

APRIL 2014

# The Bellringer

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT DUNSTAN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

*Christ's Appearance  
to Mary Magdalene  
after the Resurrection,  
by Alexander Ivanov  
(detail)*



## Master of What?

In 2001, I was attending the graduation ceremonies at Virginia Theological Seminary. I would be graduating in 2002, so I figured I should attend to see the proper protocol—to see if things like high-fiving the bishop or doing cartwheels were appropriate when receiving your diploma. The commencement speaker was the Reverend Barbara Brown Taylor, who is a minister and a popular author. The degree that is awarded is called a “Master in Divinity.” Reverend Taylor started by saying, “I see we are handing out Masters of Divinity this morning. What a curious phrase, I didn’t think the Divine could be mastered.” This was a humbling reminder that we often give ourselves too much credit and thing way too highly of ourselves. Reverend Taylor was right we can’t master the Divine. So what is the goal of our spiritual journeys?

When I was in my twenties, I heard a sermon and the message was based on Matthew 5:48, “Be perfect therefore as your heavenly Father is perfect.” The preacher exhorted the congregation to attain a level of loving and living that was equal to God. As a twenty-something, I knew I was falling far short of this ideal of perfection that the preacher was driving us towards. I felt quite disheartened because I did not believe perfection could ever be attained so why was I even bothering pursuing an end that could never be

reached. At that point in my life, my spiritual perspective was definitely destination driven.

Just as I was struggling with the hopeless pursuit of achieving spiritual perfection, God sent me a gift. I was walking through a flea market and came across a book called *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster. I think it was the oxymoronic title that caught my eye. I never associated discipline as something to be celebrated. I paid my dollar for the book, took it home, and became completely engaged in reading it. The book shares various spiritual disciplines and the cumulative effect practicing them has on our lives. The practice of our faith draws us deeper into ourselves and an awareness of God’s presence in our lives and the world. This book completely changed my approach and understanding of the Christian faith. My faith experience no longer focused on the destination but on the journey. This is a healthy approach not only for individuals but for Christian communities, too.

Our vestry is doing a book study as part of each meeting. The book we are reading is *Tools for Rebuilding* by Michael White and Tom Corcoran. In a chapter titled “Taking People on a Journey,” this is the opening paragraph:

*“As a church we have a job of leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. A growing relationship means that none of us*

*has arrived. None of us is where we could be and should be in our relationship with the Lord. We have potential for more: we can love God more; we can love each other more; we can be growing kinder, more patient, and more generous people; and we can be helping other people do the same.”*

These words capture the essence of our attempts to “master” the Divine and our mission to help others do the same. The most dangerous thing we can do as a church or as individuals is to believe we arrived somewhere and become stagnant in a morass of complacency.

Throughout his earthly ministry Jesus pushed his followers to action, to challenge their understanding of God.. Many of the teachings Jesus shared seem impossible to attain yet because we have known God’s love we can do no other but keep trying. We may think to ourselves that no one can live the type of love we are called to live. Yet Christ showed us the perfect selfless sacrificial love all the way the cross. Perhaps we, if only for brief moments can learn to love in the same way. Practicing spiritual disciplines takes on a journey towards that type of love, the love God has for us. We may not be able to master the Divine but if we are willing to take the journey the Divine will master us.

—Stephen +

## WORSHIP

## Your Holy Week 2014

**A**pril 13th will be Palm Sunday and the beginning of what is known as “Holy Week.” Holy Week is the full week leading up to Easter. Special days include: Palm Sunday (or Passion Sunday), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

**Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday**

This is the day in which we remember and celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, where he was greeted by a crowd with palm branches shouting “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Matthew 21:1-11). Years ago the Episcopal Church realized that many people were not coming to the services later in Holy Week and so were going from one Sunday service of celebration (Palm Sunday) straight into another Sunday service of celebration (Easter) without Jesus’ death in-between! The joys of Easter cannot be fully felt unless you first work through the sorrow and terror of the crucifixion. Today, in the Episcopal Church, we also call this day the Sunday of the Passion and in the same service that we celebrate with palms we also read aloud the passion narrative (the account of Jesus’ betrayal, trial, and death - Matthew 26:14- 27:66). Other recommended readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, and Philippians 2:5-11

**Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday**

These days are not usually remembered with a special service. Recommended readings are as follows:

*Holy Monday:* Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 36:5-11, Hebrews 9:11-15, and John 12:1-11

*Holy Tuesday:* Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 71:1-14, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, and John 12:20-36

*Holy Wednesday:* Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 70, Hebrews 12:1-3, and John 13:21-32

**Maundy Thursday (April 17)**

“Maundy” comes from the Latin *mandatum* which means “commandment.” This comes from the story in John’s gospel where Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and says “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34). On Maundy Thursday we remember that story and the story of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples. Recommended Readings:

- Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
- Psalm 116:1, 10-17

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Good Friday (April 18)**

This day we remember Jesus’ crucifixion and death. We can call this day “good” even though it is sad because it was a holy and gracious day that showed us the depth of God’s love for us when Jesus sacrificed himself for us on the cross. Recommended Readings:

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 22
- Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- John 18:1-19:42

**Holy Saturday (April 19)**

On this day we remember Jesus’ burial in the tomb. This was a day of sorrow and fear for the disciples, who did not realize that Jesus would rise from the dead the next day. Recommended Readings:

- Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
- Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
- 1 Peter 4:1-8
- Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

**Easter (April 20)**

Of course, this is the day that we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection! Easter is the central feast day of the whole church year. Recommended Readings:

- Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
- John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

**Holy Week Services at St. Dunstan’s**

April 13: Palm Sunday – 8:15am & 10:15am

April 15: Contemplative Prayer – 7:00pm

April 16: Holy Eucharist – 12:00pm

April 17: Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00pm

April 18: Good Friday Services – 12:00pm & 7:00pm  
(1:00pm and 4:00pm, Stations of the Cross)

April 20: Easter Sunday – 8:15am & 10:15am

If you cannot attend services during the week, then I recommend that you read scripture and pray to help yourself (and your family) work through this week. I wish you a blessed Holy Week!

— The Rev. Anna Scherer

## PARISH NEWS

## The Great Vigil of Easter at The Falls Church Episcopal

This year, at least seven Northern Virginia Episcopal parishes will join to celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter at The Falls Church Episcopal. Bishop Susan Goff will preach and celebrate. The Great Vigil is on Saturday, 19 April, beginning at 7:30pm. All are invited!

## Bookworms To Meet Sat., April 26 at 10 AM

We will meet a week later this month of April because of Easter. Our book will be *Twelve Years a Slave* the memoirs of Solomon Northup. Solomon Northup was a free man kidnapped into slavery in Washington D.C. in 1841. Shortly after his escape, he published his memoirs to great acclaim. A major motion picture was based on his book.

## Women of St. Dunstan's: Next Meeting, May 3

At our meeting on 15 March 2014, we agreed to continue our support of the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center and agree to increase our snack donations from two to three times a year. The conversation then spon-

taneously turned to topics concerning the Sunday School.

If anyone would like to open our next meeting with a prayer, providing a simple refreshment, or leading a discussion, that would be most welcome.

The next UTO Ingathering is 18 May. If anyone wants to volunteer to assist with the Ingathering, please let Elizabeth know.

The next Women's meeting is Saturday, 3 May 2014 4:00 to 6:00 PM in the Common Room. Please come and bring your ideas.

## St. Dunstan's Trip to Tanzania: July 23 – Aug. 4

St. Dunstan's and St. Mary's Arlington are planning a joint trip to Tanzania. This would be a 10 day trip, the central purpose of which is to establish a relationship with people in our village Wilunze. If you are interested in going or learning more about this trip please contact either Rev. Stephen or Rev. Anna.

## Shrine Mont Camps 2014

Shrine Mont Summer Camp brochures are available in the vestibule. You may also learn more about the camps on the website at [shrinemontcamps.net](http://shrinemontcamps.net). (Ever wonder what goes on at camp? Watch the video!) ■

## Cornelius Project Update

I had dinner with the priest who is rector of the church that inspired this project. She shared the following story about how one of her parishioners used \$300. We'll call him Joe.

"Joe spent a day at the local men's homeless shelter to learn about their ministry. He asked the director of the shelter if they had any needs. He was told that they could use some new clean blankets. Joe used \$300 of his own money and bought the shelter some new blankets. He then went to the bank and had the \$300 the church gave him converted into \$5 dollar bills. The next morning he stood outside of the shelter doors and as each man was leaving he handed him \$5, gave them a hug, and said, "God loves you". Joe describes this experience as one of the most powerful spiritual experiences of his life."

—Stephen +

### 2014 Cornelius Project Participants

- Joan Morton
- Searby-Derby Family
- Jon and Anne Spear
- Linda Young
- The Emerson Family
- Ellen Keck
- The Lee Family
- The Elaine Ho/Jason Upp Family
- The Scanlon Family
- Norma Graves and Michael Davidson
- The Buttz Family
- Cornelia and Greg Cody
- The Chalk Family



## PANCAKE, ER, LUNCH

*Shrovetide snows postponed Saint Dunstan's pancakes this year, but parishioners packed the parish hall on a subsequent Sunday and finished the job.*



*Above: Mary Vogel, Martha Taishoff, Indra Chalk, and Suzan Yungner. Below: Katie and Keith Horenstein.*



*Above: Vestry members Cheryl Mazzier, Alison Keck, Jim Buttz, and Leonard Ward. Below: Local delinquents.*



*Miles Ivatts and Barbara Cooper's grand-niece reflect on all this 'Shrove' stuff.*

### April Birthdays

- 4 Andrea Mitchel
- 5 Ellen Keck
- 9 Julie Brown
- 10 Kevin Place
- 10 Alex Place
- 11 Nancy Pierpont
- 13 Andrew Akbari
- 14 Sigrid Emrich
- 20 Sarah Colatrisano
- 21 Marjorie Cole
- 22 Margaret Brown
- 23 Lucy Griffin
- 24 Marina Connors
- 26 Barbara Kenniston
- 27 Tommy Williams
- 28 Rosalie Learned



## PATHS TO GOD: DAVID LINDSAY

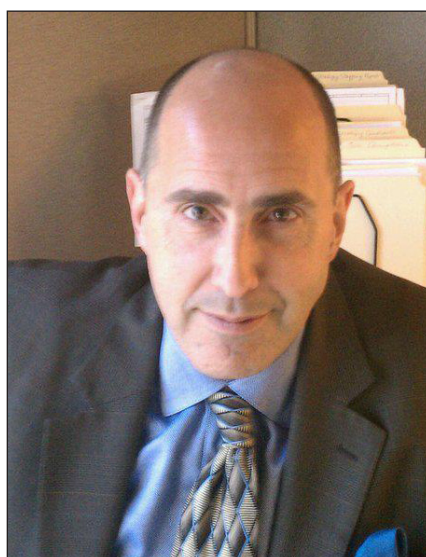
## ‘This huge megachurch called Saint Dunstan’s’

I was born in the early 1960s in Washington, D.C., Capital of The Free World. (Actually, my folks lived in Arlington, but the good doctors practiced in D.C.) I think my name at birth was “Oh, no—It’s alive!” Later it became David Andrew Lindsay.

I was the youngest of three boys, all about three years apart. Like my father’s parents, my folks were Episcopalians—my mom and dad actually met and married at St. George’s in Arlington. My dad is a cradle Episcopalian like me; my mother was raised a Methodist, but was confirmed at St. George’s (She later left what you might call the “traditional” church, but she had definite Christian values and tried a lead her life in such a way by example.) We all attended St. George’s until I was seven, at which point my dad moved us boys to McLean, where we attended this huge megachurch called St. Dunstan’s!

Father Grant Sherk, the founding rector of St. Dunstan’s, had a strong influence on me, along with the St. Dunstan’s Sunday School teachers, the Assistant Rectors, and the rest of the staff. Father Sherk was larger than life to me and to everyone in the parish. (Just ask the people around today that knew him!).

By the time I was 9 or 10, I was very excited about being a part of St. Dunstan’s and being a Christian. I was in the junior choir, I was an altar boy, and I joined the junior high youth group. (Also, back then, you didn’t take communion until you were confirmed in seventh grade, which was a huge deal.) Being a Christian was very much a part of who I was, although it was true



*At top, David (right) and his brothers; center, in the 80s and bottom, today.*

that none of my friends at the time could...how you say...relate, man. So in early adolescence, and during our last few years at St. Dunstan’s before we moved away from suburban Virginia to suburban Maryland, I felt strong ties to Christianity.

Starting around thirteen, I begin to question, as I think most adolescents do, all manner of authority, including organized religion. I grew more secular and had no interest in being a Christian or even caring whether or not there was a God. So you could say I checked out for ten years. Fast-forward to post-college: I got a job at (of all places) Catholic University here in D.C. At the same time, through my freelance work, I met an Episcopal priest named Jerry Anderson from a parish at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in northwest D.C. Jerry was and is a unique and gifted person spiritually. He is a definite free thinker—funny, and seemingly much “looser” theologically than I had viewed the church as growing up. I thought, “If he is where the church is now, perhaps I should reconsider.” Suffice to say that between my time attending St. Thomas on Sundays and working at CUA, I was surrounded in a world of believers, and eventually I re-embraced my Christian faith. I never looked back.

Still, faith—like life—is an ongoing journey with peaks and valleys. There were and are times when I feel “unplugged” from God, like people do. I believe very strongly now in the power of prayer and in the undeniable ways that God can work through your life. But like most things, it takes work. I think a relationship with an almighty, loving God can be a good place to start.

Today, no one person in particu-

lar stands out as a religious influence on me, but I'm lucky to be surrounded by friends and family who play a big part. My two sons, Jonathan and Daniel, teach me a lot about faith every day.

But books and movies? Don't get me started on books and movies—we'll be here all day. I'll name three books: *The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis, *Here I Stand* by Bishop Shelby Spong (My dad and I both think Spong is kind of full of himself, but nonetheless, he led the charge for civil rights in the South during the 60s and for gay rights in the 80s), and *The Good Book* by Peter J. Gomes. I'll name three movies: "Millions," directed by Danny Boyle, Luc Besson's "The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc," and an obscure Steve Martin comedy from the 1990s called "Leap of Faith." I'll just say that what I learned through these mediums is the old true cliché: God works in mysterious ways.

And then there's music! Today, there are many musical artists who are unafraid to declare themselves themselves Christians. Three of my favorites are Bono from U2, Moby, and The Indigo Girls. Jethro Tull's classic "Aqualung" album from the early 1970s has singer/songwriter Ian Anderson's thoughts on theology and his dissatisfaction with the Church and its ways, ultimately declaring at the end of the album that God isn't just someone you can "wind up on Sundays." Again, it was the early 70s, and a lot of things have changed, but it's a great CD—both musically and theologically—to listen to, despite young Anderson's grumbling. It's hard not to miss what he believes—that one must be responsible for the wellbeing of society in order to truly follow Jesus' teachings.

Likewise, contemporary Christian music has a come along way since

when I was growing up. Most of the so-called "Christian" popular music in the 60s and 70s was dreadful, but if, to quote John Lennon, "before

Elvis there was no one," likewise for Amy Grant. Grant was a huge game-changer for Christian pop music in the 80s. Today I enjoy many of the Christian artists on the local WGTS 91.9 station.

I admire a whole host of what I believe are Christian people in practice or faith, both living and/or no longer with us: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dr. C. Evert Koop, Marion Wright Edelman, Nelson Mandela, Lincoln, FDR, Teddy Roosevelt, St. Paul, St. Francis of Assisi, Joan of Arc, Elizabeth I, Prince Charles, Bishop Barbara Harris, Sugar Ray Leonard, Bono—the list goes on.

I think my favorite passage from the Bible would have to be "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ" (1 Timothy 2:1-6)

Oh, and "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance...love will last forever!" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

As for the part of Anglican tradition I like most, I love the idea of three tenants of our faith: tradition, reason, and scripture. And if I could change anything about the Episcopal Church? Easy: More cowbell! ■



From top, Sons Jonathan and Daniel; below with Daniel and The Joker



# APRIL 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 6:30 PM Outreach Meeting/Conference Room 7 PM Centering Prayer/Weekly in the Chapel	<b>2</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Room 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely 6:45 Lenten Series/Parish Hall EFM/Common Room	<b>3</b> 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir/Undercroft	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9 AM-Noon McLean Youth Orchestra
<b>6</b> Lent V 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 9:15 AM Bible Study 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10 AM Confirmation Class 11:45 AM Lay Committee, Conference Room	<b>7</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts/Weekly in the Parish Hall 7PM Young Adults/Irelands 4 Provinces	<b>8</b> 7 PM Centering Prayer/Weekly in the Chapel 7 PM Vestry Meeting	<b>9</b> - 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Room - Lunch Bunch - 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely - 6:45 Lenten Series/Parish Hall - EFM/Common Room	<b>10</b> 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir/Undercroft	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9 AM-Noon McLean Youth Orchestra
<b>13</b> Palm Sunday 8:15 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II Senior High/UC Spirit Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7 PM Centering Prayer/Weekly in the Chapel	<b>16</b> Noon: Holy Eucharist, Sanctuary	<b>17</b> 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir/Undercroft	<b>18</b> Good Friday Services: - Noon Service, Chapel - 1:00 PM, Stations of the Cross, Sanctuary - 4:00 PM, Children's Stations of the Cross - 7:00 PM Service, Chapel	<b>19</b> 7:30 PM –The Great Vigil of Easter at the Falls Church Episcopal
<b>20</b> Easter Sunday 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II & Healing (No Sunday School, but activities for small children available) Easter Egg Hunt	<b>21</b> Easter Monday: Office Closed 7 PM Boy Scouts/Weekly in the Parish Hall	<b>22</b> 7 PM Centering Prayer/Weekly in the Chapel	<b>23</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Room 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely EFM/Common Room	<b>24</b> 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir/Undercroft	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9 AM-Noon McLean Youth Orchestra 10 AM Bookworms – Conference Room
<b>27</b> 8:15 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II 10 AM Senior High/UC Spirit Choir	<b>28</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts/Weekly in the Parish Hall 7PM Young Adults/Irelands 4 Provinces	<b>29</b> 7 PM Centering Prayer/Weekly in the Chapel	<b>30</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Room 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely EFM/Common Room			<b>COMING SOON:</b> • May 11: Mother's Day • June 8: Pentecost "Tongues of Fire" Chili Cook-Off

**Please feel free to contact us**

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