

The Church of the Holy Family

Family Affairs

March 2021

Deadline for March *Family Affairs*: **March 17**

I come from a people who are seriously devoted to chocolate. I was, therefore, all anticipation some years ago when my mother offered to bring her new favorite dessert when she came for a visit. She arrived and produced a loaf of dense dark chocolate cake. It was delicious. It was called Slices of Sin. Loved the cake. Did not love the name.

I do not mean to make too much of a dessert's name, but what I object to is the easy association between something delightful and something sinful. My understanding of God is that God is creative, life-giving, life-sustaining, steadfastly faithful, and loving. God wraps God's self with light as with a cloak, and spreads out the heavens like a curtain. God sends springs into the valleys where all the beasts of the field drink their fill and the wild asses quench their thirst. God makes grass grow for flocks and herds and plants to serve humankind, that they may bring forth food from the earth, wine to gladden our hearts, oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart. (Psalm 104) God delights in beauty. God delights in the delight of God's creatures.

In and of itself chocolate cake is not sinful (setting aside for now questions like what kinds of labor were involved in the production of the chocolate). So what, then, is? Rowan Williams says that sin is not some sort of high-drama Satanic defiance, or even exciting naughtiness. It is, he says, "just the condition of being seriously wrong about reality and living against the grain. The committed sinner is the equivalent of the person who is convinced that you can make trains run on black coffee and is determined to go on trying, however much the evidence stacks up in favor of the more usual options. . . Sin is therefore bound to be, in the long run, deeply frustrating and, objectively speaking, very boring indeed." ("Living Against the Grain of Reality", *Church Times*, 11 May 2010)

God's intention for the world is relationship. We are meant to be friends with God, with one another, and with the entire created world. If we believe that God is Love, which I do, that means there must be a current of joy and delight underpinning all of what God has made. The purpose of the disciplines we take on in Lent is not to punish us for our waywardness, but to draw us into an even closer relationship with God. The fasts we enter into are not to rein in our delight in food, but to whet our appetite for the ineffable joy of knowing we are God's. The aim of Lent is to bring us closer to all that is good, lovely, and, yes, delicious.

My prayer for us all is that in our observance of this holy Lent, we will discern ever more clearly the beauty, grace, and delight with which God has blessed us. May this Lententide lead you out from the dark dullness of sin and into God's own joyful light.

Your sister in Christ,

Sarah

from the Associate Rector

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Summary of Vestry minutes

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON December 15 THE VESTRY:

- Heard the Rector's report, including: We have been managing fairly well with outside liturgies. The Christmas Eve video service will include singers from Parish youth. Over the past couple of weeks problems have arisen for a number of Holy Family parishioners and we have found ways to support them.
- Treasurer's Report: Richard Fair reported the balance sheet is still healthy due to reduced expenditures offsetting reductions in giving and financial numbers are good considering the circumstances.
- Every Member Canvass results: There have been 75 pledges with no change, 18 pledges with lower amounts compared to 2020, 51 pledges with higher amounts compared to 2020, and 12 new pledges. The number of pledges received so far is 15 percent less than this time last year but more pledges are expected to come in and Holy Family will be all right.

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON January 19 THE VESTRY:

- The Rector reported that several small groups had been formed recently. Evening Prayer services in Advent were well attended and a similar program is planned for Lent. The Jubilee Fund has been well funded and appreciated.
- The Associate Rector reported that the Adult Christian Education program on the history of Holy Family's land is about halfway completed, and attendees have been learning about how the land came to be Holy Family's and who lived and worked on it in the past. A parish reading program, Evening Prayer services, and a soup cooking series are planned for Lent.
- Allison Zollicoffer, chair of the Finance Committee, presented information on the 2021 operating budget. Roughly 22 percent of money received by Holy Family goes to outreach. The 2021 budget is essentially flat, with expected receipts exceeding expenses by \$15,000.00. Recommendations for allocating 2020 surplus of \$62,000.00 were as follows: \$2,000.00 to help St. Mark's in Wilson; \$20,000.00 for 2021 Contingency Fund; \$15,000.00 transfer to Capital Reserves; \$5,000.00 to Outreach; and \$20,000.00 transferred to the Vestry Discretionary Fund. The vestry supported the proposals but formal approval was addressed during Executive Session following the vestry meeting.

Commission Meetings in March, via Zoom:

Outreach Commission will meet Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.

Finance Commission will meet Tuesday, March 16, 6:00 p.m.

Vestry will meet Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

LENT AT HOLY FAMILY

We may not be able to gather in person this Lent, but we will gather to pray, study, and even cook together via Zoom! Here are a few of the things on offer:

Pray

Many of us cherished the opportunity to pray together through Advent, thanks to Laura Collins, John Paul, Julia Powers, and Bryan Dougan who served as our hosts and officiants. This Lenten season we will return to **daily Evening Prayer Monday-Thursday at 5:30 p.m.** with the help of returning and new officiants. On Wednesday, March 3, we will pray the Great Litany together, and on Wednesday, March 17, we will pray the Stations of the Cross.

Study

One of the books Clarke, Angela, and I return to time and again is *Tokens of Trust*, by Rowan Williams. The book's subtitle is "An Introduction to Christian Belief", but I have read it at least once a year since it was first published in 2010 and I find something new to treasure in it every single time. Please join us in reading or rereading this beautiful book Thursdays in Lent at noon, beginning February 18th. The book is widely available in a variety of formats, and I have detailed chapter outlines that I am happy to share with anyone who would find them useful.

In addition to *Tokens of Trust*, Jan Kowal and Sheryl Forbis have invited us to join them in reading and discussing two important books: *The Color of Compromise*, which is the book our bishop has selected as the diocesan Lenten book, and *The Color of Law*, which is immediately relevant to the conversations we've been having about the connections between race, real estate, and the racial wealth gap. Jan will lead us in a discussion of *The Color of Compromise* in March, and Sheryl will host the conversation in April. Zoom links for both will be available in advance.

Cook

Holy Family's Soup Suppers on Wednesdays in Lent are a longstanding and much-cherished tradition. While we cannot crowd into the Parish Hall to eat together, we can cook some soup together with the help of three of Holy Family's many excellent cooks! **Karyn Hlad Miller, Susan Brown, and Lisa Ray** will each be leading us through the making of one of their favorite soups, using recipes they will share in advance so that we all have time to gather the necessary ingredients. On Wednesday February 24, March 10, and March 24 from 6-7 p.m. we will gather in one another's kitchens via Zoom and make soup, while Karyn, Susan, and Lisa show us how it's done. It makes me hungry just to think about it!

Lenten Evening Prayer, Monday-Thursday, February 17-March 31, 5:30-5:50 p.m.

Lenten Study, *Tokens of Trust*, Thursdays, February 18-March 25, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

The Color of Compromise, Monday, March 15, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Lenten Soup Making, February 24, March 10, March 24, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

All of the above will be via Zoom. Links will be sent to the parish listserv in advance and posted on the calendar at holyfamilych.org.

Join the Canonical Crime Squad Monday, March 8th at 7:00 p.m., for a Midwestern romp with Emilie Richards' *Blessed Is the Busybody*. Aggie Wilcox was expecting the Women's Society delegation to show up at the Emerald Springs Unitarian parsonage. She wasn't expecting them to find a dead, naked blonde sprawled across the front stoop. The parson's wife adds solving the murder to her list of chores, including saving her husband's job, surviving her daughters' pre-teen drama, and dealing with picketers at her new job. Zoom address will be available in the March 7th bulletin.

Christian Education for Children and Youth

Lent and Holy Week At Home

Find a space to create a prayer altar in your home, one that you can come to as a household each night. Cover the altar using the burlap from your Ash Wednesday kit or purple, the color of Lent. Change the cloth to red for Holy Week, and to white on Easter. Then, work to gather the following items to fill your altar:

- **An Image of Jesus that speaks to you:** An icon of The Holy Family, The Crucifixion, The Good Shepherd, or another piece of art that you have on hand or that your household finds meaningful (postcards from art museums are great for this).
- **Cross:** Use your talents and creativity to trace, build, decorate, draw, sculpt, paint, construct, or piece together materials to create a cross.
- **Rock:** The stone that is rolled away from the tomb. As Easter Sunday approaches, you can decorate the rock and remember that Jesus was buried after his death.
- **Prayer List:** Write down the names of people, places, hopes, worries, thanksgivings, or other thoughts to share with God. Let this list serve as a reminder to sit and pray together throughout Lent and Holy Week.
- **A reminder of Baptism:** Add a bowl or pitcher of water, a shell, or a baptism candle.
- **Create Prayer Cards:** Identify words or phrases that have significance to you during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Select paper (white paper, cardstock, craft paper, parchment paper, etc), and cut a postcard-sized piece. Create a border using colored paper, writing utensils, or other craft material. Write your chosen words on the center of your paper as you reflect and pray on their meaning. You can make several cards to help guide you through the major moments leading up to Easter Sunday Morning. Some examples include: Hosanna, Stay With Me, Ubi Caritas, Jesus Remember Me, Amen, and eventually Alleluia, or He is Risen (wait until Easter morning for these last two!).
- We will have available materials for **keeping the Holy Hour** over the night between Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. These can also be set on your table. Invite each member of your household to select an hour in the night to “keep watch with Jesus.” Younger kids can keep watch the first “hour” of the night. Those who are not yet of reading age may like to keep a quarter or half hour with some coloring and simple music like Taize chants.

Red Easter Eggs: A Tradition Adapted for our Time

The tradition of Red Easter Eggs dates back to the time after Jesus’s death, when Mary Magdalene, in the presence of the Emperor Tiberius, told him the story of Christ’s resurrection. She presented him with an egg, saying “Christ is Risen.” The emperor responded that the story of Jesus rising from the dead was as believable as the egg in her hand turning red. Miraculously, the egg she held turned red. The tradition of sharing red eggs has become a way to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and although we are unable to have an Easter Egg hunt together, the tradition will continue. To celebrate the Easter season this year, sign up to have Red Easter Eggs hidden in your yard (or a pick-up kit made). Please email Nicole (ndpowell12@gmail.com) to sign up to receive eggs and have them hidden, to help hide eggs in a yard nearby, or to request a basket of eggs be held at the church for you to pick up (please specify this in your email. All handling of eggs will be covid-safe with all precaution for time lapse, social distance, and handwashing/glove wearing practiced. The eggs will be filled with the letters from “Alleluia” and a “basket” for an Easter garden will accompany. **These will be delivered the second Sunday of Easter rather than Easter 1.**

Elementary Sunday School supply kits for Holy Week, Easter, and Spring will be available in the days before Easter to help us celebrate at home. These kits will include items that remind us of the story of Jesus’s death and the celebration of His resurrection. We will also have supplies and activities to help us commemorate Holy Days and Feast Days this spring.

Love in Motion – Crop Walk 2021!

The Crop Walk will go on--even in Coronavirus times! Holy Family will be sponsoring a team once again! The Walk will be virtual this year, with a walk 'week' planned for April 19th-24th—with the big walk day on April 25th! The Crop Walk is an annual fundraiser to fight hunger —both worldwide and right in our own neighborhood.

While an actual formal gathering of walkers will not happen, we encourage our Holy Family team members to walk—anytime the week of April 19th and especially on April 25th! Where should you walk? We suggest honoring our own Inter-Faith Council by starting and ending your walk at the new Inter-Faith Council Commons, 110 W. Main Street, Carrboro. Also suggested are photos, so we can document the event on social media. We will not be selling t-shirts this year—walkers are encouraged to wear any favorite Crop Walk shirts from previous walks (we do have a few shirts from last year's walk available—complimentary with any donation. Just email our team captain, Georgia Wennerstrom, and she can drop it off at your house.)

Ready to walk with us, donate, or sponsor? Go to:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/church-of-the-holy-family>. Please share this site with friends and family. We need your help more than ever during these difficult times. Help us get to our goal of \$4,000.00! Questions? Please reach out to our team captain, Georgia Wennerstrom (georgia.wenners@gmail.com) Thank you!





Lenten Food Collection:

Feeding the hungry...

Saturday, March 20



Qualifying families and individuals can receive groceries once a month at Interfaith Council which will last for perhaps one week...but what about the other weeks during this pandemic? The Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA) fills in many of the gaps by serving the needs of the historically (and historic) African-American community around Rogers Road with community organizing, tutoring, community garden, and a food pantry that provides for over 250 households on the third Friday of every month.

On **Saturday, March 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, please come to the lower parking lot (Brandon Road) with non-perishable items from the list below to stock their food pantry. As you drive through, properly masked volunteers will take them from your trunk or back seat and deliver them later to the **RENA Community Center**. Please choose from the following list of most urgently needed items:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Soup (cans) | Spaghetti Sauce | Honey |
| Jelly or Jam | Peanut Butter | Pancake Mix |
| Grits (instant) | Syrup | Oatmeal (instant) |
| Tuna | | |

Extra brown paper bags & cardboard boxes are also needed.
THANK YOU!

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.

—Mark 11:17

Your prayers are invited for the people of our parish and of all nations,
and for the extension and establishment of the kingdom of God.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Intercessory Prayers on behalf of specific individuals or groups can be recorded in the notebook kept on a lectern in the Narthex. Intercessions are offered at Morning and Evening Prayer during the week. To have a prayer included in the parish prayer list, please call the church office: 919-942-3108.

The e-mail listserv is a means of inviting the community to join in praying for particular concerns or thanksgivings. To make a prayer request in this way, contact either the Rev. Clarke French (cfrench@chfnc.net) or the Rev. Sarah Ball-Damberg (sballdamberg@chfnc.net).

Confidential requests for prayer may be made directly to one of the clergy.

This month, please pray for:

• **The victims** and perpetrators of violence, and the victims of war and natural disasters.

• **Those who lead the nation**, especially Joe Biden, our President, and Roy Cooper, our Governor. Please pray that they may serve justice, and promote equality and peace.

• **Those who risk their lives** in the service of their country, especially members of the armed forces and the diplomatic corps.

• **Our sick, homebound, and recovering**, especially Dave Worster, Lisa Worster, Dick Forbis, Bill and Mary Harrison, Marie Carotenuto, George Bloomer, Sara Smith, Aileen Womark-Montes, Celia Lata, Mary Anne Kendall, Molly Summerlin, Carolyn Parker, Cynthia Baker, and Jennifer Olson.

• **Those who have died**, especially Amos Baldwin (former Holy Family Sexton).

• **Those expecting children**, especially Michelle Sroka, Allie Leight Gochez, and Julia Sendor.

• **Those in any need or trouble**, especially Billy Ray, James, and Ray in prison; Eddie on Death Row; incarcerated men and staff of Orange Correctional Center and those recently re-entering society from prison.

• **Our bishops**, The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop; the Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, Bishop of North Carolina; the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan of North Carolina.

• **Our seminaries**, especially the University of the South, Sewanee, the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies at the Duke Divinity School, and the Seminary of the Southwest.

• **Our mission partners**, Gyani Thapa in Nepal (Kirtipur Christian Fellowship), Catherine Piwang in Uganda (ChildReach Africa), and Karen Calani in Guatemala (Food for the Hungry).

• **L'École de Notre Dame** in Molas, Haiti, its students, teachers, and staff, and priest-in-charge Père Jean Jonas Laborde.

• **The Augustine Literacy Project** students, tutors, staff, and board members.

• **Our clergy**: Clarke, Sarah, and Paula.

• **The staff of our parish**: Tom, Gary, Julie, Bill, Angela, and Nicole.

house of prayer

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Comings and goings

*The Lord shall watch
over your going out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for
evermore.*

—Psalm 121:8

Address updates:

Mary Frances Beaver, 11 Nooe Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312
Laura Hamrick, 3003 Back Stretch Blvd., Indian Trail, NC 28079-5748