

EASTER IS NOT OVER...

We are always trying to move on to the next project goal or big idea. We check items off of our to-do lists—or even our "bucket lists"—and then we're on to the next experience. This habit of mind does little to help us engage the depths of the Christian tradition, and nowhere is this more true than in the lessons for the Third Sunday of Easter (May 8th) - Acts 2:14a-, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35; 1 Peter 3:17-23.

Easter was and is about the resurrection, and many North American worshipers seem to assume that now that this has been accomplished, it's time to move on to the next thing—the next denominational priority or the next controversy gaining traction in the 24-hour news cycle. It's counterintuitive to go back to the resurrection—yet there are unfinished implications.

In Acts 2, Peter gives a speech (his first). “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law... Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Rowan Williams's reflection on it is helpful: the risen Lord is proclaimed first to his enemies.

Biblical scholars distinguish between static and dynamic readings of scripture. A static reading would see Christians as the gentiles who "get it" and Israel as the community that does not get it but is openly resistant. In contrast, a dynamic reading is more confessional: *we* are the ones who resist the gospel, who neglect the voices of the prophets, who have forgotten that the Messiah's vocation is suffering. We are the ones who need to repent.

The epistle lesson again requires us to move past the obvious inference that the "children of God" are good and everyone else is bad. God's children do not always live as children of the light. We are resurrection people, but in many ways we continue to live in the darkness of the tomb. What was John saying to his community in this epistle? Why the emphatic line of purity and morality between the people of God and the outsider? Where is this true today, and where is this contested? Perhaps a modest way forward is to say that we are living into our identities as resurrection people, as children who walk in the light.

This week's Gospel, like last week's, is an appearance story. The risen Lord shows his hands and feet to the disciples, and asks for something to eat. The text is marvelous in its specificity (they remember that the meal included broiled fish!) and materiality ("a ghost does not have flesh and bones"). Along with serving as a witness to the resurrection, the text grounds its community of readers in this world: they will eat meals together, they will suffer as the Messiah suffered, they will forgive one another. All that has happened is continuous with the law, the prophets and the psalms.

The Sundays after Easter connect the resurrection with all that came before it, especially the Hebrew scriptures. We reflect on our own resistance to the gospel and consider how we, as children of the light, bear witness to God's love—or fail to. We consider the material implications of the gospel: the body of Christ, even now, is not a ghost but the real presence of God. We are not finished with Easter yet.

LECTIONARY FOR MAY

May 1

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16
I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

May 8

Act 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19
I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-25

May 15

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23
I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 22

Act 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
I Peter 2:1-10; John 14:1-14

May 29

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20
I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO:

Kerry Abbott	2
Laurel Hanns	3
Richard Woodfield	4
Irene Modrak	4
Curtis Burns	5
Nancy Martinson	5
Carolyn Franz	7
Joyce Carhart	7
Lorraine Carhart	8
Ethel Strand	9
Bridget Crespo	19
Patricia Martinson	16
Ed Burns	18
Richard Brinckmann	20
Evan Schickel	20
Alan G. Woodfield	26
Theresa Heinaman	27
Courtney Martinson	28

IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS FOR OUR MEMBERS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Recently the Board of Trustees put together new applications for non-members use of our church facilities. It was decided to have a simple version of that application made for our own church members.

It has long been the policy that members of the United Methodist Church of Linden can use our facilities, at no cost to them, for any special occasion they might be having. Over the years this has been a very welcome policy as many of our church family have used Aldersgate Hall for wedding receptions, showers, graduations, birthdays, funerals and other special events.

It is the position of the Trustees to continue this policy. However, we have made out a simple application and the procedure for reserving any part of our facilities by church members. It is important that the Board of Trustees be aware of what is going on in our buildings and who is responsible if there is any problem.

The application forms will be in the church office file. Please speak to Doris Henel, church secretary, and she will be happy to give you one. Further information is on the application form. Thank you for your cooperation.

FURTHER TRUSTEE NEWS

We are sorry to report that on March 22nd we became aware of a broken water pipe in the upstairs bathroom of our parsonage which caused serious water damage to our house. Within 24 hours, all the proper authorities had been notified and very soon after that, with the cooperation of Sovereign and Mercer Insurance Company, Innovative Reconstruction was in the parsonage drying and clearing out all the damaged property. We are grateful for the immediate response from all parties involved and we look forward to our parsonage being restored as soon as possible. We have a deductible of \$1,000. and hopefully we will not have to spend much more than that amount with insurance taking care of the rest. When it is finished we hope to have an open house so that everyone can see what has been done.

BITS AND PIECES

Had an email from Dawn Robson, who sent her love to all her friends in our church. She and Jim are fine and they appreciate receiving the Messenger which keeps them connected to us all. Dawn is still working and Jim retired, but by this time he might be working on a ship again. We send our love to both of them.

Beatrice Bradford is hoping to leave for Ghana in the near future to spend some time with her husband and family. When her employer died she cut her visit there short, and came home immediately and so is anxious to return again. Mycroft is doing well right now, and we hope he continues to improve.

Richard and Karen Brinckmann had lots of snow this winter in New York State. We were sorry to hear that the older of the two horses Karen owns, died recently. We know she misses the horse and so does her remaining one. That was one of the reasons she purchased an additional horse – so that the other one wouldn't be lonesome. Too bad!!

Jayne Cocco and her father, Charles Lamont, are having the same weather in Maryland as we have had here in New Jersey. They are waiting for Spring, just as we are doing. By the time this Messenger is received by everyone, we certainly should have improved weather – WARM we hope! They are both doing fine and send their love to everyone.

A special "thank you" to Minerva Diaz who has taken over the position of Financial Secretary. And we thank MaryJane Koslosky, who had been helping her mother, Mary Dalziel who had the job for well over 20 years, and she now has taught Minerva. Thanks to you both!

Marie Dziamba is planning to spend about a month in Texas, leaving in April to visit all her family. She had planned to do this last summer, but some dental problems forced her to cancel that trip, and she is so happy to be going now.

And Ethel Steiniger will be going to visit her daughter, Joan, in (is it North Carolina or South?) for about three weeks in the near future. In 2010 she spent a few months there in the winter but decided to stay in New Jersey this winter (she probably enjoys those movies she goes to with her church friends on Fridays!). Joan is only working part-time now as a nurse, so she will be happy to spend more time with her mother. It will save on telephone calls, too, because she calls her every day.

John and Nikkie Gonzalez celebrated their son, Kristian's 2nd birthday with family and friends recently in Aldersgate Hall. We are watching Kristian grow up because he is in church with his parents and grandmother every Sunday. If the minister asks a question, Kristian is sure to answer it!! Such a lovely family.

Bill Martin has sold his home here in Linden and is all settled in his new location which is:

6 Casco Ave., Ocean Park, Maine 04063

He would be happy to hear from any of his church friends.

Leona Parker recently had a cataract operation and SHE CAN SEE! That was what we heard her say from the choir loft one Sunday. That was very good news, Leona!!

Tim Strand is spending a month in England for his job. And the nice part is that his wife will be joining him for two weeks. It will probably be during the time of the BIG WEDDING! That should be fun!

Congratulations to the Reformed Church of Linden. They are celebrating their 140th anniversary of the church and recently had a large gathering of church members and friends at Big Stash's on South Wood Avenue. They honored three of their members and had the first of many celebrations planned for 2011. We send our best wishes to our friends in the Reformed Church.

A FEW MORE BITS AND PIECES

Our congratulations to Bill Forster and his wife, who recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. WOW! That's a long time and we are sure they have been very happy years. We are so pleased to see Bill able to attend church, thanks to his daughter bringing him whenever she can. We are always happy to see them both.



Ethel Steiniger was thrilled when her grandson, Jonathon and his wife, Katie, came to visit his parents, Carol and Jonathon Jones in Westfield, and Ethel spent the day with them. It was her first visit with her new and first great-granddaughter, Annalie, who was born on February 3, 2011. The happy parents, with their beautiful daughter, live in Clifton Park, N. Y. Congratulations to all.



MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

So that you will have lots of time to reserve the date, we are announcing the Administrative Council meeting ahead of time. It will be on Wednesday, June 8th at 10:00 a.m. in the morning. Please mark your calendar!

TIME TO AUDIT OUR FINANCIAL BOOKS

Each year, at this time, it is necessary to get the books from our treasurers so that Rev. Miller can audit them. The following books should be turned over to Doris Henel so that they can be mailed to Rev. Miller and our audit form turned in to the Conference on time:

- Scholarship – Mary Barnes**
- MaryJane Koslosky**
- Current Expense – Kathie Horsch**
- Memorial Fund – Leona Parker**
- Endowment Fund – Norman Carhart**
- Building Improvement Fund - Bob Carhart**
- UM Women – MaryJane Koslosky**

Please see that you turn the books in as soon as possible since this is a very busy time for our auditor.



CHURCH HOUR NURSERY

We are in the process of trying to provide a church hour nursery for young children during the worship service, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. each Sunday. Joy Hinko will be supervising the children in our Sunday School room downstairs for some of the Sundays. Depending on whether or not there are young children with their parents that would like to take advantage of this service, will determine whether she will go downstairs with the children.

If you have been staying home because it is too difficult for you to be in church with a young child, please consider entering her/him into the church hour nursery.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR CHURCH?

Rev. Ramos will be starting a Discipleship Class for those people interested in joining our church. We always welcome new members and ask that you consider this, and contact Lorraine Carhart, 908-925-4865, who is taking names for the pastor. He will be in touch with you so that a date and time can be set that will be convenient for all.

RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS!

A special "Thank you" to all those who donated clothing and other items to the United Methodist Women's spring rummage sale. We appreciate all those who helped set up the sale and took it down on Saturday. Friday was a busy day, and Saturday when everything went for \$1.00 or \$2.00 to fill a bag we were extra busy! Everyone knows when they get a bargain!

The ROTC from Linden High School came at noontime to pick up everything that was left over. They planned to add it to the items they had for their yard sale in the front of Linden High School. What was left would go to needy people through a company that pays them by the pound, so that even at the end, people in need would still be helped! Next fall we will probably start all over again. Thanks again!!

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LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAN HELP!

The Linden Public Schools are looking for school-aged youngsters - 5 to 21 who are experiencing difficulties which interfere with their academic success.

- *Learning *Speaking *Hearing
- *Thinking *Seeing *Walking
- *Interacting *Emotional *Behavior

For further information, please call Pupil Personnel, 908-587-3285.

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CONGRATULATIONS DORIS HENEL

We are very pleased to announce that Doris Henel has been chosen Senior Citizen of the Year in Linden. It is a great honor and Doris, her family and friends are all thrilled. A special program will be held at the John T. Gregorio Center, Helen Street, on Friday, May 20, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Some invitations will be sent out, but everyone is welcome and invited to attend. Other seniors, who have given of their time this past year, will also receive certifications of appreciation. We will be pleased to greet everyone on this very special day.

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INTERFAITH COUNCIL BIBLE STUDY

On March 13, 20, 27, April 6, 12 and 17, the Sunday Lenten Bible Study programs were held in our church sponsored by the Interfaith Council. They were well received and averaged over 20 - 25 people each week from various churches in Linden.

We especially would like to thank the following ministers who led the interesting discussions each Sunday:

- Rev. Ryan Landino—Calvin Presbyterian Ch.**
- Rev. David Groeneveld – Reformed Church**
- Rev. Jean Carlo Jasman - Hope International**

We also thank Carolyn Franz for arranging the light refreshments served each Sunday and the members of our church providing it.

**EASTER FLOWERS LISTED IN OUR EASTER
BULLETIN**

EASTER FLOWERS - 2011

“The snow white blooms of the lily stand for new hope which Easter brings to all mankind – a message of peace, love, and immortality.”

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mary & Bob Dalziel, George Michael Koslosky
by MaryJane Koslosky
Albert Henel & Betty Lamont by Doris Henel
Loved Ones by Ruth Schulte
Michael Hinko by Joy Hinko and Family
Loving Parents, and in honor of Estela Adivida by
Ida Peralta
Grandparents, Phyllis & Caleb Reid by Dawn &
Jim Robson
Beloved Aunt of Dawn, Phyllis Reid. by Dawn &
Jim Robson
Father of Dawn, Wilbur Boynton, by Dawn & Jim
Robson
Ceferino Gonzalez by Nikkie, John & Cristian
Gonzalez
George Barnes by Mary Barnes
Loved Ones by Leona Parker
Ed Gasorek by Beatrice Bradford
Geoffrey Lashley & Harold Deare by Susanne &
Jamilla Lashley
Fred & Randy Gmitter by Kathryn Gmitter
Loved Ones by Kathryn Gmitter
Loved Ones by Doris Stamer
Loved Ones by Gertrude Baldwin
Loved Ones by Gertrude Kiely
Mom & Dad, Maria & Angelo Alicia by Minerva
Diaz
Roberta Valdez by the Jack Valdez Family
Christian J. & Kenny W. Hanns by Wayne & Roni
Hanns
Betty Hanns & Ceil Branch by Wayne & Roni
Hanns
Loved Ones by Lorraine & Bob Carhart
Lawson Family by Grace Lawson
Lillian Marosi by the Marosi Family
Family Members by Mildred Ebert
Ralph Horsch, Sr. by Vera Horsch and Family

IN HONOR OF

Husband, Children & Sister, by Kathy Curtin
The Troops in Harm’s Way by the Hanns Family
Anita Hawkes by Roni & Wayne Hanns

STEWARDSHIP

We are continuing our campaign to help in any way, to save our resources. Here are a few small suggestions which you may already be following.

1. *Regular recycling of plastics, glad, paper.*
2. *save aluminum cans – TAKE TO FIREHOUSE ON SOUTH WOOD AVE. THE MONEY OBTAINED WILL BE GIVEN TO BURN UNITS.*
3. *SHUT OFF LIGHTS WHEN LEAVING THE ROOM – AT HOME AND IN CHURCH.*
4. *TURN HEAT DOWN – wear a sweater.*
5. *Walk whenever possible - GOOD EXERCISE, TOO!*
6. *USE ONLY Recyclable PRODUCTS WHEN HAVING PARTIES OR COFFEE HOURS AT HOME OR CHURCH.*
7. *SAVE RAIN WATER TO WATER PLANTS.*
8. *AT THE SHORE OR IN THE PARK, USE REFUSE CANS OR TAKE TRASH WITH YOU.*

*AT A ROSE GARDEN I LIKE TO VISIT IS THIS SIGN:
“TAKE ONLY PHOTOS.
LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS”*

*a GOOD PRACTICE EVERYWHERE
get involved!!*

*Gertrude Baldwin, Chairperson
Stewardship Committee*



...and all others, too!!

MAY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 – Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship Service	2 7-Board of Trustees (D.Beyer,T.Henel, J.Stamer,W.Hanns, E.Ettel,G.Baldwin, B.Losyk 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	3 11:30- United Meth. Women in Aldersgate Hall. Bring sandwich 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch. 4:30-Weight Watchers	4 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sc	5 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	6	7 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
8 9 -Choir Rehearsal 10:30 – Worship Service	9 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.	10 4:30-6:30 -Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	11 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	12 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	13	14 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym
15 9 AM - Choir 10:30-Worship Service	16 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	17 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	18 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	19 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch	20	21 9:30-1:30- Fencing School in gym
22 9 AM Choir Rehearal 10:30 -Worship Service	23 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	24 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	25 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	26 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	27	28 9:30-1:30- Fencing Sch
29 9:00 - Choir 10:30 Worship Service	30 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	31 4:30 – 6:30 Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch				