



THE EPISTLE

The official newsletter of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Middletown, OH, 45044



The Episcopal Church welcomes you



Volume 14, Issue 4
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April 2009

Our Mission Vision:
A loving, active Christian community
In the Anglican tradition.
A place where people experience God
And are equipped for service within
and beyond our church.

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

Our Schedule through Easter

- Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. Every Friday through April 3
- Making of Palm Crosses 10:00 Saturday, April 4 (in Kitchen)
- Palm Sunday**
 - 8:00 Holy Eucharist
 - 8:45 Breakfast
 - 9:15 - 10:00 Lenten Series - "The Shack"
 - 10:15 Liturgy of the Palms - Little Hall
 - Congregation will gather in Little Hall and then process outside and into the church through the red doors. Organ will begin processional when all arrive at the doors*
 - Service will continue - HE II with dramatic reading of the Gospel
 - Departure will be in silence*
- Monday - Wednesday April 6 - 8 - Liturgy of Reconciliation *Time by arrangement.*

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY

- Maundy Thursday - April 9 7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Eucharist and ritual foot washing.
- Good Friday - April 10 7:00 P.M. Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament

- Easter Sunday**
 - 9:30 am One service only - HE II
 - 11:00 am Family and Friends Easter Munch
 - 11:30 am Egg Hunt for ages 2-5
 - 11:45 am Egg Hunt for ages 6-10

My dear friends:

As the Lenten season draws to a close we look with anticipation to the sight of our risen Christ. How far we have come since those first days of Autumn. Our lives have been enriched in our worship, our sharing, our joy and our sorrow. How blest we are in our community and in our lives.

In the words of our former Presiding Bishop, Frank Griswold:

“Alleluia!

Our Easter song

is more than a word.

It is, as St. Augustine tells us, a way of being

‘from head to toe.’”

As part of our “way of being,” Ascension Vestry has chosen the Food Pantry (an expanding service to those who need help in our community) for this year’s Easter offering.

As we continue in our daily lives “marked as Christ’s own for ever,” let us “proclaim by example our Good News of God in Christ.”

“May we be given the grace

to embody our Easter song

for the sake of the world.”

Alleluia!

The Revd Eileen O’Reilly †

A letter from Kay Fraley

Dear Parish,

I am back at seminary after a wonderful trip home. I enjoyed seeing many of you. It is always depressing coming back to school after being home, yet I definitely am enjoying my studies.

This semester seems to be easier for me. The workload is manageable so far, but the second half of the semester is always more demanding. I have two exams this week and a paper proposal and am reading the Shack for pleasure. I think it is the first book I have read for pleasure in a long while.

The long plane ride combined with working in the yard when home and the ironing of my spring/summer clothes has been detrimental to my knee. I still go to physical therapy twice a week to mend my injuries from my January fall.

It is hard to believe that my first year is almost over. I have been accepted for field education at St. Clement’s in Berkeley. It has a great youth, and music program. The amazing thing is they still use the 1928 Prayer Book for 8 o’clock service. I am excited to see how the rector uses education to bring about change.

(continued on page 11)

Notes from your Sr. Warden

Allow me to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. My name is Gloria Freeman and I am married to Mike Freeman. He grew up in this church. I attended a Baptist church as a child and then later a Methodist church as a rebellious teenager.

Mike and I were married here in July of 1983 on the hottest day imaginable. (No air-conditioning in the pews at that time...WHEW!) We were married by Jon Schuler. A string quartet provided beautiful music. We scampered out of the church, hopped in a horse-drawn buggy and off to the reception we went! I hope some of you were there.

I grew up in Red Lion, Ohio and went to school in Springboro. I attended Morehead State University and became a teacher in 1972. I later earned a Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling. I also picked up another 30 hours of supporting studies.

I taught school in Franklin for 35 years and loved almost every single minute of it. I enjoyed working with first, second, fourth, and fifth graders. Since I have no children...guess who became truly MY kids? All 875+ of them...smile. The best and sometimes the worst part is watching them grow up. Most are successful, some get into trouble that I wish I could take away. I honestly feel that I was blessed with the perfect job for me. I love running into them and their parents and still getting and giving hugs. (Lord knows remembering all those names is a challenge though!)

I would like to thank you for allowing me to be a member of your Vestry. I was elected in January of 2008. I spent that first year doing a lot of observing and learning. To the many of you that have served before me, I truly thank you for your time and efforts. I feel it is an important job, a joy, but as you know, requires much invested time and work.

When you have time, please talk to your vestry members with words of encouragement, ideas, concerns, and well-wishes. I believe with all my heart that Pastor Eileen and this particular team are in the right place at the right time. There is lots of teamwork going on and the results are being seen every day. It is truly amazing how people have stepped up to the plate to do their very best to make 2009 a successful and "growing" year for our church.

Sincerely,
Gloria Freeman, Sr. Warden
mfreeman@ameritech.net
513 424-8430 home
513 320-6124 cell

Your 2009 Vestry

Sr. Warden	Gloria Freeman
Jr. Warden	Larry Fraley
Ex. Bd. Rep.	Cathy McCausland
Team Players	Dick Frye
	Bob Wilson
	Ben Solem
	Betty Wolfe
	Lee Ann Holly
	John Renick
	Lori Washington
	Skip Kah
	Suzie Wright



ECW's next meeting luncheon and program will be on April 14, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. in the Little Hall. Our own Eileen O'Reilly will be the speaker. All are encouraged to attend. We will have a prepared lunch at a cost of \$5.00. Phone reservations should be called in to the church office by Thursday, April 9th at 3:00 p.m. Please join us.

New Business: Easter Egg Sale will be on Palm Sunday, April 5 after church services. Eggs will be \$3.00 again this year - vanilla, chocolate and peanut butter. Any left over eggs will be sold on Easter Sunday.

Second Time Around Sale We will be having our sale again this year. The sale will be on May 2, 2009. Please start saving you white elephant items for the sale. Please divide you perennials for our sale also. . They were a big hit last year. Items we are looking for: toys, books, small appliances, household items, jewelry, cookware, almost new toddlers clothing and new adult clothing. Our sale was a big success last year and we're hoping this years one will be also. Thanks ahead of time for all you donations and help with the sale. We'll keep you updated through the bulletin and Epistle. *Mary Ann Brown*

EPISTLE GOES ELECTRONIC

After several false starts, the Epistle will now be published basically in electronic form. While this may be an inconvenience for some, the cost of continuing to publish this document and print and mail it is excessive in light of our current economic situation.

For those who do not have electronic access, we will publish a few copies in paper and mail them to those who cannot otherwise receive them.

If you—for whatever reasons—may need to have a printed copy, please let the church office know so that we can include you in the regular mailing.

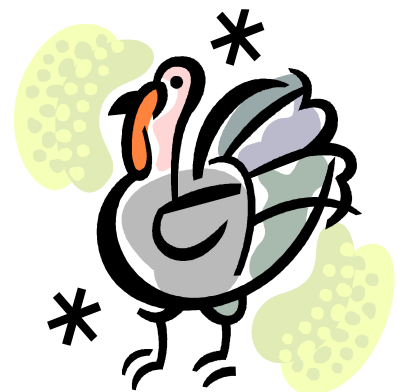
Thanks in advance for your understanding and stewardship.

Dick Frye, Epistle Editor

LOST: turkey costume (really!)

Escaped after Fall Festival of 2007. adult size, brown, red legs, huge tail. Belongs to church.

Lori Washington borrowed it, returned it, but I am not sure where it ended up. If you have seen this item, please let Gloria know. We are planning already for 2009 activities!



We are working on organizing costumes, decorations, items for special events. Please help us in any way you can.

VESTRY NEWS

April Vestry Update

Your vestry has really been hard at work. The spirit of teamwork for the benefit of all in our church is prevalent in every meeting. The vestry now meets twice a month. Our agenda is well-planned and every effort is made so that our time is strictly spent planning and implementing ways to manage our church funds wisely, care for our building, and bring our members closer as members of God's family. We can never be perfect, but truly are working well together. I know you have noticed positive things happening around the church. We are on a roll! Please continue to share your ideas and concerns. We work for you.

Sincerely, *Gloria Freeman*



January – March Highlights

- Strategic plan introduced to congregation at Annual Meeting
 - Strategic plan implemented (See Kitty's article elsewhere)
 - Vestry now meets on first and third Monday of each month 7-8:30 PM
 - Team meetings are part of third Monday agenda
 - Approved new Lock-Up and Money Counting procedures for Vestry members. We work in teams of 2.
 - Search Team provides us with monthly updates.
 - Joined Interfaith Power and Light (no fee to join) Larry Fraley has details.
 - Reappointed Property and Finance Committee members.
 - Cost-cutting ideas always on the table for discussion and implementation.
 - Altar Flowers procedure revised for efficiency.
 - Mission Share payments on time and we are up to date.
 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper planned and manned.
 - Sent representatives to Web Day seminar at Procter. Won a camera for church use.
 - Implemented new attendance gathering process to better communicate and care for our church family.
 - Dave Gross resigned and Jeff Baldrige was approved as new Treasurer.
 - Frances Casson has been hired as our Bookkeeper.
- Implemented Church Windows training for Cathy McCausland and Gloria Freeman.
(This is a computer software program for church record keeping)
- Cleaning Service will be evaluated and revamped to better care for our church.
 - St. Patrick's Day Fellowship Dinner planned and manned.
 - New Parish Directory in the planning stages.
 - SHALOM security and need for volunteers addressed.
 - Breakfast and Coffee Hour set-up and clean-up procedure put into place.
 - Easter Flowers procedure implemented.
 - Parochial Report submitted.
 - Kitchen Cleaning and upkeep procedures being implemented.

Strategic Ministry Plan Submitted by Kitty McIntire, Coordinator

The vestry has been working hard since their retreat in February to help Ascension move toward the objectives set in the Strategic Ministry Plan. Some recent new accomplishments include a Visitor Information Card now in all pews and in the narthex. There are also attendance sheets in the narthex to check when you arrive for a service. More people are taking part in helping Coffee Hour to be a special time of fellowship. There are many other areas that are implementing new and exciting ideas. In order to accomplish the goals and objectives identified by the vestry in the Strategic Ministry Plan, each and every member of Ascension needs to take part in one or more areas.

Ascension needs all of us working together to make our ministry fulfill God's call to us. To ask questions or become involved, contact one of the responsible vestry members or designated contact person for each area. Although many of the persons currently designated as contacts are Vestry members, this is not necessary. If you feel led to head up a particular area, please feel free to let people know that you are interested. There is plenty of work for all of us and, if we all pitch in, many hands will make the work lighter.

For those of you with access to the internet., you can review the entire plan and keep up with the status of various projects on line at www.newascension.org under the Info Center

Following are the areas of Ministry with just a few of the opportunities to help make a difference. . If you have an idea or a passion for a ministry or activity, whether it is on the current list or not, talk to Eileen or a vestry member.

Reaching & Receiving

Vestry Members Responsible: Larry Fraley, Cathy McCausland, Suzie Wright

Become a Greeter (Contact Kitty McIntire)

Become a leader or get involved in a Welcoming & New Member Ministry (Contact Kitty McIntire)

Join a vocal or bell choir (contact Victor Kovacs)

Caring & Nurturing

Vestry Members Responsible: Gloria Freeman, Hank Renick, Betty Wolfe, Jody Baird

Become a leader or get involved in a Shepherding ministry for new members

Lead or become involved in one or more of the following:

Christian Education - Children & Adult (contact Gloria Freeman)

Start an adult Bible Study (contact Eileen)

Volunteer in the kitchen for Sunday Morning Breakfast (contact David Dohn)

Coffee Hour (contact Gloria Freeman)

Call on shut-ins or retirement home residents (contact Lorna Keeton)

Join Prayer/Healing Ministry (contact Ed Wilder)

Volunteer for the Greeting Card Ministry (maybe you are the contact??)

Sending & Serving

Vestry Members Responsible: LeeAnn Holly, Bob Wilson, Lori Washington

Help with the Food Pantry (contact Joan Thomas or Bob Wilson)

Help coordinate the homeless ministry - SHALOM (contact Amy Baird)

Angel Food Ministry (contact Amy Baird)

Enabling & Resourcing

Vestry Members Responsible: Dick Frye, Skip Kah, Ben Solem

Building & Grounds (Property) (contact Larry Fraley)

Vegetable garden (contact Eileen)

Write articles for the Epistle (contact Dick Frye)

Become involved in Website Development (contact John Watson or Jody Baird (youth))

Phone Tree (contact Cathy McCausland)

Become an office volunteer (contact Katherine Wilder).

Serve on the Stewardship Committee (Could you be the contact??)

Summer is coming!!



Attn: Ascension Youth! It is time for Camp once again. Please don't miss this wonderful fun filled, spirit-led week. Scholarships are available, but you must contact the office by April 6, 2009. (513)-424-1254 You can get on line registrations, and additional information about each Youth week by going to www.youth.diosohio.org

Submitted by Katherine Wilder

Procter Camp information

- June 22-27 Junior Camp Rising Grade 6 & 7 \$200 Mon. 4 pm – Sat. 10 am
- June 29-July 3 boys and Girls Camp Rising Grade 4 & 5 \$200 Mon. 4 pm – Fri. 10 am
- July 6-11 Senior Camp Rising Grade 10-12 & Graduated Seniors \$200 Mon. 4 pm – Sat. 10 am
- July 13-18 Outdoor Adventure Grade 6 - 12 \$200 Mon. 4 pm – Sat. 10 am
- July 20-28 Intermediate Camp Rising Grade 8 & 9 \$200 Mon. 4 pm – Sat. 10 am
- July 27-30 Creation Camp Grade 6-12 \$200 Mon. 4 pm – Thurs. 10 am

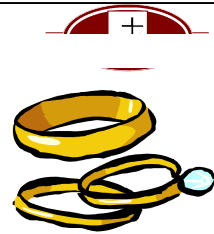
Introducing our new Bookkeeper - Frances Casson

Moved to Middletown , Ohio in 1963 my husband and I are both from Milan , Indiana . We have two sons age 48 and 44. Neither one is married and the oldest is still living at home. I worked for Brown's Run Country Club from 1979 thru March of 2007 as bookkeeper and club controller with the help of several treasurers. We live at 2302 Wilbraham Road since 1966. We enjoy fishing and trapshooting. Our grandchildren are four legged and are Boston Terriers named Cassidy and Beauregarde. I look forward to starting this new endeavor and meeting the members of the Church. Please let me know of any way I can be of help to you. *Frances*

Known April Anniversaries

04/11 Charlie and Janice Revelos
04/11 Paul and Maxine Woodward
04/21 Merrell and Michelle Wood

04/23 Ben and Dian Solem
04/24 Bob and Nancy Peyton



Known April Birthdays

04/01 Solem, Amie
04/03 Freeman, Gloria
04/08 Gomia, Casey
04/08 Wood, Michele

04/12 Lemmons, Patricia
04/16 Hawkins, Betsy
04/16 Stevens-Gleason, Richard
04/26 Kah Jr., Ralph

04/27 Robertson, Leah
04/27 Shockley, Lucia
04/30 Carlson, Timothy

Your birthday or anniversary not listed? Please let Katherine know at (513) 424-1254.

Guru's Corner

Computers invariably get more sluggish and unreliable as each year progresses. Unnecessary and outdated files, the constantly shifting bramble of patches and updates, plus tons of other unidentifiable junk clog up our systems. As this material accumulates, it makes the operating system's job of coordinating everything that more complicated. Applications and devices have to battle an ever-increasing pool of competitors for system resources. **TIME FOR SPRING CLEANUP!**



Regular upkeep is the first way to alleviate these problems, which is why we harp at length about spyware sweeps, Registry scanners, and general system maintenance. These are important practices and provide breathing room, but even they won't hold system creep at bay forever. Every once in a while (for me, once a year) you just need to back up all your data, collect all your installation files and application discs, and start over from scratch.

First, back up everything. Backups sound deceptively simple, but they're the most critical step. If you can collect all your data, along with all your installation files and discs, you can re-create anything. But if you miss some vital files or discover too late that you don't have your mouse drivers, there won't be anything you can do to recover them. You can use Microsoft's Backup And Restore utility (Accessories System Tools), which provides a wizard for selecting which data files and Windows settings to back up, saving the whole package to removable media and later restoring it all in a single step. I can be obsessively paranoid about backups, so I take some extra time browsing my hard drives, adding anything else I want to keep (like installation downloads and driver updates) and placing music files and other media on their own data DVDs.

Next, collect your Windows disc and all your application CDs. If you have a system restore disc from your system's manufacturer, getting back to the original state is easy. Just follow your documentation's instructions to boot from the disc and restore the factory setup.

Backup And Restore, just point to the backup location and walk through the wizard again. If you saved some files on your own, use Windows Explorer to move them back to their original locations. Once you have the steps down, you can usually have the entire process taken care of, from start to finish, in an afternoon.

A letter from Kay Fraley (cont from page 2)

We will be scheduling for next year in a two weeks. I will probably be taking Greek, which I am very anxious about. Any Greek scholars out there who want to tutor me for next year? Besides Field Education I will take Ethics and Constructive Theology.

I am looking forward to being home for the summer. I have been accepted for Clinical Pastoral Education at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati from June 1 - August 14, so I will be working hard this summer as well.

Thank you for your monetary support and prayers. Without your support my dream would not be possible. God's peace be with you,

Kay Fraley, Seminarian



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Mrs. Linda Begley, Childcare Superintendent		(513) 420-9627
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Dated material—please deliver promptly