

'O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, who at this evening hour didst rest in the sepulchre, and didst thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people: make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of thy passion, that when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with thee: who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen.'

A Collect for Compline, 1662

Most of you know that my family lives in what is commonly referred to as the 'Old Rectory'. It's right on the church property, squeezed between the playground, the chapel and Rt. 30, and is a wonderful, rambling old house that has been lived in and loved by many generations.

One of the more interesting features of living in the 'Old Rectory' is that our backyard is a graveyard. When the weather is nice I often go walking among the gravestones with my girls, Sylvia (6) and Isabel (4). 'Daddy,' they often ask, 'when will these people come out of their graves?'

It is the right question to ask. In their theological infancy my daughters have grasped the true significance of the grave. Death is a tragedy, a great insult to the goodness of God's creation. But it is not the final word. The grave is a resting place, and for those who are in Christ it has become a 'bed of hope', as the prayer for Compline in the 1662 prayer book says above.

Paul makes this abundantly clear in his letter to the Romans. 'If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you' (Romans 8:11). Though Christ was dead in the grave the Spirit of God raised him to new life. Those of us who share that Spirit through the gift of God will also rise to glory on the last day. Because he shared the grave with us we may share the resurrection with him.

Lent is a season of preparation and anticipation. It is also a season of hope in which we long for the resurrection that we know will come on Easter Sunday. The collect from the service of *Compline*, quoted above, gives us an idea of what to think and how to pray during a season like this. This is a time for reflecting on the astonishing proposition that as Jesus rested in his grave the very place of death was being transformed from a tragic tomb of decay into a bed of hope.

In this sense Lent captures the character of our lives. We face the certainty of death, along with the sure hope of the resurrection all because our savior himself rested in the grave and then rose to new life. - *Father John Yates*

HOLY WEEK



April 9

Maundy Thursday

7:30pm

April 10

Good Friday

Children's Way of the Cross

9:30am

Community Service

12:00pm-3:00pm

Mozart's Requiem

with Good Friday Liturgy

7:30pm

tickets not required

April 11

The Great Vigil of Easter

9:00pm

April 12

Easter Sunday

9:00am & 11:15am



Notes from the Parish Administrator

by Jeff Moretzsohn

“And hope does not disappoint us...”

As we approach the end of the first quarter of 2009, the financial state of the parish is one that leaves us in a place of prayer-filled hopefulness that God will provide -Just where He wants us!!!

From a statistical standpoint, we come to the end of the first quarter with 39 fewer members of the parish who have been willing to make a pledge of support to the ministry and mission of the church of the Good Samaritan (301 versus 340). Furthermore, while there have been 42 parishioners who have, for the first time, indicated their pledge of support, 81 other parishioners who pledged last year have made the decision to not do so in 2009. Overall, there remains a \$60,000 shortfall between the revenue projected and the budget passed by the vestry in February.

We must (and have) acknowledged the reality of a year of fiscal uncertainty requiring planning which is both conservative and realistic. We cannot forget nor should we dismiss the truth of who it is that provides for us. Perhaps, if we spend less time focusing on how to be self-reliant and self-directed and spend more time focused on His direction and relying on His provision, our fear and uncertainty will yield to the very thing the Apostle Paul describes.

As we, through faith and the gift of His peace, yield to His will and not ours, our fear, apprehension and yes perhaps even suffering begin to transform into perseverance, character and finally hope... in Him!!!

So, while we are acutely aware of the uncertainty of our fiscal state, we can rejoice that He is fully certain and well aware of the outcome. We are called to press on...prayerfully seek His voice and follow Him. As the body of Christ, we do so together.

Once again, thank you for your prayers and faithful support of the mission and ministry God calls us to. As always, if you are interested in participating in the work of His church through the giving of your time, talent and treasure please don't hesitate to call to find out how and where.

Food Closet Easter Ingathering

*Share the joy of your Easter celebration
by contributing to Easter food gift baskets.*

Each year the Food Closet distributes about 30 Easter food baskets to local families in need. Your kind donations help make this possible.

Please consider donating any or all of the following items: hams, turkey breasts or roasting chickens, 5lb. bags of white potatoes, bags of carrots, eggs, refrigerator rolls (crescent rolls), cake mixes and frosting.

Please leave frozen items in the Ashton kitchen freezer, leave perishable items in the Food Closet refrigerator in Ashton kitchen, and leave non-perishables in front of the Food Closet or in the box in Ashton kitchen.

The deadline for donations is Monday, March 30. Many thanks for your caring and generous gifts!

The Thrift Shop is now accepting Spring and Summer clothing only, please save Winter clothing until the Fall.

We are in urgent need of a Tuesday morning (10:00am-1:00pm) volunteer. Please call Rose Smith if you can help out.

Easter Flower Memorial envelopes are in the pews. Your donations of any amount in memory or in honor of a loved one will go towards the adornment of the Easter altar. Please have your donations in the office by April 1.

Red Cross Blood Drive
April 17, 12:00pm-6:00pm
Ashton Hall.

The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood. To learn more about blood donation opportunities, visit www.givelife.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543).

Cursillo Weekend #80

Thursday, April 30-Sunday, May 3, 2009

St. Mary of Providence Center, Elverson, PA

Registration forms are available at www.cursillodiopa.org
or through Betsy Wolford at betsy@good-samaritan.org

For those of you who may have heard of Cursillo and want to know what you are missing, this weekend is for you! **Cursillo** is a "short course" in Christian living. In our Baptismal Covenant, we make a commitment to proclaim by word and example the Good News in Christ, and to seek and serve Christ in all persons. Cursillo helps us to fulfill our Christian commitment.

The Movement Cursillo was started in Mallorca, Spain by the Roman Catholic Church. It was developed by laymen under the leadership of their bishop as a way of "Christianizing" their environment. From Spain, Cursillo spread to the United States, to the Episcopal Church, and to other Christian traditions.

The Weekend Most persons who are part of Cursillo start by attending a three day program called "The Weekend." It is a "retreat" only in the sense that the group attempts to limit the influence of the outside world. The word "advance" would probably be more descriptive.

The Cursillo weekend is a deeply moving experience in which we ask ourselves: What am I doing here? What does God want of me? What does Christ see in me? What do I see in Christ? What is Christ saying to me?

The Fourth Day The Cursillo weekend is not an end to itself. It is a starting point that lasts the rest of your life. The Fourth Day includes:

Rule of Life - "walking the walk," a personal spiritual journey including piety, study, and apostolic action.

Group Reunion - a small group who meet regularly and who hold each other accountable for their spiritual journey.

Ultreya - a periodic "reunion of reunions" that provides support and builds community by sharing communal experiences.

Spiritual Direction- seeking out skilled lay persons or clergy for spiritual direction to provide help in deepening our union with Christ.

For more information log onto www.cursillodiopa.org



Caregivers Group Save the Date: May 2 with Sister Michele

Saturday, May 2, 12:00 – 3:00pm

Lunch will be provided.

Newcomers are always welcome.

RSVP to Susan Starke, Parish Nurse

610-644-4040 x207

susans@good-samaritan.org

In the Anglican tradition, the guideline for individual, private confessions is "all may, some should, none must."

Private confessions are often very powerful in working through troublesome areas in our lives. The penitential season of Lent is a time in the life of the church year when many people choose to make a confession, but our clergy are available to meet this need throughout the year.

If you would like to schedule a private confession, or simply talk about what is involved, please contact one of the clergy directly, by phone or email, to arrange an appointment.

Fr. Todd Cederberg

610-644-4040 x212

todd@good-samaritan.org

~

Pastor Beverly Berry

610-644-4040 x213

beverly@good-samaritan.org

~

Father John Yates

610-644-4040 x216

john@good-samaritan.org

First Communion Class



*Xander Utecht, Charlotte Weissman, Liam Palmer,
Nathan Geiger, Travis Madden*

During the month of February, five of our wonderful young people came together each Tuesday to learn more about the sacrament of Communion, and why we celebrate the Lord's Table.

It was a very special time, and a very tender time as these children learned things they did not know or understand, which ultimately deepens their walk with the Lord. It was a joy to work with these children and be a part of this process. It was an even greater joy to celebrate at the Lord's Table with them as they received communion for the first time on February 22. Please pray for these young people as they continue to discover what it means to be a follower of Christ!

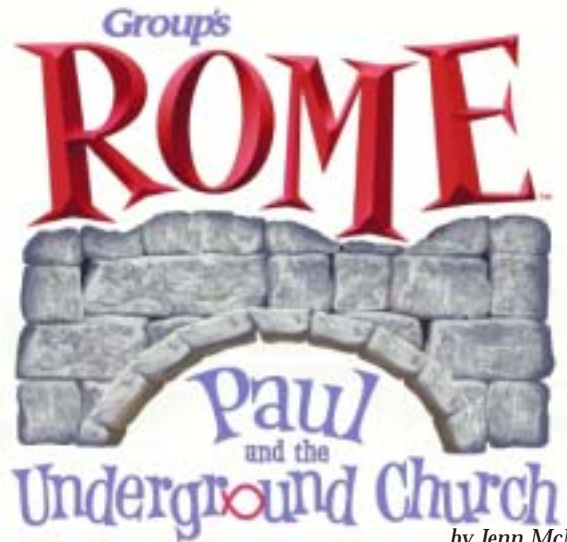
Good Works Staff Opening

Good Works, a Christian non-profit organization that assists low-income homeowners in Chester County has an opening for an Applications Coordinator to coordinate all aspects of the homeowner application process, interact with homeowners, maintain Access database, organize digital photographs, maintain the website and provide computer technical assistance.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send your resume and references to:

Good Works, Inc.
PO Box 1441
Coatesville, PA 19320

You may also fax your resume and references to 610-380-9795 or email them to office@goodworksinc.org



by Jenn McMahon

It's hard to believe that Marketplace is once again upon us! Getting ready for this event is always one of my favorite times of year! This year Marketplace will take children to the "Underground Church" in Rome. Your children will learn all about the Apostle Paul during his missionary journeys. They will gain an understanding of what it must have been like to be a part of the underground church, living in secrecy. They will experience Roman culture through hands-on experiences in the Marketplace, as well as participate in singing, dancing, cooking, and drama. Our Bible teaching will take them on a journey through the book of Romans. If there ever was a time to invite friends to participate in Marketplace, this is the year! God's plan of salvation is clearly laid out, and children experience God's transforming love first-hand! This year Marketplace will take place the week of June 29-July 2 from 9:00am-12:00pm for children Pre-Kindergarten thru fifth grade. Our program this year will be four days because of the 4th of July holiday weekend.

It is our goal to provide a quality program as we have in past years. In order to do so, we will need your help. This program requires a full-time supervisor, and as you are aware, we have experienced some staffing changes that will make Marketplace a bit more of a challenge this year. I would like to invite you and your family to consider participating by volunteering your time. There are many ways for you to become involved. If you are interested, please contact Jenn McMahon in the church office at 610-644-4040 x206. I would love to have you as part of our team. Remember... There's no place like Rome!

Registration forms are available in the church office and on the church website! We hope to see you there!



The Good Sam Furniture Store

In an effort to be good stewards of God's blessings in our parish life, during this season of transition we are transforming the Rectory into the Good Sam Furniture Store.

With a barn already full of donated furniture, the Rectory will be used to display and sell used furniture to the community. With the proceeds benefiting Missions and Outreach, we hope to complement and expand the ministry efforts of the Thrift Shop as well as Fair Days.

Through the volunteer efforts of Robin and Rusty Smith, who are willing to serve as the Furniture Store managers, hours of operation will be as follows:

Thursday: 1:00pm-7:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am-1:00pm

On Sunday, April 5 the Good Sam Furniture Store will host an Open House to kick off this new and exciting initiative. Stop by between the hours of 10:30am and 1:30pm. For more information on how you can get involved, contact Robin or Rusty Smith.



Episcopal Day School Fundraiser "Enchanted Night in Venice" Saturday, May 2 7:00pm-11:00pm Ashton Hall

Dinner & Silent Auction
to benefit the Episcopal Day School
Food provided by John Serock Catering
Single tickets \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door
Couples \$60

2009 Good Sam Fair Days June 12 & 13



There's something for everyone at Fair Days!

Fair Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and to work alongside good friends. It is an opportunity for both fellowship and service. Fair Days takes a lot of work. Hundreds of volunteers are needed to do anything from flip burgers, load furniture in cars or vans, direct parking, pass a soda across the counter, set up and take down tents, bake a cake or cookies and much more. Sign up sheets will be available in late May so please consider spending some time serving your neighbors and many around the globe.

The Fair Days committee is open to those who have an interest in planning the fair or leading teams of volunteers. Please contact Scott Lasser for further information and opportunities at scottlasser@hotmail.com or 610-608-1239.



Fair Days = Good Food + Good Fellowship

First Fruit Tithe Grants

At the March Vestry meeting the vestry approved the recommendation of the First Fruit tithe Committee to fund two projects.

The vestry approved a grant request of \$8,500 to complete a project within the Anglican Diocese of Tabora in Tanzania. You may recall that in 2007, we provided some funding to begin construction of dormitories for Women's Bible School in Tabora. The grant approved this month provided the necessary funds to complete the project.



New building with existing building behind the tree



The foundation of two wings with bathrooms

First Fruit Tithe Grants *continued*

A second grant was approved by the vestry to provide \$11,500 to Trinity Episcopal Church in Coatesville. These funds will be used to pay for the completion of the replacement of the old windows with new thermal pane windows. The Good Samaritan gift actually complements a grant from Chester County, which also provided funds allowing for the completion of this much needed work.

As long as funds are available, the First Fruit Tithe Committee will continue to review grant requests. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Joe Balsan who serves as chair of the committee.



Bishop, students and builder



Tabora builders



Trinity Coatesville



The Church of the Good Samaritan

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Spring 2009 Events Calendar

April 5
Palm Sunday

April 9
Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm

April 10 Good Friday
Children's Way of the Cross 9:30am
Community Service 12:00-3:00pm
Mozart's Requiem with Good Friday Liturgy 7:30pm

April 11
Easter Vigil 9:00pm

April 12
EASTER Services 9:00am & 11:15am

April 17
Blood Drive

April 21
Samaritan Deadline

April 24
HS Spring Retreat

April 25
Caregivers' Meeting

April 27
Prayer with the Vestry

May 2
Caregivers Meeting
"Night in Venice" Day School Dinner & Silent Auction