

# Clarion

APRIL 2024



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

*The mission of the Church of the Epiphany is to offer a home to all those who are seeking God's unconditional love.*

## From the Vicar



Alleluia! Christ has risen! The Lord has risen indeed!  
Alleluia!

We have begun the Easter season, the Great Fifty Days beginning with Easter Sunday and running through the Day of the Pentecost.

Easter Sunday is one of the most significant days of the year, perhaps even the most significant. The day we relive the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The day Jesus Christ overcame the stranglehold death held on humankind. The event which gave us the promise of eternal life.

We (meaning the Episcopal Church) does a wonderful job of celebrating Easter. While the world observes Easter weeks before the holy day itself, the liturgy of the Episcopal Church and similar denominations observe a Holy Lent to prepare us for the celebration. Then, because the Resurrection is too great of an event to only remember for one day, we continue to remember it for another seven weeks.

There are a lot of secular traditions associated with Easter, such as the Easter Bunny leaving eggs for children to find. Unfortunately, these distract many from the true meaning of the day. While Easter egg hunts are fun, and many churches have them for the children, it's important to instill the true meaning in these young people at an appropriate age.

Speaking of Easter eggs, the origin of this tradition lies within the pagan worship of the ancient world. Eggs represented new life emerging from the eggshells and were associated with Springtime celebrations when new life appeared with green leaves sprouting on trees and flowers blooming. Early Christians associated the emerging from the eggs with Jesus emerging from the tomb.

It's believed that since eggs were once included in the foods not eaten during Lent, people began to decorate and eat the eggs on Easter morning, probably during the Middle Ages. Originally, the eggs were painted red to symbolize the blood Jesus shed on the cross.

But why are rabbits associated with hiding the eggs for children to find? This tradition comes from the Germanic tribes who saw bunnies as a springtime rite of fertilization. (We all know about rabbits and their reproduction habits.) As Christianity spread to central Europe, people appropriated these pagan traditions into their new religious observances. (Much like the tradition of Christmas trees coming from the Germanic belief that fir trees had special powers because they stayed green through the winter.)

While the flowers we know as Easter lilies are a relatively new addition to our Easter traditions, lilies have a long history in the Bible. They are referenced in several books of the Old Testament, such as the book of Kings, Chronicles, Hosea and the Psalms.

The most famous mention appears in the gospels according to Luke and Matthew: “And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.”

The lilies that American churches use during the Easter season were first brought from Bermuda in the late 1800s. As white is a color associated with purity and virtue, and the lilies usually blooming around the time of Easter each year, they became known as Easter lilies.

I know the lilies that Cathy has planted the last few years have sprouted from the ground and will bloom before April is done. There are a happy reminder of the season we are observing.

There are many Easter-related traditions and stories that have evolved over the years, too numerous to mention in this space, but the important thing to remember is that the day recalls the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and his never dying again, a gift we can share.

Father David +

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



### **Bush House Market and Front Porch Book Sale** **Saturday, April 13, 2024**

*Crestview History Museum 198 South Wilson St.*

Explore the enchanting intersection of artistry, literature, and local flavors at the Bush House Market and Front Porch Book Sale! Wilson Street parking lot showcasing the talents of artists, crafters, and cottage food makers. The front porch of the historic Bush House invites you to peruse a delightful selection of books and videos for sale.



### **The Baker Arts Festival** **held in the Heritage Park**

**Saturday April 20, 9am-3pm**

This is a spring event featuring different types of fine arts, music, food and more.

This year's Health Expo promises an array of enlightening booths, complimentary screenings, and interactive demonstrations, all designed to provide valuable insights into the latest advancements in the health industry. This event is for people of all ages to build awareness for health-related organizations available in Crestview.



### **Community Yard Sale**

### **ANNUAL LAUREL HILL YARD SALE** **Gene Clary Park** **April 27 8am-3pm**

Sell things you no longer want, or items you make. No charge to reserve a spot. Spork food truck will be there with music and with T's Cajun Snow Balls. Fire Dept. will be there with hats for the kids.



# News from Around the Diocese

**Episcopal Night!**  
at the ballpark

Sunday, April 7, at 4 p.m.  
Pensacola Blue Wahoos vs Mississippi Braves

Blue Wahoos Stadium Pensacola  
Winn-Dixie Party Deck

## Worship in the Woods

A DIOCESAN-WIDE GATHERING

**APRIL 21**

2:30 PM TO 5 PM

**SALOOM PROPERTIES TREE FARM**

2855 Bookers Mill Rd  
Evergreen, AL 36401

**Celebrating in God's Creation**

Join us for a special Stations of the Resurrection with Eucharist and fun fellowship.

Bring your own picnic, lawn chair and/or blanket.  
Wear closed-toe shoes.  
- Bring your water bottles; water provided.

**Sunday, April 21, 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Saloom Properties**

2835 Bookers Mill Rd, Evergreen, AL

Worship in the Woods is a diocesan wide gathering hosted by the churches of Convocation IV. We will celebrate God's creation with a special Stations of the Resurrection, followed by Eucharist and fun fellowship.

Sponsored by

*Convocation IV Churches*

St. Mary's, Andalusia	St. James, Wetumpka
St. Ann's, Anniston	St. Thomas, Opelika
Trinity, Atmore	St. Peter's, Jackson
St. Stephen's, Brantley	St. John's, Mendenhall
St. Anthony, Wetumpka	St. Michael's, Bank
St. Francis, Wetumpka	St. Mark's, Troy

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or visit [www.diocepal.org/2024/episcopalnight](http://www.diocepal.org/2024/episcopalnight)

## Wilmer Hall Pancakes

**Apr 27, 2024, 7:00am – 10:00am**

Wilmer Hall Children's Home  
3811 Old Shell Rd, Mobile, AL

Join us on the front lawn of Wilmer Hall for pancakes, music by the Excelsior Band, an appearance by the University of South Alabama cheerleaders and MORE! Tickets are \$6.00 and available online at [www.wilmerhall.org/donate](http://www.wilmerhall.org/donate). All benefits go to Wilmer Hall.

Delaney development

WILMER HALL  
**Pancake**  
BREAKFAST



The monthly Vestry meeting was held on Sunday March 10th. The following are highlights of the meeting:

**Treasurer's Report:** Laura gave the Financial Report for February. Tithes and offerings were generous this month. There was an expense for A/C repairs. The Florida Power and Light bill for February hasn't been received yet.

**Vicar's Report:** There will be an online Vestry Workshop March 17. All vestry members are encouraged to attend. The annual parochial report has been reviewed, changes made and is ready to be sent to the Diocese.

Next Sunday David Bryant will celebrate Communion Under Special Circumstances service as part of his training as a lay worship leader. Mark Waddell will be assisting him as Lay Minister. Fr. David will preach and celebrate at Waddell's church in Navarre. David Bryant will lead Morning Prayer on Sunday April 7 as Fr. David takes the weekend to visit family.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Tracy reported that the broken sign on Hwy. 85 needs a hacksaw to remove it and she will get that done as soon as she is able to get help. She is still working with Signs Galore on the designs. We also have three more signs made that need poles.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Three toilets in the parish hall ladies' room will be replaced next week. Phil has three estimates for replacement of the sanctuary roof. Wade Family Homes had the lowest bid of \$22,895. A generous donor in the church has given permission to use her donation to pay for the roof. Building maintenance priorities currently are: The sanctuary roof, 3 new toilets, a new hot water tank in the parish hall, and the front sign and the aged and yellowed plexiglass which covers and protects our stained-glass window. Phil suggested the small storage building at the corner of the property be relocated next to the brick shed. He has someone to help him. All agreed with the move. Phil suggested for the lawncare company payment to be increased to \$125 per month to allow for extra

cleanup. The motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:** Our “Sunshine Lady” Shiela Fahey was the recipient of the “Thank you” card in February for keeping in touch with our congregation with much-appreciated birthday and anniversary cards. Tracy made the motion and Randy seconded to name Pat Shew, our organist and choir director, the recipient for March’s Thank You.

**New Business:** The Girl Scouts want to use the parish hall for activities on Saturday, May 11, for a Mother’s Day luncheon. They’ll have to coordinate with the cleaning crew.

The question was asked if we need to adopt a new bathroom policy. The consensus was not necessary.

**Announcements:** Announcements are posted on the bulletin board. Fr. David adjourned the meeting with a closing prayer at 11:58 am. The next vestry meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2024.



## Property Report for Month

Several projects are moving forward and being completed.

A plan has been put together to shingle the Church roof. The Vestry is now working getting ready to vote on the project. Hope to start in April if all goes as planned.

The lady's bathroom toilets have all been replaced. Grandstaff Plumbing was the company completing the job. It should save money on the water bill.

Kelly Cutter the lawn and garden care giver is back on duty with us. She does a good job.

Church signs are working estimates. Signs Galore has looked at our signs and is doing the estimate.

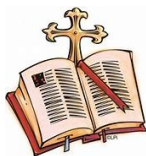
The hot water is back on.

- Maurice Phillips, Junior Warden



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 7 — Second Sunday of Easter  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch
- April 14 — Third Sunday of Easter  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Vestry Meeting
- April 21 — Fourth Sunday of Easter  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Service
- April 28 — Fifth Sunday of Easter  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- May 5 — Sixth Sunday of Easter  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch



## LECTOR SCHEDULE

- April 7 — The Second Sunday of Easter  
1st Reading - Tracy Kueczynski  
2nd Reading - Cathy Clothier
- April 14 — The Third Sunday of Easter  
1st Reading - Mary Meehan  
2nd Reading - Mary Meehan
- April 21 — The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
1st Reading - Tracy Kueczynski  
2nd Reading - Ginny Bauer
- April 28 — The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
1st Reading - Christine Wakayama  
2nd Reading - Ginny Bauer



## *The Easter Season and the Paschal Candle*

The feast of Easter is a season of fifty days, from Easter Eve through the Day of Pentecost. From early times the Greek word Pentecost (fiftieth day) was used also for the whole Paschal season. During this season there is no fasting. The Council of Nicaea (325) directed that Christians are to pray standing during Easter. The word “alleluia” (praise the Lord) is said or sung repeatedly, which contrasts sharply with the season of Lent when the alleluia is omitted. The color of liturgical vestments and hangings is white or gold. The BCP notes that it is customary for the *Paschal candle* to burn at all services of the Easter season. The “Alleluia, alleluia” may be added to the dismissals and their responses during the Great Fifty Days. The traditional Christian Easter greeting (see Luke 24:34) serves as the opening acclamation at the eucharist during the Easter season.

The Paschal candle is a large, decorated candle that symbolizes the light of Christ. It is used in the Episcopal Church in the following ways:

- It is lit during all baptism, at confirmations and for burial services.
- Beginning with the Easter Vigil, it is lit at all services during the season of Easter.
- During the Easter Vigil, it is borne by the deacon or celebrant and leads the congregation in procession to the chancel at the beginning of the service. Its flame may be used to light candles held by members of the congregation, symbolizing the spreading of the light of Christ into the congregation and the world.
- Burning as the service begins during Easter season.

The origin of the Paschal candle is uncertain, but it is believed to have derived from the *Lucernarium*, the evening office with which early Christians began the vigil for every Sunday and especially that of Easter. This rite is probably inspired by the Jewish custom of lighting a lamp at the conclusion of the Sabbath. Most theologians tie the Paschal candle to the Jewish tradition of lighting a candle at the end of Sabbath, so the foundation of the practice was in place during the birth of Christianity.

Lucernarium is the singular form and Lucernaria the plural of the Latin word for “light.” In the Book of Occasional Services and The Hymnal 1982 (S 305-S 320 in the Accompaniment Edition, Vol. 1), the term is used for the optional anthems which may be sung during the lighting of candles in the Order of Worship for the Evening (BCP, p. 109). These anthems, which vary with the season, were used at the lighting of the evening light in old Gallican liturgies.

## EPIPHANY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

None Reported for April



Steve and Buni O'Brien April 4th  
Burton and Billie Kaye Todd April 22nd



# *Parish News*

## **A Busy Lent**

The Lenten Season and this March was a busy time here at Epiphany. Starting in February with the Ash Wednesday service which was well attended and with some new faces. The next 5 Wednesdays we held our Lenten Soup and Speaker program which was also attended well.

We started on the February 21<sup>st</sup> with a presentation from the leader of the Girl Scout troop that meets on Mondays in St. Joseph's Hall. On the 28<sup>th</sup> we heard reports from Randy Bauer and Fr. David about the Diocesan Convention at which they were our delegates. On March 6<sup>th</sup> the guest speaker was Dr. Melinda Henderson who heads the Diocesan Commission on Affirmative Aging. March 13<sup>th</sup> Joe Taylor talked to us about the opportunities for Lay Ministry in the diocese. Finally on March 20<sup>th</sup> Deacon John Kendal from St. Mary's in Milton, talked to us about the Diocesan Prison Ministry.

March 24<sup>th</sup> saw the procession of the palms as we celebrated Palm Sunday and the Passion of Christ. This service was very well attended, and the Gospel was read in parts by many in the congregation.

Following this is Maundy Thursday service of Holy Eucharist and the washing of the feet. Then Good Friday noon communion from reserved sacrament and later the stations of the cross. Finally culminating in Easter Sunday celebrating Jesus' glorious resurrection.

Thank you to all who participated to make this successful and meaningful Lent.

## EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES

### Sausage, Roasted Red Pepper & Tomato Soup

by *David Bryant*

#### Ingredients:

- 3½ lbs. Fresh Tomatoes (I use Roma)
- 2 Red Bell Peppers
- 1 large Onion
- 6 whole cloves Garlic
- 3 tbsp Olive Oil
- 1 tbsp Balsamic Vinegar
- 1 tbsp dried Oregano
- 1 tbsp dried Parsley
- 4 cups Beef Broth
- 1 lb. ground Mild Italian Sausage
- ¾ cup Parmesan Cheese, shredded
- 3 tbsp Tomato Paste
- 4 tbsp fresh Parsley, chopped
- 3 tbsp fresh Basil, chopped
- ½ cup Heavy Cream



#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F.
2. Coarsely chopped the tomatoes, bell peppers and onion in large pieces.
3. Toss together with the garlic, olive oil, vinegar and dried parsley and dried basil. Spread the mixture out on a foil covered roasting pan. (You may need to use more than one pan)
4. Roast for 15 minutes, then stir and return to oven set on broil for 10 more minutes or until the tomatoes are lightly charred on some of the edges.
5. Meanwhile, sauté the ground sausage until cooked through.
6. When done reserve 1 cup of the roasted vegetable mixture.
7. To the beef broth add the remaining vegetable mixture and blend until mostly smooth. (You want to leave a little bit of texture)
8. Add all the remaining ingredients to the pot including reserved vegetables. Simmer for 10 to 15 minutes or until thickened.
9. Stir in the heavy cream adding a little at a time.
10. Stir in the fresh herbs and serve.

***Please remember in your prayers:***

Adley Hipwell, Alice Stevens, Amanda & Jacob White,  
Amanda Spradlin, Amy & Anthony Lehatto,  
Barbara Murrell, Betty Schwartkopf, Bill Jones, Brenda Faulkner.  
Cindy Duffy, Debra Evans, Dennis Jackson, Donna Andrews,  
Florie Angelini, Janice Tyler, Jeff Evans, Judy Tinsley, Julie Hill,  
Kei'Mari Martin, Mary Meehan, Mike Meehan, Maureen Marcotte,  
Marilyn "Missy" Jones, Nancy Delierre, Pam & Phil Phillips,  
Phyllis Alles, Steve & Buni O'Brien, and Sybil King.

**The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany**

424 Garden Street

Crestview, Florida 32536