

Mission Statement

Disciples of Christ called to serve neighbors near and far

Steeple, April 2017

On all the liturgical calendars in my office and hanging on the various walls throughout the parish the days, or the dates are color-coded so that we make no mistake in our understanding of the importance and meaning of these next few days in April.

For example, this week of the 2nd through the 8th the numbers for the dates are printed in purple for Lent. Beginning April 9, Palm Sunday, the dates are printed in red. Red is the color which liturgically signifies the Passion, the suffering and the death, of Jesus as told to us by the 4 Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These days indicated in red are collectively known as Holy Week. Holy Week is liturgically represented and enacted through the most important liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, walking the Stations of the Cross outside and ending with the Good Friday liturgy in the church which then begins at 6 PM. The third day is Holy Saturday. This day is a solemn day remembering our Lord as he is in the tomb in the garden. It is also a day marked in our Book of Common Prayer.

These are days not to be overlooked in the anticipation of the Easter, the Sunday of the Resurrection.

In the past years as a priest I have heard a few say, “Oh, I don’t want to be in church on those sad and difficult days and hear the tragedy of Jesus’ crucifixion.” The truth is, the risen Lord is always with us and we may know him most profoundly and deeply in our own times of sorrow and life-changing challenges. In other words, if we have never been to the cross with him during Holy Week, and in our own lives, then how will we ever really begin to know the joy and hope in the Resurrection?

How will we ever recognize this resurrection with him in “real time” of our own?

How will we sense his closeness to us when we most need him to lift us up when we are down?

I invite you to cast aside thinking of yourselves as “members” of Ascension, but rather, as disciples who have been called through your baptism to engage and participate with Christ in this most holy of weeks we call Holy Week. Be in the moment of Holy Week; don’t just question whether you should attend, or not. Come as you are, united with Christ, to be present with the one who is always present with you. You are beloved by Christ: the one who is present to us in the Breaking of the Bread and in the taste of new Wine.

See you in Church,

Deedie+

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VESTRY VOICES

Thoughts from the Senior Warden

The Three- Legged Stool

The Quilters who use our parish hall several times each month arrive with portable sewing machines, miniature irons, cases filled with threads, scissors and other items, the list is endless. Their equipment comes in on small carts, foldable wagons and all sorts of other wheels. Watching them get together and work through the day and even seeing some of their finished projects brings back memories of my great grandmother.

She was an artist with all sorts of needles, she made shirts for her husband and my grandfather, knitted mittens for all of us and made beautiful quilts. She introduced me to the world of needlework; I learned to sew by hand hemming quilt pieces. I sat beside her on a small, solid, well-grounded three-legged wooden stool, needle and thread carefully working in and out on a piece of fabric. In her world precision and neatness were paramount so I also learned how to take the stitches out and begin again. My special seat was the carpentry of my Great Grandfather; it was as precise as “Mom’s” needlework. Its smooth polished seat was also home to “Mom’s” feet when she worked.

In the era of my grandparents and great grandparents another three- legged stool was used in the barn. That’s where the cowhand sat to milk the cows – long before automatic milking machines arrived. That stool was also a good solid, firm place to sit. It had to be. One swift, well placed swing of the cow’s tail could topple both stool and farm hand. Goodbye milk!

There’s yet another three legged stool. This one is equally important, equally sound, equally secure and firm. It’s used by millions of people all around the world, it belongs to the Episcopal Church; “we Episcopalians use the three-legged stool as a metaphor for the way we define authority in the Episcopal Church.”

“The three legs are the Bible, tradition and reason, in this order. Holy Scripture is paramount as a way of defining what we believe and how we believe it.” We do not take the Bible literally but we do take it seriously.

Tradition evolves from the manner in which the saints before us have dealt with issues of faith and doctrine. We use the thoughts and writings of these pious ancestors to help us move forward with the issues of today.

“Reason is the third leg and may be a bit more difficult to define. “ Reason comes from the expanse of human understanding and experience. It’s imperfect but we realize that “one of God’s greatest gifts is that part of the human body that rests between our shoulders”.

Like the small stool I occupied as a child, or the one the cowhand sits on these three legs of Episcopal foundation are grounded and balanced. They provide the stability of our faith and belief in Jesus Christ, His mission and purpose in our lives.

Betty Stephens , Sr. Warden

Junior Warden's Comments

Now that spring is approaching, it is time to prepare for a spring clean-up in and around the church. We are in need of sponsors for our community garden boxes. If you would like to adopt a box, just let Connie know. You are more than welcome to adopt more than one box.

An effort will be made to prepare the Outdoor Chapel for our Easter sunrise service. The Cyprus tree leading up to the parking lot has been trimmed and will possibly have to be removed later in the year. The vines and overgrowth at the base of the driveway have been trimmed back in an effort to make it safer to enter onto Northampton Drive.

The timers for the church sign and outdoor security lights have been adjusted to account for daylight savings time. There is a failing light in the upper parking lot, and Seneca Light and Water will repair it.

A large television set, that was in the Parish Hall closet, was taken to the dump for recycling. Two high wattage bulbs in the church lighting fixtures have also been replaced. The incandescent bulb replacement project should be completed in the next several months.

I am honored to be your junior warden.
By Gil Huggins



*Ascension Episcopal Church welcomes
all to attend our Holy Week Services:*

Palm Sunday ***April 9***
8:00am and 10:00am

Maundy Thursday ***April 13***
7pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday ***April 14***
5pm Stations of the Cross
6pm Good Friday Liturgy

Easter ***April 16***
7am Sunrise Service at the Outdoor Chapel
10:00am Easter Holy Eucharist and

Flowering the Cross: Please bring fresh cut flowers.
***An Easter Brunch will be available for everyone to
come together between services and enjoy.***

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Pancake Breakfast

Many, many thanks to all those who woke up bright eyed and bushy tailed to make and serve pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, February 28. What a wonderful way to serve Ascension and prepare for the Lenten season! A special thanks to our chef, John Hulsey, who did an excellent job! We are blessed to have such talent at Ascension. The report is that we had just the right amount of helpers. Approximately 67 plates were served, and our net income was around \$420.

Ann Hope

Bruce Marshall was our executive chef for the March 15 meal at Ann Hope. A nutritious and yummy lasagna was served to the 120+ folks who came to Ann Hope for a good, hot dinner. Thanks to all who helped with this opportunity to feed the hungry. Thank you, Bruce, for your leadership with the quarterly meal at Ann Hope. The next time we cook and serve will be in June...stay tuned for the date!

Stop Hunger Now

Stop Hunger Now has a new name! It has been renamed ***Rise Up Against Hunger***. The date for our event this year is October 21st. Mark your calendar to come help. We are beginning the process of collecting donations from companies. If you have a suggestion for us, please contact Tricia Dodge or any of our Outreach Committee members: Lou Leffler, Leila Walker, Mark Davidson, John Hulsey, Jean Nettles, Linda Pressley, or Deedie Marshall+.

Next Outreach Meeting: April 10 at 4pm in the counting room.

By Tricia Dodge

Christian Education News: Christian Education continues throughout the Great 50 days of Easter. We will finish with The 5 Marks of Love and continue each Sunday with our preparation for confirmation and reception of John and Cam Hulsey into the Episcopal church. I recommend this class to everyone here at Ascension. Come and be the supportive community that we are. Also, we all need a refresher about our Episcopal Church. We will never "know it all." Also, how can we grow and grow spiritually if we let things get 'rusty'?

The Steeple is published monthly except during the summer. The Editors are Anne Hulsey [A16Hulsey@gmail.com] and Bruce Marshall [bmars52@gmail.com]. Please submit articles for *The Steeple* to the editor (with a copy to the Church Office) by **the 15th** of the month preceding publication. Submissions should use Arial 11 font. Articles submitted to *The Steeple* for publication must be dated and signed with the submitter's full contact information. If the article is a reprint, indicate that information and be certain that you have permission from the original publisher, if necessary. All submissions will be reviewed and approved by the Rector prior to publication in *The Steeple*. Editor's Note: Please let us know if you encounter problems viewing this email. We will continue to produce a few hard copies of The Steeple. Please notify the Church Office if you need one.



Easter 2017 Message from Presiding Bishop

It's taken me some years to realize it, but Jesus didn't just happen to be in Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. He wasn't on vacation. He wasn't just hanging out in town. Jesus was in Jerusalem on purpose. He arrived in Jerusalem about the time of the Passover when pilgrims were in the city. When people's hopes and expectations for the dawn of freedom that Moses had promised in the first Passover might suddenly be realized for them in their time.

Jesus arranged his entrance into Jerusalem to send a message. He entered the city, having come in on one side of the city, the scholars tell us, at just about the same time that Pontius Pilate made his entrance on the exact opposite side of the city. Pilate, coming forth on a warhorse. Pilate, with soldiers around him. Pilate, with the insignias of Rome's Empire. Pilate, representing the Caesars who claimed to be son of god. Pilate, who had conquered through Rome the people of Jerusalem. Pilate, representing the Empire that had taken away their freedom. Pilate, who represented the Empire that would maintain the colonial status of the Jewish people by brute force and violence.

Jesus entered the city on the other side, not on a warhorse, but on a donkey, recalling the words of Zechariah:

*Behold your King comes to you
Triumphant and victorious is He
Humble and riding on a donkey*

Jesus entered the city at the same time as Pilate to show them, and to show us, that God has another way. That violence is not the way. That hatred is not the way. That brute force and brutality are not the way.

Jesus came to show us there is another way. The way of unselfish, sacrificial love. That's why he entered Jerusalem. That's why he went to the cross. It was the power of that love poured out from the throne of God, that even after the horror of the crucifixion would raise him from death to life.

God came among us in the person of Jesus to start a movement. A movement to change the face of the earth. A movement to change us who dwell upon the earth. A movement to change the creation from the nightmare that is often made of it into the dream that God intends for it.

He didn't just happen to be in Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday. He went to Jerusalem for a reason. To send a message. That not even the titanic powers of death can stop the love of God. On that Easter morning, he rose from the dead, and proclaimed love wins.

So you have a blessed Easter. Go forth to be people of the Resurrection. Follow in the way of Jesus. Don't be ashamed to love. Don't be ashamed to follow Jesus.

Have a blessed Easter. And bless the world. Amen.

**The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church**

Remember Those on our Prayer List

For the healing of: John*, Louise*, Reta*, George M*, Carolyn P*, Kenn*, Jane*, Liz*, Millard*, Leslie, Honey, Doug, Betsey, Michael, William, Mary, Jan, April, Jaron, Lynn P, Justin, Janice, Ann S, Ann M, Karen, Susan, Ruth. Pray for the Children, Staff and Workers at the Helping Hands Home, Families and Individuals at Our Daily Rest, and our community, The people in Cange and the surrounding regions of Haiti, those helped through Safe Harbor and fed by Stop Hunger Now. Pray for the youth of our nation and all victims of gun and domestic violence. Pray for world peace. Pray for those effected by the recent storms and floods.

Let us pray for our Food Ministries: Rise Up Against Hunger, Back Pack Program, and Ann Hope.

Our Servicemen and Servicewomen, their families and for the safety of: John, Grace, Jay, Ben, Andrew, Patrick, Scott, Hunter, Wayne

(* attending Ascension; members)

Entered the Larger Life: Elizabeth (Betty) Thomas died March 9. The Burial Rite I Service was held Saturday April 1 at 2pm at Ascension with a reception for the family. Please keep Betty and her family in your prayers. Charitable Donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago IL 60601 or Ascension Episcopal Church, 214 Northampton Rd, Seneca SC 29672.



(* attending Ascension; members)

Pray for all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace.

HELPING HANDS HOME

Helping Hands is always in need of the following for the home: disposable diapers, paper towels , aluminum foil, bathroom tissues, zip-lock storage bags, shampoo, tall kitchen bags, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dish soap, Kleenex tissues. You may bring these items to the Parish Hall donation box anytime.. The Home thanks you for your past help.

Clergy Contact Information:

Our Rector, The Rev. Carol "Deedie" Marshall can be reached:
 Church Office: 864-882-2006 ; Pastoral Emergency Phone: 864-985-8758
 Email: rev.anne2006@gmail.com Or: ascensionworship@bellsouth.net

Golden Corner Respite Care Program

By Kathy Birkett, Program Director

We have had a busy February and March and are looking forward to some great fun in April.

We were joined again by Clemson students studying aging at the Institute for Applied Aging who will be with us until the end of April. They are planning activities and studying the elders.

Our February fun included:

- A Valentine's Day party that featured card making for our loved ones and heart shaped cakes.
- Tai Chi class continues with our certified instructor Bonnie. We are gaining core strength and improving our balance with this exercise.
- We celebrated Mardi Gras by making our own bedazzling masks using our own hand shapes and enjoyed authentic music of the Fat Tuesday celebration in New Orleans. We even ate some king cake decorated in the traditional colors of the season.
- We played word games, crossword puzzles, bingo and other brain stimulating games and activities.
- We sing songs, watch DVD singers and may even do a few dance steps when we are "in the mood"!

We are still looking for some small prizes for our "Prize Vault" if you have something you would like to share. Small items like nail file, lotions, and other non-food goodies. If you have something you would like to donate, please feel free to leave in a bag at the office or contact me whenever needed.

We are also planning to cultivate one of the church's community garden beds. We will till the soil and plant some vegetables. We already have made one-of-a kind garden pavers that we put around the garden area. The participants were very excited to help dig in the dirt!

Caregiver's Corner

Here is a great guide for friends and family members who want to help care for a caregiver shared by Alzheimer's & Dementia Weekly.

1. Surprise a caregiver with a hot meal or take them out to eat.
2. Bring them some fun, sit with them and make them laugh, hold their hand and talk.
3. Hire a maid service or do a little household chores yourself.
4. Be kind and understanding, realize that caregivers may be short tempered and angry with you but don't take it personally.
5. Keep your word. If you say you will do something, do it!
6. Keep your drama away from a caregiver, they already have enough stress.

Contact Info:

GoldenCornerRespiteCare@gmail.com

864-973-7590

Don't forget to become a fan of our facebook page and check out our fun pictures and updates.

April Birthdays

4/1	Dee Mango
4/3	Jean Nettles
4/6	Danielle Pankuch
4/7	John Hulsey
4/12	Sharon Rogers
4/15	Bruce Marshall
4/18	Theresa Bryson
4/19	Evelyn Kochansky
4/25	Noah Hulsey

April Anniversaries

4/25	James and Ruth Tolber
4/30	George and Reta Miskov



NOTE: Diocesan Convention recommends that each person contribute \$10 in thanksgiving for a birthday to the Diocese to provide support for new missions. Send checks to: "Builders for Mission", Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, 1115 Marion St., Columbia, SC 29201

The Gifts of Giving to Our Community

Please continue to support the **Golden Corner Food Pantry (non-perishable food items)**, **Pregnancy Care Center (diapers and baby items)**, **Lions Club (eyeglasses and hearing aids)** & **Our Daily Rest (non-perishable food items, toiletries, kitchen staples)**.

Safe Harbor-Oconee Shelter is in need of paper towels, Lysol, nail-clippers, twin mattress covers, diapers size 5,6, alarm clocks, night-lights.

Please place all donated items in their collection baskets in the narthex.



Pictorial Directory Update:

During the Annual Meeting in January, many of you had your picture taken for our pictorial directory. In order to further this project along, for those who were not present or would like to use a different photo, we are asking that you send in a current photo of yourself (you may include your pet) to the parish office: ascensionworship@bellsouth.net

If you would like to stop in to the office, Connie can show you your photo that will go in the directory.



Come walk the Stations of the Cross, inside at Ascension each Friday in Lent starting at 12:00 noon: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7

and on Good Friday at 5pm: April 14 Outside (weather permitting) followed by our Good Friday service at 6pm



Seneca Ecumenical Lenten Services

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Church</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
April 5	St. Paul the Apostle	Nancy Morris
April 12 (Holy Week)	St. Mark UMC	Deedie Marshall

The Ecumenical Lenten Services begin at 12:00 Noon each Wednesday during Lent. A luncheon is served following the service.

Budget Box

	<u>Feb Actual</u>	<u>Feb Budget</u>	<u>2017 Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income	10,099	8,552	16,829	17,103
Expense	16,472	12,421	26,488	24,843

Pledge income was \$600 greater than budget.

Non Pledge income exceeded budget by \$1800 thanks to a nice gift.

Total income was about \$1500 greater than budget – a bit of a catch-up from January.

Expenses were \$4000 greater than budget after being under budget during January.

Only two expense items were significantly over budget and they were periodic payments that will average out over a three month period.

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
214 Northampton Road, Seneca, SC 29672

April 2017

Return Service Requested

The Steeple
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Seneca, SC 29672
864-882-2006

