

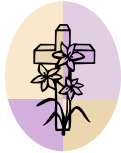


The St. John's Banner

Mount Rainier, MD

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

April 2009



Easter Services

April 12

Sunrise Sung Mass 8 AM
Festival High Mass 10 AM

Rev. Clinton Esonu
Monthly Birthday &
Anniversary Celebration following

The Social &
Cultural
Committee
Presents

"Spring Fling 09"



**Friday, April
17th**

9 pm to 2 am
Father Brown Room
Free Hors d'oeuvres
Door Prizes
Cash Bar
Music by DJ Alfred
Donation: \$20

Third Sunday in
April

One service at 9 AM on
Sunday, April 19th.

Guest preacher:

from the Priest-in-Charge



"The Easter People"

Every year we commemorate Easter during the season of spring. Spring signifies new life and a new beginning.

The Reverend James Merritt, Pastor of Cross Pointe-The Church of Gwinnett Center in Suwanee, Georgia, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention said: "If you have biblically based worship, with biblically based preaching and there is a real joy in your weekly experience of God called *"Worship"*, and there is visible evidence of what God is doing in the lives of the

Friday Nite Socials Begin

A project of the Stewardship, Evangelism & Outreach Committee is to hold a series of Friday evening get-togethers featuring a presentation on a topic of current interest, along with an opportunity to share a meal and enjoy each other's company.

The series kicked off on Friday, March 13th. Participants enjoyed a heaping platter of spaghetti, served with a tossed salad and beverage, for the low price of only \$5. An economical meal was a fitting introduction to a presentation on economic matters.

congregation, that is what will attract those who do not know Christ". He said further that "You can't lead people to follow where you aren't going yourself; and when you live out what you are preaching, that becomes your testimony that you know the risen Christ".

Things which the world thought were important have suddenly lost their appeal. Many people are now turning to God, who alone has the power to resurrect the dead from the grave, and who also has the power to rekindle our hope which was shattered on Good Friday.

We all have our Good Fridays when nothing seems to work for us, and friends and even family members desert us, and all our good intentions amount to nothing. Cheer up and look up for after every Good Friday there is always Easter. Keep your hopes alive and never give up on yourselves because it is a new day and a new beginning.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.

In Christ's love and peace,
The Reverend Canon Daniel D. Darko
Priest-in-Charge

Specifically, the guest presenter for the evening was Ron Smith, a money management consultant and the CEO of RGS Capital Partners, a real estate investment fund. Mr. Smith entitled his talk "Investing 101" and his main points involved strategies for investing for retirement. The most important message is to start doing so as early in life as possible. Attendees asked a number of questions about various types of investments.

The next program is planned for May 15th, and fish will be on the menu. Tentatively, the topic planned will be internet security. The program begins at 7:30 in the evening.

The St. John's Banner

Brian Roman, *Editor*
brixq45_phl@verizon.net

Rev. Bill Lewis is March Guest

The 3rd Sunday in March saw the return of the Rev. Dr. William B. Lewis, a priest who served at St. John's while a seminarian in 1989, as the guest clergy speaker for March.

Dr. Lewis is well known to many of our parishioners, particularly those who, like himself, hail from Sierra Leone, and has visited often during his years in the priesthood. He is currently

serving as Rector at St. Philip's, Anacostia.

His sermon on Sunday, March 15th emphasized that the main role of a church is as a place for the worship of God, not just a place to come to once a week to connect with friends.

Weekly Prayer Seminar Introduced

Fr. Darko has introduced a weekly service and seminar designed to help parishioners develop an effective prayer life. The first session was held in the church on Wednesday evening, April 8th, and sessions are planned for every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The format for these sessions will consist of two parts. Each meeting will begin with a service of Evening Prayer, which is found on pages - of the Book of Common Prayer. Part two will consist of exercises in forming personal prayer. At the opening session, Fr. Darko explained the five types of prayer (adoration, thanksgiving, confession, intercession and petition). He then provided each attendee with a sheet of paper outlining a process for personal prayer building. The exercise consisted of linking three sets of words to form a simple prayer: an image of God, an image of oneself, and an image of communication. The paper provided three columns of words that are examples of these categories. Parishioners were invited to form prayers from these lists or to use words of their own following this pattern. An example, using the first of the types of prayer, might be:

"Heavenly Father," (*image of God*) "your seeking servant" (*image of self*) "wonders about faith" (*image of communication*). The congregation was then invited to develop and share their own prayers, and many did, often using the suggested model to construct a more detailed prayer.

Fr. Darko asked the congregation to take the exercise home and try to compose prayers, which he will discuss at the next session.

Vestry Corner

Highlights of the April 5th meeting:

Good Friday Offering: Since 1922, the national Episcopal Church has requested parishes to take up an offering during Holy Week for the support of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. The church in Jerusalem depends on international contributions to sustain its operations. Bishop Chane wrote to the parishes in our Diocese asking for their support. St. John's will participate by designating contributions received on Good Friday for this purpose.

There was no *Treasurer's Report* for March, as both the Treasurer and the Junior Warden (who has been acting on her behalf) were away.

Priest-in-Charge's Report: Fr. Darko advised that he intends to go strictly according to established Episcopal liturgy for funerals and weddings in that no offering is taken or requested in these services. In the past, St. John's has taken such

offerings either in keeping with the will of the deceased or the request of the family. Fr. Darko said he would be willing to place a basket to receive contributions if there is such a request, to go directly to the family, but would no longer ask for an offering as part of the service, whereby the parish would receive the funds. He did, however, ask the Vestry to approve a request to remit such an offering, taken recently, to the family as requested, and the Vestry approved.

Senior Warden's Report: Leslie Rogers-Wright reported that he is actively working on: (1) setting up a parish web site so that it can be hosted by the Diocese and content can be maintained by designated parishioners or staff; (2) updating the list of committees and their chairpersons; (3) discussing the status of the parish's investment accounts with the Treasurer and the Budget & Finance Committee and to consider changes in their management, given the state of the economy

The Vestry also discussed the many things that need to be done around the church, and the idea that different individuals may have different ideas about what is important and what they are personally passionate about. For Fr. Darko, liturgy is his passion and it is the key factor in whether this particular parish appeals to a visitor to decide to join, and his personal project is to get a new organ. Sandra Bramble offered that we may need to take another look at the 5-year plan - are the programs getting attention "outside the plan" or do we need to revisit the plan?

A resignation and a new appointment: Fr. Darko asked the Clerk to read a letter from Juliet Adams, advising that she has resigned from the Vestry as of April 1, 2009, because she will be out of the country. As a result, the appointment of a person to serve until the next annual meeting was in order. Diana Edwards was nominated, and elected unanimously.

Change of date for next meeting: In March, the Vestry had decided to hold the May meeting a week *early* (May 3rd) to avoid conflicting with Mothers' Day (May 10th). However, the Centennial Committee will also meet that date because all remaining Sunday in April are "full." After a discussion of alternatives, the Vestry decided instead to hold the May meeting a week *late* (May 17th).

St. Matthew's Parish Offers Day School

Our neighboring parish of St. Matthew's Hyattsville has sent us the following information about their pre-school day program:

"Applications are now being accepted for the school year 2009-2010. We are a preschool program with nursery classes available for children ages 2 through 4 and a kindergarten class for 5 year olds. Nursery classes are in session September through May for morning sessions from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and kindergarten is in session September through May with classes from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Our kindergarten class is limited to 16 children which assures your child of individual attention. In addition to the classes, we offer day care for before and after classes with hours from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. The Day Care portion of our school is open year round for those students who need it. Our school was established in 1955 and has a long and respected history in the community. For further

information and application materials you may call the school office at 301-935-5026."

Details:

*Saint Matthew's Parish Day School
5901 36th Avenue
Hyattsville, Md. 20782
Nursery (Ages 2,3, 4) and
Kindergarten (Age 5)*

**Reminder:
Recipes Wanted**

The Social & Cultural Committee is planning to put together a Centennial Cookbook.

If you have any favorite recipe(s) you would like to share, please submit them to June Dove, editor of the cook book – or to any member of the Social & Cultural Committee. We would appreciate it also if you could include a photograph of the dish.

All recipes and photos should be submitted by May.



April Birthdays

- 1 - Dawn Caby
- 4 - Fredericka Ortiz
- 4 - Ephraim Christian
- 6 - Daniel Asasboro
- 7 - Christopher Creese
- 7 - Folasade Rogers-Wright
- 10 - Winstina Cole
- 10 - Cheryl Thomas
- 15 - Avril George
- 15 - Violet Gooding
- 16 - Neil Knights
- 18 - Cordell Creese

- 18 - Gerald Wilson
- 19 - Rosamond Johnson
- 20 - Jordan Moses
- 21 - Nelly Christian
- 22 - Chiemeka Justin Okafor
- 23 - Pauline Edwards
- 24 - David Cole, Jr.
- 24 - Ephraim Sanu
- 26 - Nancy Creese
- 26 - Leslie Rogers-Wright
- 27 - Estelle Miller
- 30 - Alafia Anthony
- 30 - Marsha Brown
- 30 - Christopher Leigh



*April
Anniversaries*

17th – Eugene & Malphina
Wright

25th – Rev. Daniel & Juliana
Darko

26th – Herbert & Amy Slowe

Also on the Calendar

It's that time again ...



Join the many members of St. John's with roots in Sierra Leone at the annual celebration of the country's independence on Sunday, April 26th.



And in keeping with our Centennial program of acknowledging all our members' native lands in 2009, we will also celebrate the independence of Tanzania on the same day!

Women's Day Celebration

Sunday, May 10th

10:00 AM Service

(Mothers' Day)

CHOIR SUNDAY

August 2, 2009

Featuring selections from Handel's *Judas Maccabaeus*

BISHOP'S VISITATION

October 18th at 4 PM

A Look Back in *The Banner*

Fourth in our Centennial Series of reprints of past articles.

The Rector's Message – by the Rev. W. Larry Donathan
from

The St. John's Banner 

April 1999 issue

“Alleluia! Christ is risen!” “The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!” The dark days of Lent are over. Christ has burst forth from the tomb. Life is changed forever. As I write this, I am hearing Hymn 182 playing in my head: “*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.*” Christ is alive and are we singing it? Are praises ringing from our streets and homes? As I journey to church Easter Day, I will pass the same people I pass every Sunday morning at about 7 a.m. as I cruise up Bladensburg Road through Northeast DC. Many of them, no doubt, will be stumbling home from a long Saturday night. For some of them,

**Christ is Alive!
Let us sing it!
Tell it, Spread it
and Share it!**

the street is their home. Once again, I will ask myself the same question I do every Easter Day: "Do these people have any idea what has just happened?" Why are the streets silent with apathy instead of ringing with praise? Is Easter Day not the best news the world has ever heard? It's not about fancy hats, best dresses, finest suits, bunnies and colored eggs. It's news — Good News. It's news that's meant to be told, spread and shared. We have come to the tomb. It is empty. He is risen. Christ is alive! Let us sing it, tell it, spread it and share it! Amen!!

**Peace,
Fr. Larry+**

A Stewardship Minute

APRIL 2009

“A Stewardship Minute” is a brief reflection on one of the articles appearing in the *Stewardship* newsletter, distributed monthly by Parish Publishing, LLC. Copies of the newsletter are available in the tract rack at the front door of the church.

What opportunities are you overlooking or missing? Just at the point when we think all is lost and nothing is going to improve, God surprises us with a new opportunity!

The disciples who thought the crucifixion of Jesus ended his life, his leadership, and his mission judged too early; their hopes for a future with him were dashed. Yet, the Resurrection of Jesus proved that God took the worst of man's failings and turned them into mankind's opportunity for salvation and our hope for eternity.

Furthermore, the Resurrection means that God offers each of us great opportunities to live victorious lives in his service. Each of us can be a useful steward of God. Not occasionally, but daily.

The cover article in this month's issue of *Stewardship* goes on to point out the our attitudes towards new opportunities help in shaping our future: “See the excitement that God has built into your life and say a hearty ‘Yes’ to the occasions for joy and life and goodness God sets before you in the opportunities of this moment.” Consider this: Unless we consent to take the opportunities to do good works on behalf of God, we will miss out on the greatest blessings God has in store for us.

Prayer: Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for giving us the opportunity to be your stewards here and now and for the hope of spending eternity with you. In Christ's name, **Amen.**

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church
4112 34th Street
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Rev. Canon Daniel D. Darko, Priest-in-Charge
Phone 301-927-1156
stjohnepiscopal@comcast.net

