
The Messenger

All Saints Episcopal Church, East Lansing, MI

April 2009

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If you like a good mystery . . .

By KIT CARLSON, All Saints Rector

Lots of people like mysteries - a puzzle to solve, a crime to resolve, a bad guy to catch, a detective who can outwit them all.

As a genre, the mystery novel has tremendous staying power, from Edgar Allen Poe, through Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie and Dashiell Hammett to P.D. James. There's something wonderful about watching for clues and trying to follow the story through to its logical conclusion.

The mystery we observe in April, however, does not yield itself to logical or deductive reasoning. The great celebration of Passion Week and Easter, which the church calls The Paschal Mystery, does not make much sense at all. Sherlock Holmes or Sam Spade probably wouldn't be able to figure it out, much less any of the rest of us.

The story begins with this improbable person, Jesus of Nazareth, a man we see as somehow incarnating the very divinity of God. This improbable person lives and teaches in an improbable place and time - first century Palestine, which is not exactly a hotbed of theological exploration.

Then after teaching, healing, forming a community of followers ... Jesus goes to Jerusalem, to be arrested, tortured, tried and executed. He dies alone on a Roman cross, rejected by his own people, abandoned by his friends, mocked by the two thieves dying on either side of him. Some few brave people take his dead body and place it in a tomb, roll a rock in front of it and think that they have come to the end of the story.

But they haven't. Because a few days later, the stone is rolled away, the tomb is

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MYSTERY

(Continued from previous page)

empty, the body is gone. Jesus of Nazareth appears repeatedly to his friends and followers as Jesus the Christ, raised by God in a new body that is remarkably like the old body, but different. He is not a disembodied spirit. He is not a ghost. He is himself ... only more so.

It is a mystery. It is not logical. It is not deductive. It is not rational. Yet it is the same mystery we celebrate each Sunday at Eucharist, and with great vigor and devotion during Holy Week. It is a mystery that can only be understood by walking in it, not by thinking it through, but by living it out.

If you like a good mystery, this one, this Paschal Mystery, is the best mystery ever. And so I invite you to open the first page on Palm Sunday, jump in to the story yourself and live it out, day by day through Holy Week. Feel the gathering darkness at Tenebrae. Know yourself to be a servant, just like Jesus, as you wash someone else's feet

on Maundy Thursday. Touch the hard wood of the cross on Good Friday.

Then join us in the garden on Saturday evening to light the new fire, to illuminate the Paschal candle, to walk through death and deliverance with James Ridell as he is baptized, and to celebrate the whole story, the whole mystery, in one exquisite vigil.

Easter Sunday is a happy postscript to this journey, a celebration with music and flowers and song and prayer. For our youngest members and their families, we will again have the noon Eucharist on Easter Sunday with an egg hunt following.

And then, instead of the words "the end," which often close out a good book, we can find in our hearts that the words which truly sum up the week are these:

"The beginning ..."

In the power of Christ's death and resurrection,

- Pastor Kit

Notes on worship in the Easter season

Since the earliest days of the Christian church thousands of years ago, the Great Fifty Days of Easter - the time between Easter Day and Pentecost - have been celebrated with special joy. The alleluias return to our lips, the church is clad in dazzling white and the tall Paschal Candle, symbol of Christ's death and resurrection, burns at each service throughout the season.

During this season, it is most appropriate to stand, if you are able, through the entire Eucharistic prayer and when you receive communion.

The Council of Nicea in 325 AD specified that the people were to pray standing through the Great Fifty Days as a sign of their share in Christ's resurrection and his royal priesthood. "For those who had been 'raised with Christ' (Col. 3:1) and made 'a kingdom of priests,' (Rev. 5:10), the usual posture for public prayer was standing. Particularly was this so for the eucharistic prayer, which in form is essentially a thanksgiving." (*The Ceremonies of the Eucharist*, by Howard E. Galley, p. 51)

So share with us in Christ's eternal priesthood, give thanks, and if you wish and if you are able, stand before God as a symbol of your share in Christ's resurrection through this Easter season.

- Pastor Kit

To the women of All Saints:

Please plan to join us for the Episcopal Church Women's annual

WOMEN'S WEEKEND AWAY

May 1-3 at Khardomah Lodge in Grand Haven

Reservations and details available at coffee hour, or call Jocy Smith, 332-7838

Lots of laughter, companionship and spirituality

Read, study and pray on Monday nights

"In every human being there is a presence of the Spirit which is drawing us back from our disintegration, our self-centeredness, into the life of the Spirit, the life of God."

Bede Griffiths

By **MARTY LIPHARD**

The Monday Night Prayer and Study Group will begin weekly discussions April 27 of the book "A New Vision of Reality" by a former atheist who became a Benedictine monk and mystic.

The author was born Alan Richard Griffiths in England in 1906 and died as Bede Griffiths in a thatched hut in South India in 1993.

Father Griffiths was a student and friend of writer C. S. Lewis. After his conversion to Christianity, Griffiths joined the Roman Catholic Church and eventually became a Benedictine monk and prior.

He took the name of St. Bede at his monastic profession. In 1955, he left England for India to assist in founding Kurisumala Ashram, a monastery of the Syrian rite which incorporated Christian monasticism with the customs of a Hindu ashram. In 1968, Griffiths moved to Shantivanam Ashram in Tamil Nadu, India. Under his guidance, Shantivanam became a center of contemplative life and of inter-religious dialogue.

Griffiths was the author of 12 books and many articles. "A New Vision of Reality: Western Science, Eastern Mysticism and Christian Faith," explores the evolution of the material world through quantum physics and the new biology. Drawing on ideas from psychology, sociology and philosophy, Griffiths looks at the evolution of human consciousness, then outlines the evolution of spirituality in the Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic religions.

"A New Vision" discusses the concept of the cosmic person or cosmic lord as revealed in all five religions. Griffiths suggests that the resurrection of Jesus was a pivotal moment in the evolutionary process. He brings it all together at the end by looking at the basic unity which underlies all religion and offers a vision of a renewed society in which "the essential values of Christianity will be preserved in living relationship with the other religious traditions of the world."

The group meets 7 to 8:45 p.m. every Monday in the All Saints library. Participants are asked to be prepared to discuss the first two chapters at the April 27 meeting. One or two chapters are normally assigned each week. To obtain the book, priced at \$16.95, or more information about the group, call Carol Swinehart at 337-9314.

The Potters are coming!

The Greater Lansing Potters Guild will again hold its spring sale at All Saints Episcopal Church. The collaboration between All Saints and GLPG is in its fourth decade.

The times and dates are 5:30 to 9 pm. Thursday, April 30, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, May 1, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 2. Major credit cards are accepted, and admission is free.

The timing is perfect for Mother's and Father's Day gift purchases, as well as for spring and summer showers and weddings. The semi-annual sale showcases the locally made work of more than 30 potters. It's an opportunity to keep your money local as you choose from a wide variety of wheel-thrown and hand-built pieces in stoneware and porcelain.

Mugs, bowls, casseroles, teapots, planters and lamps as well as jewelry, sculpture and decorative pieces will be available. New items are added each day.

GLPG offers gift certificates starting at \$25 that are valid for the next two sales. Visitors to the sale may enter in a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate. For more information about GLPG, its classes and a brief history, visit the Web site at www.glpg.org.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Clean your closets, help others

By **REBECCA MCKEE**

Some people enjoy a good laugh, others a good cry, a day of spring cleaning, a good bargain, or a day of volunteering.

There's something for everyone at the All Saints spring rummage sale April 17 and 18.

Donations can be dropped off starting after the 10 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, April 12. Sorting will start at 9 a.m. Thursday, April 16. The sale will run 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18.

It can be fun working at the sale. There's work involved, but there's also time to meet new people and catch up with friends. (We'll feed you if you volunteer, too.)

Choice of jobs

Volunteers are needed to hang signs on bulletin boards all over town, bring in things to be sold, bring in boxes to put leftovers in, sort donations, provide food for the workers, work at the sale and be on hand for clean-up detail. Also needed: buyers for all the donated treasures.

There are jobs to suit almost everyone's abilities and energy levels, from young shoe sorters to cashiers who prefer to do their volunteering while sitting down, to people who cook for the other volunteers and those who pray for everyone involved with the sale.

The sale is sponsored by the All Saints ECW (Episcopal Church Women). Proceeds support a variety of inreach and outreach efforts at All Saints.

How much mulch?

The rummage sale will coincide with the Canterbury MSU mulch sale fund-raiser, so stop in before or after you pick up your mulch from the parking lot.

For more about the sale and volunteering, contact Rebecca McKee at 699-2869 or AllSaintsECW@sassafras-hill.us or in person during the Sunday coffee hour on Sunday.

What to donate for the sale

- Gently used spring and summer clothes and footwear for males and females of all ages and sizes.

- Housewares, linens and bedding.
- Small household appliances, kitchen utensils and dishes.
- Sports equipment and toys.
- Seasonal items.
- Books (no textbooks, encyclopedias or National Geographic magazines, please) and music CDs, DVDs or VHS tapes.
- Computer software that will run on Windows XP or later (or the equivalent Mac OS).
- Artwork, school supplies and backpacks.
- Infant and toddler car seats.

Packing materials

We could also use some bubble wrap or other packing material to protect the breakable items that people buy and the leftovers that don't sell that are packed up Saturday afternoon.

We can't take old and outdated computer software and equipment (older than what can handle or run on Windows XP), partially used cosmetics and half-empty cleaning supplies.

Sorry, but we also can't take those plastic cups we all accumulate from sports events at MSU.

Ditto for used plastic sports drink bottles, the plastic cups we get with restaurant kids' meals and used travel cups.

Understand this

We'll take exercise equipment, such as exercise bicycles and stair-stepper machines, only with the understanding that if it doesn't sell, you'll take it back. (The folks who pick up the leftovers from the sale won't take exercise equipment.)

Paint, household chemicals and solvents are no-no's, too. (We aren't a hazmat team and we don't have one at our disposal to deal with these hazards.)

Have fun cleaning, and we'll see you – and your rummage – at the All Saints rummage sale later this month!

Rebecca McKee is the rummage sale manager. Be sure to offer her family your sympathy this month.

Parkinson's caretakers support group to meet

By **MARTHA McKEE**

Who knows more about Parkinson's Disease than the people who live with it and their partners who help with the struggle?

A support group brings together people with a common bond. It validates people's concerns by also looking after their emotional needs. How many people, after their first visit to a support group, were heard to say, "And I thought I was the only one with this problem."

Our PD caregivers support group is a tremendous pool of knowledge and experience. We share how to:

- Cope with the day-to-day challenges.
- Get the most from visits to the doctor.
- Ask intelligently about medication and therapy.
- Instruct the hospital staff in the event of an admission.
- Tell family and friends about PD (they notice it before you realize they do).
- Empathize with other people in the same situation.
- Maintain a good attitude and even laugh at adversity.
- Define what's important in life and what can be left behind.

A support group becomes a large family of understanding and encouraging caregivers. Our support group is informal – all are welcome. Often, there is a speaker – doctor, pharmacist, therapist, counselor, humorist, lawyer or other professional. Some meetings are a free-spirited discussion among its members about topics of great interest. There is always time for a sympathetic sharing of concerns.

We thank All Saints for giving our group a lovely, serene space to share ourselves with each other. The PD Caregivers Support Group meets in the lounge 1 to 3 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month. Contact Martha McKee at 339-2416 or seamanmckee@gmail.com for more information.

Visiting children's choir to perform concert at All Saints

By **MARY HOPE GRIFFIN**

The Schola Choir of Grace Church, Oak Park, Ill., will visit East Lansing the weekend of April 17-19.

The choir will perform a free concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19, at All Saints.

Under the direction of composer, musician and teacher Dennis Northway, the children will offer a selection of sacred and secular

music in English, German, Latin and maybe even Swahili.

The choir includes former All Saints parishioners Helen and Julia Thomason, as well as the great-niece of parishioner Anne Watson.

The choir has previously performed in Sewanee, Tenn., Philadelphia and parts of Wisconsin.

Our gifts provide livestock, water for people in need

By **JANET CHEGWIDDEN**

The Outreach Committee recently received a thank you from Heifer International for a donation of \$1,284 that will "bring hope and opportunity to 20 families living in poverty through the gifts of education, training, and livestock." This donation reflects the monies given to the Heifer Project during the All Saints Alternative Christmas Mart.

Additionally, All Saints received a thank you from WaterCan/EauVive, a charity that provides clean, safe water and sanitation facilities for communities in developing countries, for our donation of \$1,283 from the Outreach Fund. Since 2004, All Saints has contributed \$8,082.17 to help provide clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education for more than 320 people—a small village.

May God bless you for your generosity and concern for those in need.

You can visit the websites for these charitable organizations for more information and ways to help: www.heifer.org and www.watercan.com

What's new in Sheila's Corner?

Upcoming Events for families

Easter is April 12 with an egg hunt after the 12 p.m. service.

VBS is June 15-18 in the evenings.

Family Camping weekend is Aug. 7-9.

An Easter egg hunt for children is planned after the noon service on Easter Sunday, April 12. Donations of candy, small items and plastic eggs can be dropped off at the office.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the evenings of June 15 to 18. The theme is the game show "Studio Go."

Volunteers are needed. A planning session will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 21. If you can help in any way, contact Sheila Wiitala at allsaintssheila@hotmail.com

In doing your spring cleaning, if you come across nice infant toys for babies under a year of age, the nursery could use them. Also needed are wooden puzzles and games for older children. If you would like to donate any such items, drop them off in the office.

Parish Life April Events

Progressive Dinner!!

Sunday, April 19, beginning at p.m.

This is the first Parish Life event following Easter. Jump back into fun with style with your All Saints family. A progressive dinner is a meal shared with friends at various homes, hosted by various people who sign up to participate and cook for other participants. At the All Saints Progressive Dinner, attendees will be organized into groups of six to eight people — some of whom you'll know, others of whom you'll get to know at the event — who move from house to house for appetizers, main course, and dessert. You do not have to host to participate (though hosts are always welcome). Sign up is in the undercroft during coffee hour. It's a wonderful chance to renew old friendships and initiate new ones. Childcare will be provided at the church for parents participating in the dinner. See Will or Jean Maples for more information. Please consider signing up. Great food, great people, a great time. What more can you ask for?

Second-Sunday Breakfast

8:45 to 9:45 a.m. April 12, in the undercroft.

Join your All Saints friends for a hot breakfast between the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services. Three dollars brings you eggs and sausages, a croissant or Danish, and juice. Everyone welcome!

Coffeehouse!

Don't get too excited. There is no coffeehouse in April. The next coffeehouse will be May 15.

Interested in assisting with Parish Life? Please call Matt Helm at (517) 337-0758 or Marguerite Halversen at (517) 333-0251.

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1 p.m. Parkinson's Support Group 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:00 p.m. Adult Ed class 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	2 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:30 p.m. ACLU 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8 p.m. AlAnon	3 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	4 9 a.m. Spring Clean-up 9 a.m. Palm Cross Workshop 10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10 a.m. Advent House
5 Palm Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Pre-K to Grade 2 10 a.m. Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth classes 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU	6 2 p.m. Staff Mtg. 7 p.m. AA District Meeting 7 p.m. Holy Monday Service 7:30 p.m. AA	7 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Holy Tuesday Service 7:30 p.m. AA	8 Passover Begins 7 p.m. Tenebrae 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	9 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday & Footwashing 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	10 Good Friday Office Closed Noon Good Friday Meditations 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy	11 8 p.m. Baptism, Easter Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter
12 Easter Sunday Birthday Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 8:45 a.m. 2 nd Sunday Breakfast 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Noon Children's Eucharis w/Easter Egg Hung 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU Drop off for Rummage Sale	13 Office Closed, Easter Monday 7 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA Drop off for Rummage Sale	14 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 2 p.m. Staff Mtg 7 p.m. Cancer Support 7 p.m. ECW 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA Drop off for Rummage Sale	15 Messenger Deadline 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. CMSU Board Mtg 7:30 p.m. Debtors A Drop off for Rummage Sale	16 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 4 p.m. Lattice Books 6 p.m. Outreach 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8 p.m. AlAnon Drop off for Rummage Sale	17 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 5:30 p.m. Rummage Sale Starts	18 9 a.m. Rummage Sale 9 a.m. CMSU Mulch Sale 9:30 a.m. Needlers
19 Easter 2 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed classes 2 p.m. Schola Choir Concert 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU 5 p.m. Progressive Dinner	20 2 p.m. Staff Mtg 7 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	21 8 a.m. Breakfast Club, Coral Gables 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. B & G Mtg 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7 p.m. VBS Mtg 7:30 p.m. AA	22 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	23 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following Noon Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8 p.m. AlAnon	24 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	25 10 a.m. Funeral, Sheila Hepler
26 Easter 3 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed classes 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU	27 1:30 p.m. EL Women's Club 2 p.m. Staff Mtg 5:30 p.m. Rite 13 5:30 p.m. Finance 7 p.m. Christian Formation Mtg 7 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7 p.m. Vestry 7:30 p.m. AA	28 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7 p.m. Vestry 7:30 p.m. AA	29 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	30 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 5:30 p.m. Potters Guild 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8 p.m. AlAnon		

AA = Alcoholics Anonymous
ANS = Abbott Nursery School

ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics
Debtors A = Debtors Anonymous

AlAnon = Family and Friends of Alcoholics

The Messenger is published by All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

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Holy Eucharist Schedule: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday;

5 p.m. Sunday for Canterbury MSU student ministry; and 7 a.m. on Thursday

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Monday, April 6

- Holy Eucharist, chapel, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7

- Holy Eucharist, chapel, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8

- Tenebrae led by CMSU, sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 9

- Holy Eucharist, chapel, 7 a.m.

- Holy Eucharist, foot washing, stripping of the altar, sanctuary, 7 p.m.

- Prayer Vigil with the Reserved Sacrament begins after service and lasts to noon Friday

Friday, April 10

- Good Friday meditations on the Way of the Cross, sanctuary, noon-3 p.m.

- Good Friday Liturgy, with choir, sanctuary,

7 p.m.

Saturday, April 11

- The Great Vigil, Baptism and First Eucharist of Easter, sanctuary, 8 p.m. (incense will be used at this service)

Sunday, April 12

- Holy Eucharist, chapel, 8 a.m.

- Festal Eucharist with brass, bells and choir, sanctuary, 10 a.m.

- Easter Eucharist for families with young children, sanctuary, noon

- Egg Hunt, following the special noon service.

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