

THE FISHERMAN

WE ARE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF LOVING, CARING MEMBERS, WHO REACH OUT TO WELCOME OTHERS THROUGH SOCIAL ACTION, MINISTRY, AND INSPIRATIONAL, SACRAMENTAL WORSHIP.

Father Frank's Easter Letter

Easter is a celebration of our Lord's resurrection from the dead, and it is the ultimate exercise in dealing with paradoxes. The resurrection from the dead is the ultimate paradox! THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

A former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church said, "Heresy is the inability to believe paradox." This was certainly true in the days of the early Church. Most of the early heretics refused to accept the seeming paradox of God, a spirit being, taking on the flesh of a human. In Greek thinking, which influenced many of the heresies, flesh and spirit were incompatible: the two could not co-exist in the same being.

But paradox was a natural way of viewing life in the Jewish world in which Jesus lived. Hebrews had a very holistic view of life. God is the God of light and darkness, of day and night. The rain falls on the just and the unjust.

The paradoxes Jesus used in his teaching were not strange-sounding to his Jewish hearers. When Jesus said, "the last shall be first," or "to live you must die," the Jews understood these figures of speech.

But Jesus' very life was a paradox. He only loved, but was hated, and he was despised not by evil people, but by the very religious. Jesus was a master of the disciples, yet on the night of his betrayal, he became a servant to those who followed him, and demonstrated servitude by washing his disciples' feet.

And of course, the ultimate paradox is the death and resurrection of our Lord. There is no Easter without Good Friday. We, who have been baptized with Christ, also share in his death and resurrection. Or to use the closing words of the Prayer of Francis, "It is in dying to self, that we are born to eternal life." And because Christ rose victorious from the grave, our hope is there fixed, that we, too, will share in his resurrection and live with him forever!

But paradox confounds those who approach life using logic and reason. Anything outside the realm of the rational, or that which cannot be proven, does not exist. Besides, they argue, how can you base your belief system on concepts that are apparently contradictory?

Remember, heresy is the inability to deal with paradox.

Jesus said, in order to enter my kingdom, you must become, not wise or wealthy or powerful. In order to enter my kingdom, you must become like children. For childlike faith doesn't seek absolute truths. Childlike faith willingly accepts and continually marvels at *paradox*.

May God bless you and your loved ones with a joyous Easter. And, I pray that on this Easter, God will bless each of us with the gift of childlike faith.

*Faithfully yours,
Fr. Frank*

A Voice from the Deacon's Bench

Dear Friends in Christ,

He is Risen! We are Easter people!

The disciples in the upper room met Jesus once again, face to face, in his resurrected form. We, as present day Christians, must rely on the word of Jesus – “the word of life,” and not his physical presence, to believe. Jesus proclaims blessings on those who come to true faith without the need for sight as proof. We move forward with the knowledge that Jesus is present to us as we serve him. We have direct fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son, as we walk through life with the Light of the World as our guide. As the writer in my Easter Synthesis says, “We are not only enlightened but equipped to serve.”

*Blessings,
Deacon Jean*



Upcoming Events

Long Range Calendar:

4/2 - Office Closed (Easter Monday)

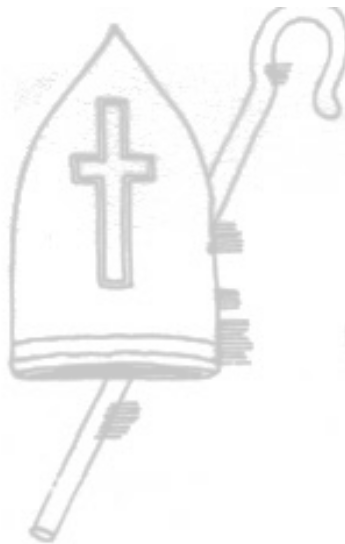
4/3 - 4/11 - Fr. Frank on vacation

4/11-12 - ECW Retreat

5/9 - ECW Spring Potluck Luncheon

6/3 - Bishop Rob at SJTF. Single Service Weekend at 10 am

6/9 & 10 - Service of Reception



Bishop Skirving's Visit

Please remember that our Bishop, Rob Skirving, will visit us on Sunday, June 3rd. In order to celebrate this event as a parish family, we will have a single Eucharist service that weekend on Sunday at 10AM; followed by a Reception in our Parish Hall being coordinated by our ECW.

Additionally, this is traditionally a time when those who desire to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church do so. If you have such a desire, or are curious about what that means, then please speak with me *before Sunday, April 8th*.

Peace - Fr. Frank



A Season of New Beginnings

Easter is the season of new beginnings! It is set during one of the most beautiful seasons of the year – the springtime. Many of the symbols of Easter are taken from the unfolding new life of spring, such as, the lily, Easter eggs, and bunny rabbits. What a fitting time for the Church to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Interestingly the etiology of the term Easter provides insight into this wonderful time of year. Easter is derived from the German word *Eastre*, the name of a pagan goddess, whose feast was celebrated at the spring equinox. In Old English, the term *Eastre* came to designate the east, the direction of the rising sun, and originally referred to the goddess of the dawn. The association of new life at springtime and the rising sun are appropriate symbols for Easter.

We know that the Church repeatedly “Christianized” pagan holidays and “converted” them into the most significant Christian holidays – Christmas and Easter. Such practice reminds us that God always takes the ordinary and mundane events, substances, and people from daily life and uses them as vessels through which God has been revealed to humankind. This is the basis of the Christmas message, when the Spirit of God took on our flesh and came to live among us. It is also foundational to the message of Easter, when the Spirit of God breathed life into the body of the entombed Christ and raised him to new life!

From a biblical perspective, the church adapted some of the Jewish feasts and incorporated the story of Christ and the Church with those holidays. This is especially true of the Feasts of the Passover and Unleavened Bread. In the Christian tradition, Jesus is considered the Paschal lamb, through whose sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the dead the salvation for those who would believe in his name would be won. Jesus also celebrated the Passover with his disciples, at which time the Eucharist was instituted. The Church commemorates these important events of the Passion over a three day period known as the *Triduum Sacrum* (Latin for “the sacred three days” – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). The climatic celebration of the victorious resurrection of Jesus is then observed on the Church’s most notable and important feast, Easter Day!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Come worship, remember and celebrate during this season of new beginnings!

“ . . . but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.”

We are an Easter people, and...

ALLELUIA!

is our Song. St. Augustine



Mary and Martha Chapter

It has come... can you feel it? After 40 days of introspection in Lent, we have now all burst at the seams. The flowers are blooming; the grass is greening up. What could possibly make us this full of joy with HUGE smiles on our faces? It is certainly not the pollen, which we all wish would go away. And definitely not the gully washer storms, although those are surely washing away that dreaded pollen.

Could it be the memories of Easters past in our childhoods: crisp new dresses and hats... new patent leather shoes and white gloves, or new suits with bowties for our brothers. Perhaps it is memories of meals at Grandmom's house with that one favorite dish she made just for us. Maybe it is Easter egg hunts and the year we found the prize egg.

For me it is much more. It is the memories of tradition, of traveling to Grandmom's house. Having a Priest come to the house to bless food and psanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) all carefully laid out on a table Easter Eve. Going to church Easter morning with Grandmom and my whole family. Listening to a church service in a tongue I didn't understand. And at the end of the service everyone shouting "Christos Voskrese!" or responding "Voistinnu Voskrese!" But this I totally understood when it was shouted: "Christ has Risen! He has Risen indeed!"

For all of us memories of Easter are just a little bit different. However, we share a thread of sameness and truth. And so I say to you dear friends ""Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!"



*For His Sake,
Nancy Dougherty*



ECW

We had our March meeting in Bliss Hall on March 7. We started a little early that day because we had a long field trip planned.

We read our ECW Prayer together and welcomed a couple of new members. We enjoyed coffee and refreshments while the various reports were given: Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, etc.

We had three matters to finalize: April's Retreat at Trinity Center April 11-12, donations for Trinity Center scholarship for one teenager at Trinity Center Senior Camp, and the presentation of the new officers for 2018-2019 by the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Bonnie Dolph.

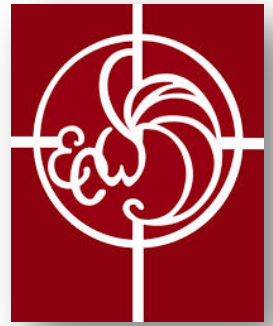
After voting on the above, we settled into different cars and headed for the Horry County Recycling Center and Landfill. Our personality+ guide for the day loaded us in a big van and drove us straight to the top of their HUGE landfill. We learned all about the seagulls and eagles that live off the garbage, and the several different machines that spent the entire day smashing and grinding the garbage down into the earth. 400-600 trucks per day bring trash and garbage into this landfill. Only a small area of the landfill is worked each day with a six-inch covering of dirt added to this small area at the end of the day. It was a fascinating system that seemed to work very smoothly.

We were then driven over to another area that housed their state-of-the-art recycling center. They average receiving 40 trucks of recyclable materials dumping here each day. Each piece of material is handled many times before bundled into its final shape. The workers stand all day long, sorting by color, weight, material, etc. Conveyor belts move the materials up and down and all around this huge building in amazing efficiency. We were all entranced by the whole facility.

As mentioned above, our April meeting will be a fun retreat, an overnight at Trinity Center. Dawn Kellerman and Telina West are the chairpersons for this trip, and we all look forward to it with much anticipation.

Our May meeting will be a potluck luncheon at the home of Toni DeLuca. Mark your calendars now for a delightful treat with lots of good food and fun on May 9. ALL of the women of St. James are automatically members of this vital group. Please Come!!!

Susan Dickerson
2017-2018 President





You did SUCH a good job!

Again, our Junior Warden, Jim Parsch, is going to need help on Saturday April 21 to spread 22 yards of mulch at our church. We will meet at 9:30 AM and hopefully will have many helping hands and make a quick job of it. Please bring your wheelbarrow, rakes, and pitchforks, and we'll tuck our landscaping beds in for a beautiful spring and summer. Rain date will be Saturday April 28.

Jim Parsch, Jr. Warden



Thank You!

Through your generosity, St. James was able to donate 62 bras, 41 pair of underwear, 630 feminine hygiene products, and some miscellaneous toiletries to help homeless and financially challenged women and girls in Brunswick and New Hanover counties through a program called "Support the Girls." Thank you so much.

*Ruth Ann Campbell-Grothe,
Coordinator*





Neighbor to Neighbor Outreach Ministry

I attended a Baptist Women's Mission Fair at Calvary Baptist in Shallotte on March 10 as a representative of St. James and the N2N Ministry. I was asked to set up a table display for the N2N Ministry along with 12 other outreach ministries in the Brunswick area. I was pleased when several people told me that they were aware of this ministry and had talked with people who had received coats from the Closet. I heard nothing but positive words from these

people about the courtesy and kindness the people they had sent to us received. I was able to get a few new sign-ups for N2N packets this fall, but even more rewarding was the response to donating coats in the future. Also the Orthopedic Equipment Lending Program was brought more to the forefront and many said they were so happy that this type of ministry is ongoing, including Brunswick Family Assistance. I hope to look into making separate brochures for the Orthopedic Equipment Lending Program, so people can have this information. I also collected some information and brochures on outreach programs in Brunswick County that I was unaware of. This will be very helpful for those who enter our N2N door and need further assistance.

*A means to touch our fellowman,
Deacon Jean Miller*

Bridge Buddies are scheduled to play on Friday April 6th and 20th, from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in the Gathering Area of St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church. We are always looking for new players, so if you are interested in learning how to play bridge, this is a good opportunity to do so. Any questions call me at 910-842-1865, or email me at bjkbartell@gmail.com.



Barbara Bartell



Altar Flowers

Each week the flowers on the altar add a beautiful touch to our Worship Services. Those dedicating them in honor, memory or thanksgiving of someone provide these flowers solely through donations to our Flower Fund. **Unfortunately we have a large number of weekends where either one or both of the altar vases have not been donated, which is depleting our backup Flower funds.** The cost is \$35 per vase and the signup chart is located in Bliss Hall.

Vestry Notes

The Vestry met on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, in Bliss Hall at 5:30 p.m. After an opening prayer by Fr. Frank and a report from the Treasurer, a discussion and question and answer session concerning the Search Committee's Rector Profile took place. There being no further discussion, a vote to approve the draft profile was taken and unanimously passed.



Our Jr. Warden informed us that the HVAC contract has been signed, and our Spring maintenance service will take place in April. Also, the Vestry has approved a contract for lawn care services. The Jr. Warden will ask for volunteers for a cleanup day.

Fr. Frank spoke about the upcoming Easter services. Please see information elsewhere in the March newsletter. Fr. Frank was also pleased to announce that attendance at all three services was up, and that we have received several new parish families. Thanks to all who have taken the time and initiative to speak to and welcome all visitors.

Finally, the Vestry discussed briefly the upcoming Bishop's visit on June 3.

Remember, the Vestry meetings are open to all. The next Vestry meeting is Tuesday, April 10, at 5:30 p.m. in Bliss Hall.

*Very Respectfully,
Bill Grothe, Sr. Warden*

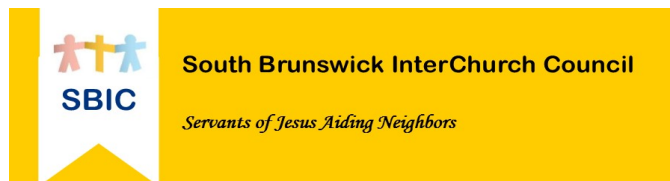


Annual Lobster Sale Coordinator Position Is Open

Bill Chase has volunteered and worked long and hard for many years as the coordinator for our Annual Lobster Sale, which is held on the same day as our Annual Yard Sale/Bake Sale/Craft Sale.

He's handing the reins over. Will you consider taking the reins of this volunteer job? You would be working with our Administrative Assistant, who will assist you with all the paperwork. *It's only a once a year job.*

If you would like to volunteer or would like further information, please call Fr. Frank at 843-817-0486.



SBIC CORNER

Ruth Ann Campbell-Grothe, the St. James Representative on the South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC), attended the monthly meeting held on Monday, March 5, 2018, at Shallotte Presbyterian Church at 8:45 a.m.

Tom Horan, SBIC President, discussed at length the 2018-2019 Spring Volunteer Drive for upcoming fundraising events, as well as the Standing Committees. Anyone wishing to volunteer or needing more information, please contact Tom at 910-232-8680 or tom.horan@atmc.net. Tom also distributed a description of the open board positions and elaborated on the duties of each one. If one of these positions is calling your name, please let Tom Horan know. You do not have to be a current delegate on the SBIC, just have a passion to help the needy in Brunswick County.

1. Public Relations/Communications – Serve as the public voice of the SBIC.
2. CROP Walk/Praise in the Park – Serve as the lead coordinator of this event.
3. Fundraising – Assist Event Chairs and Grant Coordinators, as appropriate.
4. Emergency Assistance – Coordinate one-time emergency services to area families, especially in the areas of utilities (BEMC PowerStat Program, fuel bills), housing (Streetreach Adopt-A-Room Program), and emergency transportation.

The Run For Food (RFF) held at Ocean Isle Beach on Saturday, January 13, raised \$4,776.32 for the SBIC Food Pantry. Mary Pritchard, Coordinator, will hold a planning meeting on Thursday, March 8, at Camp UMC at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the January 12, 2019, RFF. Contact Mary at 910-579-4684 if you are interested in helping with this event.

The final amount raised for the SBIC Food Pantry from the Quilt Raffle was \$1,971.85.

Gloria Wimmer, Spring Concert Coordinator, reported that the following churches will be participating in the concert on Sunday, April 15, at Calabash Covenant Presbyterian Church (CCPC), from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.: St. Brendan Catholic, Beach Assembly of God, St. Luke Lutheran, Cedar Grove Baptist, St. James the Fisherman Episcopal, Seaside UMC, and CCPC. Please bring a can of food for the SBIC Food Pantry. There will be a free-will offering during the concert. Also, for this fundraiser to succeed, all of our member churches need to support the event with their attendance. So, please come out to hear the talent from other churches, and also our own St. James participants!

Mary Pritchard, Pantry Coordinator, reported that the SBIC Food Pantry served 616 children, 1,130 adults, and 745 seniors for a total of 2,491 January-February 2018. Mary received a \$1,000 check from the Sea Trail Garden Club for the Pantry. Mary will be working on 6 grants. Ruth Ann Campbell-Grothe reported that the St. James Coat Closet was closed and thanked everyone for their donations. She also told the members that the Orthopedic Closet was in need of metal canes, seated walkers, and wheelchairs.

The next SBIC General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2018, at Shallotte Presbyterian Church at 8:45 a.m. Anyone is welcome to attend the monthly SBIC Meetings.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ruth Ann or Bill Grothe, your St. James Representatives, at 910-575-1247 or at no1nanie@atmc.net. Until next month...

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Apr 1	Jean Gillette
Apr 5	Kenny Krawcheck
Apr 7	Sam Farag
Apr 11	Dan Dickerson, Dan Kubley
Apr 13	Frank Wilson
Apr 15	Bill Grothe, Bob & Tina Scott
Apr 16	Edith Edwards, Michael Grasso
Apr 17	Bob Lynott, John Spessard, Debby Boyd
Apr 18	David Rohr, Jerry & Carolyn Block
Apr 19	Beverly Veenker
Apr 20	Tina Johnson
Apr 22	Clint Felton, Jeanne & Ronald Reopel
Apr 24	Bill & Ruth Ann Grothe
Apr 26	Don Roberts, Jim & Annette Parsch
Apr 29	Bob Scott

St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 68, 4941 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28459
910-754-9313

stjames@stjamesthefisherman.net

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving - Bishop
 Rev. Frank Russ, Interim Rector
 The Rev. Jean Miller, Deacon
 The Rev. Michael Ligon, Assistant Deacon
 Rev. Dr. Richard Warner, Jr., Rector Emeritus
 Paul Bertelsen, Verger

Worship Services

Sunday:

Holy Eucharist:	8:00 a.m.
Choral Eucharist:	10:00 a.m.

Saturday:

Holy Eucharist:	5:30 p.m.
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Vestry

Bill Grothe	Senior Warden
Jim Parsch	Junior Warden
Jack McElroy	Treasurer
Jackie Wright	Clerk of the Vestry
Pat Neff	Nancy Dougherty
Sam Farag	Bob Lynott
Dawn Kellerman	Joyce Winnie
Anne Neely	

Directory of Ministries

WORSHIP - Vestry Liaison - J. Winnie

Coordinators -
 Acolytes - P. Bertelsen
 Altar Guild - Individual Team Leaders
 Daughters of the King - L. Hickey
 Eucharistic Ministers - R. Fernandez
 Eucharistic Visitors - Deacon J. Miller
 Music - M. Smicklas
 Newcomers/Greeters - B. Herren
 Nursery - V. Redin
 Ushers - B. Chase

PROGRAMS - Vestry Liaison - D. Kellerman

Christian Education - Father Frank Russ
 ECW - S. Dickerson

Coffee Hour - Weekly Hosts
 Foyer Groups: R. Fernandez
 Quarterly Parish Dinners - B. & G. Freeman
 Special Projects - P. Bertelsen
 Holy Stitchers - D. Kellerman
 Bridge Group - B. Bartell

OUTREACH - Vestry Liaison - Anne Neely

Angel Tree - Daughters of the King
 BFA Food Pantry - *Volunteer Needed*
 Community In Schools - Deacon J. Miller
 ERD - *Volunteer Needed*
 Inter-church Council - B. & R. Grothe
 Lobster Sale - *Volunteer Needed*
 Neighbor to Neighbor - Deacon J. Miller

Second Helpings- J. Bryant
 UTO/CPC - ECW Coordinators

ADMINISTRATION - Vestry Liaisons - S. Farag, P. Neff

Endowments - Chair: E. Miller
 Liaison: S. Farag
 Stewardship - P. Neff

COMMUNICATIONS/DEANERY - Vestry Liaison - N. Dougherty

BUILDING & GROUNDS - B. Lynott, J. Parsch

Fisherman Newsletter - L. Jennings

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

**ST. JAMES
 THE FISHERMAN
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**P. O. Box 68
 Shallotte, NC 28459**