

InSpire

We will worship—a lot—this month

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Usually, we reserve *InSpire* space for telling you the “why” of things, leaving announcements for our weekly *e-Notes* publication. However, we are making an exception this month because this will be our first Holy Week in our new building and we want to ensure you know all about what will be happening—so you can come!

I hope you will attend every one of these services as we work to safely bring back some beloved traditions while exploring some new ones.

Palm Sunday (4/10)



Amg-Dick, from the Bowden Collections, used under license.

On Palm Sunday, our 8:00 and 11:00 am services will begin in the Courtyard between the Church and The Spire. We will follow the Crucifer to the Memorial Garden for a prayer—singing at 11:00 am—and then enter the nave in gospel procession. If you are not that mobile, the Liturgy of the Word will also be held in the nave.

We are trying, by the way, to set an attendance record for our 8:00 am service on Palm Sunday. We will be aided in this quest because almost all of the 20 people who claim this service as theirs will help read the Passion narrative, either in person or on Zoom.



Images from The Bowden Collection: 'Journey to the Cross with Jesus through the Eyes of Children, used under license, all rights reserved.'

Our 9:00 am service on Palm Sunday will be outdoors. We will start and end in the Courtyard, with most of the interactive Stations of the Cross service held in the Memorial Garden. This service will be different from the other Stations services held that week.

Holy Monday (4/11)



I invite you to join me on Zoom at 7:00 pm on Holy

Monday for Stations of the Cross that interpret the events of the day of Jesus’ crucifixion through the lens of overcoming racism.

Our **Maundy Thursday** (4/14) and **Good Friday** (4/15) services will be in-person and on Zoom at noon. They will then be edited and streamed on Facebook at 7:00 pm for those who can’t attend at noon.

Maundy Thursday (4/14)



On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus instituting Holy Eucharist as he shared a meal with his disciples.

Good Friday (4/15)



On Good Friday, our noon service will remember the events on the day Jesus was

(Continued on page 8)



Jo Belser, our Rector

2022 Vestry

Senior Warden

Linda Goff

Junior Warden

Coral Childs

Treasurer

Ken Gay

Register (ex officio)

Kim Hildred

Creating Community

Betsy Faga

Kim Hildred

Kathy Parnell

Barbara Langford

Healing Community

Coral Childs

Barbara Eversman

Bea Taylor

Peggy Tiedemann

Learning Community

Linda Goff

Cynthia Bullard-Perez

Ken Gay

Dennis Jones

Ken Payne

About our sabbatical

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5:16)

I recently took time to reflect on what we—Resurrection—have done these past nearly 10 years that I have been here. It has been a fabulous journey of collaborative ministry. My message today is that our journey together isn't over, even though I will be away on sabbatical from April 18 through August 13.

Linda Goff's article on page 3 explains what a sabbatical is and why a priest needs one every few years. In short, sabbaticals allow both a priest and the parish to take stock of where they are in their ministry, renew their energy, and return refreshed for the next phase of their life together.

There are jokes about priests returning from sabbatical with ideas that involve major new directions for a church. There also are jokes about priests returning from sabbatical to discover a whole new building or ministry. These are less-than-ideal situations because effective ministry is best discerned together. This is why we have already discerned our next missions and have begun to carry them out:

- Creating community with our neighbors,

- Caring for creation, and
- Creating beloved community through racial justice and healing.

Betsy Faga's articles on page 6 and 7 report on "creating community" endeavors undertaken in conjunction with our "healing community" and "worshiping community" missions. To round out the sabbatical picture, Rev. Susan's article on page 4 describes how things will work while she is our sabbatical priest. The main difference between a sabbatical and normal times is that the proverbial "buck" stops during sabbatical with the senior warden rather than the priest.

As for me, I have classes that will help me think about what church leadership might require in a post-pandemic age. Mostly, though, I plan extensive rest and relaxation at various beaches. Lenore and I will also attend the Bishop's conference at Shrine Mont to catch up with our "church family" who we haven't seen in over two years.

There are several staff-related things that will come to fruition while I am away:

- On May 8 you will get to thank Samson Mamour for his two years with us

while in seminary. This is the last Sunday before his May 12 graduation.

- May 8 will be the last day that Reggie Hayes will be our official seminarian. After then, Reggie will "only" be our 10-hour-a-week employee, helping with preaching, teaching, and pastoral care this summer. He also will have a two-month stint this summer in full-time Clinical Pastoral Education at Medstar Hospital in Washington, D.C.
- I am pleased that Tom Conroy will become our official seminarian this fall, specifically to help our 9:00 am Sunday service live into its promise. This will allow Tom to continue as our pianist.
- Reggie and Tom will each have a Parish Discernment Committee soon to help them take the next step in their own discernment processes.

In my prayer time I envision how serene and settled into our new building you all will be upon my return. I promise to continue to pray for you while I am away, and I hope you will pray for Lenore and me, as well.

~ Rev. Jo

Resting in the Lord

I have been thinking about “sabbatical” lately, given that Rev. Jo will be on sabbatical from April 18 through August 13.

When I looked up the word “sabbatical” in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, I discovered this word has an interesting description: *Sabbatical* is related to *Sabbath*, which refers to the Biblical day of rest, or the seventh day. The origins of both *sabbatical* and *Sabbath* trace to the Greek word *sabbaton*. *Sabbaton* itself traces to the Hebrew word *shabbāth*, meaning “rest.”

The Old Testament refers to God’s “day of rest” most famously in Genesis, but *Sabbath*, referring to an entire year of rest, is mentioned in Leviticus (25:3-5): “Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in its fruits; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the Lord; you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. What grows of itself in your harvest you shall not reap, and the grapes of your undressed vine you shall not gather; it shall be a year of solemn rest for the land.” (NRSV)

This led me to recall that during my youth, Sunday was traditionally considered a day of “rest in the Lord.” Nowadays, because of the technological advances of Zoom and live streaming, combined with the demands on our working society, a day of rest may be any day of the week. What is important is to rest each week in the Lord. If we take time for quiet reflection and praise of God, then we are like the fields described in Leviticus, which replenish their nutrients during a rest of the land.

Our Sunday liturgy gives us so much in which “to rest” in the Lord. We have our readings from scripture on which we can reflect, not just at the service but during a quiet time at home. We may ask ourselves, “What does this scripture story or

psalm mean to me? How does this reading stir my emotions?” Or, we can reflect on how a sermon challenges us to live our daily lives.

Our Eucharistic prayer each Sunday invites us to share, as community, a prayer relationship with the Lord. In our prayer we share our weekly joys, hopes, and sorrows. During the exchange of Peace, we communicate the love we have for each other in our community. Finally, spirituality, we come together to share in the body of the risen Christ.

My hope is that Reverend Jo will have a refreshing rest during her sabbatical and that she will feel the prayers of our community, especially during our “day of rest” in the Lord.

~ Linda Goff



Linda Goff

*“Sabbatical
... [means]
rest.”*



About InSpire

InSpire is the monthly newsletter of the Church of the Resurrection, describing the people of our congregation and our faith journey together. The following individuals contributed to this issue of *InSpire*:

- Jimena Amurio, Design
- The Rev. Jo Belser
- Cynthia Bullard-Perez, Acquisitions
- Betsy Faga
- Lea Fowlie, editing
- Lenore Funkhouser, photos
- Linda Goff
- The Rev. Susan Ackley Lukens



*The Rev. Susan Lukens,
our Sabbatical Priest*

*“Most of all,
I am excited.”*

Let’s talk sabbatical

I have such a sense of privilege and honor to be called to the role of “sabbatical priest.” And yet, I feel compelled to step back before the day of Rev. Jo’s departure arrives and share with you my thoughts on our journey together during the sabbatical summer months.

An image of sabbatical interlude. Many of you know me by now as a right-brained person: I am always painting an image in my head and I learn by drawing a picture of the lesson (I still cry that I missed our first “messy church Sunday!”) So my imagined picture for the sabbatical period is a restful stream headed for the wider ocean; Our summer sabbatical is the stream and the wider ocean journey awaits for Rev. Jo’s return.

Our journey will be to fulfill the timetable set forth in prior vestry meetings to fulfill the mission goals already in place. For example, when will the iron railing be in place for the gorgeous memorial garden starting to bloom before us? What are your articles for the *InSpire*?

We will be in the stream these summer months together, not changing course, not reinventing how Church of the Resurrection could be but rather how Church or the Resurrection already is becoming post

pandemic and in our new church building. We have the goals set out at the last February and March vestry meetings and the chairs of each committee are set to lead.

My journey will be listening to each of you, reaching out to those who need extra care, working along side our Senior Warden Linda Goff and the mission leaders to collaboratively lead our church through the summer sabbatical months. With Thomas and Reggie, I will lead the worship services, with the talented tech team our Zoom will bring us all together and Deena will conduct our music.

Most of all, I am excited. As Julian of Norwich reminds

us, “All shall be well.” My prayer for our time together:

You are the God who shall remain with us during these sabbatical summer months while our Rev. Jo finds rest and spiritual renewal in you. May we all receive the life-giving grace from you, Lord. In the midst of this season, let us be of wonder in your presence, finding the loving face of Christ in all of us.

With anticipation of joy,

~ Rev. Susan

P.S. We will be planning a huge surprise celebration for your return, Rev. Jo, and that is definitely on the summer timetable!

Foot washing in Sunday School



On April 3, when the gospel lesson was about Mary anointing Jesus’ feet, our in-person Sunday School had a foot-washing. Here Colin McBeth points to the way.

A “beloved community” gifting

In February, Resurrection’s Outreach Team gifted \$500 to The Episcopal Church’s Absalom Jones Fund from the church’s outreach operating budget. They did so because it would both help dedicated students from diverse backgrounds get a post-graduate education and help create and spread “beloved community” beyond our walls.

Our denomination established Absalom Jones Fund in the name of the Rev. Absalom Jones, the first African American priest



The Rev. Absalom Jones

ordained—in 1804—in The Episcopal Church. One of the Rev. Jones’ favorite scripture passages was 1 John 4:7, which says, “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is

from God and everyone who loves is born of God.”

The money we gave to the Absalom Jones Fund has directly aided two Episcopal historically black post-graduate schools: Saint Augustine’s University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees College in Columbia, South Carolina. Both of these schools have a solid track record of preparing young people academically, socially, and spiritually for future success.

Gbeehlee Savice is now an official member

Visits by a Bishop for Confirmation occur ever two years in the Diocese of Virginia. Having had a Bishop’s visit in February 2020 just before the pandemic became apparent, and having had another Episcopal visit on April 3, 2021, to consecrate our new building, Resurrection is not scheduled for another Bishop’s visit until 2023. And yet, we have new members who need to be Confirmed. So, since September, we have been following Bishops around during their visits to various other Northern Virginia churches.

Our fifth and latest such visit was on March 27, when

The Rev. Susan Ackley Lukens presented our newest official member, Gbeehlee Savice—pronounced “Bailey”—to Bishop Susan E. Goff for Confirmation at Holy Cross in Dunn Loring. Gbeehlee attends our church as an 8:00 am parishioner.

We have people who have begun attending our church *after* Gbeehlee did. If you are one of those, we would love to have YOU officially join our church, as well. You don’t have to wait until a Bishop next visits us here at Resurrection to be Baptized or Confirmed (to join by rite) or to transfer your membership here.

~ Rev. Jo



Gbeehlee is between Rev. Susan and Bishop Goff in the photo above, with her mother on the Bishop’s right



Betsy Faga

Three Resurrection Ministries – Creating Community

Spring is coming to the Memorial Garden

Gardeners are meeting every Friday at 10:00 am to continue enhancing the Memorial Garden. Over the past few weeks:

- some of our gardeners cleared more of the “frontier” (what we call the area on the slope between the Garden and Beaugard Street);
- some transplanted shrubs;
- some pruned;
- some dug up dozens of daffodils, hyacinths, snowdrops; and
- some kibbitzed about what to plant to prevent other than emergency use of the berm between our parking lot and Fillmore Avenue and to soften the garage wall above the new patio.

And what about that fabulous bird house new to the Garden? It was put in exactly the right spot and it now has a bird in residence!

Keep an eye out as the tulips and daffodils have begun to emerge; the garden will be in full bloom by Easter.

Anyone who is willing to get their hands in the soil is welcome to participate, whether or not they know what they’re doing . There

are some great teachers and kibbitzers are always welcome. .

Supplying diapers at the Hammond Market

David Ewing and Lori Thurgood distributed 1,415 diapers at the Hammond Community Market on March 17, including all those we blessed on recent Sunday mornings.

Site coordinator Madelyn Giblin says the share of those returning has steadily increased over the course of the year to 70% in March.

This really speaks to the value the Market is adding to the community and that people continue to see it as worth coming out for.

Madelyn further reports that residents have said, “I heard Hammond gives out diapers and things on Thursdays [once a month].” In a note to David she said, “So please know what an impact your and Church of the Resurrection’s efforts are having. I think it equally important to recognize that the Market attracts a steady stream of newcomers.”

Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry hit a new milestone in March by feeding 32,396 of our hungry neighbors in 9,334 families. You see the numbers go up each week, but ask yourself this: When

we began the pantry on October 24, 2016, did you anticipate feeding 32,000 people?

In 2022, the Pantry has fed an average of 216 people in 60 families—a 2.7-fold increase since the pandemic began. Initially during the pandemic, ALIVE! provided all the food, as this was the only way to get food safely. The government, local organizations (including Resurrection), and citizens shoveled money to ALIVE! to help pay for the food.

The amount of food provided by ALIVE! has dwindled as the pandemic has eased. So, we have augmented the food provided by ALIVE! using two different grants from the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB). We have just used up the second of these grants—for \$4,488—after 19 orders between October 12 and March 15. Annualized, this cost would be \$12,283. We have a dedicated Food Pantry fund that has over \$16,000 in it, plus an annual outreach budget of \$8,000, as God—and you—continue to provide what is needed to do the things we believe God is calling us to do

~ Betsy Faga

Clergy & Staff

Rector

[The Rev. Jo J. Belser](#)

Priest Associates

[The Rev. Dr. Susan Ackley Lukens](#)

Seminarian Intern

[Reggie Hayes](#)

Seminarian

[Samson Mamour](#)

Director of Music

Deena Jaworski

Organist

Dr. Thomas Conroy

Bookkeeper

MaryEllen Tibbs

Parish Communicator

[Jimena Amurio](#)

Sexton

Zewdi Taddese

We had Bible and Breakfast

All who attended in Bible and Breakfast, aka “messy church,” at our 9:00 am service on Sunday, March 27, went away uplifted and smiling.

This special service was the brain child of two of our Sunday School and Godly Play teachers: Gay Colyer and Chris Yeannakis. We invited families from The Spire and Bethel Ethiopian congregation to join Resurrection families for this special service designed for the young and young at heart.

Our Bible and Breakfast service started in the nave with prayer, song, and scripture readings by Wes McBeth and Bernice and Belinda Ashitey. Gay invited us to sit on rugs in front of the altar for interactive Bible storytelling.

The service then moved into the parish hall, where tables were set up to allow people to “respond” to the Bible stories through creative art work of their choice: assembling blocks, water coloring, designing figures, making bead bracelets or necklaces, making collages, coloring, drawing, or modeling with clay.

Children and adults created artwork side by side – building blocks together, making beaded bracelets, painting beautiful water color pictures, molding well-crafted clay figures and much more.

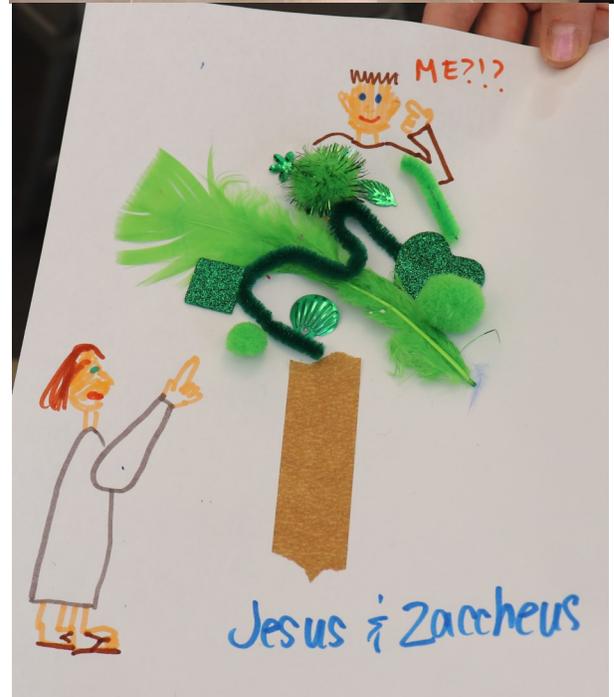
Communion took place right in the parish hall with the Bethel families saying the Lord’s Prayer in Amharic and the Rev. Carolyn Adhiambo—a seminarian from Kenya—singing *What a friend we have in Jesus* in Swahili as we hummed along.

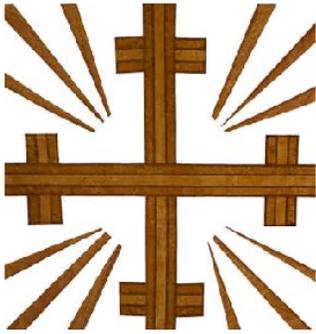
Our time together ended with a continental breakfast of juices, fruit, donuts, and muffins. But a picture is worth a thousand words so [scroll though the photos](#) on the Resurrection Facebook page.

Thanks to all who made this event a reality. As Rev. Jo told us beforehand, the success criteria was in holding the event. However, we are delighted that 36 people participated.

P.S. During craft time, several parishioners worked in the office to assemble 80 Easter candy bags for the April 16 Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 am. Plan to come join in the next fun activity with our neighbors.

~ Betsy Faga





Church of the Resurrection

2800 Hope Way
Alexandria 22311-2220

Church of the Resurrection serves the people in the Beauregard Corridor of the City of Alexandria, home to many recent immigrants. In April 2021, Resurrection completed an eight-year mission to provide 113 units of affordable housing to its community.

We will worship—a lot—this month

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killed. This service will include Communion from sacrament reserved the previous day to remind us that in Christ there is always hope.



At 1:30 pm on Good Friday we will have a Stations of the Cross service in the Memorial Garden. This service will interpret the events of this day through meditations written and presented by members of Resurrection.

Holy Saturday (4/16)



Saturday, April 16

10:00 am

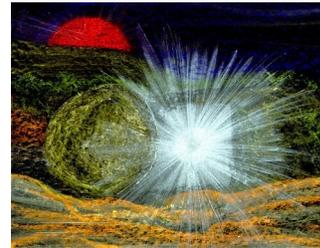
In the Courtyard of The Spire

Children: Please bring a grown-up

We have planned two events on **Holy Saturday (4/16)**.

The first is not worship, but offers an Easter Egg Hunt for the children who live in The Spire. We are not planning a similar hunt for the children who attend worship on Easter Sunday. However, if you [let me know](#) of children who will be there on Easter Sunday, we will have an Easter basket for them.

Easter Vigil (4/16)



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We definitely will worship on this day, though. For the first time since the pandemic began, we will have a meal together—potluck!—beginning at 6:30 pm. This event will become our

Easter Vigil as we sit in our Upper Room tell “salvation stories” of how God has intervened in human history. This service will include the first service of Easter, which we will share at table.

Logistically speaking, it would be useful to know how many of you plan to attend the Vigil; look for a sign-up link in the next *e-Notes*.

Easter Sunday (4/17)

Easter Sunday will be our second Easter in our now one-year-old building. Our services at 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am all promise new life, just as Christ Jesus rose to new life.

I am especially pleased that the flowers this Easter are live and will be planted in our Memorial Garden after Easter. Each service will end with a short liturgy blessing for sabbatical.

~ Rev. Jo

