It is my normal practice at Easter to offer some thoughts on why I believe in the Resurrection of Jesus as a real event that occurred in history, though it transcended human history as Jesus is exalted the Glory that is his by right as the Incarnate Word of God. All other attempts to explain away the resurrection simply stumble and fall apart. Often rejection of the resurrection represents a rejection of the reality of God and so the acceptance of any alternative, no matter how implausible, rather than admit that God could do such a thing. As Tom Wright, noted biblical scholar and expert on the resurrection, mentioned in an interview, he gave a copy of his book entitled The Resurrection of the Son of God to his old college philosophy professor who is an atheist. His former professor told him it was a brilliant book but that he still rejected the resurrection because he refused to believe in God no matter what evidence was presented to him. Finally, I believe in the Resurrection because lives are still being transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. I was once an agnostic, “…so lost I should have died…” as one contemporary Gospel song puts it, but the Risen Lord came seeking his lost sheep and he brought me home to faith and life in the church. As another old gospel song puts it, “…you ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.”

We know about the historic and life transforming events because the witnesses to the resurrection told others what they experienced. The Holy Women told the doubting apostles, and after Jesus came to them and they believed, they went forth as missionary messengers of God to tell others. In our tradition of faith, the Apostles are the first bishops. Bishop comes from the Greek word Episcope which means to provide oversight, guidance and governance. As the Apostles established...
churches they appointed leaders and continued to provide supervision. Most of St. Paul’s Epistles were letters to churches he founded providing episcopate—guidance and supervision to those he had led to Jesus. All of the Apostles ordained persons to take over their roles of oversight and guidance. These were the Sub-Apostolic Bishops who carried on the work of the Apostles. In their turn, they also ordained bishops by the laying on of hands who in turn did the same, so that generation by generation Bishops in succession to the Apostles carried on the work of oversight, guidance and governance in the church. That is what is meant by the term Apostolic Succession, that is, that our bishops can be traced in an unbroken line all the way back to the Apostles themselves. Just as a curious and trivial aside, a priest friend of mine, shortly after I was ordained, presented me with a list of Donald Lowery’s Apostolic Succession. He traced the bishop who ordained me priest back through his predecessors all the way to the Apostle John. That is a pretty impressive lineage drawn up by a friend with perhaps a little too much free time on his hands. I would note that Roman Catholics, the Eastern Orthodox Churches, The Moravians and some Lutherans have preserved this unbroken succession. The United Methodists may also have preserved it though some scholars dispute that fact.

Along with oversight, guidance and governance, the Bishops are expected to carry on the witness to the reality and transforming power of the Resurrection of Jesus. We were blessed in Bishop Curry when he was our bishop, and are still blessed now that he is Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, to have a powerful witness to the Resurrection. As he himself was fond of saying, “I believe in the Resurrection! I don’t know how God did it, but he did!”

Now that Bishop Curry has been called to higher office, it falls to our diocese to elect a new Bishop.

There are many steps that lead to the special Diocesan Convention where we will elect our new Bishop. After that election, the newly elected will be consecrated by Bishops in the Apostolic Succession of our church with prayer that the Holy Spirit will bestow on the person special grace to fulfill the office conferred. One step toward the goal is the construction of a diocesan profile to be used in the search for the XII Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina. It is important that as many people as possible complete a survey designed to elicit information for that diocesan profile. The survey may be found at www.episdionc.org or www.bishopsearch.dionc.org. Paper copies of the survey are also available in the bell tower or at the church office. Either the online survey or written survey must be completed by April 15, 2016. The written survey must be in the Diocesan office (not just postmarked) by that date.

A prayer that God will assist as we seek a new Bishop and Apostle for our Diocese:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide our minds and hearts as we share our voices with those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PARISH NEWS...

LYRA—Russian Choral Ensemble

The Rev. Donald Lowery

As most of you are aware, I have traveled to Russia twice with my parents. On those trips, I fell in love with Russian music, both sacred and secular. On April 27, The Church of the Holy Innocents will host LYRA, a small Russian Choral Ensemble from St. Petersburg in Russia. The concert is at 7:00 p.m. and both free and open to the public. This program will include sacred and folk music from Russia. The Concert is in memory of Henry Alexander Ross, Jr., our organist for 33 years who died a little over a year ago. The concert is in memory of Henry Alexander Ross, Jr. Music Fund. Please plan to attend and bring friends.

What Episcopalian believe and why do they do what they do in Worship

It has been several years since I offered an Enquirers Class, that is, a class about the beliefs and practices of the Episcopal Church. The Vestry asked that I do so during Eastertide. The class will be offered at two different times and at both times the gatherings will offer the same content. The Wednesday Class will begin at 6:10 p.m. after the Wednesday communion service. This session will begin on the first Wednesday in April. The Sunday Session will begin on the first Sunday in April and will run from 9:40 a.m. until 10:20 am. The odd Sunday start time gives me a chance to grab a bite of breakfast after 8:00 p.m. service. This class is intended for adults and teenagers who want to learn more about the Episcopal Church as is for new comers to the church and old time members who like a review.
ENDOWMENT FUND

The Fund was established in May, 1977 and received its principal from designated gifts. The funds are kept in the EDNC Common Trust. The distribution of the earned income is controlled by the Vestry. All income earned during the prior calendar year must be spent for outreach outside the Parish by June 30th of the current year. If the funds have not been used by that date, the Vestry must send any undistributed funds to the Episcopal Fund for World Relief.

ELIZABETH WALTERS ROSE CHILDREN’S FUND

A stock portfolio was established in November, 1960 by Mr. and Mrs. David M. Rose in memory of their daughter Elizabeth, and subsequent donations to the principal have been added to the principal and invested. The Fund is controlled by the Children’s Fund Trustees, consisting of a member of the David M. Rose family, the Rector, the Treasurer, the Director of Religious Education, and the Director of Youth Music. The purpose of the fund is to make funds available for the activities and necessary materials related strictly to children. A child is not specifically defined. The spending is limited to the funds earned on the investments.

Treasurer’s Report

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW REMODELED LOWER HALL LADIES’ ROOM!!

THANK YOU CATHIE COLDFELTER FOR YOUR WONDERFUL DESIGN AND FOR YOUR GENEROUS HELP WITH OUR ECW COMMITTEE ON THIS PROJECT.
April 2016 Schedule of Events

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule
- Hand Bell Choir — Wed. at 6:00 PM
- Parish Choir — Sun. at 9:30 AM

Sunday – April 3
- 8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
- 9:40 AM, Enquirers Class (Ladies Parlor)
- 10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
- 12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Wednesday – April 6
- 5:30 PM, Communion & Healing Service/Enquirers Class

Sunday – April 10
- 8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
- 9:40 AM, Enquirers Class (Ladies Parlor)
- 10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
- 12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Wednesday – April 13
- 3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
- 5:30 PM, Communion/Enquirers Class

Sunday – April 17
- 8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
- 9:40 AM, Enquirers Class (Ladies Parlor)
- 10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
- 12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Wednesday – April 20
- 5:30 PM, Communion/Enquirers Class

Sunday – April 24
- 8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
- 9:40 AM, Enquirers Class (Ladies Parlor)
- 10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
- 12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Tuesday – April 26
- 10:00 AM, ECW (Ladies Parlor)

Wednesday – April 27
- 3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
- 7:00 PM, LYRA Choral Ensemble

All services are conducted in the Church, unless otherwise noted.

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ECW News

Betsy Seifert, President

Our ECW had a busy March. The Community Holy Week Services were held at our church this year and we were in charge of providing the lunch on Monday. Our menu consisted of ECW chili, pimento cheese sandwiches, desserts and beverages.

We served approximately 100 persons and had an enjoyable lunch with so many friends here from our neighboring churches!

We also spent some time the week before Holy Week organizing our kitchen to have it ready for use by our guests on Tuesday through Friday.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 26th at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies’ Parlor. Please plan to join us!!

FYI Janet’s Richmond Address is:
Janet White
Brookdale West End
1800 Gaskins Road
Richmond, VA 23238

NOTICE: Our church email address is hinnocents@centurylink.net. Whenever your email address changes, please be sure to send your new address to the church so that we can update our records.

Note from the Editor...

Newsletter items are due: April 25th

Please email news items to: MJNELSON@nc.rr.com

Printed copies of the newsletter are located in the Bell Tower for you if you have problems with email access and are also available to view and print from the church website:

www.churchoftheholyinnocents.org

Thanks for your support!
We Episcopalians often refer to ourselves as an Easter People. Our God is the God of the resurrection! Early on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene expected to find death but instead she found new life. We have stood in Mary Magdalene’s shoes. We know only too well what it means to expect death but find new life. We know what it feels like to follow on Good Friday only to be confronted with Easter Sunday. We have stood there peering into the empty tomb with the stone rolled away experiencing the impossible. The thing is, we don’t go looking for resurrection – resurrection finds us.

Jesus’ resurrection is about God loving us so much that God is willing to go to any length to find us in all the wrong places. Because like Mary, we go looking for God in the familiar, in the places we expect to find God. But in Jesus’ resurrection God finds us when we are down and out, when we are at the end of our rope, when all hope seems lost. God rolls back the stones that bind and confine us. God stands waiting with a familiar voice to call us to new life. Call us to “Go and tell.”

Resurrection has no meaning, no purpose, no place unless like Mary Magdalene we go and tell it! Resurrection has no meaning if we cannot share the Good News of Easter to a world living in Good Friday! Resurrection has no meaning unless we are willing to live as Easter people.

Go and tell of your life transformed by the one who healed the sick and cured the lame.
Go and tell of the one who blessed the broken and welcomed the outcast.
Go and tell that “Do this in remembrance of me” is real.
Go and tell that God has work for us to do in our neighborhoods and street corners.
Go and tell that God was there, God is here and God will be there!
Go and tell that God finds us and loves us into redemption through Christ Jesus our Lord.

In truth resurrection isn’t an event it is an experience. We are called to go and tell not only with our lips but also with our lives. Go and tell of the resurrection power of God’s love and hope.

Wendell Berry in his poem “Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front” puts it like this:

*So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it. Give your approval to all you cannot understand. Praise ignorance. Ask the questions that have no answers. Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias. Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant, that you will not live to harvest. Say that the leaves are harvested when they have rotted into the mold. Call that profit. Prophesy such returns. Put your faith in the two inches of humus that will build under the trees every thousand years. Listen to carrion – put your ear close, and hear the faint chattering of the songs that are to come. Expect the end of the world. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts. Be like the fox who makes more tracks than necessary, some in the wrong direction. Practice resurrection.*

We need to practice being witnesses to resurrection in a world clinging to Good Friday!

This Easter, may you open your whole self — heart, soul, mind, and strength — to God’s inspiring call to new life and renewed love. May you feel God luring you, prompting you, goading you, cajoling you, calling you and encouraging you — each day and in each new present moment — to practice resurrection. “We have seen the Lord!” Alleluia! Amen.
Remember In Your Prayers

**Pray for Healing and Comfort:**


**Special Dates**

- **Second Sunday of Easter**
  *April 3, 2016*

- **Third Sunday of Easter**
  *April 10, 2016*

- **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
  *April 17, 2016*

- **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
  *April 24, 2016*

**Altar Flowers**

- Margaret Williamson 4/03
- Janet White 4/10
- Shirley & Chick Young 4/17
- Griselle Woodward 4/24

**APRIL UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE**

~ COFFEE WILL BE SERVED IN THE GREAT HALL AFTER THE 10:30 AM SERVICE ~

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APR</th>
<th>BEARERS</th>
<th>ACOLYTES</th>
<th>CRUCIFER</th>
<th>LAYREADER/ CHALICE BEARER</th>
<th>USHERS</th>
<th>ALTAR GUILD</th>
<th>VESTRY GREETER</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mary Beth Parish (Book)</td>
<td>Chap Burnette / Beau Burnette</td>
<td>Lehman Ford</td>
<td>8:00am - Rick Palamar 10:30am - Nancy Whitt</td>
<td>Frank Madigan</td>
<td>Anora Rainey</td>
<td>Ruth Hartness</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>LC Olmert (Book)</td>
<td>Mary Beth Parish / Sarah Rose Parish</td>
<td>Genie Parish</td>
<td>8:00am - Lucy Gray 10:30am - Richard Davis</td>
<td>Frank Madigan</td>
<td>Shirley Young</td>
<td>Tracy Madigan</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Sarah Rose Parish (Book)</td>
<td>Jason Elliott / Beau Burnette</td>
<td>AJ Holloway</td>
<td>8:00am - Hat Wester 10:30am - Ruth Hartness</td>
<td>Frank Madigan</td>
<td>Shirley Young</td>
<td>Hunter Roberson</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>LC Olmert (Book)</td>
<td>Brennan Olmert / Tucker Olmert</td>
<td>Uriah Ford</td>
<td>8:00am - Bob Nelson 10:30am - Tom Church</td>
<td>Frank Madigan</td>
<td>Anora Rainey</td>
<td>Porter Shaw</td>
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**NOTE:** IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO LAYREAD AND HAVE A CONFLICT, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT AND NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE.
All are welcome to join us as we joyfully greet each person present at our worship. May our love and respect for one another be steady and true as we strive to follow Christ our Lord.