

The Spire

Newsletter of the Church of the Resurrection
*A Welcoming and Inclusive Faith Community
of The Episcopal Church*

March 2011

2280 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311



Rector:

The Reverend Dr. Anne
Gavin Ritchie

Seminarian Assistant:

Chase Danford

Church School

Coordinator:

Margie Bayrer

Director of Music:

Deena Jaworski

Organist & Assistant Choir

Director: Sanelma Sutton

Parish Administrator:

Jane McCabe

Sexton: Melba Moran

Telephone: 703-998-0888

Fax: 703-820-2912

Online:

www.welcometoresurrection.org

Office Hours:

M-F: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Message from the Rector

Getting Together for Lent

It hardly seems possible that the season of Lent is almost upon us – and that’s with a late Easter, too (April 24th). To observe this holy time, many people take up personal disciplines and/or devotional practices: going to the gym; giving up chocolate; spending regular time in prayer. Even while we observe these individual measures, it is essential that we also spend time in *community*. Resurrection is offering many such possibilities.

Just after Lent begins, we have scheduled an hour of prayer and meditation led by Martha Swearingen, a graduate of *Shalem Institute* training in spiritual direction. We will gather at 11 am on Saturday, March 12 for an hour of “Prayerful Silence” -- just what many of us need as we negotiate our hectic schedules.

We launch our Lenten Supper series on Sunday evening March 27th, with our wonderful musical friend Margaret Shannon. She will guide us through devotional hymns of Lent and Holy Week. I can’t think of a better way to prepare our hearts and minds for the momentous events to come.

We are thrilled that Ian Markham, Dean of Virginia Theological Seminary, will be our presenter at the second and third Sunday evening Lenten Suppers, April 3 & 10. After a simple meal together, Dean Markham will speak to us on themes from his recent book *Against Atheism: Why Dawkins, Hitchens and Harris are Fundamentally Wrong*. These sessions will be particularly important to us as we confront growing numbers of people disinterested in or even hostile to the idea of God. These are especially appropriate times to **bring your friends**, whether they are believers, skeptics, agnostics or atheists! Copies of Dean Markham’s book will be available for purchase.

Please don’t “go it alone” during Lent. Come to our Sunday forum discussions, conversations, and the events described above. Teach and learn from your neighbor. You might just discover wisdom you’ve never known before.

Inside this Issue

Thoughts & Prayers	2
Shrove Tuesday	2
Lenten Suppers	2
Ash Wednesday	2
Message from Wardens	3
Calendar	4
Birthdays	5
Budget Summary	5
Spire Society	5
RCC	5
Sunday Schedules	6
Focus Inn	6
Sermons	7-9
Labyrinth	9
Parish Profiles	10
Pets & Parishioners	10
Outreach Corner	11
Forums	11
Lenten Offerings	12

Please keep in your prayers:

Ryan & Veronica Byrnes
Irene Cole
Jake DiGeronimo
Lea Fowlie
Carlin Gray
Benoni & Chuku Johnson
Kevin Kohler
Gene McCreary
Mike Mattson
Angela Samela
Will Williams
Nancy & Joe Willis
Warrick Wolf

the people of New Zealand
the victims of political unrest in
the Middle East & North Africa

*Names on the Prayer List are
shown for one month, unless you
let us know they should be
retained for longer.*

*Pray for those currently
serving in the armed services
around the world:*

Cody Bergen
Marcia Bossardt
Jason & Robert Hull
Thomas Joy
Mark Latham
Matt Lussenhop
Dan Luster
Darius Malveaux
Thomas Moore
Meera & Michael Noe
Charles O'Brien
Eric Wiese

*We give thanks for the
birth of:*

Claire Noelle Butler Iazzetta

SHROVE TUESDAY

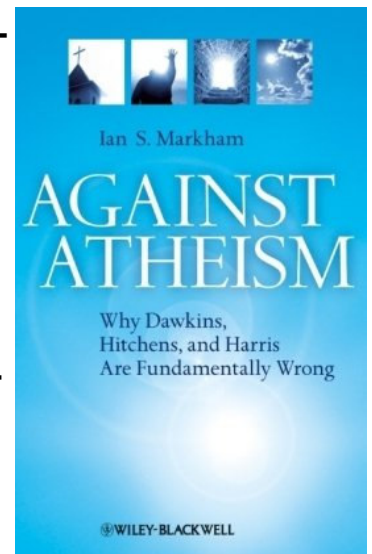
Join in the fun on Tuesday
March 8 at 6:30pm for our
Annual Pancake Supper!
There'll be plenty of Mardi
Gras decorations, music, jokes by the
Rector and fun for all ages.



LENTEN SUPPERS

We are most fortunate to have the
Dean of the
Virginia Theological
Seminary,
Ian

Markham, with us for Lenten
Suppers on April 3 and 10. He
will be speaking on his recent
book, *Against Atheism*. Copies of
the book will be available for purchase. A simple dinner will be
served at 6:30 pm and the discussion will begin at 7:30 pm.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

**Holy Eucharist with the
imposition of ashes will be held
at 10:00 am and 7:30 pm on
March 9.**



Message from the Wardens

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As you know from our last message to the congregation, on February 6 the Vestry met with Lindsay Ryland, the Diocesan Transition Ministry Officer. She was very gracious with her time and spent over two hours with us providing more detailed information on the search process.

In this message we would like to tell you about the two immediate tasks that came out of that meeting – the process of selecting an Interim Rector and selecting parishioners to serve on two different committees, the Parish Profile Committee and the Search Committee.

Lindsay advised us that the task of selecting an Interim Rector is the responsibility of the Vestry. Therefore, our intention is to have a 3-4 member subcommittee of the Vestry who will screen and interview candidates. This may be done over a period of time as candidates become available or drop out as they find other positions. The subcommittee will recommend a finalist to the entire Vestry who will meet with the candidate and make a final decision. Vestry members are currently nominating fellow members to serve on this subcommittee.

Lindsay also said it is the responsibility of the Vestry to name the members of the Parish Profile/Search Committee(s). She indicated those committees could be the same people or two separate committees with 2-3 members serving on both committees to provide the necessary continuity. The Vestry is leaning towards two committees, but a final decision hasn't yet been made.

Briefly, the parish profile will include development of (1) the facts about the church and our demographics and (2) the essence of the church (core values, why people come and stay, the qualities desired in a new rector, etc). This profile will be developed in consultation with the entire congregation through online surveys, focus groups, and individual conversations. The profile will take some months to create. Once the profile is completed, the Search Committee will receive resumes of candidates through a variety of sources, review all resumes, interview candidates, and continually narrow the list until one candidate is proposed to the Vestry for selection and eventually to the Bishop for approval.

Lindsay told us the search process must be conducted in strict confidence to be respectful of the candidates who may be looking for a new position unbeknownst to their current place of employment. While for many of us the inability to meet potential candidates is unsettling, it emphasizes the importance of having committee members in whom we have placed our trust.

Vestry members have been asked to submit names of parishioners for the committee(s) including the names of those who have expressed an interest in these tasks. Some of the qualities Lindsay recommended include openness, listening, spirituality, ability to work with others, lack of any specific agenda, knowledge of parish, trust of the congregation, maintaining confidentiality, etc.

As the Wardens, we will prepare a "straw-man" slate for the committee(s) from the nominees. These slates will be presented to the Vestry, along with all the names put forward. The "straw-man" slate will serve simply as the starting point for Vestry discussion, when additions, deletions, and changes can be made. This discussion will take place either at the February 28 Vestry meeting or a special meeting scheduled some time in early March.

As we develop, refine and experience this process we must be ever mindful that it is our spiritual willingness and openness that will best guide us -- this is, in fact, a spiritual decision. Perhaps the best counsel during our deliberations and frequent prayer will be to seek "Thy will, not mine, be done."

We invite you to talk with us or any other Vestry member as you have comments or questions about our transition.

Peace and Blessings,

Ken Gay
Senior Warden

Betsy Faga
Junior Warden

March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>27 8 Epiphany 8:00 am – Holy Eucharist 10:00 am – Holy Eucharist With healing 11:30 am – Coffee and Forum 2:00 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>28 7:30 pm - Vestry Meeting (Library) 7:30pm - Circle of Prayer (Rector's Office)</p>	<p>1 8:00 am – Bible Study (Parish Hall) 7:30 pm - Bible Discussion (Library)</p>	<p>2 10:00 am - Holy Eucharist (Library) 7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal (Nave) 8:30 pm – AA (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>3 6:00 pm - Boy Scouts (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>4 7:30 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Last Epiphany 8:00 am – Holy Eucharist 10:00 am – Holy Eucharist 11:30 am – Coffee and Forum 2:00 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>7 7:30pm - Circle of Prayer (Library) 7:30 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>8 8:00 am – Bible Study (Parish Hall)  6:30 pm - Pancake Supper (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>9 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00 am - Holy Eucharist (Nave) 7:30 pm - Holy Eucharist (Nave) 8:30 pm – AA (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>10 6:00 pm - Boy Scouts (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>11 7:30 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>12  3:00 pm - AA (Parish Hall)</p>
<p>13 1 Lent 8:00 am – Holy Eucharist 10:00 am – Holy Eucharist 11:30 am – Coffee and Forum 2:00 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave) DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</p>	<p>14 7:30pm - Circle of Prayer (Library) 7:30 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>15 8:00 am – Bible Study (Parish Hall) 7:30 pm - Bible Discussion (Library)</p>	<p>16 10:00 am - Holy Eucharist (Library) 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal (Nave) 8:30 pm – AA (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>17  6:00 pm - Boy Scouts (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>18 7:30 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 2 Lent 8:00 am – Holy Eucharist 10:00 am – Holy Eucharist 11:30 am – Coffee and Forum 2:00 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave) 7:00 pm - Focus Inn (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>21 7:30 pm - Vestry Meeting (Library) 7:30pm - Circle of Prayer (Rector's Office) 7:30 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>22 8:00 am – Bible Study (Parish Hall) 7:30 pm - Bible Discussion (Library)</p>	<p>23 10:00 am - Holy Eucharist (Library) 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal (Nave) 8:30 pm – AA (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>24 6:00 pm - Boy Scouts (Parish Hall) 7:30 pm - Healing Ministers (Library)</p>	<p>25 7:30 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>26 8:00 am - ALIVE! Food Distribution</p>
<p>27 3 Lent 8:00 am – Holy Eucharist 10:00 am – Holy Eucharist With healing 11:30 am – Coffee and Forum 2:00 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave) 6:30 pm - Lenten Supper (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>28 7:30pm - Circle of Prayer (Library) 7:30 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>29 8:00 am – Bible Study (Parish Hall) 7:30 pm - Bible Discussion (Library)</p>	<p>30 10:00 am - Holy Eucharist (Library) 7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal (Nave) 8:30 pm – AA (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>31 6:00 pm - Boy Scouts (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>1 7:30 pm – Iglesia Nueva Vida (Nave)</p>	<p>2</p>

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Sunday, March 13. So don't forget to "Spring Forward". Set your clocks the night before so you won't be late for services.



BIRTHDAYS

If we have not listed your birthday, please contact the parish office, and we will add it to our records.

3/01 Ella Garber
 3/02 Kara Gumbs
 3/03 Eric Chang
 3/08 Ruth Sugeno
 3/11 Dan Swearingen
 3/11 Lissa Reeves
 3/11 Seth Ewing
 3/13 Will Williams
 3/14 Bea Taylor
 3/18 Eleanor Burlison
 3/18 Margot West
 3/18 Alexandra West
 3/19 Winniefred Merife
 3/20 Eric Vicks
 3/21 Patrick Williamson
 3/22 Isabelle Lacayo
 3/24 Jane Kachulis
 3/25 Brenton Stevens
 03/29 Emily Ewing
 03/30 Rebecca Cook

2011 Vital Statistics

2011 Budget \$277,463

Income

Budget: (Jan.-Jan.) \$ 23,122
 Actual: (Jan.-Jan.) 19,046
 Over/UNDER Budget: 4,076

Expenses

Expenses: (Jan.-Jan..) \$ 19,736
 Collections (Jan.-Jan.) 19,046
 Difference (expenditures
OVER collections): 690

“Thank you” to each of you for your generosity and continual support in helping to meet our budget for 2011.

Attendance

February 6	123
February 13	90
February 20	119
February 27	89

Church of the Resurrection

Vestry 2011

Kenneth Gay, *Senior Warden*
 Betsy Faga, *Junior Warden*

Linda Goff
 Kathy Graham
 Milford John-Williams, Jr.

Terry Kester
 Michelle McBride

Gladys Payne

Robert Reeves

Marian Stevens

Martha Swearingen

Bea Taylor

Kat Turner, *Register*

Frances Williamson, *Treasurer*

THE SPIRE SOCIETY

The Spire Society continues to grow! Society members now include Kate Donnell, Betsy Faga, Ken Gay, Anne Ritchie, and Bob Stufflebeam.

Please let us know if you have remembered Church of the Resurrection in your will. If you haven't, please consider this lasting way to support our ministry and mission.

News From Resurrection Children's Center

Just a reminder that RCC has begun the enrollment process for the 2011-12 school year. We have classes for 2 ½ year olds and 3 and 4 year olds. If you would like to apply or to get more information, please contact the Director, Kim Messinger at 703.578.1314 or at rccpreschool@earthlink.net. We would love to hear from you and to schedule a time for you and your child to visit our classes.

With spring just around the corner, be sure to watch what happens in the garden plot on the playground. There are great plans in the works for planting, harvesting and feasting some spring veggies!

Again, our heartfelt thanks to the Church of the Resurrection community for your support for the work we do with children in families!

Upcoming Sunday Services

March 6, 2011 Last Epiphany	March 13, 2011 1 Lent	March 20, 2011 2 Lent	March 27, 2011 3 Lent
<p>Readings: Exodus 24:12-189 Psalm 2 or 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9 <i>Anne Ritchie</i> <i>preaching</i></p> <p>Readers Chase Danford (8) Nora Gafton Emma Bragg Susan Webber Chalice Bearers Barbara Eversman Terry Kester Ushers Tom Etter Lissa Reeves Altar Guild Lori Thurgood Peggy Green Gail Collins Building Supervisor Will McBeth Cheryl McBeth Tellers Barbara Langford Bob Barnett Nora Gafton Greeter Beth Wiggers</p>	<p>Readings: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11 <i>Anne Ritchie</i> <i>Preaching</i></p> <p>Readers Beth Wiggers (8) Bea Taylor Tim Barnett Lea Fowlie Chalice Bearers Bea Taylor Karl Boughan Ushers Carl Hull Judy Schramm Altar Guild Kathie Madden Marian Stevens Building Supervisor Bob Barnett Tellers Dennis Jones Susie Jones Gay Colyer Greeter Betsy Faga</p>	<p>Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 <i>Richard Jones</i> <i>preaching</i></p> <p>Readers Chase Danford (8) Karl Boughan Gail Collins Kat Turner Chalice Bearers Betsy Faga Larry Dye Ushers Maureen Bryant Frances Williamson Altar Guild Judy Isaacs Lissa Reeves Building Supervisor David Ewing Tellers Elizabeth White Kat Turner Betsy Raymond Greeter Kate Donnell</p>	<p>Readings: Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42 <i>Chase Danford</i> <i>preaching</i></p> <p>Readers Chase Danford (8) Lou Zarfaz Kathleen O'Malley Susan Weber Chalice Bearers Terry Kester Barbara Eversman Healing Ministers Judy Isaacs Marian Stevens Barbara Bishop Ushers Milford John-Williams Letitia John-Williams Altar Guild Lori Thurgood Orian Falkenberg Peggy Green Gail Collins Building Supervisor Jay Madden Tellers Bob Noe Jan Kester Ruthmarie Finley Greeter Betsy Faga</p>



Focus presents satirist/singer-songwriter Roy Zimmerman, with special guest Jean Bayou, on Sunday, March 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at FocusMusic.org.

In 11 albums over 20 years, Roy Zimmerman has brought the sting of satire to the struggle for peace and social justice. He's a one-man version of Washington's Capitol Steps.



SERMONS

A Church Built on a Hill

A Sermon preached by Chase Danford Sunday February 6, 2011, the 5th Sunday After the Epiphany

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.” A city built on a hill cannot be hid, but what about a church? This church, the Church of the Resurrection, is built on a hill. Are we a light to the world, or is our lamp hidden in the bushel basket?

Both, I think. We do much good in the community, but we remain hidden--whether physically or metaphorically--from many around us. Our location is both a blessing and a curse. It served the church well for a long time, but now, in a neighborhood with very different demographics than four decades ago, set against the backdrop of the tall structures of Goodwin House, many drive or walk by the church without noticing it or without feeling welcome, without feeling that this is a place for them. We have talked recently about the need for better signage, we have talked about the possibility of painting a mural on outside of the building, and we have installed a carillon that announces our presence to the neighborhood. But other than changes to the physical plant, how do we make the Church of the Resurrection a place where our neighbors feel comfortable worshipping?

This is a time of change and transition at Resurrection, as all of you know. The number of people worshipping here has been declining for years, and it's getting harder to put together a budget for the church without drawing on reserves. In September, our long-time priest associate Vance Johnson and his wife Mary retired from ministry in this parish. And just a few weeks ago, our rector of sixteen years, Anne, announced her impending retirement. While there will be much sadness as the time of Anne's departure this summer gets closer, a leadership transition is also an opportunity for a congregation to conduct an in-depth examination of its identity and mission. This comes at an important moment as Resurrection thinks about how to minister to the thousands of people moving to this area as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process affecting the Mark Center.

The Diocese of Virginia, of which this parish is a part, is also experiencing transition. Bishop Shannon Johnston took charge of the diocese a little over a year ago, following the long tenure of Bishop Peter Lee. And now, after years of division on the subject of human sexuality, the diocese is moving forward with surprising unity with the blessing of same-gender unions, with Bishop Johnston pledging to provide a generous pastoral response to congregations until the diocese and the na-

tional church formally authorize rites of blessing.

While a substantial majority of the clergy and elected lay representative of the diocese support the bishop's position, not all are comfortable, either at the diocesan level or in this parish. At the forum last week, concern was expressed about what blessing same-gender unions could mean for our hopes to attract new members, particularly families with children. One piece of good news I can share with you on that front is that the vast majority of people in their 20's and 30's, including those who have or will be having children in the near future, are very comfortable with gay and lesbian people and have no problem with same-gender relationships and marriages. Increasingly, churches that prohibit same-gender relationships will find it hard to attract new members as these congregations become completely out-of-touch with the realities and needs of society.

Of course, the church is not called to blindly follow cultural trends. The church is often called to be counter-cultural. And, indeed, the Diocese of Virginia will become counter-cultural when it starts to bless same-gender unions that the Commonwealth of Virginia will not recognize anytime in the foreseeable future. This gives us a chance to be a city on a hill in Virginia, sharing our light with the world, as we lift up our voices like trumpets to proclaim God's love for all people.

I believe that the Church of the Resurrection is ready to face the challenges of this time of transition, in terms of its ongoing membership and financial difficulties, the new realities of mission and evangelism, its impending change in leadership, and its possible moving forward with the blessing of same-gender unions. It will not be without its difficulties, and new strategies may be needed for reaching out to the community, but if this congregation continues to embrace its identity as salt of the earth, flavoring its witness to Christ's gospel of love and liberation with its unique identity, its authenticity, and its commitment to mission, I believe that it will continue to attract newcomers and remain a viable congregation for decades to come. Last fall, during a forum on the proposed mural project, it was said by some that we are a failing congregation. I was troubled by that comment at the time for two reasons. First, we are actually doing much better than many Episcopal and mainline Protestant congregations. Second, but much more important, while we are challenged, but we are not failing as long as we are a caring community in which all are loved and accepted. I believe that we are that kind of community, and that is why I am here to learn from you as your seminarian assistant. I visited Resurrection to begin with because I knew that my predecessor and her

partner were warmly welcomed here, and I chose to do my seminary field education here because I highly valued the diversity of this community.

As rector, Anne has nourished Resurrection's calling as a church where 2,000 years of Christian tradition are made relevant for 20th and 21st century lives. Now, in a time of transition, we can celebrate our identity as a welcoming and inclusive faith community, and think about how we want to move forward. Boldly living out our progressive Christian values, we can let go of our anxiety about whether our actions will attract or turn away newcomers—for when we live authentically, and when, as Isaiah says, we remove the yoke from among ourselves, and when we offer our food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted and the marginalized, including those marginalized by the church, then our light shall rise in the darkness and the gloom, even of midwinter, will be like the noonday.

You are the light of the world. A city, and a church, built on a hill cannot—and will not—be hid.

LETTING WORRY GO

A sermon preached by the Reverend Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie, February 27, 2011, the Eighth Sunday after The Epiphany, based on I Corinthians 4:1-5 and Matthew 6:24-34.

Jesus tells us, “do not worry...” Easy for *him* to say! Jesus wasn't Rector of an Episcopal parish! Just this week, *my* worries multiplied.

It was late last Thursday afternoon. I was working from home when I received an email from the office of the Dean of Virginia Theological Seminary. Turns out he had been unexpectedly called, along with other seminary Deans, to a meeting of the House of Bishops. Problem: the date conflicts with his long-established agreement to be with us to launch our series of Lenten suppers, advertised not only here but within Region 4 of the Diocese.

This meant that the other presenter, Margaret Shannon, who was set to share her musical wisdom on the *last* of the three Lenten suppers, would now have to *launch* the series. Would she be able to make the change of dates? Well, thank goodness, she can. All is well. But between that sudden change of plan and its resolution lie a few more silver hairs on my head.

Let's tackle this issue of worrying. It may be that there is valid worrying and there is unhelpful worrying. Here are some examples of the unhelpful kind:

Remember the new millennium, when the year turned from 1999 to 2000? For religious extremists, it meant camping out on Mount Olivet, in the Garden of Gethsemane, waiting for the second coming and the de-

struction of everyone the fundamentalist campers didn't like.

From a technological perspective, we were terrified that all our computers would crash, not being programmed to negotiate the change. Would they reset everything to 1900? Would we have to give up our cars and drive in horse-drawn carriages? *Those* particular fears didn't come to pass either.

Nor do worries over the mad cow pathogen that might be (but most certainly isn't) in our hamburger. Nor our worries about E. coli bacteria invading otherwise innocent-looking bags of spinach.

Nor does our worry over flying in airplanes. To this day, I white-knuckle every take-off and landing. I don't think my anxiety helps the pilot all that much.

Meanwhile, while we stress about possible pathogens in our food we fill our shopping carts with fat-sodden French fries and salt-encrusted nachos. We put filters on faucets, install air ionizers, and lather ourselves with antibacterial soap. At the same time, 20 percent of all adults still smoke and nearly 20 percent of drivers don't use seatbelts. What's going on here? Why do unhelpful worries keep us so distracted from genuine concerns?

Jesus preached in first-century Palestine, to people in a largely agricultural economy. They wouldn't starve, because they raised their own food. They wouldn't be lonely, because the extended family network would provide for them – *most* of the time.

But they did have other, very *real* concerns. How much of the Roman-imposed tax would be demanded? What would happen to them if they could not pay? In a changing social environment, would their children be distracted from Jewish values by a permissive, anything-goes attitude?

We have genuine concerns, too. Will we be able to cover our medical bills? Will we actually receive the Social Security benefits we've been promised? How will federal budget-cutting affect everyday life?

What's going to happen in the Middle East? Will the price of oil just keep getting higher?

What is the long-term future for our children and our grandchildren? How will they cover debts incurred by higher education? What happens if they *can't*?

So there are both superficial worries over things we can do absolutely nothing about and *genuine* concerns that call for action. But when we wake up in the middle of the night, it can be hard to tell one from the other. It sometimes seems impossible to break our worries' choke-hold over us.

That's where Jesus' gracious words come in. When Jesus tells us not to worry, he is not telling us to be complacent. Jesus by his very *life* shows us the opposite. Jesus engaged with the sick to heal them; he challenged the religious status quo to reform it.

But I hear Jesus calling us to engage with the world without pretending to be God. Only *God* is God. “Be who you are, do what you can, then let it go.” This is what Jesus means when he says “strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow... today’s trouble is enough for today.”

This teaching has tremendous implications for the things we care most about: our relationships, our parenting, our work. “Do what you can, then let it go.” Worrying only depletes our energy and steals the tranquility God intends for us. We need to keep our focus on the present moment, with all its possibility and promise.

I’d like to read a piece I came across; its author is unknown, but I hear in it a re-telling of today’s Gospel:

*“There are two days in every week about which we should not worry,
two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.*

*One of these days is Yesterday with all its mistakes and cares,
its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.*

*Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.
All the money in the world cannot bring back Yesterday,*

*We cannot undo a single act we performed;
we cannot erase a single word we said.
Yesterday is gone forever.*

*The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow
with all its possible adversities, its burdens,
its large promise and its poor performance;
Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control.*

*Tomorrow’s sun will rise,
either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise.*

*Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow,
for it is yet to be born.*

*This leaves only one day, Today.
Any person can fight the battle of just one day.
It is when you add I the burdens of those two awful eternities,
Yesterday and Tomorrow, that we break down.*

Let us, therefore, Live but one day at a time.”

We are left living with a paradox; two truths that stand together:

What we do matters *tremendously*. And we are *not* in control. Worry won’t help us live into this tension.

Jesus invites us to let worry go, forgive ourselves for our mistakes, forgive one another, trusting God enough to live each day on its own.

A SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITY

On the first Saturday of every month, Christ Church in Old Town Alexandria has labyrinth open to the public from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm. It is located in the auditorium of their Parish House. For those who are unfamiliar with the labyrinth in Christian tradition, the labyrinth is a metaphor for the spiritual journey. It is found in many religious traditions and in various forms. The labyrinth at Christ church is modeled on the one laid into the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France in the thirteenth century. Known as the “Journey to Jerusalem”, believers walked it in lieu of an actual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Not a maze, which has multiple paths with confounding choices, the labyrinth is a circling spiral, a clear path that invites you to walk in peace, to free your mind from clutter and choices, to calm your spirit, to strengthen your awareness of and to open your soul to God. It is a walking prayer, a form of meditation, and it is a way to deepen and amplify your worship experience wherever you are on your faith journey.



OUTREACH CORNER

ALIVE! HOUSE

A big THANK YOU to all of you who continue to so generously support ALIVE! House, the transitional home for women and children, with your gifts of household supplies. Here's the current ALIVE! House Wish List.

Office supplies: printer/copier paper, postage stamps

Household supplies: Brillo, oven cleaner, sponges, disinfecting wipes, rubber gloves, light bulbs, aluminum foil, standard bed pillows

Cleaners: hard surface, floor, glass & window, dish

Laundry: detergent, bleach, spot cleaner, softener

Paper: towels, toilet, tissues, napkins

Plastic: trash bags, tall kitchen bags, food storage bags

Cotton rags

Personal: soap, lotion, mouthwash, cough/cold/flu medications (adult & children)

Bus tokens & Metro tickets

THANKS AGAIN and KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

*Questions? Contact Kate Donnell,
kate58cgd@earthlink.net.*

ALIVE! FURNITURE PICK-UP

April is Resurrection's month to help ALIVE! with furniture pick-up and delivery. This year we have 2 weekends - April 9 and April 30. This is a 4 1/2 hour morning commitment, from 8 - 12:30 each Saturday. Four volunteers with healthy backs and strong arms are needed - two for each truck. . Please contact Maureen Bryant either by e-mail at Maureen229@yahoo.com or call her at 703-920-7520 to volunteer (or suggest volunteers). Home made cookies will be offered as an incentive.

HAITI MICAH PROJECT

Federal employees can contribute to the Haiti Micah project through Combined Federal Campaign #86354.

CARPENTER'S SHELTER DINNERS

Every other month we provide a meal at the Carpenter's Shelter. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Maureen Bryant 703-920-7520. Future dates are: March 6

May 1

July 3

2011 FORUM TOPICS

- March 6 - Incarnations: The Birth Legends and the Fourth Gospel
- March 13 - Conversation and Discussion with Anne
- March 20 - Sermon Discussion
- March 27 - Conversation with the Vestry
- April 3 - Passions: The Teachings and Death of Jesus in Matthew and Luke
- April 10 - Resurrections: The Four Easter Stories
- April 17 - Palm Sunday Discussion with Chase
- May 1 - Salvations: Paul and Rabbinic Judaism
- May 8 - Revelations: Women, Gnostics, and the Early Church
- May 15 - Conversation and Discussion with Anne



Church of the Resurrection
2280 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311-2299

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Alexandria, VA
Permit No. 225

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LENT at RESURRECTION

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|--|
| March 8 | SHROVE TUESDAY | MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER
6:30 pm |
| March 9 | ASH WEDNESDAY | Holy Eucharist 10:00 am & 7:30 pm |
| March 27 | LENTEN SUPPER | Margaret Shannon " <i>Music for Holy Week</i> "
6:30 pm |
| April 3 | ADULT FORUM | <i>"Passions: The Teachings and Death of Jesus in
Matthew and Luke"</i> |
| April 3 | LENTEN SUPPER | Dean Ian Markham - Speaks on his recent book,
<u>Against Atheism</u> 6:30 pm |
| April 10 | ADULT FORUM | <i>"Resurrections: The Four Easter Stories"</i> |
| April 10 | LENTEN SUPPER | Dean Ian Markham - Continues with his
recent book, <u>Against Atheism</u> 6:30 pm |