



The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, New York

Volume XXX
Issue 4

April 2023

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WEEKEND SERVICES

(In Person and Online)

Saturday 5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
 Sunday 8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
 Sunday 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
 (In person & online Only)

TUES-THURS

8:00 PM—Compline (online only)

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2 April, Palm Sunday
- 2 April, Family Breakfast
- 6 April, Maundy Thursday
- 8 April, Good Friday
- 9 April, Holy Saturday
- 10 April, Easter Sunday



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to spread the Gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed to our community and the world.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, April 2

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Service

And Foot Washing

Thursday, April 6

7:00 PM

Good Friday Service, April 7, 11:00 AM

Stations of the Cross in the Cemetery

April 7^h, 12 Noon



Holy Saturday Service, April 8, 9:00 AM

The Great Vigil of Easter, April 8, 7:00 PM

Easter Morning Services

Sunday, April 9

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM



We are now leaving the season of Lent and moving into the joyous season of Easter! In addition, I have been simultaneously going through my own personal period of Lent as I prepare to move away from Long Island after 43 years in the Sayville area. My house has been sold,, and now I am in the “Lenten period of sorting, throwing out, giving away, and finally packing up and moving a lot of memories from the 35 years I have lived in this house. It is bittersweet, as I leave an array of activities—painting, Garden Club, my sorority Beta Sigma Phi, my job at the Historical Society, a whole boatload of good friends, and especially St. Ann’s, which has been my home away from home for so long. Since I have been at St. Ann’s, I have taught Sunday School, sung soprano in the Choir, washed “the holy hardware” on Altar Guild, served as a Eucharistic Minister, lead a yoga class, helped with the PBJ ministry for homeless people in NYC, sold Christmas trees, and been Editor of *The Correspondent*. But it is now time to move into a new phase.

If the analogy holds, “Easter” is coming. I will be living near my daughter Nancy and her family in Northern New York (the Thousand Islands area). I can watch my grandson Charles (7) and his sister Lilith (5 ½) grow up. I will have a cozy apartment instead of taking care of a 3-bedroom house with a large yard and basement storage area. I will not have to navigate the traffic getting off Long Island in order to see my children and grandchildren. I will be near family ag a time of life when I’m getting older (even though I plan to live to 100), and while I still have enough energy to go through these things and come out smiling on the other side!

The good news is, that even though I am 200 miles away, I can still come back to visit and modern life gives us email, Facebook, Zoom, and fast cars to help us keep in touch. I’ll be here until mid-June and then I’ll miss you all and remember St. Ann’s ever so fondly as I drive off into my “happy Easter” and new adventures.

–Rodney Dudley

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The Correspondent

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2023

Saint Ann’s Episcopal Church

May Deadline

Friday, April 21, 2023

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COME TO DONATE
COME TO SHOP
COME TO VOLUNTEER
Wed, Thu, Sat 10AM to 2PM



A Word from the Rector Father Jeffrey Stevenson



Dear Parish Family

I look forward to seeing everyone this weekend as we begin our Holy Week observances that culminate on Easter Sunday with Jesus Christ's triumphant resurrection.

4/2 Palm Sunday: This Sunday, be alert to traffic changes as the church driveways will be closed to allow for our Palm Sunday procession (preceding the 10am service). The Foster Avenue gate will be open to allow entry & exit to the church parking lot through the cemetery. Also consider parking across the street in the large gravel parking lot. Both services will begin outside with the Blessing of the Palms.

Lola, our processional donkey, will arrive at 9:30am and will be on the Great Lawn for Meet & Greet and pictures. Bring the kids to meet Lola! We heard Lola likes carrots so we'll have some on hand. We will host Family Breakfast this month with a continental breakfast buffet in the Parish Hall after both services.

After the 10am service in the Upper Parish Hall, Lynette Schultz from the Food Pantry will be putting together the Easter Food Baskets. Please stop by to lend a hand.

4/6 Maundy Thursday, 7pm: we will begin the Paschal Triduum (the three days of Holy Week that start with Maundy Thursday and end on Holy Saturday) with a Maundy Thursday service that includes feet-washing and stripping of the altar.

4/7 Good Friday, 11am: Good Friday service will be followed by Stations of the Cross in the cemetery.

4/8 Holy Saturday 9am: we will close our three-day observances with a Saturday morning prayer service.

4/8 Easter Vigil 7pm: Easter Vigil liturgy has four components: The Service of Light; The Service of Lessons; the Renewal of Baptismal Vows; and the Eucharist. This is the first service of Easter when we welcome back Hallelujah and rejoice in our salvation through our Risen Lord.

4/9 Easter Sunday Service, 8am & 10am: wear your Easter Bonnets!! We will celebrate the triumphant victory of Jesus Christ over death and sin. We will sing our song Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Reminder that there will be no Senior Luncheon in April--look for the next lunch on May 9th.

Note: The Thrift Shop will be closed on Saturday April 8. The Food Pantry will be closed on Monday April 10. And the church office will be closed the week after Easter.

Blessings,

Fr. Jeff+

"To experience genuine human love, to be part of a community of love is to experience the presence of God."
—John J. McNeill

VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE

NEW CHORAL SCHOLAR FOR THE CHOIR



The choir welcomes our new choral scholar Ali Vlach, a Bayport-Bluepoint junior who has joined the soprano section on the first row. Ali is just off the stage from her school's play, "SpongeBob SquarePants!" She has a fine resume, including playing the violin, tap dancing, and being on Broadway in the play "Matilda" when she was 9. Yes, she was Matilda! We are thrilled to have Ali with us, and she's made a hit with the choir already.

MICHAEL VOELKER CONCERT IN THE CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE – MAY 20TH AT 7:00 PM

Michael Voelker, Bayport's own, has been singing since childhood. He has performed in many shows, revues, vocal groups, and concerts.

Michael has always felt that music is therapeutic, and singing is "Joy Released". He has been a student of voice for many decades and has been working with Daniel Ragone for several years.

When not singing, Michael enjoys an active career as a real estate broker, right here in the lovely hamlet of Bayport.



DONKEY ALERT! PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd

It wouldn't be a proper Palm Sunday at St. Ann's without a donkey to lead the procession on the Great Lawn and so, weather cooperating, we are processing outside, carrying our palms, and singing "Marching in the Light of God," led by one Lola the Donkey. Lola is new to St. Ann's this year. Her arrival is planned for 9:30 AM so she can be available for photos and petting for both Palm Sunday services.

HELP WANTED! CORRESPONDENT EDITOR

I have been editing *The Correspondent* for about 17 years, and I have loved bringing announcements and memories of events at St. Ann's to the congregation. However, I will be moving to Watertown, NY, this summer, and a 200-mile commute would be too much to handle!

I took over the newsletter from Gene Wehrenberg, and I wondered at the time if I could do as good a job as he did. I started out with his format, but over time, it eventually changed to reflect more of my personality. The same will no doubt happen with a new editor!

There is a lot of flexibility as to what you want to put in. Ultimately, it's about the people of St. Ann's and their activities. Don't worry about writer's block. We have a subscription to the website: www.thenewsletternewsletter.com. This gives you filler articles relevant to the church seasons, clip art, and ideas about how to put out a good newsletter—all without worrying about copyrights. *The Correspondent* is created in Word and saved in PDF for easy posting and printing.

Like all things we love, I want to give *The Correspondent* a new home with a caring owner (or owners!) If you are interested in being Editor of The Correspondent, contact Fr. Jeff or the church office.
--Rodney Dudley

BRING OUT THE HATS!

In times past, everyone had an Easter Bonnet for Easter Day. Fr. Jeff would love it if all who are able and willing would put on a hat for the 10:00 AM Easter service. Straw hats, fascinators, antique hats (if you can catch up with Connie Currie!), cowboy hats, whatever-you-like hats.



Easter is a day of joy and celebration. This year let your hat express your joy!

EASTER BASKET MINISTRY



The Easter Basket ministry is a great success thanks to our generous donors! All the paper slips were taken and replaced by food to be put into bags for Easter dinner for our basket recipients. The baskets will be put together and delivered on Palm Sunday. Thanks to all who participated!

--Lynette Schulz

Mother Lilo's Sermon on Time Spent as a Delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women

"Death Doesn't Have the Last Word"

As some of you may know, I had the honor of spending two weeks earlier this month at the United Nations in New York City. I was a delegate for the Episcopal Church to the 67th Commission on the Status of Women (aka the CSW).

The Commission is something that meets every year to look at what is going on all over the world with the conditions facing women and girls. CSW promotes women's and girls' empowerment and women's rights in all areas of life: political, economic, civil, social and educational fields, and it makes recommendations on the urgent problems they face.

As a delegate, that means that I was representing the things our Presiding Bishop and the Episcopal Church wanted to see included in the discussion about women and girls. Things like accelerating equal education for all women and girls, making sure women have human rights and safety—and especially looking out for marginalized women.

So, what did I learn? The conditions around the world for women and girls are not great. In fact, during the Opening Session, Secretary General Antonio Guterres, said that

"CSW is one of the most important events at the UN. ...
[And this is because] progress we've won over decades
[for the rights of women and girls] is vanishing before our eyes."

Here in the US, we are relatively privileged in terms of gender inequality, but we still have a long way to go. In fact, World Economic Forum ranks the United States 30th in terms of gender equality out of 149 countries. Here in the US,

- Women spend twice as much time on housework as men.
- Women still earn about 82% of what men do for the same job.
- Women are vastly underrepresented in science, technology and math fields, hugely important in the coming generation.
- Women are also under represented in all the highest paid positions professions, including political leadership.

But on a global level, it is much more dire. An estimated 736 million women—almost one in three—have been subjected to what is called "gender-based violence." In fact, this term was used so often during CSW, that it was referred to by an acronym "GBV." And this number is likely higher because incidence of GBV is under-reported. It also doesn't include sexual harassment. And this violence against women disproportionately affects the poorest among us.

Women and children are 14 times more likely to die during a natural disaster than men.

Women and girls account for 75% of the refugees and displaced persons globally due to war and climate change and immigration, and while they are swept up in these events, they are far, far more likely to experience gender-based violence.

Globally, 2 billion people do not have access to clean water, the basis of all life. It is women and girls who are most affected by this situation since in nearly every part of the world it is women and girls who are responsible for fetching water. If a girl is walking 8 hours round trip to get water for the survival of her family and community she will never be educated. It's just never going to happen for her. And there is much, much more--so many more examples.

As you can imagine, after my first week of CSW, I came home feeling overwhelmed, grieved, angry,... despairing for the women and girls who were suffering, trapped, and wounded. And here I was in all my privilege, yet there was so little that I could do to help them, except sit in a big room in the UN and listen to people talk.

But this week's scriptures give us a powerful message. The dry bones brought back to life, symbolizing God's miraculous rebuilding of Israel after complete destruction by the army of Babylon and exile in a foreign land. In this beautiful passage, God gives these dead bones new life: "I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

And then raising of Lazarus from the dead by the Jesus the son of God. Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

These scriptures tell us this:

Death does not have the last word. And I'm not talking just about our bodily death...but also all things that kill our soul. Sorrow does not have the last word. Grief does not have the last word.

Despair does not have the last word. God weeps us and then gets to work on the business rebuilding.

God is love. God is hope. God is renewal.

This is what these scriptures tell us. And it is through Jesus that we are forever connected to the love, hope and renewal that is God. This love and hope and renewal is what each of us are baptized into:

Dying with Christ in the water
And rising...clean from that death.
Alive with Christ.

Because death does not have the last word.

We are reborn with Christ in baptism, and this baptism, this hope we have with it is meant to give us strength and courage to go out into the world and work for justice and for love for all people. To say no to sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, hatred, and all the evils that kill our soul and harm others.

At CSW, I was surrounded by so many women from all over the world who were working to fight oppression and poverty: A female engineer from Bangladesh using new irrigation technology to help women farmers re-irrigate land that had gone dry due to climate change.

A female scientist from Guatemala sets up solar powered computer labs run by women, who are educated and earning money for the first time in their lives. And there are many, many more. So, despite the enormity of challenges for women and girls, there are brave souls taking their little steps every day to work to make things better. Let us do the same, starting in our back yards.

There are some things we can do, Starting with ourselves.

- We need to live into the belief that we are created in the image of God.
- Men and women need to work together to simply say no to unequal pay for the same work.
- We need to examine our own sexist attitudes about "men's work" and "women's work."
- We need to encourage our girls to go into every kind of field, especially science, engineering, and math, so that women are an active part of creating our future.

Globally, we can see what Episcopal Relief and Development is up to and support them with our donations. They are working for our church around the world to end hunger, respond to disasters, and strengthen communities. There are many other options here and invite you talk to me if the Holy Spirit is moving your heart on his issue. In this way, working together, we can draw strength from our baptism in Christ, we can actively strive to create justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. With God's help. Because death doesn't have the final word. Amen

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) is an official, two-week UN meeting that meets annually, since 1946, to study the conditions facing women and girls around the world, promote women's and girls' empowerment and women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields, and to make recommendations on urgent problems they face.



BRAG BOX



GABE RIVERA

CONGRATULATIONS to Gabe Rivera! He has been playing the clarinet for one year, and he just won the Band Award at school. Proud parents are Mother Lilo and Francis Rivera.

Kathy Senese take note! The choir may need a clarinetist sometime soon.

New Life

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.



During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter’s backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter’s foreground means death won’t win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life “isn’t all daffodils,” we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will “give us the joy, and it’s going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well,” added the pastor. “And that just makes me draw closer to God.”



In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This “escape tower” was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.

Jesus’ resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God’s power, Jesus didn’t merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — “Peace be with you.” —adapted from *Homiletics*



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 631-589-6522.



7
13
16
20

Mark Smimmo & Christine Kelly-Smimmo
Devon & Jessica Brown
Richard & Melanie Acierno
Wayne & Karen Tampellini

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Vanessa Sanchez	6	Robert Costanzo	9	Christine Weeks	19	Patricia Osarchuk
2	Cole Kraft	7	Grayson Noll	15	Olivia Hynes	22	Felicity Vento
	Knox Johnson		Samantha Rossi		Jillian Lorenzo	29	Spencer Hayes
	Ella Patrovich		Susan Vermeer		June Schlock	30	Elizabeth Shelton
	Alexandra Reksten	8	Eileen Moran	18	Diane Lichtenberger		Ellen Stoll
	Edward Schneider	9	Jeanne Monasterolo				

These names are offered each month as an opportunity to extend to our brothers and sisters the love of Christ on these special days and to express our thanks for the gift of their presence in our midst. They are also offered as an opportunity to pray for each one of these individuals and couples on these significant days in their lives.

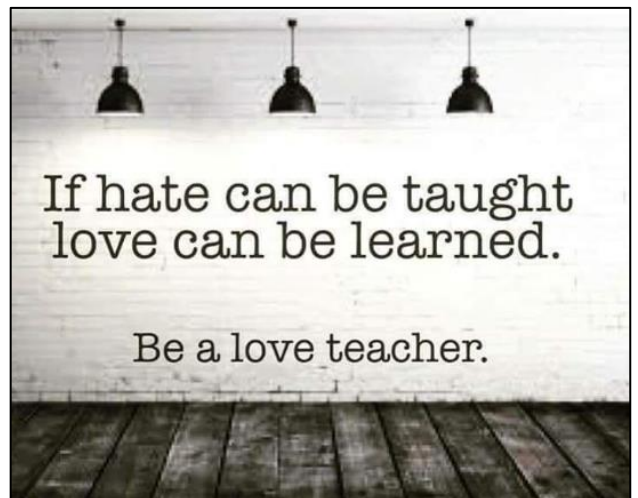
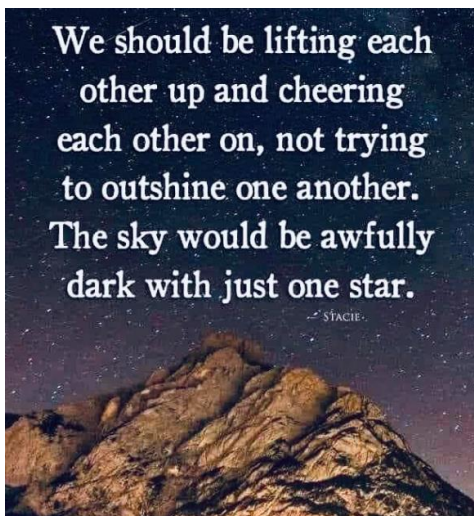
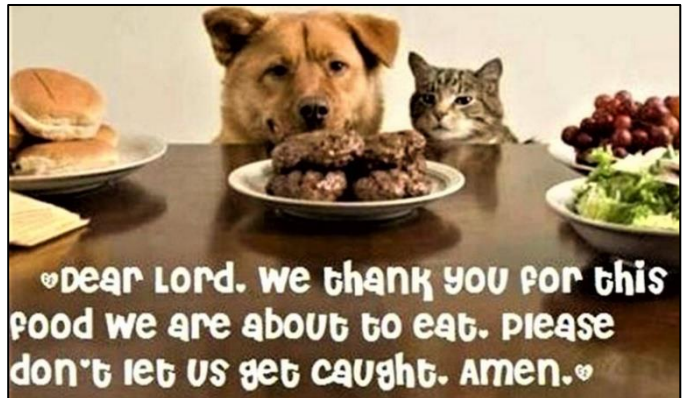
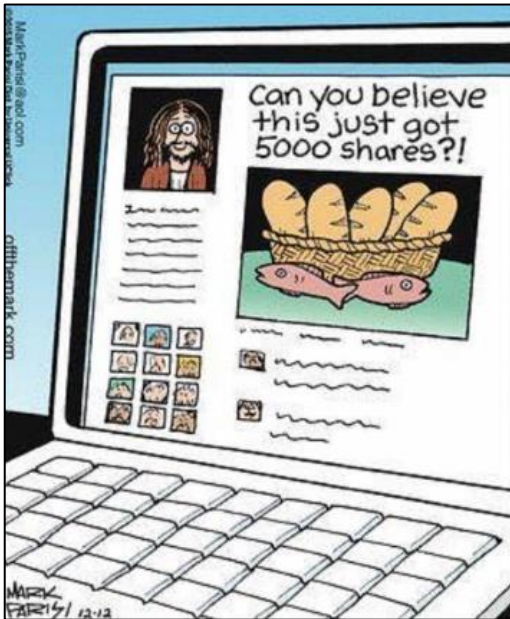
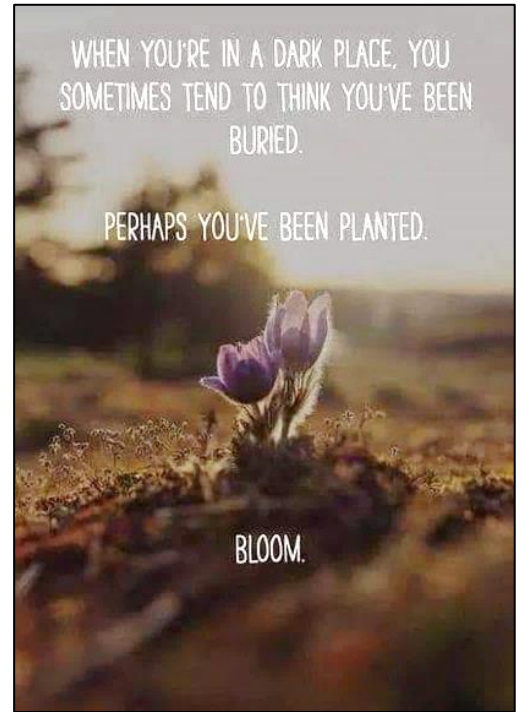
HOW OLD ARE YOU ?

Age is a quality of mind—If you have left your dreams behind,
If hope is lost, if you no longer look ahead,
If your ambitions' fires are dead...then, you are old.

But if from life you take the best, and if in life you keep the jest,
If love you hold—no matter how the years go by,
No matter how the birthdays fly.,,you are not old!

--Anonymous

Memes of Wisdom for April



+Christian Symbol+



Surrender

What a privilege and opportunity it is to utterly come to the end of one's hope — not only to run out of answers but to run out of questions. To be beyond fighting, to come to that suspended animation where we are so confused and so weak that we can neither fight [nor] run.

When you come to the end of yourself, you find the beginning of God. And there and nowhere else, you find the answers you seek. You find fulfillment for the longings of your soul.

—Max Anders

AROUND SAINT ANN'S Monthly Schedule

See Email and Bulletin for changes/cancellations.
Check out the website at: www.saint-anns.org

Sundays

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM—Sunday School—During 10:00 service
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
7:30 PM—AA Meeting

Mondays

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—April 17
7:00 PM—AA Meeting

Tuesdays

8:00 AM—Men's Group
7:00 PM—Adult Choir

Wednesdays

10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

Thursdays

10:00 AM—AA Meeting
10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open
7:00 PM—AA Meeting

Saturdays

10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

EASTER ERRORS

The Resurrection occurred without a hitch, but church services aren't always as fortunate. Pastors shared Easter goofs with Outreach magazine — and you can share them for Holy Humor Sunday on April 16.

- During a prayer, one pastor said, "Jesus, we love you to death." Though it was fitting, the slip-up led to chuckles.
- Actors in Passion Plays apparently tend to fall off crosses. After one did so and muttered a swear word, the pastor said, "At least he's the unbelieving thief." And when a man playing Jesus had to be reattached to his cross, a pastor said the real Jesus "would have climbed back on out of love."
- Shocked by the early rehearsal time, a guitarist asked, "Whose idea was it for Easter to be in the morning?"
- Before leading a sunrise service, a pastor was informed of a member's death. So, he was briefly "thrown ... when she walked up in the early morning shadows." Turns out there'd been a name mix-up. "I believe in resurrection power," says the pastor. "But I was more than a little surprised at what I was seeing!"

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