, and quiet times with grown-ups. Here are the two latest entries:



"Jesus Doll

Disfrute mucho tu compañía . . .

Gracias por visitarme te voy a extrañar mucho

Te Queremos

valerie and Janeth"

"I hugged him tight today because he only lived to be thirty-three. Other people thought he was bad and they made him die. But he came back to life on Easter Sunday!

Mira Binzen"



Easter Egg Hunt!

Come One, Come All!

Easter Sunday, between 11.00 - 12.00 pm

In St. John's Garden

For children of all ages - 2 to 102!

Don't be surprised if you see Peter Rabbit
Joining in the Fun!

Items Welcomed at OWL's Kitchen

As we all know to our sorrow, the hungry are getting hungrier every day. More than ever, they need our help. If we all put just one item per week into the basket in the narthex, their lives would be made easier. The agencies that help fight the battle against hunger give the OWL's Kitchen the basic staples, like beans and rice, but every family needs things like breakfast cereals and coffee before going to school or work – or looking for a job. Here is a list of suggestions – please do your best in this worst of times.

Cooking oil
Laundry detergent
Sugarless canned fruit
Canned roast beef hash
Corned beef hash
Canned tuna, salmon and meats
Soup (salt-free if possible)
Bottled fruit juice
Boxed breakfast cereals, healthy type
Instant oatmeal
Regular coffee, ground

And thank you, on behalf of OWL's Kitchen – *Barbara Nicholls.*

Evolution –

The Rev. Lance Beizer's advice on the subject

(The following is the last paragraph of a sermon that our parishioner Lance Beizer gave on Evolution Sunday, date to be provided)

“Now I am in no way saying that the mind of God doesn't play a role in the way we have developed, but what I am saying is that God's direction is not directly discernable in the laboratories of science. It is, rather, a matter for us in churches to speak about. If we look around us at the incredible array of God's creation, we surely do not have to defend God from science. Instead we can use our scientific abilities, which are surely gifts from that same God, to explore the creation of which we are a part. With, I might well add, a deserving sense of awe!”

Letter to the Editor:

Gaile, how do you like this one?

Mother tucking son into bed:

"Mummy, do men go to heaven?"

"My, what a silly question Jimmie! Why do you ask?"

"Because all the angels are beautiful. They have long, blonde hair and no hair on their faces."

"Well, some men do go to heaven, Jimmie, but it's only by a very close shave."

Herb



Email requesting Drumming Class information

From: Maya Carrington
To: sjsalisbury@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 7:03 PM

Hi - I have recently moved to Compton Chamberlayne and would love to join a drumming circle. Is it ongoing every week? - do I need to bring anything as I do not have a drum. I have done a bit of djembe work in the past. What are the costs?
Thank you for your assistance.
Kind Regards
Maya Carrington

From: sjsalisbury@sbcglobal.net To: Maya Carrington
Date: Sat, 7 Feb 2009 12:25
Dear Maya: Yes, you would be most welcome to join the drumming class. Our teacher/leader has extra drums, so no worry about that. Currently, we are meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 every week unless the weather is bad. It will be good to check your email on the day of the class if the weather looks iffy. Looking forward to meeting you.

John Carter

From: Maya Carrington
re: drumming circle
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2009 10:51 AM
Hi there,
Can you let me have the address of the church. I searched Salisbury and am living in the UK - I suspect you are in another part of the world as I can't find you here. Hey ho...
Maya
Laughter yoga teacher...

(NB - Father John should have run this past Leslie Firth or Gaile Binzen before responding - they would have caught that "Compton Chamberlayne"!

Christianity for the Rest of Us

- have you read it yet?

Before he left on sabbatical, the Rector gave many of us copies of a book he had recently discovered, Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diana Butler Bass. He had heard the author speaking at a diocesan meeting and found her talk more

interesting than anything he had heard for years. Now he is wondering what we think of the book. So your editor figured that it would be very thought-provoking for us all, if we told each other which passages hit the button for us. We now invite you to send them in to the office, handwritten, printed or e-mailed, and we will publish them in subsequent issues of The Parish Newsletter.

Having marked so very many passages ourselves, we can but pick the first, as an example:

"Many people think mainline Protestantism is dying, that it is going the way of the dodo in favor of a more lively form of conservative Christianity found in suburban evangelical megachurches. I do not deny that mainline Protestantism is in trouble. Some of its institutions, unresponsive to change, are probably beyond hope of recovery or repair. I also believe, however, that lively faith is not located in buildings, programs, organizations, and structures. Rather, spiritual vitality lives in human beings; it is located in the heart of God's people and the communities they form. At the edges of mainline institutional decay, some remarkable congregations are finding new ways of being faithful - ways that offer hope to those Americans who want to be Christian but are wary of the religion found in those suburban megachurches."
(Page 6)



Beer

Beer is Living Proof
That God Loves us and
Wants us to be Happy

Benjamin Franklin

Kindly sent in by Herb Prem

People Who Make a Difference:

PROFILE OF PEGGY AND STEVE BOLMER

by Ellen McDonald

For people who like the Guinness World Book of Records' type of facts - the tallest, the biggest, etc. - the Bolmers provide one for St. John's: In terms of years of attendance, they are the oldest members of St. John's Church! They have been attending for over 50 years. Very impressive.

Now to begin at the beginning: Peggy was born in Yokohama, Japan where her mother, Lucile Sheppard, who had never left her home in Texas before, had gone to teach English. Peg's father, Albert Yates, worked for a Canadian export company which sent him to Japan, and there he met Peg's mother. They were married, and spent their winters in Tokyo and their summers in Yokohama, so Peggy was born in Yokohama, in July. When she was two, the family returned to the US to live in Hartsdale, NY. Peggy attended schools in Hartsdale and then went by train to Bronxville to high school. She went to Middlebury College, where she majored in Spanish. After her second year of college she started spending summers working at a wonderful YMCA resort on Lake George called Silver Bay, which was staffed almost entirely by college students.

Steve was born in Flushing, NY, and attended school there until the eighth grade, when his family moved to Golden Bridge and he went to high school in Katonah. In 1942, he went to Union College, where he majored in chemistry and math. But WWII

had started, so he enlisted in the Navy. He was put in a V12 program and told to go back to Union College and study chemistry and math. After a while he was sent to Notre Dame, and while there, he learned to swim, after almost drowning in the Knute Rockne swimming pool in the middle of winter! He then went on to several other Naval training schools and ended up in



Norfolk, Va. on an APD (Attack Patrol Destroyer) carrying four landing craft heading for the invasion of Japan. VJ Day happened just before Steve's ship got to the Panama Canal so it was put out of commission and Steve was sent to Guantanamo Bay to teach classes in Anti-Submarine Warfare. In 1946 he was released from the Navy and returned to Union College to finish his degree in 1947.

Ever since his stint at Guantanamo teaching young officers about sonar, Steve had thought about teaching as a career. Someone at Union College told him that he might like to look into a school in Connecticut called Hotchkiss, so he borrowed a car and drove to Lakeville and looked

around. He didn't have an appointment at Hotchkiss, but went to the math department and introduced himself and heard a bit about their teaching program. When he got back to Schenectady he decided that he liked Hotchkiss a lot, so he wrote a letter to the school and to ask for an interview. Two weeks later he received a reply asking that he meet Mr. Van Sant Voord, then headmaster of the school, in Albany. They met, had a successful interview and Steve was hired to start in the fall of 1947.

While at Union College, Steve lived with Professor Whitaker's family. They were a wonderful family. In the summer they all went to Lake George, and in 1947 Steve found out about the Silver Bay resort. He got a job there as tennis coach, and in the summer of 1948, he met Peggy Yates. They started going together and planned to get married when Peggy graduated in June, 1950.

One amusing incident must be told here. When Peggy and Steve went to have dinner with Peggy's parents, to say they wanted to get married, they had a pleasant time until Peggy's parents started to reminisce about Japan, where they had met, married, had Peggy, and which they had loved. They talked about how wonderful the Japanese people were, how beautiful Japanese culture was, etc. Then they asked Steve, "Don't you agree?" Steve, who just a few years before had been preparing to sail to Japan to

invade it and be part of its destruction, firmly said, "No, I don't!" End of conversation one assumes.

In spite of this they did marry in August, 1950, and went to live at Hotchkiss. At that time, chapel attendance on a daily basis was obligatory for the students and masters, but occasionally Peggy and Steve attended St. John's, and in 1952 Peggy was confirmed there. Jim Hyde was the rector then.

St. John's late beloved parishioner Claudia Warner had a little nursery school in Lakeville at that time, and in 1950 Peggy went to teach there, and the next year at Town Hill School. The Bolmers' first child, Tom, was born in 1952, followed in 1954 by Michael and then in 1955 by David. When the children were still small, Peggy began to teach Sunday school at St. John's, which she did for several years. Then she switched to singing in the choir, under the direction of George Vincent, and she has done so ever since, with great loyalty. Peggy has worked at the Sharon Clinic, volunteered as a teacher's aide at Salisbury Central, the Sharon Hospital, the Bargain Barn and Owl's Kitchen. She was three times president of the Salisbury Garden Club.

During these years Steve was teaching chemistry and math at Hotchkiss and coaching Varsity basketball. From 1963 -1966 he was Director of Admissions. He served on the Salisbury Central School Board and is still reading letters for the Holley Williams history project. Peggy and Steve have both

recorded books for "The Blind and Dyslexic."

In 1968 Steve took a sabbatical to attend Wesleyan University to get a Master of Arts and Liberal Studies degree, and when he retired from Hotchkiss he had completed 44 years there, a school record.

Peggy and Steve have given many years of service to St. John's. They have both served on the Vestry, where Steve has been Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Treasurer. For many years Peggy has worked on the Fall Festival, as Festival Chairman and longtime chairman of Attic Treasures, which she has always run very efficiently and with a lot of hard work. Both Bolmers have served as lectors, intercessors and ushers, and Steve is the unsung hero of the Monday morning counting of Sunday's offertory, a task which he has done with the treasurers for many years.

The three Bolmer children are scattered around the East. Tom, the eldest, is married to Ellyn; they both work at Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod. The second son, Michael, is a chemical engineer, married to Linda, a nurse; they live in Sarasota with their two children, Jennifer, a junior in high school and Danny, who is a junior at Northwestern University. The youngest son, David, teaches math at Hotchkiss and coaches volleyball. The Bolmers are delighted to have him so near.

We certainly like to welcome new members to St. John's but it is also good, occasionally, that "auld

acquaintances be not forgot." Our hats are off to Peggy and Steve and may they have many more years in Salisbury and at our church.



BIRTHDAYS

April

- 05 Christian Umaña
- 06 Linda Patz
Janeth Lenis
- 10 Marian Schwaikert
- 17 Ellen McDonald
William R. Harris, Jr.
- 19 Rafael Porro
- 21 Daniel López
- 22 Jacob Carter
- 23 Polly Rodie
- 27 Bunny Vincent
- 28 Lauren AllynLidw
- 30 Nancy Bayersdorfer

May

- 02 Danny Lake
Gloria Janelli Mitten
- 03 Leslie Allyn
David Bayersdorfer
- 06 Fr. Juan George
- 11 Ruth Kopp
- 15 Emily Voldstad
- 23 Trish Stimpson
- 27 Ibba Williams
Leonie Brewer

LIFE IN THE PARISH

Transfer

Welcome to Elizabeth Schechter, our newest member, transferring in from the Episcopal Church of the Regeneration, Pine Plains, New York.

In our prayers . . .

Chad Bevan, who grew up in the bosom of St. John's, and was deployed to the Middle East in February.

CALENDAR – MARCH/APRIL 2009

SERVICE SCHEDULE EVERY SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. – Eucharist I

10:00 a.m. – Eucharist II

(Except on 1st Sunday of Month One Service for All at 10.00 am –
after Breakfast is Served 8:30-9:30)

12:00 noon – Misa

APRIL

03	Fri.	12:00 noon	NWMA Meeting
		4:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal <u>Meets Every Friday</u>
		6:00 p.m.	Al-Anon <u>Meets Every Friday</u>
04	Sat.	11:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Rehearsal
		4:00 p.m.	AAA <u>Meets Every Saturday</u>
05	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday
07	Tue.	7:00 p.m.	Drumming Circle <u>Meets Every Tuesday</u>
08	Wed.	11:00 a.m.	Executive Meeting
09	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday
10	Fri.	12:00-3:00	Church Open for Private Devotions
		7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
12	Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Easter Services-Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Eucharist II
		12:00 Noon	Misa
16	Thur.	5:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
19	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Eucharist II – Adam Greene Preaching

MAY

05	Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Mother's Day – Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Eucharist II
		12:00 noon	Misa
05	Tue.	7:00 p.m.	Drumming Circle <u>Meets Every Tuesday</u>
08	Fri.	4:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal <u>Meets Every Friday</u>
		6:00 p.m.	Al-Anon <u>Meets Every Friday</u>
09	Fri.	4:00 p.m.	AAA <u>Meets Every Saturday</u>
21	Thur.	5:00 p.m.	Executive Meeting
24	Sun	4:00 p.m.	NWMA Concert – Peter and the Wolf
		5:30 p.m.	Second Performance of Peter and the Wolf
25	Mon.		Memorial Day – Office Closed
28	Thurs.	5:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
29	Fri.	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Concert w/ Paul Bacon

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street
Salisbury, Connecticut 06068

Phone: 860-435-9290



The Mission of St. John's Church

- To reveal through worship the presence of God
- To grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ
- To reach out to others through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Readers:



Please know that this Newsletter is also available by email.. Let us know if you are interested sjsalisbury@sbcglobal.net. It is also available on the St.John's website www.stjohnssalisbury.org