



April 2011
Volume 84 Number 4

Dear Friends,

NCIS, House, and Lent I watch television. Since this is an article about Confession, I put that first.

NCIS is a popular show in which members of the Naval Criminal Investigative Services solve crimes involving their branch of the military. Most episodes begin with a crime, and for the next 40 minutes or so (when you skip over the commercials), we follow the characters as they banter and flirt with one another while gradually piecing the data to expose the criminal who has made every effort to obscure his or her actions. Sometimes near the end the heroes confront the perpetrator with such an overwhelming collection of evidence that s/he breaks down and admits it all in a confession—as often as not with defiance or self-justification. But with the admission of guilt any doubt about how the pieces fit together evaporates, and the heroes have exposed all of the pieces which now fit together to present a coherent explanation. The aberration to normal order, which

the violent crime represented, has been exposed and corrected, and something like peace has been restored.

In **House** Dr. Gregory House, played with a pitch-perfect American accent by the British actor Hugh Laurie (formerly distinguished for comic roles), is a brilliant, misanthropic, curmudgeonly diagnostician based, playfully, on Sherlock Holmes. (Homes/House; best friend Watson/Wilson; addicted to cocaine/painkillers; violin/guitar; etc.) Each episode begins with a mysterious and life-threatening set of symptoms developing without warning, and for the next 40 minutes we follow the characters as they banter and flirt with one another until House (like Holmes, he goes by his last name) assembles all of the data and usually in a moment approximating the scientific equivalent of divine revelation, suddenly realizes what it all means, and, just in time, prescribes the appropriate medication and all is well. The aberration to normal order, which the illness represented, has been exposed and corrected, and something like peace has been restored. Except once or twice a season when the illness turns out to be untreatable and the patient dies. But at least we know why.

The point? Well, that's *NICS* and *House* but what about Lent and Confession? In *NCIS* and similar dramas a confession is the sign of the final defeat of the criminals. They have worked hard, and often ingeniously, to hide what they have done, and the assumption is that if they are not found out, they can get away with their crime, enjoy its benefits, and no one need ever know.

The Christian view of Confession is very different, and the fact that we use the same word to describe two such different things is itself a source of confusion. In the Christian view, Confession is not so much a prelude to punishment as it is a chance to clean up when you are feeling deeply out-of-sorts because you have become, well, so grubby.

In the Collect for Purity with which we begin the Eucharist, we make the fairly obvious point that in Confession we are not telling God anything that God does not already know. God is not the detective whom, if we can just deceive, we can escape with no negative consequences and go on to live happy lives. The prayer addresses God as the one “unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and

from whom no secrets are hid.” Not only our actions, but our thoughts and motives are completely open to God.

So if conveying information is not the point of Confession, what is? One idiomatic expression often used as a synonym for Confession is to “own up.” Confession is, in part, owning up to what we have done or left undone. The irony is that Confession is not unlike one part of our self is talking to another: the person we know we are (sometimes selfish, lazy, self-indulgent, given to taking short-cuts, insensitive to the needs of others, and so on) is presenting itself to that portion of us which represents whom we would like to be (generous, good, patient, wise, careful, a delight to be around, and so on). In Confession, we seek to bring into alignment the reality of who we are with the image of who we would like to be or wish we were. Confession is about having the courage not just to recognize the truth about ourselves, but to say it out loud, to own it.

And we confess, not for the purpose of then submitting to punishment, but so we can start focusing on getting better, on actually moving closer to being that person we genuinely want to be. We confess as a step toward getting a good diagnosis for what is making us sick.

Most of the drama of *House* is trying to figure out what is killing the patient. The actual gathering of data—the various tests—are rarely the focus, except for when those tests are difficult, painful, or themselves have the potential to kill the guest star. House has no compunction about stopping a patient’s heart, causing them to lose consciousness, or injecting them with a potentially fatal drug if that process gets him closer to figuring out what is really going on with the patient. One of the recurring themes of the series is that patients themselves are completely unreliable sources of information. “Everybody lies” is one of House’s core beliefs, and the show is written to reinforce that premise. No one will confess in this world, or even if they would, they do not know enough to be able to identify the source of their distress. It is House’s weekly challenge to become the one to whom all metabolic processes are open and from whom no mechanism of disorder is hid.

House is a grumpy God, but a surprisingly orthodox one—his goal is not short-term comfort but long-term healing. He believes that the universe is basically orderly—if you can get a good diagnosis, you can almost always get a cure—but

that in the course of pursuing their own goals and agendas, patients and other doctors often miss seeing the order and consequently risk death. House will stop your heart if the long-term consequence is recovery and restoration.

The Detective and the Doctor are both cultural projections for what we want of God. The Detective is a messianic figure—one who will come, expose and defeat evil, and bring us peace. The Doctor is that healer who reaches into us, exposes what is killing us which either we deny (everybody lies) or of which we are ignorant because we do not know how we are made. These cultural images which express our longing for images of God which make sense to us are not bad, but maybe not as good as the real thing, which is to say, God.

The Detective's finding and punishing the criminal does not rid the world of violence. That murder mysteries are so often presented in a long series of books or dramas gives some clue as to how effective the technique is at actually forestalling violence. The Doctor's brilliance temporarily might delay death, but next week we do not continue the story of the same patient; we start up again with a new case. Most of House's patients die later and off camera, but for ourselves we want something more.

The simplistic world view of the mystery and the hospital drama has an appeal. If only the world were so rational and open to understanding. It is a world view with special appeal for children and people unwilling or unable to look more deeply into the true mysteries—not the puzzles, but the mysteries—of real life. But a time comes in our intellectual and moral development when we need to put away childish things.

Unlike popular dramas or fiction, the Church seeks to go into, rather than gloss over, the complexity of real life. Watch how Jesus behaves in the events recounted in Holy Week and contrast them to what would be written in a drama, novel, or, heaven help us, a “reality” show. Rather than taking our cues from media, I wonder if we would find it more interesting, and more helpful, to spend more time in the complexity of the story not of diluted and inevitably distorted god figures, but of God God's self. Of course, we know that what we see in dramas or read in novels is not real life, but the more time we spend in those artificial universes, with their basically untrue assumptions and laws of behavior and consequences, the

more those artificial worlds and their assumptions shape our own assumptions and behaviors (and not just the language and images we use in conversation). The solution of the Puritans to close the theaters was extreme, and I do not share it, but I do understand what they were thinking and trying to do.

At the 8:00 am Eucharist on the First Sunday in Lent, we began the liturgy with the traditional prologue to the Eucharist, the Exhortation (Prayer Book, p. 316-317). That text invites us to be active partners in coming to an accurate diagnosis of what ails us, and to avail ourselves of the opportunity to confess—either generally or specifically—as a step towards recovering that health for which we most long. That portion of the Exhortation reads:

Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed. And acknowledge your sins before Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life, being ready to make restitution for all injuries and wrongs done by you to others; and also being ready to forgive those who have offended you, in order that you yourselves may be forgiven. And then, being reconciled with one another, come to the banquet of that most heavenly Food.

And if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith.

The goal—of confession, of diagnosis, of Lent, and of being part of a church community—is to find our way—to be led and to help lead others—into that fullness of peace and health—of body, mind, heart, and soul—which is God's intent for us all. This life is a mystery and it is a drama of healing. There may even be some banter among the cast members as we make our way through our script. But let us settle for nothing less than the work of the true author, dedicate ourselves to understanding and faithfully presenting the roles written for us, and thereby become part of that ensemble for which we were, in the first place, made.

The Rev. Canon John G. Hartnett

From the Clergy Assistant

First Station: Jesus accused before Pilate “Jesus, you stand all alone before Pontius Pilate. You are accused of things you did not do. No one speaks up for you; no one defends you. They all seem to forget that you have spent your entire life teaching and caring for others.”

“As a kid, sometimes I feel alone. Sometimes I feel like no one understands me, or takes my side. Sometimes I feel isolated and upset when I am corrected, or when someone says something about me.”

“God, many times people don’t seem to understand me. Sometimes I feel that the criticism of others is unfair. Help me to accept the mistakes of others as you accept each of us when we make mistakes. Help us to be big enough to ask for forgiveness for the mistakes we make and to forgive as Jesus did.”

From “A Children’s Service for Good Friday”

Soon after my ministry began here at St. Elizabeth’s last August, I began to hear from different parishioners and staff members about how meaningful the Good Friday Children’s Service with the Stations of the Cross had been last April. Last year was the first time (in recent memory) that St. Elizabeth’s had done this particular service, and it seemed that those who helped in creating it were quite gratified to see how meaningful the service proved to be and how well attended. This made quite an impression on me: Good Friday was *months* and *seasons* away, and people were still talking about this service and looking forward to doing it again. And we shall. 4:30 pm on April 22nd.

As I read through a bulletin for the service, I was struck by how it strikes a chord with **all** ages, not only children; so my only suggestion would be to possibly change the title from a “Children’s” service to something broader.... An “Intergenerational” service, perhaps?

Last year costumes were rented for Pontius Pilate and Jesus; this winter we have had the gifts of the time, commitment, and creativity of Lois Chapman and Joan Hickey in creating St. Elizabeth’s own costumes.

It is so valuable to make that difficult and lonely journey with Jesus through the valley of the shadow of death on Good Friday in order to “come out the other side” and more fully appreciate and enter into the awe of the Resurrection and New Life with Christ on Easter Sunday.

We hope you can join us at the Children’s—“Intergenerational”—Good Friday service at 4:30 pm. Yes, it has been created especially for the participation of children, but *all* are welcome to share in this journey.

The Rev. Joan F. Conley

The Choirmaster’s Column

The month of April is a special month for music at St. Elizabeth’s. The Adult Choir with members of the Junior and Youth Choirs will perform John Rutter’s Requiem on Sunday, April 10th at the 10:00 am service. The instrumentation for the Rutter will include organ, oboe, cello, and percussion. Please feel free to invite friends and family to this service and special musical offering. A forum on the Rutter Requiem will be presented on Sunday, April 3rd after the 10:00 am service.

Holy Week begins on April 18th with choral offerings on Maundy Thursday, April 21st at 7:30 pm and the extraordinarily beautiful Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 23rd at 8:00 pm. Anastasia Swope will be the featured soloist and cantor at the Good Friday services on April 22nd, beginning at 12:00 noon. The week culminates on Easter Sunday, April 24th. The Junior and Youth Choirs will be joining the Adult Choir in the singing of Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus. We look forward to sharing all the wonderful music we have planned for April.

Garah Landes

From the Associate Choirmaster

Singing dates in April: (note: those Choristers participating in the Rutter Requiem on April 10, please refer to your Choir schedules)

Junior and Youth Choir call times:

Sunday, April 17 -- 9:15 am call for 9:50 Palm Sunday service

Thursday, April 21 – 6:40 pm call for 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday service

Sunday, April 24 – 8:50 am call for 9:30 am Easter Sunday Family Service

Cherub Choir call times:

Sunday, April 24 – 9:10 am in the Chapel for 9:30 am Easter Sunday Family Service

Catherine LeDuc Hostetler

From the Church School

There is no set way, nor miracle device, that will instill a loving and giving spirit in the heart of a child. It is, however, something we as Christian parents and friends very much desire. We want our children to hear the cry of the weak, the poor, and the outcast, and we want them to respond openly and fully.

While charitable giving can be taught, a generous and loving heart is God's great gift. It is the gift of a baby at Christmas and a full grown innocent son on Good Friday. It is Jesus' life and Jesus' story that needs to be learned and impressed on the hearts of our children. A generosity of spirit will follow.

April Church School Schedule

April 3	Regular Church School	10:00 - 11:30 am
April 10	Chapel/Alternative Program (Grades Pre-K - 2 only)	10:00 - 11:30 am

April 17 Regular Church School 10:00 - 11:30 am*
April 24 Easter Sunday – No Church School

*Blessing of the Palms will be at 9:50 am. Younger children will follow the cross into Chapel for their regular service.

Chapel Stories for April

April 3 The Unmerciful Servant
April 10 The Prodigal Son
April 17 Palm Sunday and The Last Supper

Return Lenten Mite Boxes Church School children have been asked to fill paper carton mite boxes called Hope Chests during Lent both as a Lenten discipline and to support Episcopal Relief and Development. Filled mite boxes can be brought to church on Easter Sunday or the following Sunday.

The Church School Committee will begin teacher recruitment for next year during this month and continuing through May. If you are interested in teaching our children, call me or the Church Office. Please consider joining us.

Lois Chapman
Associate for Christian Education

Children’s Service for Good Friday

On Good Friday, April 22nd at 4:30 pm, there will be a special Children’s Service in the Chapel. We will walk with Jesus on his journey to the cross, as we remember the last moments of his life on earth. This is an opportunity for children to encounter, in age-appropriate ways, the sadness and suffering of Jesus’ death on the cross while reassuring them of the promise of the resurrection.

The Rev. Joan F. Conley

Easter Egg Hunt

Time to get out your Easter basket and come to St. Elizabeth's annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 23rd at 10:00 am SHARP, rain or shine.** All St. Elizabeth's children, from toddlers through 2nd graders, are invited to hunt.

In your Easter basket please bring cans of baby formula, jars of baby food, or a bag of disposable diapers for North Porch/Paterson, an emergency food pantry run by our Diocese and supported by the ECW and the Outreach Committee.

For additional information, please contact Kathy Harpster at 201-612-5664 or TheHarpster4@yahoo.com.

Remember...the Easter Bunny has many visits to make. We have to start at **10:00!**

Scavenger Hunt

Come to a St. Elizabeth's scavenger hunt.

Join a team.

Figure out the clues.

Learn about our hidden treasures.

Get some breakfast.

Who: Kids in grades 3 and up

When: Saturday, April 23rd
10:00 – 11:00 am

Where: Meet in the Parish Hall

How: Sign up on the hall poster

Youth Ministries

Reflections as We Approach Holy Week and Easter When we baptize our children, we promise to be responsible for seeing that they are brought up in the Christian faith and life. Likewise, we promise that—by our prayers and our witness—we will help them grow in the goodness of Christ. Our secularized culture tells children that Eastertime is about vacation, candy, the Easter Bunny, and new clothes. During Holy Week and Easter, how might we communicate to our teens that Eastertime is about a much more profound goodness: the God of the universe saving the human family from evil and death for abundant and unending life?

One way is by attending services with our teens during the most sacred part of the Christian calendar—the part from Palm Sunday through Holy Week and Easter. This is when the world-wide Church remembers how Christ gave his life for ours. In this issue of *The Tower*, there is a schedule of worship services for Palm Sunday, for Maundy Thursday (commemorating the Last Supper), Good Friday (commemorating Jesus’ sacrificial death), Holy Saturday (the Easter Vigil), and Easter (celebrating Jesus’ triumph over sin and death on our behalf). By taking the time to attend these services with our teens, we witness to the profundity of what Christians the world over are rightly commemorating. We and our teens uphold our Baptismal promise “to continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the breaking of the bread and the prayers.” And, we give ourselves an opportunity to grow *with our teens* in the goodness of Christ.

The YPF Observes Lent and Holy Week In observance of Lent and Holy Week, there will be **no YPF party in April.**

Confirmands’ Attendance at Services between Palm Sunday and Easter Takes the Place of Classes during this Holy Time.

Information to Help You Plan for Confirmation Day Confirmation Day (Sunday, May 14) will be a full day, and many of you will want to plan ahead, particularly if you have relatives who are coming from out of town for the occasion. Here is some information that will help with the planning.

Although you would normally come to St. Elizabeth's for morning worship on a Sunday, the service you will be attending at 10:00 am at St. Paul's in Paterson is a Holy Eucharist worship service. The Rite of Confirmation is part of the service. Families and friends need to be parked and seated at St. Paul's by 10:00 am. But confirmands and sponsors need to meet earlier at St. E's (time to be announced) in order to be bussed to St. Paul's for rehearsal.

The service itself is impressive and meaningful. The Bishop and (typically) 500 people from 10 congregations are united in prayer and thanksgiving for about 60 confirmands who are professing, for themselves, the Christian faith and promises that their parents professed for them at Baptism. The confirmands are expected to wear modest clothing appropriate for this special occasion. Modest means no bare midriffs, micromini skirts, or low-cut blouses on the girls.

Terry Battaglia
Associate for Youth Ministries

Prayers for the Confirmation Class

Each month we ask parents and sponsors to pray for the Confirmation class, and especially for their child or candidate. Here is the prayer for April. Each monthly prayer is offered in dialogue with one of the questions asked of candidates in the Confirmation service, questions which are as lively for adults as they are for young people.

***The question:* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?**

The prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe *N* in that Spirit that *s/he*, reaching forth *her/his* hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of thee, for the honor of thy Name. *Amen.* [*Adapted from A Prayer for Mission, BCP, p 58*]

JFC

Summer Camp Opportunity for Children

Is your family interested in an affordable Summer Camp? Would you like an opportunity to foster relationships with other children at St. Elizabeth's? Does canoeing, rock climbing, swimming, and other themed week activities sound like fun? Would a safe space for youth to play and explore this summer put you at ease? Does a sleep-away camp that promotes inextricable and beautiful connection to the natural world sound heavenly?

We may have the answer for you!

Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center

29 Pleasant Grove Road

Port Murray, New Jersey 07865

Phone: 908.832.7264

Website: <http://www.crossroadsretreat.com/summerprograms.html>

Cross Roads is a welcoming retreat center and camp of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the NJ Synod of the ELCA. They are accredited with the American Camping Association.

Cross Roads is a beautiful spiritual retreat center and camp located on 250 beautiful mountaintop acres in northwestern NJ providing comfortable facilities, picturesque grounds, and transformational experiences for all ages and all types of groups.

If you have any questions, please speak with Aria Berryman, Abby Taylor, Olivia Taylor, Emma Tombaugh, Nicole Walker, or Olivia Walker—St E's camp alumni.

Please visit their website to learn more about age level programs, cost, and discounts. Brochures will be distributed during Church School and some will also be available in the Church Office.

Thank you.



From the Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

On Ash Wednesday in the children's chapel service, we heard Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. We talked about how "God's love is like the [prodigal son's] father's love—he wants every one of his children to come home safe and be with him."

God made us, and God delights in us, and God wants us to delight in him and trust in him and turn to him when we find ourselves in trouble. God wants us to know that he is the parent that will always love us, no matter what we do.

Hearing the story of the Prodigal Son reminds me of the story we read at home. *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch. Many of you probably know this story about a mother rocking her child back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, and singing this song: "I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always, as long as I'm living my baby you'll be."

She sings this song at night when the child is a baby. She sings this song when her son grows into a toddler who by day she admits "is driving her CRAZY!" She sings her song when he grows into a bigger boy, and then a teenager, and then a grown man. Finally, one day, when the man has a baby of his own, he sings the same song to his little one as his mother sang to him.

Jesus' parable also evokes for me the story of *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown. No matter where that bunny goes, the mother rabbit will follow him and find him. He realizes the best thing he can do is settle in and be her baby bunny.

God's love is like the love of that father for his prodigal son. God's love is as steadfast as that mother's for her growing boy. God's love is as persistent as the love of that mother bunny for her baby bunny. No matter what we do, God's love for us stands firm.

As St. Paul wrote, nothing can separate us from God's love (Romans 8:38-39). We can try to hide from God's love, but God will find us. We can try to forget God loves us, but God will find a way to remind us.

When the prodigal son comes back, does his father scold him? No! He embraces him and throws a big party! He loves him that much! God loves us that much! Lent is a time for realizing and remembering how much God loves us. In Lent we think about the ways we have underestimated or forgotten how much God loves us.

What happens when we forget how much God loves us? For one, we become less loving people ourselves. Lent is a great time to work on attending to and mending those broken places. We examine our lives to see how we have fallen short of the **love** that always embraces us. God wants us to turn back to him, no matter how far away from God we have grown. By adopting Lenten disciplines, we dedicate time to get back into touch with God.

On Ash Wednesday we received ashes on our foreheads as a reminder that we came from dust and to dust we will return. Our lives on earth are not very long in God's time. We each have a pretty short time in which to enjoy God's love with our earthly bodies.

Even in the short time we are here on earth, we are pretty good at getting distracted from our duty to love God with all of our mind, body, and soul, even though we know how much God loves us. Each of us in our own way can be "prodigal," can be wasteful, with the wonderful things God has given us. And God loves us so much, he rejoices when we come back to him and ask forgiveness.

One of the most important things we can do in this time of intentional attention to our spiritual disciplines is to pray, to seek to draw closer to God. After all, praying is conversation with God. As long as we are trying to talk with God, we don't even have to use words. (Again, St. Paul writes about the Spirit interceding with sighs too deep for words, Romans 8:26-27). God always understands us.

We talked on Ash Wednesday in Chapel about five points about God for us to remember this Lent and all the time: one point for every finger: God is always here. God always hears my prayer. God always understands me. God always forgives me. God always loves me.

As your Clergy Associate for Family Ministries, it is my privilege to spend time with you, drawing (ourselves and the children we love and tend) closer to God. Lent is a great time for us to begin this conversation together. How are we doing as parents at modeling for and instructing our children in the way to be loving human beings? How do we love as we are already loved? As a community, how do we love those who show up in need of God's love? From the standpoint of Family Ministries, how do we love our youngest church members and their parents?

In conversations with a number of you, I've enjoyed sharing the challenges of parenting, and the importance of our own spiritual development in this endeavor as well as that of our children. Coming to church is important to us as adults, and it is critical in the spiritual development of our children as well. So how can we work together so that our children do not miss out on pivotal opportunities for instruction in drawing closer to God?

We have so much to discuss! Please write to me at cquinn@stesridgewood.org. I'm eager to hear from you and to set up a time when we can speak in person.

Faithfully,
Cathy Quinn

Hospitality

Welcome Newcomers

We welcome all newcomers to our Saint Elizabeth’s community. As part of your reception into the Church, we would like to learn more about you and your family. Our tradition is to contact new members during the course of the year and to interview/visit with them over the phone or in person and then to publish their brief biographies in *The Tower*. If you have not been contacted for a biography (and have grown roots here!), please contact Ann Garrett (anntech@earthlink.net or 201-447-2213) or Anne Nettleton (jcnettle@verizon.net or 201-251-2878). We will be delighted to remedy the situation! Also, new parishioners, please send in a photograph that we can display in the Parish Hall. If you do not have a photograph to submit, we will happily arrange to take your photograph after the 10:00 o’clock service.

St. Elizabeth’s warmly welcomes these new parishioners...

Ronald and Linda Barnes

See the “Directory” section of this issue for additional information on these new parishioners.

Hospitality Ministry

Hospitality Hosts

April 3	_____
April 10	_____
April 17	_____
April 24	_____

(after 9:30 Easter service)

***Hospitality Hosts* are needed for all upcoming Sundays in April as well as through June.** All you need to do is brew a pot of coffee, boil water for tea, buy or bake breakfast goods, set up before church, and clean up afterwards. It’s a

wonderful way to get involved in the fellowship of St Elizabeth's. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the apple green sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall or call Ann Dowling in the Church Office (201-444-2299) to let her know which Sunday you are available. Instructions will be mailed or e-mailed to you.

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Hebrews 13:1-2

Pancake Supper Thank You

This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper represented a great team effort. Kudos to Maggie Bird, Joe Boyle, Brian Dowling, Lori Shepherd, Gigo Taylor, Rich Walker, and to Terry Battaglia and Ann Dowling for their excellent advice and support. Thanks go out to our hard-working team of young people, which included: Daniel and Stephen Etna, George and Harry Shepherd, Reid Temple, Lucas Veca, Aidan Walsh, Nicole and Olivia Walker (and their friend, Emily Barr), and Rebecca Watson. Special thanks also go to Ruben Rosario for his invaluable help with set-up and clean-up.

Our thanks to each and every one of you!

Phil Sorace and Sharon Walker

Outreach at St. Elizabeth's: Time, Talent and Money at Work

In preparation for our **"ST. E'S GOES TO SOUTH BEACH"** Evening for Outreach on Saturday May 7, 2011 at 6:30 pm

Please join us in the fun of creating our Evening of Fellowship, Fun, Great Food, and Silent and Live Auction!

Decoration Workshops are great fun and you don't have to be a renowned artist to help out.

Bring your smock or wear old clothing to cut, glue, draw, paint, etc. to create the atmosphere and set the ambience for **"ST. E'S GOES TO SOUTH BEACH."** Our workshops will be held in the 4th grade classroom on the second floor on:

- Wednesday, March 30 – 7:30 pm – 1st Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, April 27 – 7:30 pm – Workshop #1
- Thursday, April 28 – 7:30 pm – Workshop #2
- Monday, May 2 – 7:30 pm – Workshop #3
- Wednesday, May 4 – 7:30 pm – Workshop #4

Board and Bid Sheet Preparation: St. Elizabeth's 4th grade classroom

- Friday, April 29 – 9:30 am
 - Tuesday, May 3 – 9:30 am
- Call Alice Palmer for more information (201-825-0111).

Donations: Please bring in your donation items to the Church beginning Monday, April 11th.

Set-up:

- **Auction Items** – Friday, May 6 – 10:00 am
Call Christine Clay (201-444-9298) or Alice Palmer (201-825-0111) for more information.
- **Dinner** – Friday, May 6 – 10:00 am
Call Sandy Pappas (201-444-8430) for more information.

- **Decorations** – Friday, May, 6 – Time 10:00 am
Call Melissa von Summer (201-444-8041) or Nicole Schick (201-251-9768) for more information.
If you're interested in helping with flowers, call Lesley Dial at 201-612-6648.

The Evening of the Event:

- Bartenders needed. For more information, call Paige McElroy at 201-689-1545.
- People needed to record Silent Auction winners.
- Cashiers needed to check out at the end of evening.
- Of course, the clean-up committee always appreciates extra hands. Call Chris Walsh or John Taylor if you are able to help.

For any other information, comments or questions, please contact John Taylor (201-220-0960) or jtaylor@childrensplace.com

Calling All Teens

The Outreach Auction Dinner is fast approaching, and we are looking for any teen who would be interested in volunteering for the wait staff for this wonderful and important event. Job duties will include table service and clean up, sprinkled with liberal doses of teen camaraderie, jokes, and the satisfaction of being part of an effort to focus our resources on others. The dinner will be held on Saturday, May 7th, and we are looking for volunteers from 6:30 pm until around 11:00 pm. Transportation can be provided, if needed. Please give Mary Wynn Seiter a call at 201-251-6469 or email her at mwseiter@verizon.net to let her know that you would like to be part of this important—and fun!—opportunity! And bring a friend, too!

SAVE THE DATE!

“ST. ELIZABETH’S GOES TO SOUTH BEACH”

WHEN: SATURDAY MAY 7, 2011 at 6:30 PM

WHERE: ST. ELIZABETH’S CHURCH
169 FAIRMOUNT ROAD
RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450

There will be silent and live auctions along with South Beach fare and drink in a breezy Floridian oasis. Come join us for this fun night and great cause!

ECW News

Attention all St. Elizabeth's Women

SAVE THE DATE

for

A Garden Party!

- When? Sunday, May 22, 2010 at 12:00 pm
Where? Parish Hall
What? A Garden Party with a catered luncheon, followed by a presentation on how to create a beautiful container garden!
Who? All women of St. Elizabeth's are invited to attend (childcare will be available).
Why? To get together and enjoy each other's company!
Proceeds will benefit ECW Outreach activities.
What next? Watch your mail for a flyer with more information and an opportunity to RSVP.

Linen Drive for Apostles' House

Linens are needed for the women's shelter at Apostles' House: twin sheets, comforters/bedspreads, mattress pads, pillows, towels, and linens for children too. The linens need not be new, but must be in good condition. Larger sizes can be sent as when the women move out of the shelter and into their own accommodation, the bed size might be different. The drive goes through April until May 1st. Any questions, call Mollie Galletly at 201-652-6157.

Dress for Success

The Dress for Success program for both women and men runs year-round. Please put your donations on the specially marked rack in the corridor between the Chapel and the Narthex. Thank you—your donations are really appreciated by the women and men who receive them.

Needlecraft Group

If you are interested in any work using a needle, come join us on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 in the Parish Hall for a couple of hours of fellowship. Have you thought about learning to knit, needlepoint, do counted cross-stitch, or crochet? Well, come join us and we will help you learn one of these interesting hobbies. We have enjoyed being together and getting to know each other these Thursday afternoons, and look forward to seeing you. Any questions, call Mollie Galletly at 201-652-6157 or Sudie Throdahl at 201-818-9699.

Holocaust Memorial Service Sunday, May 1

This year's Holocaust Memorial Service will be on Sunday, May 1st at 7:30 pm at West Side Presbyterian Church, 6 South Monroe Street, Ridgewood.

We cannot change the past, but we can stand together with our neighbors in the synagogue in remembering, mourning, and honoring those of all ages who were taken from their homes to humiliation, abuse, and death.

By showing up for this service, we publicly proclaim our commitment to seek justice and peace for all people and respect the dignity of every human being. When we stay home, the virulent heresy of Christian anti-Semitism—known in history and not unknown today—goes unchallenged. I view attendance at this event, in the words of one of our liturgies, as “meet, right, and our bounden duty.” Our choir is always visibly in evidence, and I hope our congregation may be, too.

Let us be known, as individuals, as families, and as an Episcopal congregation, as people who can be counted on to show up for the sake of justice and peace.

Thank you.

JGH

Men in Transition Fellowship Group

We are now in our third year of providing support and guidance for men who are in transition or are under employed. The sessions are on Monday and begin with Morning Prayer at 8:30 – 8:50 am, followed by a structured workshop from 9:00 – 10:30 am. These sessions are facilitated by Paul Anovick and include coaching, creative problem solving and valuable networking. The comments we have heard from the participants include; “It is good to know you are not alone.” Many have said, “You experience genuine help, and the group even encourages you to vent when it is needed.” You will realize what we are experiencing in the economy is not you; by participating you will receive support, connections, guidance, and feedback. Recently we received positive news coverage on the WCBS TV News. Go to CoachAnovick.com to check out the video. If you are interested or would like more information contact John Hartnett or Paul Anovick 201.445.2822.

Website Offers Many Resources

St. Elizabeth’s website (www.stesridgewood.org) is regularly updated with recent audio sermons, the parish calendar, extracts from *The Tower*, and downloadable forms for parish events. If you haven’t visited the website recently, I invite you to go there and browse around. Visitors to the site will get a good sense of our parish life, and it’s also a great way to keep abreast of activities if you are away or unable to attend on Sundays. If you encounter something which needs to be changed or updated, please send full specifics to my attention at: danderson@stesridgewood.org.

Debra Anderson, Communications Administrator

Upcoming Parishwide Events

- April 3 Forum following 10:00 service: Rutter Requiem Introduction
April 4 Lenten Dinner #4 – 7:00 pm
April 6 Holy Eucharist – 6:30 am and 12:00 noon
April 8 May *Tower* Deadline
April 10 John Rutter’s Requiem at the 10:00 service
April 11 Lenten Dinner #5 – 7:00 pm
April 13 Holy Eucharist – 6:30 am and 12:00 noon
April 17 **Palm Sunday** – Blessing of the Palms at 9:50 am on the front lawn
April 18 Holy Eucharist – 6:30 am
April 19 Holy Eucharist – 6:30 am
April 20 Holy Eucharist – 6:30 am and 12:00 noon
April 21 **Maundy Thursday**
Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Altar Stripping – 7:30 pm
April 22 **Good Friday** – 6:30 am Liturgy; 12:00–1:00 pm Liturgy; 1:00–
2:00 pm Vigil with Psalms; 2:00–3:00 pm Liturgy; 4:30 pm
Children’s Service; and 7:30 pm Liturgy
April 23 **Holy Saturday** – Easter Vigil – 8:00 pm
April 24 **Easter Sunday** – Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 – 8:00 am; Family
Eucharist, Rite II – 9:30 am; Festival Eucharist, Rite I – 11:15 am

May 1 Holocaust Memorial Service – 7:30 pm at West Side Presbyterian
Church, 6 South Monroe Street, Ridgewood
May 4 Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer – 11:30 am
May 7 “St. Elizabeth’s Goes To South Beach” Evening for Outreach –
6:30 pm
May 10 June *Tower* Deadline
May 14 Confirmation at St. Paul’s, Paterson – 10:00 am
May 18 Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer – 11:30 am
May 21 Spring Parish Work/FUN Day – 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
May 22 ECW Garden Party Luncheon and Container Gardening
Presentation – 12:00 noon
May 30 **Memorial Day** (*Office Closed*)
May 31 **The Visitation**
Holy Eucharist – 6:30 am

Additions and Changes to the 2011 Parish Directory

Additions:

Barnes, Ronald and Linda 201-652-6971
32 Hollis Drive; Ho-Ho-Kus NJ 07423
roleba@optonline.net

Changes:

Susan Hartnett's new email address: Susan.R.Bishop@heart.org

From the Outreach Committee

Meal Preparation Opportunities at St. Paul's

One of the more rewarding projects we undertake at St. Elizabeth's is to prepare and serve dinners at the men's shelter at St. Paul's in Paterson, NJ. The men's shelter is just one of the many services provided by the St. Paul's Community Development Corporation, and providing a filling and nutritious meal to those in need is an important part of the support structure. The parishioners at St. Elizabeth's have participated in this program for some time so the process is well defined:

- A manual is available to guide participants in the process and also suggested recipes;
- Participants generally prepare the meal in the St. Elizabeth's kitchen and then drive it to St. Paul's;
- The meal is served to the men buffet style;
- St. Paul's performs the clean-up of dishes, glasses, counters, and tables;
- The experience is generally very positive; the staff at St. Paul's is very helpful and generally those being served are polite and grateful.

Many in the congregation have participated to date. Pat Middleton and Joe Boyle participated in the meal service in January and February (along with others), respectively, and offer the following comments and recommendations:

- **Pat Middleton:** “I always seem to wish we had more food. The men seem politely restrained, and after we put aside the dinners for those still at work, everything is gone. One time Hugh even ran over to a fast food restaurant (KFC, I think) to buy some extra salads. Would it be better to plan for 1½ servings per person?”
- **Joe Boyle:** “I have found providing meals to St. Paul’s a very rewarding experience. The meals are greatly appreciated by the residents and virtually everyone thanks us for being there. The last time I prepared chili, and one of the residents wanted to know when we were coming back. The toughest part is getting the amount of food right. Twice we’ve had way too much, another time not enough, and once just squeaked by. Call the shelter for the number to prepare for and then figure on about 50% more would be my recommendation.”

Pat’s and Joe’s comments regarding the amount of food to prepare are especially timely. One of the biggest risks is that either too much or too little is brought in.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have volunteered in this important project in the past and also those who have signed up for future dates.

Sign-up sheets for upcoming dinner dates at St. Paul’s are in the Parish Hall.

The Outreach Committee

Holy Week and Easter at St. Elizabeth's

Palm Sunday (April 17): The 9:50 am service will begin on the front lawn with the Liturgy of the Palms and continue with the procession into the nave. This service also includes the reading of the Passion Gospel.

Holy Week: Morning services at 6:30 am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Maundy Thursday (April 21): The Holy Eucharist will begin at 7:30 pm. The liturgy concludes with the reading of the account of the Last Supper and the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, the stripping of the altar, and the gradual darkening of the church in preparation for Good Friday.

Good Friday (April 22): Good Friday Liturgy at 6:30 am and 12:00 noon. Children's service at 4:30 pm in the Chapel. The Good Friday Liturgy with the reading of the Passion Gospel from John will also be offered at 7:30 pm. The evening liturgy will last about 45 minutes.

Holy Saturday (April 23): Easter Vigil at 8:00 pm. This service marks the transition from Lent to Easter. For the first half it is conducted entirely by the light of candles held by the congregation and clergy. Like the midnight Christmas Eve service, it is rich with music, symbolism, and deep power.

Easter Sunday (April 24):

Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00 am Following our usual pattern, this is a full service with homily, but without music.

Family Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 9:30 am This festival service is especially suitable for families with young children and will include a children's sermon.

Festival Eucharist, Rite I, 11:15 am This is a traditional Festival Eucharist in celebration of Easter.