

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.

The Feast of Pentecost



Pentecost is derived from a Greek term meaning *fiftieth*. It is a prominent feast in the calendar of Ancient Israel, celebrating the giving of the Law on Sinai, and also later in the Christian liturgical year, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit after the Resurrection of Jesus. The feast is also called *Whit Sunday*, referring to the white robes worn by candidates who were to be baptized on Pentecost. Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Sunday, hence its name. Pentecost falls on the tenth day after Ascension Thursday.

Among Christians, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the twelve apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-31. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the “Birthday of the Church.”

The main sign of Pentecost in the West is the color red. It symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Priests or ministers wear red vestments, and in modern times, the custom has extended to the lay people of the congregation wearing red clothing in celebration as well. Red banners are often hung from walls or ceilings to symbolize the blowing of the “mighty wind,” and the free movement of the Spirit. They may depict symbols of the Holy Spirit, such as the dove or flames, or symbols of the church such as Noah’s Ark and the pomegranate, whose seeds represent the many believers who make up the one universal Church. Within Protestant churches of Reformed and Evangelical traditions, there are words rather than images naming, for example, the gifts and Fruits of the Spirit. Red flowers at the altar and red flowering plants, such as geraniums, around the church are also typical decorations for Pentecost services. These symbolize the renewal of life, the coming of the warmth of summer, and the growth of the Church at and from the first Pentecost.

Pentecost is one of seven principal feasts of the Church, and will be observed at St. James the Fisherman on May 19 and 20. We hope you will join us for the celebration!

*Faithfully yours,
Fr. Frank*

A Voice from the Deacon's Bench

Dear Friends in Christ,

I was sitting on the steps of my front porch early this morning, letting the sun hit my face. The weather had finally turned warm enough that I could find my spot to pray and settle myself; to try to let go of my ego and my many self-absorbed thoughts. It didn't come easily, even though the warmth and brightness of the sun blazed behind my closed eyes. This usually centers me enough that I can just let go, at least for a short time, so that I can intuit (and this isn't even a good word for it) a more perceptible union with my creator. This morning, however, a word kept creeping into my awareness. The word was HUMILITY. I know this word has been lying within my consciousness for the last few weeks, because I am reading, studying and contemplating a book by Joan Chittister, OSB, called *Radical Spirit*. Joan, who is a Benedictine nun and lives by the Rule of St. Benedict, has laid out the ancient rule of St. Benedict that countless pilgrims have used as a life guide in a very authentic, fresh and practical way.

The Rule of St. Benedict, a sixth century book on leading a God-centered life, was presented at a Diocesan clergy retreat a few years ago. It was a difficult book to read, and as Joan says in her book, the Rule was written fifteen centuries ago, and, for the most part, is musty and terse. I agree. But Joan's *Radical Spirit* book on the "Rule" has me completely engaged down the path to a fuller kind of human development, which is fixed in a radical spirit of humility. First lesson I am working through is the fact that humility is about understanding and realizing the truth of the self. Well my friends, with God's help, I am off on a journey, trying to understand and being honest with who I really am. Barbara Brown Taylor, in one of her recent meditations, says that to become fully human, just not being human, is something extra, a conscious choice that not everyone makes; but there are those who believe that becoming fully human is the highest honor they can pay to the incarnate one who showed them how. I read the introduction to the book three times, and used my yellow marker and pencil to mark, study and digest the reading. I am now ready to start on the first chapter in the book, which is *The First Step of Humility: Recognize that God is God, and a presence to be recognized*. I have a feeling that this chapter is going to have a lot of yellow underlining, and many questions written in pencil in the margins.

If you want a good insightful spiritual book to read, this book may grab you and not let go.

*Blessings,
Deacon Jean*

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RECOGNIZED.

Upcoming Events

Long Range Calendar:

ECW Spring Potluck Luncheon, Wednesday, May 9th at the home of Toni Deluca at 11:30 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday, May 19/20 – wear red, standard weekend service schedule

Bishop's Visit, Sunday, June 3rd with reception following 10 a.m. service. *Single Service Weekend*

Services of Reception on June 9/10 as needed at each Service that weekend

St. James Day celebration on Sunday, July 29th - *Single Service Weekend*, Sunday at 10am, followed by Parish Picnic



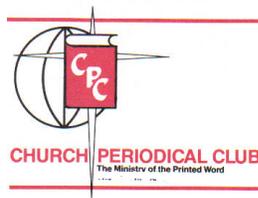
Bishop Skirving's Visit

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

CPC Spring Ingathering



The Church Periodical Club's (CPC) primary purpose is to spread the written Word throughout the world. It was first organized in 1888 by Mary Ann Fargo, a member of the Church of the Holy Communion in New York City. She and her friends sent Bibles to the west on Wells Fargo stagecoaches. Since then, CPC has continued to provide educational, spiritual, and liturgical Christian resources, such as Christian periodicals, books, audio, video and DVD's, and computer software, to many communities within our nation and around the world.

As an ECW program, it is supported solely through voluntary donations which keep this important ministry alive. The primary source of these funds is money raised in churches during the CPC Ingathering.

In addition to providing funds for use around the world, part of the money collected locally is used for textbook grants to our diocesan seminarians. Let us continue to support Christ's command: "Go, ye, therefore, and teach all nations..." by giving generously to this wonderful outreach ministry.

Please bring your CPC donation to the CPC Ingathering (Saturday/Sunday - May 5th and 6th) and place it in the Offertory Collection Plate. Make checks payable to St. James the Fisherman, and note CPC in the memo section.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ann Campbell-Grothe at 910-575-1247 or at no1nanie@atmc.net.

A Wedding at St. James

Weddings at St. James the Fisherman come few and far between, but a spring wedding occurred on April 7th, 2018. Samir Farag and Debbie Kodak, along with their combined families gathered around them, were joined in the covenant of marriage. Father George Werner and I officiated. It was truly an honor to be present at this joyful start of a new life and journey for Sam and Debbie.

Deacon Jean



Memorial Day is May 28

The custom of honoring ancestors by cleaning cemeteries and decorating graves is an ancient and worldwide tradition, but the specific origin of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was first known, are unclear.

In early rural America, this duty was usually performed in late summer and was an occasion for family reunions and picnics. After the Civil War, America's need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor its military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated, and ceremonies centering on the decoration of soldiers' graves were held in towns and cities throughout the nation.

After World War I, the day expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday by an act of Congress; it is now celebrated on the last Monday in May.

The Poppy: A Symbol of Memorial Day

The wearing of poppies in honor of America's war dead is traditionally done on Memorial Day (not Veterans Day). The origin of the red poppy as a modern-day symbol of this day was actually the idea of an American woman, Miss Moina Michael. In war-torn battlefields, the red field poppy (*papaver rhoeas*) was one of the first plants to grow. Its seeds scattered in the wind and sat dormant in the ground, only germinating when the ground was disturbed – as it was by the very brutal fighting during World War I.

The practice of wearing of poppies was further inspired by the poem *In Flanders Fields*, written in 1915 by Canadian soldier John McCrae. He saw the poppies in burials around his artillery position in Belgium. Today, poppies are both the symbol of loss of life, and as a symbol of recovery and new life, especially in support of those servicemen and women who were damaged physically or emotionally.



In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.
 We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.
 Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

Difference Between Memorial Day and Veterans Day

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. While those who died are also remembered, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor *all* who served – in wartime or peacetime – whether they died or survived. Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.

(excerpted from The Old Farmer's Almanac, almanac.com)



Mary and Martha Chapter

Meeting God at the Post Office

As I was opening my post office box, a man, beside me, was opening his and he said to me that he had to see what ole Bill had brought him. He said that he called his box Bill because that was where he got his bills. He had one envelope, and smiled and said that the Lord was good to him that day: it wasn't a "bill." He began to tell me how good the Lord had been to him.

He said that he had been diagnosed with bladder cancer recently. The doctors here had sent him to Chapel Hill, where they told him that they would have to remove his bladder. But they ran more tests before he left. They wanted him to sign pre-op forms, etc., and then, they said, he would be contacted by them about the surgery information. He did not sign the forms, however, as he told them that the Lord would look after him, and he prayed. When the Chapel Hill folks got back in touch with him, they told him that the latest tests had not shown any cancer. They could not believe it, but no cancer was there.

At this point, I looked at him, held out my hand to him, and told him that I had recently been diagnosed with bladder cancer and had surgery for it and maybe would have to have more. We both stood there holding hands with tears running down our faces. We hugged in the middle of the post office, with people all around us. But all I saw was James, and felt his calloused hands as he praised God. There was an energy between us as we both marveled at this encounter. We promised to pray for each other and we left.

As I sat in my car, looking at my right hand, I thanked God for this amazing thing that had happened. No matter the outcome of my cancer, I know that I, a member of St. *James* the Fisherman Episcopal Church, have been so blessed to have met and touched this James, another child of God.



*For His Sake,
Anne Neely*

ECW

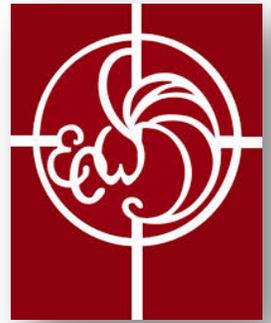
Have you ever been to our conference center on Emerald Isle: Trinity Center? If you haven't, next time you are traveling north, please take a little time and venture over to take a look. You will be amazed and SO impressed. Back off the main road, down the middle of the island, is a little bit of heaven. Bordered on one side by the ocean and the other side by Bogue Sound – you will be immediately enamored by its beauty, peacefulness, and wonderful accommodations. There is no way to describe it adequately; you just have to experience it.

That's exactly what our ECW did for the April meeting: we carpooled there for an overnight retreat. Twelve of us tucked ourselves in among the huge oak trees, sandy beaches, and delightful little rooms and had a blast. We wished for every woman from St. James to be there with us. Maybe you'll join us next April, 2019?? It was truly a blessing.

A special thanks to Dawn Kellerman and Telina West for being coordinators, and to Father Frank, who joined us on Thursday morning for Holy Eucharist and lunch.

Don't forget to sign up in the Gathering Area for our last meeting of the year – our spring luncheon at Toni DeLuca's lovely home. ALL women of St. James are members of ECW, and are so very welcome at our luncheon. Toni's address is: 543 Stanwood Dr., Bolivia. Directions will be forthcoming when you sign up.

*Love to all,
Susan Dickerson
2017-2018 President*



ECW: Kitchen and Bliss Hall Care

We have items in the kitchen and Bliss Hall left over from gatherings and celebrations. We will place them on the table below our ECW bulletin/picture board in Bliss Hall. Please take what belongs to you. We will have the items on the table for two weeks, from April 19th through May 6th.

Barbara Bartell and Stephanie Lynott

Choir's Summer Break...



Our wonderful choir will take a much-deserved break following services on June 3, when the Bishop will be visiting. They will resume their joyous uplifting of song in early September. Our organist will continue to provide music during the summer months with occasional soloists.

If you feel a sense of song in your heart, we always welcome new members. Contact our Music Director, Margaret Smicklas, at (910) 253-4573 or at Margsmick@gmail.com.

Annual Lobster Sale Coordinator Position Is (Still) 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.





Neighbor to Neighbor Outreach Ministry

The Orthopedic Equipment Lending program has been very busy the last few weeks. I have seen walkers, canes, and wheelchairs being rolled out of the church for our own parishioners' needs, their families, neighbors, and for the people in the community that are aware of this ministry. The equipment is usually lent out for three months. At times we don't see the equipment returned, but through God's networking we often get better pieces of equipment donated. Tommie

Christenbury and Anne Neely chair this program, along with Connie Esposito taking the calls, and often seeing that the equipment is given to those who have requested it. The N2N program would love to have more people volunteer for this program. We continue to take orthopedic equipment donations and gently worn warm coats all year. I cannot thank enough all those who help to keep the N2N program going. You are certainly appreciated.

Deacon Jean

We are scheduled to play bridge on Friday May 4th and 18th, from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in the Gathering Area of St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church. We welcome newcomers to our group. Please join us! If you want to learn, we can teach you. We have some very good teachers. 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, April 10, 2018, in Bliss Hall at 5:30 p.m., with a full agenda. Among the topics discussed was the Total Pastoral Compensation Package to be presented to the Search Committee for addition to the Parish Profile. After much discussion, it was decided that Fr. Frank, Dan Bartell (Search Committee Chairperson), and Bill Grothe (Senior Warden) would get together to iron out a few differences. Once a final compensation package is approved, the Search Committee will move forward. I must add that even though they have a very difficult task, the Search Committee is doing a commendable job.

Fr. Frank reported that our Easter Week services were very pleasingly attended. Thanks to all who made this possible. We are truly blessed with a wonderful church community.

Also, we are preparing for our upcoming Bishop's visit on June 3. This means sprucing up both the inside and outside of the church. Our Jr. Warden has called for help with the outside cleanup, and is getting needed carpet cleaning done inside. Contact Jim Parsch if you can help.

A new computer has been purchased for the Administrative Office. The old computer decided not to play anymore, and could not be fixed.

The next Vestry meeting is Tuesday, May 8, at 5:30 p.m. in Bliss Hall. There will also be a Special Vestry Meeting with a Diocesan Representative on May 10th at 4:00 p.m. in Bliss Hall.

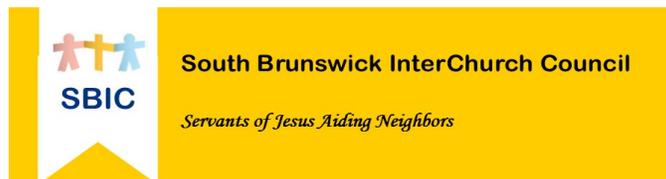
*Very Respectfully,
Bill Grothe, Sr. Warden*



Thanks For Your Help

A much appreciated thank you to the parishioners and the Landscape Committee who helped at both the clean-up and the distribution of the 2 cubic yards of mulch. Kudos to all of you!

Jim Parsch, Jr. Warden



SBIC CORNER

Ruth Ann Campbell-Grothe, the St. James Representative on the South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC), attended the monthly meeting held on Monday, April 2, 2018, at Shallotte Presbyterian Church at 8:45 a.m.

Linda Herrick, SBIC Vice President, chaired the meeting today in Tom Horan's absence. The first order of business today was the Spring Concert. Gloria Wimmer, Event Coordinator, distributed concert flyers and encouraged members to distribute them in their communities. Seven churches are scheduled to participate, including our own St. James participants. The event will be videotaped and will run on ATMC-TV, Channel 3. Admission is a can of food for the SBIC Food Pantry. There will be a free-will offering during the concert. All member churches need to support this fundraiser in order for it to be successful.

The following board positions remain open. *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. CROP Walk/Praise in the Park – Serve as the lead coordinator of this event.
2. Public Relations/Communications – Serve as the public voice of the SBIC.
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.

Bonita LeGoullon suggested that we have an ice cream social event after Labor Day to give recognition to everyone who helps the SBIC. Included could be SBIC representatives, pastors, church treasurers, food providers, pantry workers, etc. Bonita's suggestion received favorable remarks. Bonita asked members to provide her with the names of anyone in the community or churches who should be invited. Her email address is timid91er@yahoo.com.

Mary Pritchard, Pantry Coordinator, reported that the SBIC Food Pantry served 950 children, 1,751 adults, and 1,244 seniors for a total of 3,945 January-March 2018. Mary also advised that the Presbyterian Women from CCPC sent 1,200 diapers to the SBIC Food Pantry. The Calabash VFW Auxiliary also sent \$100. The Shallotte Elks provided Easter dinners for 91 families.

Several SBIC members volunteered to collect donations at the Ocean Isle Beach summer concerts every Friday night. The SBIC will benefit from this event.

Gloria Wimmer and Tom Horan attended the last GSMA meeting and advised GSMA that we need people willing to take leadership roles and need alternates for the representatives who attend the monthly meeting. The four pastors present were receptive. Gloria and Tom were urged to go to the social ministries or mission councils in each church.

Mitch Hewett, Technology Coordinator, discussed getting our name out to the public. The Nominating Committee has to present a slate for open positions (President and Secretary) at the next meeting. Jeanne Parietti has agreed to continue as Secretary.

The next SBIC General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 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 nonlanie@atmc.net. Until next month...

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

May 1 Harriet Etchison, Stephen Veenker
May 7 Larry Agrimonti
May 9 Van Hodgkin
May 13 Ron Veenker
May 14 Walter & Nancy Dougherty
May 15 Carolyn Dunn
May 17 Michael & April Murphy
May 20 Marg Smicklas
May 23 Dawn Kellerman
May 24 Barbara Beadling
May 27 David Walters
May 28 Libby Miller, David & Debs Fosbury
May 30 Barbara Averill
May 31 Jeanne Mavis

St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church
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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, 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.

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: *Volunteer Needed*
 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