



April 2020

CROSSTOWN

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Holy Week and Easter Online
— Page 2

Good Stewards in Quarantine
— Page 5

How You Can Help Those in Need
— Page 7

50 Glorious Days — Page 16

Staying connected daily: [Page 6.](#)

We'll Join Spiritually in an Online Congregation For Holy Week and Easter

Our Holy Week and Easter services will be offered online so everyone can participate while staying safe and healthy by maintaining social distance.

"I know we'll be united in our desire to observe these important days in the church year and to be together spiritually if not physically," Dean Stephen Morris said.

"The staff and I have been working hard to design these services appropriately, given the limitations, and that work is going on right down to the last minute," Dean Morris said. "We'll be using a variety of sources, possibly including some anthems by the choir from last Easter."

See the box for details of Holy Week worship online.

"Please watch the daily e-mails from the Cathedral for more information as these days draw closer," the dean said.

"I know it is disappointing that we cannot offer our usual services and activities

during the Triduum — foot-washing on Maundy Thursday, the Way of the Cross on the morning of Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night," the dean said. "But we can still join in worship, and I guarantee you that Jesus Christ will rise again on Easter morning, and we will celebrate that as joyfully as we can."



Easter 2019 by PHILLIP PAREE

Holy Week Online Worship

Our Holy Week services will be available online:

* On our website: spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream

* or on Facebook: facebook.com/spcathedral/

Here is the schedule of worship:

Palm Sunday, April 5: Service at 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 9: 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 10: Noon

Easter Sunday, April 12: 10:15 a.m.

Try Something New During Covid-19 Quarantine

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, Dean

All of us, the Cathedral community, are doing a really good job taking care of one another. And, believe me, I know it is not easy. The chapter, staff, and I are working harder than ever to maintain contact with as many of you as we can each day. Some of us require more care and contact than others. Some of us have a houseful and others of us live alone.

Quarantining is never easy, especially with no clear end in sight. And yet it really is necessary for the greater good.

So, while you are stuck inside these days, try something or learn something you always wanted to do. Confession time for the dean: I am an amateur guitarist. I



learned as a child and played on and off through the years. Last time I took it seriously was in graduate school. Last year I started taking weekly lessons again. It is therapeutic as much as going to the gym is for me.

Playing guitar at church has never been a part of my ministry. I just do it for personal pleasure and I enjoy growing in the knowledge of the instrument and music, in general.

A few weeks ago, before the covid-19 crisis took hold of our lives, I decided to learn harmonica. I bought one, took a lesson, and am now off and running with it. But ask Christina: I cannot honestly claim true amateur status just yet. I should be able to soon, though, because

of the extra time to practice! Aren't you glad you're not 'staying at home' in my house?!!

As our staff was brainstorming ways to stay connected to the Cathedral community during these days ahead, Hillary Peete said, "Hey, maybe you can do a video clip during one of your harmonica jam sessions and we can send it out to the congregation!" In your dreams, Hillary. That would put me in a very vulnerable place. And maybe that is why I should do it. Whenever we make ourselves more vulnerable with each other within our faith community, we grow stronger and trust each other more. We become better friends.

Let's keep taking care of each other as best we can during these trying times. Share more. Learn something new. Learn something new about each other! All at a safe distance. You are my friends and I need you more than ever.

Covid-19 Postpones or Cancels Many Events

Resurrection House Breakfast, Pride Dinner Postponed

Two events of interest to the Cathedral community have been postponed because of the coronavirus.

The Resurrection House New Beginnings fund-raising breakfast, scheduled for April 23, has been postponed until a date to be determined in the fall.

The annual Spiritual Pride dinner, scheduled for June 13, has been postponed. A new date, either in the fall or next year, will be announced, convenor Wil Laroche said.

Community Events Canceled

Among the community events that have been canceled are these:

- * American Stage in the Park at Williams Park, April 15-May 17
- * Mainsail Art Festival, April 18-19
- * St. Anthony's Triathlon, April 25-26



Lambeth Conference Postponed a Year

The once-a-decade gathering of the bishops of the Anglican Communion, which was to have been held in Canterbury, Kent, in July and August this year, has been re-scheduled for 2021 in light of the covid-19 pandemic.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said in a video message:

“Because of the coronavirus, travel around the world is deeply restricted and the amount of time that we will face these limitations is unknown. For these reasons, so that we may be good shepherds as bishops in the Anglican world, and encourage the church to be there for God’s suffering world, we have decided to reschedule.”

Let Your Pledge Keep on Giving Even When We Worship Apart

During this disconnected time when we are not worshipping together, it's important to remember that stewardship is a 24/7 activity.

In a letter sent recently to the entire congregation, our leaders reminded us that we still need to pay staff salaries, maintain the building, pay for utilities and insurance, pay our apportionment to the diocese, and support community outreach efforts that may increase during this time of need.

If you already pledge online, thank you. If you normally give by putting cash or a check in the offering plate, we encourage you to switch to online giving.

Here are some options:

* Arrange for a recurring deduction from your bank account or on your debit or credit card.



* Give by texting spcathedral to 73256, then follow the prompts.

* Set up a “bill-pay” option at your bank (make sure the payments show that they are from you and represent your pledge payment).

* Put a check in the mail weekly or monthly and indicate “pledge payment” on the memo line.

* Give online: Go to our online giving webpage at <https://www.spcathedral.org/give>

Stewardship chair Ray McColgan is available to help you through the process should you need assistance. Please call the Cathedral at (727) 822-4173 and ask to be added to his callback list.

We will emerge from this current challenge much stronger in our faith and more determined in our wish to further the presence of the Cathedral in the greater St. Petersburg community.

Lenten Devotionals Available Online

Now more than ever, in these final days of Lent, you may appreciate a devotional to help you go deeper in your prayer life during this season of illness and anxiety.

* **Episcopal Relief and Development** offers a daily devotional at episcopalrelief.org

* **Luther Seminary** offers a downloadable print version in regular or large type, or you can sign up to have the devotional e-mailed to you each day. luthersem.edu/lent

* **The Society of St. John the Evangelist** offers an online devotional at www.ssje.org

* **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), offers a daily print and audio devotional at PTS.edu/devotional

* **Living Compass**, a church-based faith and wellness program, offers daily readings via e-mail or in downloadable form at livingcompass.org/lent.

Here's How We Can Stay Connected in Prayer, Word, Video, and Music

Looking for prayer resources when services are offered online or when you are practicing social distancing and staying home? Here's where to look every day.

You can sign up for **our new Daily Connection e-mail**: videos, reflections, prayer, and music and art meditations sent directly to your inbox. Sign up on our Facebook page or at our website, spcathedral.org.

Here's what the daily emails will offer:

Monday: "Habits of Grace" video message from the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, a new message every Monday.

Tuesday: Invitation to Prayer (Prayers of the People and Anglican Cycle of Prayer)

Wednesday: Video homily from Cathedral clergy

Thursday: "Traveling the Way of Love" video and reflection. Learn how people and ministries around the church are living out the Way of Love.

Friday: Worship bulletin and Scripture

for Sunday's service will be posted

Saturday: Music and arts meditation

Sunday: Worship at 10:15 a.m., live-streamed on our website, spcathedral.org

You can also check spcathedral.org/connection and spcathedral.org/health for updates.

Here are more prayer resources:

* We offer **Morning and Evening Prayer** daily, led by Canon Thomas Williams, and Canon Katie Churchwell's daily **Pop-Up Prayer**, both on our Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account

to access these resources. Go to our website, spcathedral.org, and you'll see where to click to find them.

* **Lectionary readings** for Sundays and major feast days: www.lectionarypage.net

* **The daily office** (Morning, Noon, Eve-

ning, and Night Prayer) from the Mission of St. Clare. There are links here to many other prayer resources. Go to: <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/>

You can read the service, and you can click to hear the hymns and canticles sung.

* **Forward Day by Day** — If you don't have a printed booklet, visit <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/>.

You will find the citations for each day's readings and a short meditation.

This website also offers a podcast of the daily readings, if you'd rather listen than read; and many other prayer resources.

* Or look in your **Prayer Book**:

Sunday lectionary — Year A (starts on Page 889, or visit www.bcponline.org).

Daily office — Year Two (starts on Page 937; Year Two is on the right-hand, odd-numbered pages)



How You Can Help the Needy and Vulnerable During Coronavirus Isolation

By The Outreach Committee

“I want to help the vulnerable and needy of our community, but how can I do that when I am in social isolation?”

How many times has each of us thought, said, or heard that question in the last few weeks?

The focus of the Outreach Committee over the next few weeks will be to help answer that question.

The most immediate need in our community today is financial support for orga-



nizations like **The St. Petersburg Free Clinic**, which provides food, personal hygiene items, diapers, shelter, and health care to the needy of our community; and **The Daystar Life Center**, which provides food, personal hygiene items, SNAP assistance (food stamps), and mail service for the most vulnerable among us.

To donate cash to the Free Clinic and learn more about their work, visit their website (www.stpetersburgfreeclinic.org) or mail a check to them at 863 Third Ave. N, St. Petersburg FL 33701.

To donate cash to The Daystar Life Center and learn more about their work, visit their website (www.daystarlife.com) or mail a check to 1055 28th St. S, St. Petersburg FL 33712.

Even before the covid19 crisis began, these volunteers knew the importance of the Free Clinic.

Or, if you belong to an organization that matches your gifts, increase the value of your gift by donating through that organization's matching gift portal.

Daystar is also accepting Amazon deliveries. You can order non-perishable food items (canned goods, rice or pasta, peanut butter, breakfast cereal) or personal hygiene and household cleaning items through Amazon and have your package delivered to Daystar at 1055 28th St. S, St. Petersburg FL 33712.

For more personal suggestions:

* If you know people who can't get out, mail them a card or note; telephone them; send them a text or email or e-card.

* If you are going shopping or having groceries delivered, ask them what they need and include that in your order, then drop it off for them.

Children's Ministry Continues Online

Hillary Peete, Children's Minister

During this time when we can't be together, families are encouraged to join us on the Children's Ministry Facebook page (link at [spcathedral.org/children](https://www.spcathedral.org/children)). We meet there regularly for Facebook live, Zoom meetings, and checking in with each other for encouragement.

One of the things we're learning is how much we value being together and how much we miss each other. We can stay in touch online and by phone and we can pray for each other.

When we are able to gather again, we WILL have our Easter egg hunt with all 700 of our beautifully painted wooden eggs!

Photos by HILLARY PEETE



The EYSeedlings — our 3rd- through 5th-graders — listened to a reading of Psalm 121 as we walked to Hippo Gourmet Ice Pops, then enjoyed a cold and tasty treat.



Please call the office (727-822-4173) to let us know when you are **HOSPITALIZED OR ILL AT HOME.**

The hospitals are prohibited from releasing this information. The only way we know you are ill is if you tell us.

In the interest of health and safety the clergy are not making home or hospital visits as we deal with the coronavirus, but will be glad to speak with you and pray with you by phone. And please let us know when good health has been restored.

Welcoming God's Peace At a Time of Anxiety and Uncertainty

My Dear Friends,

I won't claim to know what will happen in the days to come, but I am sure we will all find moments when our space feels too small. When the cancellation of fun events and life milestones — the Way of the Cross, the Easter egg hunt, our day at the beach, or time just to hang out together — leaves us feeling disappointed beyond words. When our family members begin to feel like a bit much.

We will probably have times when everything feels repetitive and we truly don't know what to do with ourselves. This "social distancing" is very tough, to say the least, especially for young people, and it is the kind of environment anxiety feeds on. I want each of you to know that it's okay to not be okay with all of this. There are very real and deep feelings that come with the weight of phrases like "national state of emergency" and "worldwide pan-

demic." These feelings are totally valid and understandable. This entire situation is not normal, so we should not feel shame for feeling out of sorts.

There are plenty of distractions out there on social media, and if they help you through the day during your extended time at home, fine. But please be sure to leave room to feel all the things you're feeling without guilt, and make space for others to do the same. If you feel anxious, that's 100 percent understandable. If all of these developments are stressing you out, you are not alone. If you're scared, uncertain, overwhelmed, concerned, any or all of these things, at different times, or all of them at once, even if you don't want to admit it — hi, welcome to the human experience, it's really good to have you here.

We all will bear this cross differently, my

[continued on page 10](#)



Youth enjoyed a dip in the pool at DaySpring at a summer camp preview last month. We look forward to the return of good times and fellowship!

Welcoming God's Peace

continued from page 9

friends, but we ought to remember that the cross is heavy and the struggle is real. You are no less faithful and no less trusting of God because you're having a difficult time under the weight of it all. Most of us are. At times like these, everything feels so far out of our control and we are so much more aware of our helplessness — two things that tend to contribute to our anxiety.

But we have not lost our agency in all this. There is still so much that we can mindfully and intentionally do to remember that we can do this hard thing of navigating uncertainty.

Even in the middle of what appears to be chaos, peace is still ours! God's great gift to us is that peace is offered to us freely, at any moment. We don't have to grasp, we don't have to reach out in desperation — but we do have to actively welcome it and be open to God's peace. Remember, nothing can separate us from God's love — nothing! With God's love comes peace that passes all understanding, but tuning in to that peace is a part of our faith lives where

it's really up to us to actively welcome God into each and every moment.

How can we welcome that peace? We welcome peace when we listen to music that soothes our minds. Peace is welcomed in when we deeply breathe in and slowly breathe out, meditating on each breath. Meditating on a passage of scripture that reminds us of God's faithfulness is a way to tune into God's peace. Peace flows in when we offer up thanksgiving to God as we count every blessing in our lives, both great and small. Peace is given when we do kind things for a parent or other family member at home. Peace can be welcomed into our lives when we FaceTime a friend and learn a TikTok dance together. Peace comes to us through God's creation when we step outside and take a walk. Peace can be welcomed with a simple, genuine smile.

The peace of God is for you, for me, for all of us, God's dear and beloved children.

It can carry us toward hope even in these times of uncertainty. I humbly ask that you welcome it and see where it takes you.

I also want each of you to know that even though social distancing can cause feelings of isolation and sadness, I am still here to be your youth minister. I want with all my heart to be a listening ear, to let you vent, to be a sounding board, and to continue being a source of encouragement in your life. We might have to keep physical distances for health and safety at this time, but just like many things in life, this is temporary.

You are all in my thoughts and fervent prayers, and you are not alone. May you take the time during this extended spring break to practice ways to welcome God's peace into your lives daily. You are so, so loved, my friends, and covered in prayer.

Grace and peace,

*Alicia Schmid
Youth Minister*



Youth Connecting in New Ways

We are blessed to live in an age where we can connect virtually at any time, so let's! Please email me at aschmid@spcathedral.com. You can keep up with the Cathedral EYC best via weekly emails and on our Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/spcathedraleyc/?hl=en>

Please stay tuned for EYC virtual meeting opportunities — let's stay connected via email, Instagram, FaceTime, Zoom, and other social networking venues.

Just this week I learned we can watch shows and movies at the same time with friends near and far with a few of these

apps: <https://www.maketecheasier.com/watch-videos-online-with-friends-realtime/>

How cool! EYC movie stream party to come!

I will have more info regarding EYC virtual meetups soon.

— Alicia



And In Between ...

* We still have tumblers for sale (\$25), and some of the Portraits of Faith created by youth are available for purchase. Please e-mail Alicia Schmid (aschmid@spcathedral.org) if you're interested.

* We don't know yet when the Cathedral will reopen and we can return to normal activities. When we do, we look forward to another bake sale to raise money for the Episcopal Youth Event in July, and to our beach day. Watch our website and social media for updates.



While You're Socially Distancing Yourself, Take a Look at This Year's Book Talk Titles

Our series of book talks is over for the season, but since you may have some extra time on your hands and may be looking for something to read, we offer this reminder of some of the titles our authors and critics have discussed:

The Man Who Walked Backward, by Ben Montgomery, about a Depression-era Texan who walked around the world backward. In a time of economic gloom, Plennie Wingo wanted to do something extraordinary — something to resurrect the spirit of adventure and optimism he and the world had lost.

It was an anxious, fearful era when Americans turned to dance marathons, pole-sitting and other crazy competitions to cheer themselves up and forget their worries. Plennie experienced physical harm, betrayal, and arrest as well as modest fame and fortune in his quest to become a somebody.

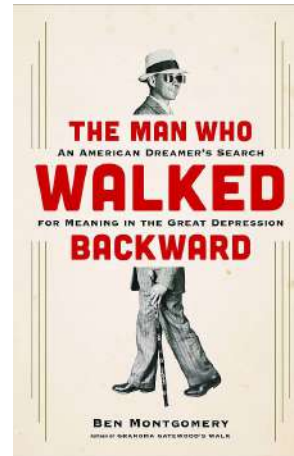
The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead, is based on the notorious Dozier School for Boys in North Florida, where hundreds of boys were abused, tortured, and killed, buried in unmarked graves only recently discovered by USF archaeologists. Whitehead traces the path of two fictional boys — the idealistic Elwood and the skeptical Turner — as they struggle to survive in a place where the most violent offenders were on the staff.

Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther, by Craig Pittman. Florida's official state animal, the panther, almost went extinct in the 1990s, largely through human bumbling. A desperate experiment brought it back from the

brink. Pittman's thorough reporting, interviews with only-in-Florida characters, and witty descriptions make this a laugh-out-loud story with a serious edge.

The Gone Dead, by Chanelle Benz, is a story of racism in the Mississippi Delta, then and now. The lead character, Billie James, returns to the Delta in 2003 after a 30-year absence to investigate the mysterious death of her father, a renowned African-American poet.

"It's a single story," reviewer Erica Dawson says, not a story of life in the Delta in 1973 and another story in 2003. "The story is timeless. Benz shows us that nothing has changed between the past and the present."



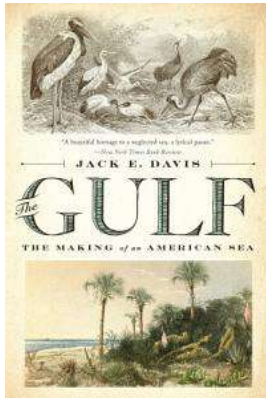
What the Book Club Has Read/Is Reading/Will Read: Good Stories!

Our St. Peter's Book Club is on covid19 hiatus, like all our other activities. If social distancing means you have more time to read, here are the titles the Book Club read earlier this season or has on its schedule for the future, when we are able to meet together again.

We've already discussed ...

Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens. Romance, mystery, and scientific investigation in the North Carolina marshland.

The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea, by Jack E. Davis. The history, biology, geography, culture, and



tradition of this great body of water.

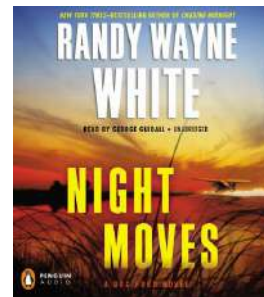
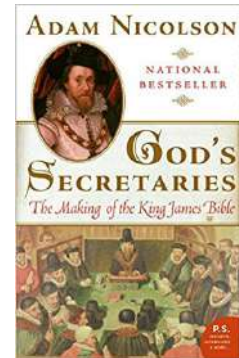
A Land Remembered, by Patrick Smith. In three generations, the fictional MacIvey family rises from dirt-poor Crackers to wealthy real-estate tycoons, a story that parallels Florida's (over)development. Should be required reading for everyone who crosses the state line.

We'll discuss in the future

...

God's Secretaries, by Adam Nicolson. How the extraordinary King James Version of the Bible came to be written. (Drama! Politics! Backstabbing! Behind-the-throne influence-peddling! Oh, yes, and faith, prayer, and hope.)

Night Moves, by Randy



Wayne White. Five Navy torpedo bombers disappeared off Florida's coast on December 5, 1945. Doc Ford goes looking for them in the Everglades.

Spies of No Country: Secret Lives at the Birth of Israel, by Matt Friedman. Four Israeli spies went undercover in Beirut in 1948 with Israel's existence hanging in the balance. Reads like the ultimate spy thriller but it's all true.

The Book Club ordinarily meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Chapter Room. We'll let you know when regular meetings start again. Roberta Poellein is the contact (rplln37@gmail.com).

Planned Giving Presentation Offers Ways To Remember the Cathedral with a Legacy

If you missed the PowerPoint presentation on planned legacy giving at coffee hour on March 8, you can view it at <https://www.spcathedral.org/give> (scroll down to Legacy Sunday).

Hosted by the Stewardship Committee, the presentation was the third in a series to inform our congregation about gifts of enduring significance. The first presentation introduced our new endowment fund, which already has a balance of \$2.2-million. Our Final Affairs Fair provided information on wills and trusts; providing for minor children; and unburdening our heirs.

The presentation offered information on various ways to make a legacy gift: wills, trusts, retirement assets, life insurance, and more.

“Including the Cathedral in your estate planning raises it to the same level as the family members you want to remember in your will,” said Ray McColgan, senior warden and stewardship chair. “If you don’t include a gift to the Cathedral in your planning, your family may not know how important the Cathedral is to you. By making those arrangements now, you can be sure that your money goes where you intend, for the purposes you intend.”

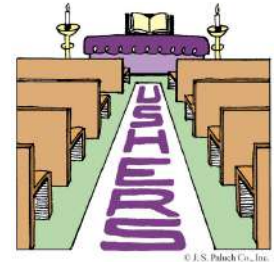
Brochures with information about planned legacy giving are available, and members of the Stewardship Committee are happy to answer your questions. Until we are once again able to gather in person, please e-mail Ray McColgan at rmccolgan@me.com.

Ushers and Lazarus Guild Will Seek New Members: Maybe You?

Our Ushers Guild and our Lazarus Guild are looking for a few new members to serve when we are once again able to worship together. Maybe one of these ministries is calling out to you.

Ushers hand out worship bulletins, take up the offertory, guide the congregation to the altar for Holy Communion, and otherwise maintain good order during services. Ushers are present not only on Sunday mornings, but at funerals and other special services throughout the year. Ushers typically serve every third week. Training is provided. Jean Curtis (jeancurtis98@gmail.com) is eager to speak to you.

Our **Lazarus Guild** supports families at the time of a funeral to make a difficult day as easy as possible. Two teams provide family assistance. The Ministry of Presence team works with the family before the funeral to be sure they know what to expect; they greet the family and provide a private space before the funeral. The Ministry of Hospitality team oversees the reception: food, flowers, displays of memorabilia. Typically there are two people on each team and the time commitment is about two and a half hours. Phillip Ketchum (gnourigat@tampabay.rr.com) and Karen Torrisi (kmtorrisi@gmail.com) are happy to tell you more.



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What We Say in Baptism, Part 3: Thanksgiving over the Water

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams

Part 6 in a series on baptism. Find previous installments at spcathedral.org/baptism

Although many Church Fathers held that all water has been set apart for baptism through the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, the desire for a liturgical blessing of baptismal water is evident as early as around 215 CE. The Thanksgiving over the Water in our baptismal rite is a descendant of such prayers.

The prayer begins by evoking the rich symbolism of water. Water was the womb of creation over which the Spirit moved. Water was the path of deliverance for God's chosen people, the flood that washed away their bondage. Water was appointed for the first revelation of Jesus as the Christ — the Anointed One — who would “lead us,

through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life” (Book of Common Prayer, Page 306).

But the water is not merely symbolic: it is the essential element of a sacrament, and sacraments are signs that effect what they signify. So the second paragraph of the prayer interprets the symbolism of water in light of the reality that happens in baptism. The whole Paschal mystery, through which “we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life” (BCP Page 292, from the Easter Vigil liturgy), is realized and made efficacious in the waters of baptism. And just as Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at his baptism, we are “reborn by the Holy Spirit” (BCP Page 306) in ours.

Having proclaimed the extraordinary reality of baptism, the celebrant then touches the water and asks God to set it apart by

the power of the Holy Spirit, “that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior” (BCP Page 307).

In this article and the two before it, I have written about what we say in baptism. I want to turn next to what we do, and to how we might make our practice of baptism better reflect both our theology of baptism and the words of the baptismal liturgy.



*George Graham,
“And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”*

The Season of Easter Lasts for 50 Glorious Days

Easter Sunday is a single day, but the season of Easter lasts a glorious 50 days. Jesus was resurrected at a time of fear and death, not unlike our own, and his triumph over the forces of evil should give us new hope, just as his post-Easter appearances gave his disciples reason to rejoice.

The season lasts from Easter — April 12 — until Pentecost, on May 31.

Customarily the Paschal Candle burns at the altar during services to symbolize the risen Christ, the fire of the Holy Spirit, and the pillar of fire that led the Israelites out of bondage. As we continue to worship via live-stream, you can look for the candle.

We'll say "Alleluia!" again — you recall that we do not use the A-word during Lent. We omit the confession during this joyous time, and we sing the "Pascha Nostrum" ("Christ our passover is sacrificed for us").

On Sunday, April 19, the Gospel reading is John 20:19-31. In this passage, the risen Lord appears to all the disciples except Thomas. A week later he appears again and Thomas is present, at first doubtful,

then believing. Jesus comments, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." That should provide comfort to all of us who have not seen Jesus in person but believe in him nevertheless. The Gospel writer tells us that the stories of Jesus's post-Easter actions "are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."

During the season of Easter we'll celebrate two major feast days.

The first, 40 days after Easter, is Ascension Day, on May 21, when Jesus ascended into heaven. This day is set in Scripture: Acts 1:1-5, 10-11.

Many images of the Ascension, like this one, show Jesus's feet at the top, indicating his rise into heaven. Traditionally the Blessed Mother (here in a blue robe) is included in images of the Ascension, even though Scripture does not explicitly say that she was there.

On Ascension Day we recognize that Jesus is no longer here, bodily, on earth,

[continued on page 17](#)



50 Glorious Days

[continued from page 16](#)

limited to one place or one time. Now we recognize him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, seated in glory with the Father, and accessible everywhere, all the time, to everyone. As Canon Williams pointed out recently in his series on the creeds, priests of the Old Covenant stood because there was always more work to do; sacrifice must be offered day after day. But Jesus's sacrifice of himself, once offered, is sufficient. He sits down, at the right hand of the Father, because the work is done.

On May 31 we observe the second major feast, Pentecost ("50th Day"), regarded as the birthday of the church. That's the day we hear about the mighty wind and the tongues of flame as the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. We'll have more to say about that next month.

Our Steps Made a Difference

Our participation in the Pinellas County CROPWalk on March 1 was a great success. We had seven walkers, 10 "virtual walkers," and many generous givers who donated to support the team. We raised \$1,435 to help end hunger here — through support of the Daystar Life Center and the



Our team of intrepid CROPWalkers! Photo by RAYMOND BASSETT

St. Petersburg Free Clinic — and throughout the world. We also took in a very large amount of food that will restock the Daystar food bank. See the article on Page 7 for more information on how *you* can help Daystar and the Free Clinic during the covid19 crisis.

Becoming Beloved Community: Steps Along The Way, Resources for All

Betsy Adams

At the second meeting of our Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle, in February, 25 members met at St. Thomas to explore where we had come from in relation to race. In March we discussed our relationship with Native Americans. We have watched two very moving videos, including one discussing the culpability of the Episcopal Church in the injustices perpetrated against Native Americans.

Here are some notes from the road as our members moved about our community listening and learning. We look forward to the days when this community interaction can continue.

Becoming Beloved Community is the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is the dream of a community where all people experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves as beloved children of God.



Green Bench Legacy

In February several of us were among 200 audience members at “Beyond the Green Bench: A Conversation for a New Generation,” at the Carter G. Woodson African-American Museum. This was a

discussion by community leaders of the city’s signature green benches. For whites, the benches have always represented welcome and hospitality. People of color, who were forbidden to sit on the benches, view them as reminders of past racism and segregation in St. Petersburg.

Belin Joseph, an African-American teacher at Gibbs High School, commented: “We all carry whatever pains we have from the past and

they are real and justified ... but if we are only going to sit in that bitterness, that anger, we are never going to move forward as

[continued on page 19](#)

Becoming Beloved Community

[continued from page 18](#)

a people, as a city.”

— **Kathy Coughlan**

Lynchings in St. Petersburg

At a Black History Month program at the Gulfport Library, Julie Buckner Armstrong, professor of English at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, spoke about two lynchings that took place in St. Petersburg. Professor Armstrong is the author of the award-winning book, *Mary Turner and the Memory of Lynching*.

Other relevant readings: *The Civil Rights Reader: American Literature from Jim Crow to Reconciliation*, and *Teaching the American Civil Rights Movement: Freedom's Bittersweet Song*.

Podcasts from the 1619 Project

You may be interested in a series of podcasts created by the New York Times based on its 1619 Project, which commemorates the arrival of the first enslaved persons into what would become the United States. Find them here, along with transcripts:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/>

[podcasts/1619-podcast.html](#)

In February I attended an interracial group discussion at the Woodson Museum focusing on the second podcast, *The Economy That Slavery Built*. I recommend these resources.

There are six podcasts in all. The others: *The Fight for a True Democracy*, *The Birth of American Music*, *Land of Our Fathers* Parts 1 and 2, and *How the Bad Blood Started*. For more information about the series, visit www.nytimes.com/1619podcast.

— **Cynthia Garrels**

Listen to ‘Seeing White’

If you haven’t yet had a chance to listen to the great podcast series “Seeing White,” we highly recommend it! Find it here: www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/



Historical image shows the green benches packed with residents and visitors, all of them white.

[sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/](http://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/) Produced at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, this 14-part series examines the deep-rooted causes of white supremacy rather than looking solely at the symptoms. Specifically, it focuses on whiteness — how it began and how it has shaped the majority of American institutions — rather than blackness, helping frame a new conversation on race.

Our Library Will Be Open for Business And Eager to Welcome You

Marian McGrath

We hope many of you have taken a moment to explore our Library/Chapter Room and become familiar with our growing book collection. We look forward to the day when the Cathedral can reopen and we can welcome even more of you to enjoy our offerings.

The library is still a work in progress. We will shortly have shelf labels in place. The books are organized by genre: contemporary fiction, which includes novels, mysteries, and suspense; poetry; biographies; history; spirituality; and Bible study. We also have books that have been discussed at our book talks, by our own Cathedral Book Club, and by various book clubs around town.

We know that many of you are eager to donate books from your own libraries. We respectfully ask you to follow these guidelines:

* Please do not simply drop off boxes of books. We have neither the storage space to sort through them nor the shelf space to display them. Please contact either me or Bonnie Dickinson — our contact informa-



Enjoy the library: a comfortable chair and something good to read.

tion is at the end of this story — to discuss what you have to offer and make an appointment to drop off suitable books.

* Because of our space limitations we are unable to accept cookbooks, self-help, travel, or hobby books, and we have limited space for large-size coffee-table books.

You may check out books by signing them out in the notebook in the return basket in the library. There is no specific time limit. We ask only that you be considerate of other readers and return the book in a reasonable time.

Please do not reshelve returned books. Just place them in the brown return basket.

If you have any questions about the library or the book donation process, please contact one of us:

Marian McGrath, (727) 896-3171, marian@marianmcgrath.com; or Bonnie Dickinson, (727) 692-1705, bodickinson@aol.com

Join Fellow Episcopalians in Eastertide In Reading the Gospel of Matthew

As we walk through the Great 50 Days of Easter — from Easter Sunday until Pentecost, May 31 — the Episcopal Church will celebrate with a new round of the Good Book Club, focusing on the Gospel of Matthew.

What better way to pass the time during Coronatide, when we are quarantined, than to read Matthew, knowing that Episcopalians around the world are doing the same thing.

Matthew offers some of the most beloved stories of Jesus' life, with more than two dozen parables. We hear the extraordinary Beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew and the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

In Matthew 25, we hear words from Jesus that urge us to care for the sick and hungry, for the stranger and those in

prison. And of course, church Christmas pageants the world over have this gospel to thank for the wise men, for only Matthew recounts the coming of the Magi.

Details and the daily readings are available at goodbookclub.org.

Here you'll also find information about free resources, including a free, online, live Bible study presented by ChurchNext. Subscribe to weekly emails for a preview of the readings and reflection questions.

This is a great way to feel connected during a time of disconnection.

During Epiphany, the entire church was invited to read the Gospel of Luke, and parishioners from both the Cathedral and St. Bede's joined for several face-to-face discussions. Last year's Good Book Club read Romans, and the year before, we read Mark.



THE
GOOD BOOK
CLUB



Kids (and Adults) Have Scientific Fun as Messy Church Does Animals

Messy Church did animals in March with fun science experiments. Thanks to the adult teachers; and remember that grownups are always



welcome for inter-generational fun! Left, Liam Dickinson watches oil floating on top of water, a concept that allows sharks to float because of their very fatty livers. Cathy

Rome gave everyone a shark's tooth to remember their experiment.

Top, Milo Burnsed plunges his bare hands into icy water. Lois and Michael Ricciardi made an insulated glove out of plastic bags and Crisco to show the kids how much warmer their hands stayed in



cold water when they wore the glove. They learned that penguins' fatty blubber keeps them warm in below-zero temperatures.

Below, Sean Baker paints wooden eggs for our plastic-free Easter-egg hunt.

Photos by HILLARY PEETE



Are you **MOVING SOON**, or do you know someone who is? Marilyn Hobbs, who has just completed a move, has wardrobe, dish, and file boxes, padding materials, and plastic bins, free to a good home. Call her at (727) 420-9984.

April Transitions

Birthdays

1	Lynn Saunders	9	Laurie Buchert
2	Debbie Gilbert	11	Tom Brew
3	Lillian Bennet	11	Judye Talbot
3	John Samaha	12	Sophie Benoit
4	Tina Ahedo	12	Max Bygrave
4	Jonathan Bryant	12	Claude McKenzie
6	Ria Beavers	13	Kathy Callan
6	Matthew Heinly	13	Andrea Mastry
6	Alicia Schmid	14	Bill Henricks
7	Gaye Burnsed	15	Zoey Lewis
7	Peter Gairing	15	Olivia Norman
7	Susan Stansbery	15	Richard Sanchez
8	Livie Bond	16	Rebecca Gecan
9	Marilyn Bonifer	17	Betty Beck
		17	Madeline Elkins

17	Jack Regan
18	Robin McDowall
19	William Albee
19	Rebecca Hallas
20	Jim Rice
20	Mary Corbett
20	Peter Hamarich
20	Vincent Ferrell
22	Anita Pernel-Arnold
23	Kate Elkins
24	Tyler Long
24	Joan McKeithen
25	Judye Terwilliger
26	Sorcha McDowall
26	Campbell Nevins
26	Louise Weaver
27	Bennett Breen
27	Michael Ricciardi
29	Judith Murante

Anniversaries

6	Dick & Carroll Risk	24	Richard & Marie Dahm
15	Jerry & Laurie Buchert	26	Patty & Jeff Robinson
17	Judy Stark & Tim Baker	29	Christopher & Suzanne Haerther
19	Robert & Sandy Powers	29	Byron & Starin Shoupe
20	Blanton & Lela Garnett	30	Barrie Cunningham & Bill Henricks
23	Ken Esteb & David Lessard		
23	Randy & Tammy Ramsey		

Deaths

Fred Amundrud
Martha Apgar
Royce Hobby
Doris Jenkins
Frances Pruitt



If you'd like to receive Crosstown electronically, please send an e-mail to agorton@spcathedral.com asking us to put you on our electronic mailing list.

St. Peter's: A Guide

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Our Worship Schedule

Our usual schedule of services has been suspended because of the coronavirus. The Cathedral is closed and there are no services or activities until further notice.

Our Sunday morning service is live-streamed on our website, spcathedral.org, at 10:15 a.m.

Please see Page 6 for other online opportunities for prayer and worship.

Getting in Touch

Office: 140 Fourth St. N, 33701. Because of the covid-19 pandemic, the offices and Cathedral are currently closed.

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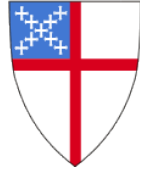
(727) 823-2205

E-mail:

spcathedral@spcathedral.com

Web site:

www.spcathedral.org



Diocesan leadership:

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, bishop

The Rev. Canon Richard H. Norman, canon to the ordinary

Our clergy and senior staff:

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, dean

The Rev. Canon Katie Churchwell, canon for community formation

The Rev. Canon Paige Hanks, canon missionary and priest-in-charge, St. Bede's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete, canon for hospitality

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, precentor and canon theologian

The Rev. Ethan Cole, priest associate

The Rev. Samuel V. Tallman, priest associate

The Rev. Scott Nonken, deacon

The Right Rev. Barry R. Howe, bishop in residence

Dwight Thomas, director of music ministries and organist

If you have a pastoral emergency after hours, please call (727) 238-5998 to speak to a member of the clergy.

Crosstown is the online newsletter of the people of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, published monthly for members, friends, and supporters. Editor, Judy Stark (JudyStark@yahoo.com), Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews (MotherMary@extremelysmart.com).

Next deadline: April 15, 2020.