

# THE STEEPLE

Volume 1, Issue 2

Easter tide 2018



## Rector's Reflection

Lift up your Easter hearts!

Are we there yet? Have we arrived at our destination of Easter? Is there a light shining ahead to lead us out of the dark night of the 40 days of Lent?

Do we see the signs? New azaleas at the end of the driveway? Dogwoods showing their white and pink blossoms? Green patches of clover offering one lucky four leaf sprout?

Signs of new birth, new hope, and new beginnings surround us for Easter!

In our Easter Gospel from John 20:1-18 (NRSV), Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,

"I have seen the Lord!"

And she told them that he had called her by name and had spoken to her!

Easter is the great celebration! And we come running with Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and the Beloved Disciple be-

cause we follow their example.

We are the risen Lord's disciples just like the first disciples Jesus called to be with him.

Have you kept a Holy Lent as was asked of you on Ash Wednesday when the ashes were smudged on your forehead?

Have you taken on something new for Lent? A new ministry, project, endeavor in response to God's love?

If so, there is a banquet table spread with God's overflowing love and forgiveness.

Have you struggled through Lent? Has it been an ordeal and so have you lapsed from your Lenten promises?

Did you Ignore Lent because it was too difficult?

If so, there is still a banquet table prepared for you on April 1.

Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed.

The joy of Easter is contagious like a head

cold; one sneeze and we all have the excitement discovered

In the garden just like Mary Magdalene.

And this celebration began with Mary Magdalene: In one short period of time, she goes from despair and grief to joy, amazement, and awe by the words Jesus told her in the garden.

And even though, in all this running back and forth by Peter and the Beloved Disciple:

- Looking in the tomb.
- Going into the tomb.
- Coming out of the tomb.

Sudden belief by faith, by what is not seen and only by proof of the linen clothing left by Jesus,

We come to church on Easter morning, and ask, Can it all really be true?

Is the Resurrection really true?

Jesus said that he would suffer, die and be raised on the third

day, but he did not explain how this would happen. *(continued on page 3)*

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## Senior Warden's Comments

As I write this Steeple message we are approximately 2 weeks into the most solemn season of the Christian calendar year. One of the practices of Christians during this holy season is to “give up” something as a discipline, a discipline that’s meant to remind us of Christ’s gift to the world and His difficult path during these next six weeks.

The real element behind the principle of giving up something is the discipline of self-denial and the enrichment of our Christian faith. Instead of “giving up” something why not add something to your life. Something that will remain long after Lent has passed. One could consider a discipline that will renew our acquaintance with our Lord. After our day and as we prepare for sleep we might repeat the Lord’s Prayer each evening. Another special evening prayer comes from our prayer book; it’s part of Compline found on page 134. It begins with “Keep watch, dear Lord..... Or we could be sure to be in church each Sunday during Lent. Daily prayer is not limited to evening, our prayer book offers us numerous prayers that may be said each morning or afternoon.

The point is to remember our Lord each day – a good habit to have.

Another great habit is the support of our church family. To do that is to contribute our time and hands to the projects that are the fund raisers needed to maintain the build-

ings and congregation we love. The first of some planned fund raisers was our Pancake Breakfast. February 13 found a parish hall that emanated the wonderful scents of cooked sausage and pancakes. If you missed it, you really missed a treat. It was well planned and the food excellent, it was all done in a span clean kitchen. If you missed a pancake breakfast you not only missed the treat of good food, you missed the chance to socialize with friends and neighbors and an opportunity to raise needed funds.

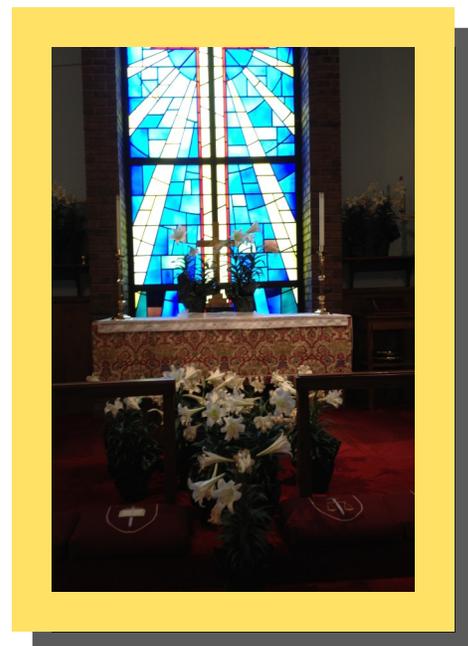
The weekend before our breakfast saw a cleaning crew who worked several hours scrubbing, cleaning and sorting everything imaginable in the kitchen and pantry. The refrigerator is clean and organized, the pantry is clean and organized and I didn’t know that the stove had sooooo many different parts. Towels and mitts are laundered and put away in clean drawers – makes me breathless just repeating all that was accomplished amid the laughter and conversation of folks with a shared effort.

Next on Ascension’s “to do” list is a major fund raiser – Market Day set for May 5. This is a large and special undertaking. The support of everyone in the parish is necessary in order for this to be a success. The Committee is well into the organization of Market Day, a silent auction is planned, quality items will be for sale and a light lunch will be available.

Merchants are also being asked for their support with donations of a product or money. YOU can help by supplying items for the sale as well as the gift of your time as we collect, sort and sell what we expect to have.

As a parish we’ve worked together on other occasions to achieve a goal. Let’s do it again, let’s make Market Day a success. It’s wonderful when families work together and worship together; Ascension is a family.

Betty Stephens, Sr. Warden



## Outreach Committee

### Ann Hope Wednesday Dinner

Please join us on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> to serve the hungry at Ann Hope United Methodist Church. We will leave Ascension at 5:00 pm and be ready to serve at 6:00 pm at Ann Hope. Ascension's super chef, John Hulsey will be preparing a delicious meal of pot roast with rice and vegetables. If you want to help cook, please contact John (864) 710-7112 or Tricia (843) 907-2398.

### Rise Against Hunger

Mark November 10<sup>th</sup> on your calendars for the next meal packing event! This will be a big year...our 5<sup>th</sup> and that means over 50,000 meals packed. Join us as we work with Rise Against Hunger to eliminate hunger by 2030.

## Holy Week and Easter Services

**Palm Sunday 10:00 AM Rite II (Passion Narrative)**

**Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Rite II (foot washing)**

**Good Friday 5:00 PM Stations of the Cross (around the Church grounds)  
6:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy**

**Easter Morning 7:00 AM Rite II Sunrise Liturgy in the Outdoor Chapel (weather permitting)**

**Easter Sunday 10:00AM Resurrection Liturgy with special music and flowering of the Cross.**

**Brunch will be served in the Parish Hall following the service.**

### Rector's Reflection (continued)

The disciples were still in shock over his death.

They knew he had died because of the sins of humanity.

They just couldn't sort it all out.

The faith was there for all these and more; the understanding would have to evolve just as life itself evolves going from a cocoon into a beautiful butterfly.

As much as the anthropologists, the scientists, and the

theologians attempt to explain the Resurrection; it cannot be done. John's Gospel tells us that

Jesus' body was not in the tomb.

All of the resurrection stories have one thing in common;

God has done something so singular in nature that it cannot be explained.

Come and See! Resurrection Sunday, April 1.

.See you in church,

Deedie+



# Cange, Haiti Update

The annual EDUSC Partnership Cange Symposium was held 23-25 February 2018 at St Peter's Church, Greenville. On Friday evening the film *Bending the Arc* was shown. This is an excellent presentation of the work done for many decades, led by Paul Farmer of Partners in Health. The organization, known in Creole as Zanmi Lasante, founded and continues to support the hospital in Cange. The film strikingly shows several Haitians prior to receiving care and as vitally healthy people after. A trailer of the film can be viewed at: <https://binged.it/2oRGQyW>

Saturday was spent in session receiving pertinent information regarding the status of Cange and the surrounding region. We learned that James Theodore Holly was the First African American Bishop in the Episcopal Church and Bishop of Haiti (named Bishop in 1874). In Cange the Ecole Bon Sauveur (the school for 1500 children) is operating, but due to concerns major financing is no longer provided by EDUSC. Marie Flore Lafontant Chipps discussed what Summits Education is doing to provide schools for 40 villages in the Central Plateau (surrounding region of Cange). These schools currently educate 9774 students. Marie and her father, The Rev Fritz Lafontant, have been leaders in education for decades. More at: <http://www.summits.org/>

Sara Mansbach told us about the libraries that are being sponsored in the region: <http://haitiliteracy.org>

Gillaine Warne presented on the success at Centre De Formation Fritz Lafontant (CFFL). This was part of the Bread and Water Campaign several years ago. This is a professional training school that provides technical skills to pursue long-term employment. CFFL is a significant part of what can be done in the developing world:

<http://www.partnersinag.org>

David Vaughn, Professor at Clemson and leader of the Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries and several students presented on several projects in Cange: water (the only chlorinated water in Haiti), biogas, medical equipment, and proposed hydro power and use of solar (among several other projects). The World Health Organization is looking to leverage Cange as a center of excellence.

<http://www.clemsonengineers.com> (Check out the video on the site.)

Dr Harry Morse (Chair of the EDUSC World Missions Committee), Dr Glen Quattlebaum, and Dr Accilus Deluc (Lead physician at the ZL Hospital in Cange) spoke of the work being done. Among the activities is the very important Cange Area Hypertension Initiative. This program brings doctors, nurses, and helpers to the area several times a year to monitor and provide medications for hypertension in several surrounding villages that are not near the hospital (basically the only medical help for this serious condition in Haiti). Bishop Waldo closed the excellent 2018 Cange Symposium with Prayer

Beth Kunkel set up a table of

products from Cange Sant Art (Art Center). These are excellent products: metal, wood, paintings, and cloth. They are available at: <http://www.haitiartisans.org>.

Here is an example:



## Coming Events

**Saturday, April 21: Stumphouse Music Festival in Walhalla 9am-7pm Ascension will have a food booth set up on Main Street; Please sign-up to help—contact John Hulseley or Linda Pressley.**

**Millard Pollock Memorial Service and Committal will be Saturday May 12.**

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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# ***Market Day***

Sponsored by  
*Ascension Episcopal Church*  
214 Northampton Rd., Seneca, 29672  
864-882-2006

**Saturday, May 5th**

**8:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**Light Lunch,  
2 Taco's & Drink for \$5.00**

Silent Auction:

- Coupons from Local Merchants
- Sports Basket, Food Basket and other themed baskets
- Auction of Hand Made Quilts
- Kayak
- Golf events
- And more . . . . .

Quality Items for Sale:

- Outdoor Items
- Furniture and Home Décor
- Items from the Home
- Clothing, Shoes and Jewelry
- And more . . . . .

