

The Voice

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May the Lord Bless You and Keep You

February in the Ammons household was a month of incredible blessings and change. Not only did we welcome Phereby into the world on Feb. 5, but on Feb. 7 both Good Shepherd and Redeemer announced that I have been called as the next rector of Redeemer beginning Palm Sunday, Mar. 20th. I would be lying if I said my head wasn't still spinning these three weeks hence.

What remains is the opportunity to celebrate and mourn. From my perspective, I have spent the last few weeks between grief and elation, sadness and expectation. I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead a church in our diocese, city even, and at the same time I grieve the loss of my involvement in the community here. I have heard several others' perspectives after we returned to church on the 21st and my favorite summary of those is "we are really happy for you, and we reserve the right to be annoyed with you at the same time." I appreciate the honesty behind that sentiment, and the courage of those who have been willing to express it to me.

Honesty and vulnerability are the signs of true relationship. I am so thankful that, even in the short time we have been together, this has been my experience with Good Shepherd. We

were welcomed here and loved, and we have loved right back. This is what makes for hard goodbyes and hurt feelings. Underlying all of this, though, is joy. Disappointment at parting means we meant something to one another.

This is what makes Lent such an appropriate time for grief, because life is messy, relationships are messy, good Gospel ministry is messy. When things don't go the way we expect, or when life takes turns we don't understand, for those of us who believe there is still the undercurrent of joy—joy in the knowledge that all of this ultimately comes to the same glorious conclusion. This remains my perspective on the way out as much as it was on the way in. I continue to pray for great things for Good Shepherd even as I leave to lead elsewhere.

Elsewhere for us is a brick and clear glass sanctuary on Southside Blvd. The Church of the Redeemer was established in 1957 and the groundbreaking for the current church property (on former Skinner Dairy land) was Palm Sunday in 1985. Redeemer has been led in the past by names many of you will recognize like Davette Turk, Chip Seadale, and most recently, Mal Jopling. Bishop Howard will preside over my service of installation on April 21st at



6:30pm. I hope you would consider coming to this celebration of new ministry.

As I said in the homily Wednesday night, the faces change in both pulpit and pew, yet the work remains the same, the church remains the same, the Lord remains the same. No matter where we are, we are always coworkers and brothers and sisters in the Lord. May the Lord bless you and keep you as you continue your work for the Gospel and the upbuilding of his church.

Fr. Wiley

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 13

Remember to turn your clocks forward 1 hour.



The Coker Singers

Choral Ensemble to Sing at Good Shepherd

On Sunday, March 6th the premiere choral ensemble of Coker College, the Coker Singers, will sing with Good Shepherd's chancel choir at the 10:00 am service. Founded in 1908, the Coker Singers have performed throughout the Carolinas as well as in Atlanta, New Orleans, and Birmingham. Other recent engagements include performances at the Lincoln Memorial and the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, and at Carnegie Hall and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

Located in Hartsville, S. C., Coker College readies undergraduates for personal and professional success through a distinctive four-year program that emphasizes a practical application of the liberal arts as well as hands-on and discussion-based learning within and beyond the classroom. Coker is ranked among the "Best Colleges" in the South by U.S. News & World Report as well

as *The Princeton Review*. Coker is within two hours of the cultural, financial and recreational resources of Charlotte, Columbia, Charleston and Myrtle Beach.

The conductor of the Coker Singers is Dr. Dustin Ousley, who just recently received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of South Carolina. For seven years, Dr. Ousley was the choral director at Fred T. Foard High School in Newton, North Carolina. He received a Bachelor of Arts in music from Furman University and a masters degree in Choral Conducting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2005. Dr. Ousley previously served as the director of the Catawba Valley Community Chorus in Conover, North Carolina (2006-2010).

Dr. Ousley is in frequent demand throughout both North and South Carolina as a choral

clinician on both the middle and high school levels. As adjunct professor of music at Coker College, he conducts the Coker Singers and Chamber Singers and teaches advanced conducting and music appreciation. He has also taught music education courses and applied voice in the previous year. While at USC, Dr. Ousley taught music theory and aural skills and was the director of the Women's Chorus from 2013-2015.

The Coker Singers begin their spring tour in Jacksonville and then travel to Hilton Head Island as well as Savannah and Atlanta with a concluding concert at Shandon UMC in Columbia, SC. We hope you will plan to attend the 10:00 am service on March 6th to hear the blended voices of Good Shepherd's chancel choir and the Coker Singers. It should be a beautiful enhancement to our service.



CEW Spaghetti Dinner

The annual spaghetti dinner to benefit the Children's Enrichment Workshops (CEW) will take place Thursday, March 10th from 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church. Take out dinners will also be available at 5:00 pm. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 4-12. Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 1415 S. McDuff Ave. (corner of Park St. and McDuff Ave.) See Fr. Jeff or call the church office for tickets. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

Rector's Reflections

Dear Parish Family,

We all know that certain holidays always fall on the same day as with Christmas on December 25th. However, Easter changes from year to year. Have you ever wondered why? The formula for determining Easter is based on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox, the day when we experience an equal amount of light and darkness. This year the vernal equinox will be March 20th and the full moon will only be days away. That means Easter will be on March 27th. Some would say this makes Easter "early!" The varying date of Easter also determines numerous other religious dates such as the end of Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week as well as the Feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, which are all based on a specific number of days leading up to or in the case of the Ascension and Pentecost following Easter.

We are already half way through the season of Lent. For a long time Lent was a time of increased prayer, study, fasting and self-denial. Years ago when I was attending seminary, Easter was late one particular year. We had an older very traditional conservative priest instructor who was perplexed that the school had scheduled spring break during Lent. I remember him saying, "How can you have a spring vacation during Lent?" Clearly times have changed and we no longer forbid baptisms and weddings during Lent. But at Good Shepherd we still offer a pious nod to some of these traditions with the absence of flowers on the altar during Lent and with the changes we have woven into our Sunday worship services.

In keeping with our historic traditions, over the past years we have sought to put an emphasis on Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday on March 20th this year. Interactive participation in our Holy Week services begins with the laying of blankets and beach towels up the center aisle to the altar rail in preparation for our Palm Sunday procession, which this year will begin in the parking lot. For those wishing to walk, palms will be distributed in the parking lot. Then we will process (weather permitting) down the sidewalk and around the church. We will then ask the congregation to form a path for the acolytes, choir, lay ministers and clergy simulating the crowds that lined the path and waved their leafy branches as Jesus and his followers processed into Jerusalem. Nowadays for special events we "roll out the red carpet." Centuries ago they didn't have such luxuries. The scriptures tell us instead that people laid their cloaks and garments along the path to celebrate Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. Our version will be to do what we are taught not to do - walk on blankets, towels and other items. The sensation is noticeable! The interactive service continues with volunteers reading portions of the passion narrative, the story of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial and crucifixion.

Included in this newsletter is an outline of the other services planned for the remainder of Holy Week. As in the past, we have scheduled something everyday during Holy Week in order to emphasize the historical and spiritual developments leading up to Easter. On Easter eve and Easter morning the church will be beautifully decorated, our fabulous choir will enhance our celebration of the essence of Christianity, the Messiah's resurrection from the dead! We look forward to many people joining us once, twice, or possibly every day during Holy Week as we prepare for the celebration of the resurrection that transformed history and strengthens our faith. I pray this will be a meaningful and inspirational Lent and Easter!

Sincerely and faithfully,

Jeff



CUBAN FIESTA "Old Havana Cafe"

Church of the Good Shepherd
Craig Hall

Saturday, March 12, 2016
6:30 p.m. – Mojitos & Hors d'oeuvres
7:30 - Dinner

**To Welcome Padre Rody Perez
and to benefit the Church of the Anunciacion
Florida, Cuba**

Festive Attire or Costumes
Invite Your Friends
Bring your own wine or beverage
Reservations Required – (Deadline Monday, March 7th)
Space Limited to 100 people

I would like to make a reservation for _____ people.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
(minimum suggested: \$25 per person)

I am unable to attend, but would like to contribute
\$ _____ to the Cuba Fund.

> Name _____ Tel _____

Please return or deliver to the Church of the Good Shepherd,
1100 Stockton St., Jacksonville, FL 32204
(questions – call 387-5691)

Pancake Supper



Remembrance: A Seder Meal at Good Shepherd

A few years ago Father Jeff introduced us to the Holy Week tradition of a Seder Meal. The Seder is a traditional celebration of the Jews' freedom from bondage and slavery in Egypt. It is believed that Jesus used the language, food and ritual of the Passover at the Last Supper with his disciples, on Maundy Thursday. It was at this meal that Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist, which celebrates freedom from the power of sin and death through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Exodus 12 describes the story of the Jews celebration of the Passover, and preparation of the food for the meal. Matthew 26:17-19 is an account of Jesus' instructions to his disciples for preparing for the Last Supper. Our Seder meal will include the traditional foods and symbols of a Seder:

Shank bone of a Roasted Lamb—reminder of a lamb offered on Passover at the Temple in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. It also recalls that God passed over the houses of the Hebrew people in Egypt who had marked their doorways with the blood of a lamb.

Lamb roasted on open flames—(we will exclude the “head with its legs and inner parts”)

Wine—the symbol of festivity and rejoicing and a symbol at the Eucharist to remind us of Christ's sacrifice for us

Hard Boiled Eggs—a symbol of life and triumph over death

Maror—a horseradish mixed with sour cream—a symbol of the bitterness and hardship of the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt

Haroset—a mixture of apples, almonds, raisins cinnamon and wine—representing the mortar used by the Israelites in their forced labor in Egypt

Parsley—is a reminder of springtime, the season of Easter and Passover—a sign of gratitude to God for the goodness of the earth

Salt Water—symbolizes the bitterness which Israel endured—we will dip the parsley in this water

Matzah—unleavened bread symbolizing the hardships that the Hebrews endured in Egypt and the haste with which they fled

This year we will have our Seder Meal at 6:00 pm. on Tuesday, March 22nd, in Worsham Hall. At the conclusion of the meal we will celebrate the Eucharist in remembrance that it was at the Last Supper that Christ instituted the Eucharist. Please plan to join us. Reservations are \$8.00 per person; children under 10 are free. You can sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Susannah Sands



Holy Week Schedule

Monday, March 21

5:00 pm — Children's Chapel
6:00 pm — Stations of the Cross (Church)

Tuesday, March 22

6:00 pm — Seder Supper (Worsham Ha)

Wednesday, March 23

5:30 pm — Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
6:12 pm — Adult Study Group

Maundy Thursday, March 24

7:00 pm — Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, March 25

12:00 pm & 7:00 pm — Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday – Easter Eve, March 26

7:00 pm — Easter Vigil

Easter Day, March 27

8:00 am — Holy Eucharist, Rite One
10:00 am — Holy Eucharist, Rite Two & Holy Baptism
11:30 am — Easter Egg Hunt (Courtyard)

March Calendar

Every Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Every Monday (except March 28)

5:00 pm Children's Chapel and Cherub
Choir Rehearsal (Chancel)

Every Wednesday (except March 2)

5:30 pm Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
6:12 pm Adult Study Group (Craig
Lounge)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
(Choir room)

Sunday, March 6, 11:30 am –
Monthly Potluck Lunch (Worsham)

Tuesday, March 8, 11:30 am –
EWES lunch (Whiteway Deli)

Wednesday, March 9, 4:00 pm –
Prayer Shawl Ministry (Craig
Lounge)

Thursday, March 10, 5:30-7:00 pm –
CEW Spaghetti Dinner (Trinity
Lutheran Church)

Saturday, March 12, 6:30 pm –
Cuban Fiesta (Craig Lounge)

Sunday, March 13 – Daylight Saving
Time begins (turn clocks forward 1
hour)

Thursday, March 17, 8:00 am –
2:00 pm CEW Play Day (West
Riverside Elementary)

Thursday, March 17, 6:00 pm –
Men's Grill and Chill
(Worsham)

Sunday, March 20 – Palm Sun-
day

Sunday, March 27 – Easter

Monday, March 28 – Parish
Office Closed

Men's Grill and Chill

The next men's "Grill and Chill" will be on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th at 6:00 in Worsham Hall and the courtyard. We hope men new to Good Shepherd Church will plan on joining us for this casual evening. Bring something to grill, a beverage and an item for the buffet table.



March Birthdays

Brian Parks (1)	Lawrence Raybourne (10)	Tom Sawyer (18)
Skye Carroll (1)	Lena Lamb (10)	Anna Edgar (20)
Pierce Holley (2)	Madelaine Cosgrove (10)	Riley Bunk (22)
Ken Pitts (3)	Pat Sanow-Bramlett (10)	Susan Brown (26)
Don Dunn (4)	Joseph Whilden (11)	Mary Price Pickett (27)
Sally McKeithen (6)	Christyn Lindsey (12)	Margaret Miller (28)
Alex Sawyer (7)	Shirley Walters (12)	
Susan Morgan (7)	Maggie Williams (13)	
Adele Griffin (8)	Mark Miles (15)	
Jonathan Crews (8)	Missy Lindsey (16)	

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