

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE HILL

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

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From the Rector

The Thingness of Things

Why do we have sacraments? The deepest reason is that Jesus was God Incarnate, that is, God-in-the-flesh, God and man united in a single person. Christianity does not despise the world; on the contrary, it celebrates the things of creation, the very thing-ness of things.

So we have sacraments because we don't worship God with our heads only: it is as embodied selves that we worship God. And it is embodied selves such as we are that Jesus came to save. Sacraments, in the time-honored Anglican definition, are "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace." God has chosen to communicate his grace, through the Church, by means of concrete sacraments.

The two major sacraments are baptism and Eucharist. Baptism is once; Eucharist is repeated. Baptism is initiation into the Christian way of life; Eucharist is food for Christian pilgrims as they journey on the way. It is rather clear from scripture, and quite clear from the history of the early Church, that baptism and Eucharist in those early days were a package deal. When you were baptized, you were admitted to the eucharistic assembly, and you received as part of the same service the Body and the Blood. Over time, for various reasons, the unified practice of baptism and Eucharist was lost. Between them arose the sacramental rite generally called confirmation.

Today, in the Episcopal Church, the union of baptism and Eucharist has been reclaimed. Any person who is baptized, no matter how young, may receive the Holy Communion. Confirmation remains, not as the link between baptism and Eucharist, but as a filling-out of the meaning of baptism when either of two

conditions apply: (a) when a person is baptized at an age too young to answer for himself, or (b) when a person is baptized when no bishop is present.



Father Victor Austin

When Bishop Sisk was here recently we had a vivid picture of the union of baptism and Eucharist. Bill Nemeth, an adult of sound mind, was baptized as part of a rite presided over by the bishop of New York. Bill renounced Satan and everything evil, and put his trust in Jesus Christ as his savior, and affirmed the tenets of the Apostles' Creed—all in the presence of the bishop, who is the successor of the apostles and the representative of the universal church. He was baptized, and he knelt before the bishop as he received the post-baptismal chrismation. He received the Body and the Blood. He will never be confirmed, because nothing was lacking in that ceremony.

All of us—baptized folk—are on a pilgrimage from the font to the feast of paradise, where (we pray) we may join with the saints in the eternal home of those who love God. It is not a pilgrimage which leaves flesh behind, but one which takes everything that is truly human and brings it into the presence of God. We have sacraments to remind us that our hope is not to have an immortal soul, but a resurrected body: life, as a human being, with God and the saints forever.

May God bless you in this season of Resurrection.

Father Victor



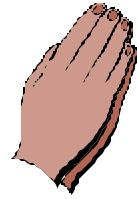
Women's Prayer Groups

The Women's Prayer Groups will resume their regular meeting schedule in May. There are two sessions: one that meets from 9:00 - 10:30AM and one that meets from 7:00 - 8:30PM

on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. We are currently meeting in the Undercroft at church.

This would be a good time for new members to join. Any interested women are

encouraged to call Anne Kasin at 831 - 7057 for further information.



Membership Ministry

Do you know that this ministry involves each and every one of us?

If you think of Resurrection as your parish home and our congregation as your parish family, then yes, you are responsible for helping with our hospitality ministry!

True, we have a wonderful team of Greeters and Ushers that welcome visitors and newcomers as they come through our red doors for the first time - many of you have experienced that warmth when you first came to Resur-

rection. True, we have a Vestry that stays in touch with each family monthly - hopefully you have all been contacted by your special Vestry Liaison partner. But each of us has our own job to do too!

If you use the home and family analogy, you will understand immediately what I am referring to. When we have company to visit in our homes, how do we treat them? We greet them warmly, invite them in, and then proceed to endeavor to make them feel as comfortable and welcome as possible.

We feed them perhaps, we engage them in conversation or activity, we let them know that we care about them and are happy that they have come.

ALL of us need to be able to do that at Resurrection too! If you see someone who is new, or that you have not yet met, please approach them with a smile and say hello. Don't be afraid to help the confused newcomer find the place in the prayer book, show the new parent where the Sunday School is, invite a

new family downstairs to Coffee hour, and then introduce them to some of your church family members. If you notice someone standing alone at Coffee Hour, please introduce yourself. It's just basic Christian hospitality - all of us, at one time or another, have been the stranger in a new situation and can remember how grateful we were for the kind person who thankfully approached us in friendship. Look around and be aware at church - it IS your ministry too!

Our Church Library

Our library now has a copy of Father Austin's doctoral dissertation, [A Christological Social Vision: The Uses of Christ in the Social Encyclicals of John Paul II.](#)

There are also some children's books about Jesus and the saints, and a few new titles:

[Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter](#)
[The Healing Path of Prayer](#)

by Ron Roth

[Reclaim Your Spiritual Power](#) by Ron Roth

[The Supper of the Lamb](#) by Robert Farrar Capon

-Karin Lempke

Nursery Update

Keep an eye on our nursery, it's about to get a face-lift! The Girl Scouts of Junior Troop 411 have chosen to update our church nursery as their Bronze Award service project.

What is a Bronze Award? The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest award a junior girl scout (10-12 year old girls) can earn. One of the requirements is a service project that takes 15 hours

to complete.

The girls have been very busy and are excited for the children to see their newly updated play area!

-Debbie Evans



Ask A Priest

Our newsletter gets around—not only by post, but through the Internet as well. This issue's question came from a gentleman in Florida. (You may know how I feel about Florida, but nonetheless it is a good question.) He writes: "What are the norms for the laity using holy water? Each year I sprinkle some or make the sign of the cross on my home advent wreath." And he asks if there are any uses or prohibitions.

I would like to answer this question indirectly, going behind holy water in general to the water of baptism, and going behind that to just plain old water.

Let's start with water. We use water in two ways: to drink, and to make ourselves clean. The image of flowing water, water in abundance, is one way to conceive the abundance of God's gifts for us. In Isaiah, the prophet issues an invitation to come to God using the words, "Come, buy water without price!" And a

great quantity of water is a picture of God's abundant power to take away our sins.

Baptism, then, is the sacrament, which uses the outward and visible sign of a bath to convey the inward and spiritual grace of forgiveness. God in Jesus washes away our sins.

What is sin? Sin is willful human action that rejects God in some way. Sin has the immediate consequence of separating us from God. The water of baptism is, then, that which brings about our union with God. In baptism, the Holy Spirit gives us unity with Christ; one with Christ, we are reconciled to God. So when we say baptism is the sacrament of taking away our sins, we mean it is the sacrament of being reconciled to God.

This brings us to holy water. Holy water is the water used in baptism: water which has been blessed by a priest, either as part of the service of baptism, or separately. Here at Resurrection we keep the

(leftover) baptismal water in the sacristy, and the altar guild uses it to fill the holy water "stoup" (pronounced STOOOP) which is near the back entrance of the church. (If it runs out, I bless some more.) The stoup is simply a shallow dish, about 3 feet above ground, which holds holy water. A former member who was a potter, Cindy McKenzie, made ours as a gift to the parish.

When you enter and leave the church, you may dip a finger in the stoup, and then use the holy water to cross yourself. Holy water tends to be used in this way: the union of water and cross reminds us of Jesus' saving victory over death, which victory we are privileged to share in when we are baptized. This action with holy water is simply a *reminder* and nothing more: baptism is once-and-for-all, just like Jesus' own death and resurrection.

We also use holy water occasionally in liturgy, for the ceremony known as

"asperges." This happens, for instance, at the Easter Vigil. Part of that service is always the blessing of baptismal water (even if there are no baptisms). Then I will take a small mace, called an "aspergilium," and bless the people by sprinkling them with the holy water.

At Resurrection we do not have the custom of taking holy water home, although there is nothing wrong with doing so. There are no norms in the Episcopal Church governing its use at home. The principle that should govern is that holy water be used as a reminder of our baptism, and of our salvation in Christ, and not be used in any way that would suggest superstition. (We should not cast aspersions on the full sufficiency of Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice!) There would be nothing wrong with using holy water with a Christian home ritual, such as an Advent wreath, or such as crossing oneself when going out or coming in.

News from the Undercroft

On Saturday night, April 5th, members of our parish family gathered together for fun, food and games. We started off with appetizers and games, and finished with desert, a cake walk and a game of Bible Bingo where we tested our knowledge of the Bible. We had a wonderful turnout and everyone had lots of fun. We hope to have more Family Fun

Nights in the future.

I would like to thank my committee of Janine Iarossi, Dannielle Beitzell, Trish Anderson, Debbie Evans, and Andrea Iarossi for all of their help and support. Without their assistance this wonderful night would not have happened. Also, thanks to Jaclyn and Jessica for their help in setting up,

and to those who helped with the washing up and mopping.

On Sunday, April 27th we will have our Annual Easter Egg hunt. If you need any plastic eggs to fill, please ask Janine or myself.

We are asking for donations of diapers, formula, or food for young children, such as

macaroni and cheese, canned tuna, chicken noodle soup, SpaghettiOs, etc.

Don't forget, all mite boxes need to be in by Sunday, April 27th!

Wishing you and your family a blessed Easter Season,

Vanessa Neely,
Church School Coordinator



Office items needed:

Is anyone in the parish updating their fax machine and willing to donate their old machine to the parish? Let Fr. Victor or Patti know at 226-5727.



Overheard: Conversations by the Cross

This new Lenten Program at Resurrection was very enthusiastically received and I wish to extend my deepest thanks to all who helped set up, made soup, brought bread, helped clean up, read parts in the script, and came to participate!

Wonderful fellowship, tasty

suppers, unique imaginative dramas, and thought provoking discussions have hopefully made the six Mondays in Lent very meaningful to all those who participated.

An average of 20 attended the supper each week, an average of 5 more came

later just for the drama and discussion, and over \$85 was collected and will be donated to help the hungry and homeless.

With my sincere appreciation,

Anne Kasin

From the Recovery Advocate

A recent associated press article states that N.Y. has the third fewest DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) deaths in the U.S. According to N.Y. State Police Superintendent James McMahan, "The single most effective means to prevent serious injury is a seat belt." Besides seat belts he cited several factors in the drop in alcohol related deaths on N.Y. roads: Two reductions in the legal threshold for N.Y. drivers blood alcohol concentrations in the

early 70's; "Stop DWI" awareness programs; sobriety check points starting in the 80's; and advocacy groups making people aware of the victims.

At the end of the 2002 legislative session, the state senate passed a measure to reduce the BAC threshold from 0.10 to 0.08 percent for driving while intoxicated offenses. In 2001, 1548 traffic deaths were reported. Of those, 498 were alcohol related. Two

decades earlier N.Y. had 2,162 crash fatalities, 1131 alcohol related.

How do you determine if someone is driving while intoxicated? Police use a breathalyzer which measures alcohol in the blood. The breathalyzer is a portable device that measures the proportion of alcohol vapors in exhaled air, a proportion that reflects the content of alcohol in the blood. Currently, there are also devices drivers

can use to measure their own blood alcohol content. The Guardian Angel is a strip placed in the mouth for 10 seconds, then held to a "risk meter" that ranks alcohol content in saliva. So far, these strips have not been distributed in N.Y.

Please remember that even if a driver is under the legal level, he or she can still be impaired.

-Sue Blodgett

Shop for Summer, Support the Church

You may not think too much about it, but each time you purchase a nonfood item, you make a donation to the state government. Wouldn't it be neat if you were also supporting the church when you buy that new swimsuit for summer? You can, but you need to invest a few minutes of your time first.

iGive.com is a gateway to more than 400 online stores, each of which will donate a percentage of your purchases to the charity you designate.

The rules are fairly simple: you need to register with iGive, and access the store through the iGive web site. The rest is transparent. iGive accumulates the donations to the charity until they reach \$20, and then send a check. In addition to a percentage of your purchases, iGive will also make a donation to the church when you register and make a purchase (within 45 days of registration).

The collection of stores is quite good. Last Christmas,

for example, we "eshopped" at Lands End, The Palm Store, and Barnes and Noble. Each resulted in a donation to the Church of the Resurrection. If you booked a trip through Expedia, the church would enjoy a donation while you were off seeing North Dakota, or whatever.

To get started, visit the Church web site [<http://nyresurrection.homestead.com>], and click on the "Resurrection Today" button. On the bottom left,

you will see the iGive logo. Click it, and follow directions. Go ahead - visit the mall without the hassle of traffic. You could have flowers sent to your mother, pre-order the next Harry Potter book, or get that wedding present for the June bridal season.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to Father Victor or myself about the program.

-Tom Crisman

Jesus Goes to Jerusalem

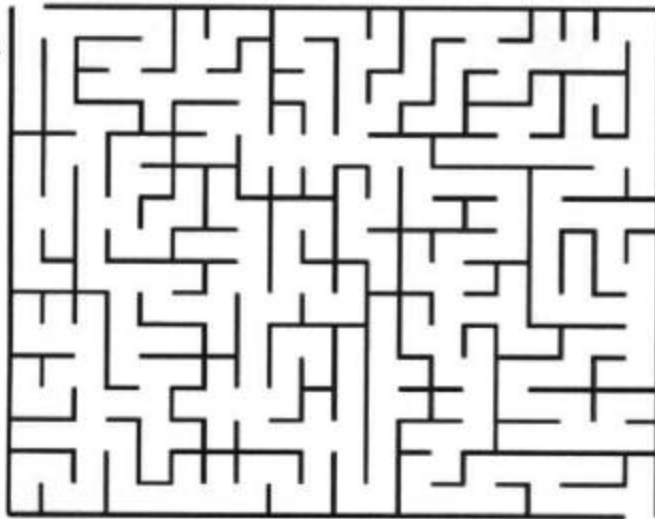
Matthew 21:1-11 (NIV)

Jesus had been ministering to the people for 3 1/2 years now. During that time he preached to the people that they should seek God and His Kingdom, performed many miracles and healed many people. Now he realized the time had come to lay down his life for the world as their Savior. He wished to go to Jerusalem for the Passover and he knew that if he did he put himself in danger. You can read in Matthew 18:17-19 what he prophesied would happen to him.

The people loved Jesus, and as he approached Jerusalem on the back of a donkey colt, they rejoiced to see him. Read Matthew 21:6-9 (NIV) to see what they did and said and fill in the blanks below.

“Hosanna to the ___ of ___!”
 _____ is he who comes in the _____ of the _____!
 “_____ in the highest!”

When Jesus arrived at Jerusalem, he went to the Temple. Lead him there through the maze.



Answer: Son, David, Blessed, name, Lord, Hosanna.

What is the point of life?

What happens when we die?

What relevance does Jesus have for our lives today?

How do we deal with guilt?



If you would like to explore any of these questions, then Alpha is for you.

What is Alpha?

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith.

Learning and laughter. It is possible to learn about the Christian faith and have fun at the same time.

Pasta & pudding. Eating a meal together gives people an opportunity to get to know each other.

Helping one another. The small groups give you a chance to discuss issues raised in the talks.

Ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is regarded as too simple or too hostile.

What's involved?

The Alpha course consists of a series of talks looking at topics such as 'Who is Jesus?' and 'Why and how do I pray?' After each talk we divide into small groups and discuss any questions raised from the talk.

Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for everyone. it particularly caters for:

- Those wanting to investigate Christianity
- Newcomers to the church
- New Christians
- Those who want to brush up on the basics

What will it cost?

There is no charge for the Alpha course.

Got Questions? Come to Alpha

Church of the Resurrection
182 Route 376
Hopewell Junction, NY
845-226-5727

Tuesdays, beginning April 22 and ending June 24
6:30—9 P.M.

**An opportunity
to explore
the meaning of life.**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
THE RESURRECTION



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PO Box 148
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Phone: 845-226-5727
Email: resurrect@mindspring.com

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A Note from the JOAT!

I have many things to say and not much room, so please excuse my brevity! This newsletter has grown to enormous proportions and I am very excited to be a part of this fabulous ministry! I want to thank Eileen Doherty for doing the photocopies of the newsletter, Trish Anderson for making sure the labels are secure and the letters sorted before she delivers them to the post office, and to all of you who submit articles and help us fold, staple and tape the newsletter! If you are willing to help with this ministry in some way, please feel free to contact me!

The craft fair has many changes coming to it this year, and I hope that it also grows as nicely as this newsletter! With the many crafty hands we have so far, I know it will be a great success! We will be crafting on the third Sunday of the month at 4 P.M. (times may change later) in the Undercroft. Our next meeting will not be until May 18th—and I look forward to seeing you there!

May your scissors be sharp and your glue be tacky!

Dannielle Beitzell

JOAT (jack of all trades—master of none!)