

## **THE CANTERBURY TALES**

**APRIL 2016**



### **FR. MARK'S MUSINGS**

Happy Easter and blessings to you all as we continue our celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. According to our Book of Common Prayer the most preferred time for baptism is Easter because it symbolizes new life. And so on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter we celebrated the baptism of Leah Rae Klumb and a wonderful celebration it was. It is always fun to see how people react to little children especially babies. It is wonderful to see how that new life can light up ours. It is not just the parents, siblings, and grandparents that glow, it is the whole congregation. (Not to mention just how much I enjoy it!) On occasions like this the people involved lift up all of us to a new understanding of the love of God and the miracle of life.

That life can be fragile, while at the same time it can be incredibly durable and tough. This week we will also celebrate the life of Phil Harper a member of this congregation who survived 93 years on this earth with a rich life that included raising a family, building a career, supporting his community, and fighting a war. He made major contributions to this community by working to keep dental care from Marquette University Dental School open to the public and by leading the fight against developmental disabilities. I think it is very appropriate that we have both of these celebrations during Easter. Just as little Leah symbolizes new life, Phil's life and death reminds us of the resurrection and everlasting life. He lives on through his family and through

his accomplishments and through his faith. And this models the life of Jesus who from his birth as a helpless infant, he grew to be a great teacher and prophet and lived so that we might know God. And then to demonstrate the kingdom of God and eternal life, he raised from the dead to teach us of the incredible gift of forgiveness and everlasting life. This gift is from God and given by God in the form of Jesus.

Easter is not just a day or a season, but a state of mind. It is a state of hopefulness and wonder. We look forward with great hope to the future of everlasting life for Phil no less than we look forward to Leah's wonderful life ahead. It is just beginning. And I believe that this is true for our parish as well. St. Thomas of Canterbury, as you all know, has been working on a renewal project for the past 3 years. That project has gone through several phases and has now established a visioning team that is developing the vision for the future of this congregation. You may recall the earlier names of that project as the Mustard Seed followed by Roots. Every step of the way has been one of imagining what our life in Christ might look like with hope and wonderful dreams for the future. I think it is safe to say it is the continuing resurrection of Christ in the life of this parish. We have a bright future just as Leah and Phil have a bright future. Just like them, we do not know what it will look like yet but we continue forward in a process trusting in the spirit that we will discern and understand our calling in this community. And then we will learn to grow and live into it. One thing is for certain, that vision is outside our walls, serving the community in the name of Christ. You too will be asked to participate in this process and ministry as the project continues.

Above all I think the most important thing we can learn is that it is not about the survival of St. Thomas of Canterbury. It is about the resurrection of Jesus Christ in this community. As long as that is our focus and where we put our energy, our money, and our time, we will thrive and Christ will be known.

Hallelujah, the Lord is risen indeed!!!

Peace always,

*Fr. Mark*





## DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES

“The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes.”

— Winston Churchill

Just because I could, I made April 1<sup>st</sup> my tax preparation day! And of course, April 5<sup>th</sup>, we voted!!! But the robo-calls and election messages both on our phones and in our mailboxes is NOT over. Sadly.

I continue with my regular “Fridays at Nicholson House,” the diocesan office, (804 East Juneau) and again invite you to stop in for coffee/tea and a tour.

The latest Executive Council meeting was April 9th. Significant concerns regarding the care and maintenance of Nicholson House was one of the issues on the table. Know that any individual is welcome to attend an Executive Council meeting. I have found it helpful in understanding the governance process of the Episcopal Church. Minutes from each Executive Council meeting are posted on the diocesan website.

On Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> DeKoven Center will celebrate The Blessed James DeKoven Festival Day with a commemoration of his life and work, a Eucharist and procession to his tomb. I was asked to serve as the deacon for the service.

Again, as the new director of the Deacon Formation School, I will be away from St. Thomas of Canterbury one weekend a month. This month I will be at the DeKoven center Saturday/Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

The members of adult formation are presenting a “Book Talk”:

June 4<sup>th</sup> at Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie, with The Rev'd Charles Henery author of Yankee Bishops, Apostles in the New Republic 1783-1873 (Studies in Episcopal and Anglican Theology) from 10:00-12:00 (talk and questions) and a light lunch at 1:00,

Please see additional flyer.

Convention planning meetings and convention data entry (the certified delegates from each parish) have begun!!! This year's convention – October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – is at the Madison Marriott West Hotel & Convention Center, Middleton, WI. More information to follow as plans are finalized. Congratulations to all elected as delegates and alternates; it is an amazing experience, especially the Eucharist.

“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything. (Sonnet XCVIII)”

— **William Shakespeare, Shakespeare's Sonnets**

Peace and prayers,

*Deacon Marge*



# **BOOK**

# **TALK**

## **WHEN**

**June 4th, 2016 10am - 12pm**

## **WHERE**

**Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie**

**3416 Sewansee Ridge**

## **WHO**

**Dr. Charles R. Henery**

Currently retired, Dr. Charles R. Henery was Director of Spiritual Life at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy and Priest-in-Charge of the Church of St. John Chrysostom in Delafield, Wisconsin as well as the sometime Professor of Church History and Homiletics at Nashotah House Theological Seminary. He is the author/editor of a number of books including *Spiritual Counsel in the Anglican Tradition*.

RSVP to [margex1@netzero.com](mailto:margex1@netzero.com) or  
[perkins\\_clifford@hotmail.com](mailto:perkins_clifford@hotmail.com)



## NOTES FROM PAUL STOVING, SENIOR WARDEN

In previous articles, I've mentioned the three words that strike terror in the hearts of Episcopalians: "**change**," "**stewardship**," and "**evangelism**." While not in the same class, a feared phrase is, "**Would you like to join vestry?**"

Don't get me wrong – I'm very grateful to each and every one of our past and present vestry members, especially the four that stood up last annual meeting and said that they were willing to join. However, rather than feeling honored and excited, a certain amount of dread does seem to come with the position. I recall years ago, when I first was taking a vestry position, someone told me, "Don't lose your faith."

Last year, those that were on vestry may talk about how we'd started using "consent agendas," which, while they require some work before the meeting, do definitely allow us to get some of the regular business of the meeting over quickly, helping to keep the meetings shorter and more productive. We will be continuing using consent agendas this year.

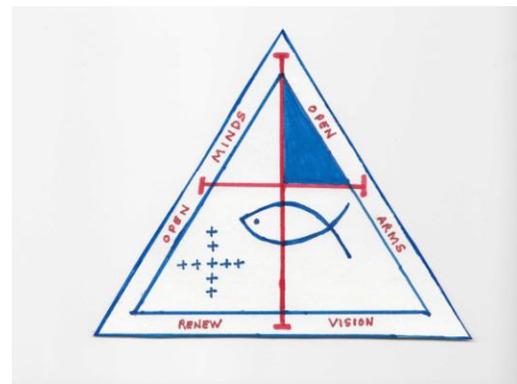
This year, we are trying something else new. Vestry can be a lot of work. Vestry members also represent various ministries, and function as liaisons between committees and the vestry, bringing the needs of those committees to the rest of the vestry. All too often, the vestry member gets caught up in the day-to-day operation of their ministries, ends up chairing that committee, and frequently doing a large portion of the effort or work. This, I suspect, is where much of the dread actually comes from.

In order to alleviate this, if a committee or ministry has a natural synergy with another one, we have paired them together. For instance, last year, we found that the Stewardship and Finance committees worked well together; we have formalized that relationship this year. Likewise, with our current renewal process, we have started to see a relationship between Pastoral Care, or, how we care for those in our parish, and Outreach, which is how we care for those outside our parish. We have also grouped Communications with Parish Life and our newly formed Evangelism committee.

As always, this will be a work-in-progress. We're hoping that this makes for a more fulfilling experience for our vestry members, and, hopefully, when someone asks you next year if you'd like to join vestry, you will say, "yes."

As always, I appreciate your thoughts.

*Paul Stoving*



## **VISION TEAM UPDATE**

Happy Easter!! Alleluia, He is risen!! Happy Spring!!

Easter Season is new life, rebirth and renewal. Christ's glorious resurrection gave us all victory over death and ensured us eternal life. It also gives us rebirth in His unconditional love for us and in His peace.

Alleluia, He is risen!!

Spring brings new life sprouting from the ground, the joyous sound of a robin singing and fresh, crisp spring air after a soft rain. In the beauty of God's creation all around us, we see and feel the hope of new life and renewal.

This seems the perfect time to reacquaint the parish family of STOC with its Vision team. Your Vision team is a group of dedicated, caring, faithful people with a deep rooted love for Christ. We are on a pathway of renewal for our parish that will start within our red doors and extend beyond our doors out into our community. We are praying that the Holy Spirit opens our ears and hearts so that we may hear God's voice and discern His plan for our parish. We ask that you as the congregation of STOC also allow the Holy Spirit to open your ears and hearts and pray with us as we all travel on this journey together.

As we continue to meet and listen to God's voice and each other in order to truly discern His chosen path for our parish family, please keep us in your prayers. Feel free at any time to approach or contact any Vision team member with any questions, concerns or ideas. As we go forward in this process, we will keep you updated and informed via many venues as to where we are on our pathway to renewal. With this in mind, please check out our bulletin board in the narthex and watch it change and grow. Keep an "eye" out for our icon as it may pop up in different places!! We are all very excited about this incredible journey that we as the STOC family are taking together. Please join us in that excitement!!

Faithfully in Christ,  
Your Vision team,

Fr. Mark Moore  
Tammy Wyman  
Joan Lamson  
Gayle Radavich  
Jessie Hein

Randy Schraw  
Erika Stoving  
Noelle Gelhaart  
Lisa Chmielewski



## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

We all know that STOC wouldn't run as smoothly as it does, and many things would be left undone if it weren't for our dedicated volunteers. This month, we'd like to spotlight the Altar Guild! They set up the Sanctuary for every single service held at STOC, which includes everything from vacuuming to baking the communion bread, to flower arrangements, to care and set up of the altar linens and everything that is placed in the Sanctuary, and so much more! Especially during Holy Week, this is a challenge, and our Altar Guild made Holy Week so beautiful and special each and every night! STOC couldn't survive without this dedicated and hard working group of volunteers! Many, many thanks to Pam Kasper, Joy Becker, Veronica Heaney, Gail Passler, Kathi Beinlich and Noelle Gehlhaart, our full time members, as well as Claudia Stewart and Judy Stormoen who help out as time or ability allow.

**WE**   
VOLUNTEERS

**EASTER AT ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**



## MARCH CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS



John Cram	April 1
David Radavich	April 3
Mark Slyfield	April 4
Sharon Owen	April 10
Dave Luetngen	April 11
Maggie Stoving	April 12
Hannah Luetngen	April 14
Victoria Celsor	April 16
Jack Bauman	April 19
Erika Stoving	April 25
Nancy Grimm	April 27

### ANNIVERSARIES



Brian & Mandy Klumb	April 13
Jesse & Kathleen Hein	April 20

### THE COMMUNITY OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY WELCOMED ITS' NEWEST MEMBER ON APRIL 3, 2016



The Klumb Family

## BOOK CORNER



If you have a pre-teen or even a teenager who is a Star Wars fan, do I have a devotional for you!

*May the Faith Be With You* is a 180 day devotional that guides children to a life with Jesus Christ. Each day it follows a prescribed format of a short **Bible reading**, “**Master Moment**” that gives a concise statement about how Jesus helps us, “**Ways of Wisdom**” provides more information on the main idea and “Use the Force” that is a short **prayer** centering on the main idea of that day that can be applied to a child’s life.

