

Good News from St. John's

May Happenings!

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There are so many bits of good news that it is hard to know where to start. I think we will start at the end of the month of May, and work backwards.

May 31 is Pentecost.

It is also the day on which we will baptize five children in our congregation, which is a huge and joyous event for us. Lily, Julia and Robert (Bubby) Sampsell, grandchildren of Robert and Serra Sampsell, and Zack and Sean Benner, grandsons of Cheryl Bennett, will be

baptized at Pentecost, the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. It is an Episcopal tradition to wear something red to honor the day.

May 30, Saturday, 11 a.m.,

Bishop W. Michie Klusmeyer will be at Trinity Church, Martinsburg, to confirm new Episcopalians, and to receive those from other Christian traditions into our church. Three members of our congregation— Cheryl Bennett, Linda Brzostowski, and Mildred

(Sis) McCarthy—will be received into the Episcopal Church. Clerk of the Vestry Margie Yoe will carry our banner, and present Linda Brzostowski for reception. Bob DuBose will be a lay reader in the service, and Miggs Dotson will present her sister Sis. Mother DuBose will present Cheryl Bennett. This will be a magnificent service, and it would be wonderful to have many people from St. John's. Please come early—the church will be packed!

Calendar:

- May 3 - Bible Study
- May 10 – Contemplative Service at 7pm
- May 16 - Seeing the Face of God in Each Other; 9am-3pm – Camp Hill
- May 30 – Members received into the Episcopal Church; 11am – Trinity Martinsburg
- May 31 – Baptisms!

Seeing the Face of God in Each Other

May 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Seeing the Face of God in Each Other"--A Positive Way to Look at Issues of Race, will be held at Camp Hill-Wesley United Methodist Church in Harpers Ferry, on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Presenter Harold Stewart, chair of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia's Commission to End Racism will invite attendees to consider how issues of race in the United States have affected their own lives, and their lives in community, and to share these insights with those

present.

The \$10 fee for the event includes lunch, and a materials packet. To register, or for more information, call 304-535-2009. Checks should be made out to the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia, and sent to St. John's Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 999, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, 25425-0999.

The dialogue is being sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese, the South Jefferson County Ministerial Association, Camp-Hill Wesley United Methodist

Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, the Baha'i Spiritual Assembly of Jefferson County, Bolivar United Methodist Church, and the Harpers Ferry Woman's Club.

Other Church News and Events



We will bless and re-initiate our **Appalachian Trail Hikers' Water Ministry on Sunday, May 3rd**. Congregants are invited to donate water, and to take some time to keep the cooler filled.

May 3rd we will see the beginning of our Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark, after church in the chancel. Clerk of the Vestry Margie Yoe will lead the first one.

The first four Contemplative Eucharist services were an experiment; the congregation has agreed to continue them, and the next service will be on **May 10th at 7 p.m.**

The living Body of Christ—all the members--at St. John's warmly welcomes you, our readers, to our services: **9 a.m. Sunday—Holy Eucharist** with Sunday School, and Bible Study (Gospel of Mark) following the

service; **5 p.m. Sunday—Contemplative Eucharist** with hammered dulcimer music; **7 p.m. Thursday—Compline**, preceded by light meal and intercessory prayer for our congregation, our community and the world.

May the glories of Resurrection and Spring live in your hearts. God bless you.

April in Review

As April ends—and I am writing this on its last day—it is inspiring and encouraging to look back at Holy Week and the liturgy that led us from darkness to Light.

On Maundy Thursday, a moving Foot-washing and Eucharist led us toward the holy darkness of Good Friday, when we had a Stations of the Cross service at noon, and a Readings and Prayers Service at 7 p.m. Holy

Saturday found us readying the church for Easter with brass polishing and other cleaning. Senior Warden Shirley Caniford decorated the church with lilies purchased by the congregation in memory of loved ones, and all was ready for our first-ever Easter Vigil, at 8 p.m. That joyous and holy service was designed by our new Contemplative Eucharist Congregation, which meets at 5 p.m. on Sundays, and included

liturgical dance by Lindsay McLaughlin and music—guitar and hammered dulcimer—by Robert Sabath. From the moment the New Fire was lighted outside our front door on Washington Street, we all felt something very special was happening. Thanks to Bob DuBose for all the wonderful Easter pictures, and to the Williams family for acolyte and altar service at the Festival Eucharist Easter morning.

*To love,
worship and
serve God, to
love our
neighbors, and
to spread the
good news!*

Congregational Development

Over the course of Fall 2008 and Spring 2009, we have worked with Katie Gauling on a Congregational Development program of our own design, based on the Magnetic Church ideas, Canon Margaret Babcock's Small Church Conference materials "It's a

Process, Not a Program," and Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase's book "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." We came up with "a process" that we thought suited our small but lively congregation well, and Katie led us with grace and efficiency. To learn more about

how we are going to work together in the Body of Christ on what we decided, see the Congregational Development materials on this website.