

# ***The Episcopaper – April 2011***

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
913 Second Street, Snohomish, WA 98290-2918**

**Year-Round Schedule: Sundays 8 & 9:45 a.m.; Thursdays 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.**

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Dear Friends,

This year Easter comes when, we hope, Spring has fully burst open.

(This little message I send here invites you to open a Bible and the Hymnal).

The Creation sings of joy and hope and future. And why not? The same God who burst out of the tomb of human violence and death, is the author of the dazzling beauty of earth, sea and stars (Hymn 264, *Hymnal 1982*).

Earth Day has for decades now been a day of both joy and anxiety. Joy for the planet and its beauty, and anxious concern over the capacity of human freedom to destroy and misuse it. I can't help seeing a Lent and Easter pattern here: sin, repentance, and God's promise of a radical new beginning. Maybe we should be more assertive about this, as Paul was in Athens when speaking to the non-Christians there. You can look that up in the Bible, Acts 17: 22-32. What is sought, or just reached for in Earth Day, is the heart of the Gospel: to see the tragedy of human sin, embrace the costly love needed to redeem life, to stand up with blessed assurance that this redemption is accomplished (John 19:30).

We will observe Earth Day on May 1<sup>st</sup>, at our monthly Family Eucharist (9:45). I am convinced, however, that for us Christians, stewardship and joy of creation is not a concern apart from Easter itself. Ecology is not isolated from the conviction of Christ's victory for all life.

So consider joining others here at St. John's this year, making the brief journey through Holy Week and Easter. Let foot washing also remind us to put aside self and love the earth. Let Good Friday strengthen us for love's sacrifice which is the victory of life. And come join the bursting open of the tombs inside us all, as we sing and ring bells and shout out, "*Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.*"

-Fr. Mark

April 2, 2011

**Palm Sunday: April 17**

***Could we bring flowers and greens from our yards to add to the palms we bless and carry? Please bring what you can!***

8:00 a.m. Eucharist with Blessing of Palms

9:45 a.m. Procession of the Palms, from parish hall to church, and Eucharist of the Passion

**Maundy Thursday of the Lord's Supper: April 21**

**Agape Dinner – April 21, 6:15 p.m.** Please join us for an Agape Dinner, immediately followed by the Maundy Thursday Liturgy, on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

St. John's will serve the Agape Dinner to the Community Kitchen at 4:30 p.m., as well as joining together as a Parish Family to enjoy the same meal at 6:15 p.m.

See below ("Help with Agape") for how to help!

**Lord's Supper Liturgy: 7:15 p.m.** (Nursery care available)

The Maundy Thursday Liturgy begins at 7:15 p.m. in the church.

Please come to church even if you don't make the dinner.

This warm and beloved service includes washing each others' hands, or having feet washed during hymns about serving. The Holy Communion points in a special way to the night before Jesus suffered: the last Supper. The sacrament is removed from the Altar and the sanctuary is laid bare at the end.

**Good Friday: April 22**

12 noon Morning Prayer, the Litany and Stations-of-the-Cross

2:45 p.m. Mid-day service of the "Ninth Hour."

7 p.m. Solemn Good Friday liturgy, the Passion narrative; Prayers for the world; and devotions before the cross (Nursery care available)

**Easter: April 23-24**

April 23, Easter Vigil is at 9 p.m. with the Easter party to follow. Call the church office or Tom Schelfhout at 360-794-0160 if you can bring something for the party. (Nursery care available)

April 24, Easter morning, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. with an Easter egg hunt in the parish hall after the 10 a.m. service. Call Ann Sage if you would like to help with the egg hunt (See egg article, this issue). Nursery care available at 10 a.m. service.

**Help Needed for Easter Doings:**

**Bring Candy for Eggs on Easter Day – Donate by April 17**

The annual Easter egg hunt is after the 10 a.m. Easter Day service. We have the plastic eggs from last year's hunt, so Ann Sage is just looking for people to donate some items to fill them. Ideas include: candy, small fun-shaped erasers or pencil toppers, stickers, silly bands, bouncing balls or any other small items that would fit.

The kids really look forward to it, and we have quite a few young ones to accommodate this year. ***Donations are needed no later than Palm Sunday, April 17th.***

Please let Ann Sage know what you are able to donate. You can email her at [wakearch@frontier.com](mailto:wakearch@frontier.com) or call at 360-862-1361. Ann thanks everyone so much for the help; the kids really enjoy this.

### **Help with Agape Dinner: Maundy Thursday, April 21**

Many hands make light work, so please consider how you can help. Several sign-up sheets are available in the Parish Hall, as follows:

1) to attend the 6:15 p.m. meal; 2) to help prepare the food earlier in the day; 3) to serve food at the 4:30 p.m. Community Kitchen meal and at the 6:15 p.m. Parish meal; and 4) to help with clean-up duties following the 7:15 p.m. church service.

This family meal is a wonderful way to begin the Three Great Days leading to the celebration of Easter. Hope to see you there! Questions? See Mary Nilsen or call her at 425-334-0828.

Easter Season continues:

#### **Second Sunday of Easter and Earth Day: May 1**

On May 1 we will observe Earth Day at the Family Service. There is a Garden Share following (see story below).

#### **Blessing of the Fields: Dedication of the Work at the Garden: May 15**

May 15 will be the blessing of the fields at the Fritch Farm after the 9:45 a.m. service is over.

### **It's Your Vestry: Watch Them Work**

The vestry reviewed financials and wrestled with how to pay for significant maintenance issues that must be done to preserve the building, such as plumbing and painting. Last year the church received a painting bid of \$25,000. Jud Chapin, Junior Warden, reported that the thermostat in the men's bathroom has been repaired and a bathroom door has been replaced. A plumber installed new valves including a new main water shutoff valve with easier access.

The Capital Plan Committee is arranging a survey of the foundation of the church building (sanctuary) to assess future needs. The acolyte and Lay Minister vestments will be assessed for cleaning and replacement as needed.

### **Episcopaper Needs Editor**

Do you have a "way" with words? Like to know what's happening at St. John's - the people, the activities, the interesting stories? And are only able to make a one-year commitment? Then we need YOU to be the next Episcopaper Editor!! Please consider volunteering for this very important ministry so we can continue to share with the St. John's community all of our exciting happenings. The Episcopaper Editor collects and edits the monthly stories, working with our rector, and oversees the layout, posting to the website, and printing and mailing of this newsletter.

Please consider whether this is one of your spiritual gifts. Contact Fr. Mark Miller to express your interest and for more information.

### **Energy Use Reduced by 20%**

For the past three years we have been tracking our energy use with the goals of reducing costs and implementing the Genesis Covenant. That's the Covenant passed at 2009 General Convention where the Episcopal Church committed to reducing energy use in church facilities by 50% in 10 years. Using the recommended carbon calculator, Portfolio Manager for Houses of Worship, we calculated a base emissions factor for our church building in 2008. We use that emissions factor to track how we are doing in each subsequent year. By the end of 2010, we had reduced energy use at St. John's by 20%. No huge changes were made – just making sure lights are off and heat is turned down when rooms aren't used. A more efficient water heater was installed. Two recent changes – replacement of older lighting fixtures and the kitchen refrigerator – should reduce energy use even further.

A word to the penny wise from the Creation Stewards: These simple changes will work at home as well saving you money and protecting our earth's precious resources.

### **Garden Share**

The ever-popular Garden Share will follow the Earth Day Service on May 1. There will be plant starts for the taking, an activity for children, and time for gardener – to – gardener sharing. How does it work? People bring extra plant starts, perennial divisions, bulbs and seeds. Other people take them and give them a good home.

If you bring plants, please label them with name and a few hints about where they like to grow: sun or shade, dry or wet. If you plan to take plants, bring boxes or other containers for transport to their new home. We'll inject some fun into the event, too – a garden trivia contest, a demonstration, and some drawings. For more information, check with Nancy McConnell.

### **Reaching In/Reaching Out – Come Tour the Food Bank**

Many thanks to the collaborative efforts of our parishioners and the Outreach Committee - we reached our collection goal for napkins to support the Snohomish Food Bank's Easter Dinner Program. Even our youngest parishioners helped by placing Easter stickers on the bags...it is never too early to introduce our children to the concept of giving and doing for others.

The Outreach Committee will deliver the napkins to the Snohomish Food Bank on Saturday, April 9, and we will take a tour of the facility. Please join us, and see where your dollars go to help the needs of people in our community! The tour starts at 11 a.m. at 1330 Ferguson Park Road - just north of Top Foods by the fire station.

#### ***Easter Vigil Important For Full Easter Experience***

How well I remember my first Easter Vigil and its preparation. Fr. Mark had a priest come from Seattle who had used the vigil many times. He spoke at a parish meeting and also showed a film. So we had preparation.

*But it was still all a surprise.* The dark church, and the candles and the lessons, and then the baptism and then lights on and the bells ringing and the joy of Easter. Then finally the fellowship in the parish hall with the family all together.

I had wondered how this could be Easter on a Saturday! There is no doubt now about this service. It is full of the gospel story, full of God's love and full of sheer Easter Joy. If you have never given it a try, I do recommend it. You may never be the same.

### **Parish Honors Pat Chapin for her Service**

We all want to thank Pat Chapin for her years of service as Sunday School Coordinator. Since 2002 she has convened the teachers' meetings, arranged for all needed supplies and support materials, organized special events including Mardi gras, Christmas tree trimming, graduations, and much more. Pat kept us all informed as to the upcoming events, and the accomplishments of the children and the teachers. She has a gift for giving clear direction with humor and a smile. During her tenure we have improved the look of the downstairs rooms, discussed and implemented curriculum changes, and recruited new teachers. All this is lots of work behind the scenes, and while she is never at a loss for words, few have seen the full extent of her faithful service. Many thanks from teachers and from parents and the whole parish.