

Hope, Belief and New Life

In my recent sermons, the words hope, belief and new life have been featured many times. Among the three words, the word I have used the most is hope. In February during the ground hog festivity, though I am not a believer in what the ground hog predicts, I had hoped that he wound say that the winter was about to end or would not last for very long, but as it turned out that was not to be. But, having been raised in equatorial Africa, I am not an expert about winter. It was just my wishful thinking.

The word hope in our modern usage does not imply confidence and certain expectations, but this is not the case in biblical usage. Hope in the Scripture means "a strong and confident expectation." This "strong and confident expectation" affects what we value in life and how we live. The theme of our 143rd Convention of the Diocese of Easton was archeologist of hope. In her writing, The Rev. Canon Heather quoted the Marist brother Donald Bisson, a pioneer in Jungian-Christian dialogue, who said, "Hope does not mean a kind of wishful thinking." Canon Heather said, "Hope is what carries us and sustain us for the journey."

The Bible is full of stories of God's mission to bring healing, *hope* and wholeness. In my first sermon in Lent this year, I said that for us to be true followers of Christ, preparation for our Christian journey is paramount. We cannot overcome the temptations we go through, unless we are fully prepared for this journey. The Bibles says, for those who have a strong foundation and are deeply rooted in the Lord will find new strength. They will never grow weary nor faint. Isaiah 40:30.

Hope is built upon belief. Belief is the rock we stand upon. Without belief there can be no hope. We would wander blindly as if in a maze feeling our way without direction. Jesus applied mud made from spittle to the eyes of the man born blind, and he could see for the first time in his life. The Pharisees were shocked with disbelief and threw the blind man out of the temple. Jesus sought him out and asked him if he believed in the Son of man. The blind man said, "I believe," and he worship Jesus. It was through belief that the blind man had new life, a new beginning.

As spring brings new life, so does Easter Sunday. If we truly believe in the Son of Man, the one who holds the words of eternal life, and if we are committed to this truth, like the Samaritan woman in John 4, the risen Christ will offer us, a drink of the living water, the water of eternal life so that in us will come forth springs gushing up to eternal life. In the risen Lord we will experience God's presence, which will bring inner peace and joy to our hearts.

~The Rev. Dr. Nicholas N. Sichangi

Your Prayers are asked for

Jan AckermanJoe HeimbergerVince RinellaJacob AsroffWalter JermynBrooke RollinsMary Helen AtwoodLibby KeeferAntonette RosatoWilliam AtwoodKathy KoslakDavid Russ

Dustin Bartow Rosemarie Scott Murphy Carroll Smith
Melissa Collins Richard Palmer Ira Smith

Goldie Cook Justin Pearce Tricia Smith

Helen Cornacchia Rose Perrone Christine Stanley

Tiffany Cox Christopher Porteus Bunny Sturgill-Martin

Jesse CuginiJohn PottsLisa WiegandNancy DraperVaughn Potts

Wendy Gilbert Linda Rawlings

Northern Convocation Lenten Film Series Wednesday, *April 9 at 6:00 pm*, in the Parish House. A light dinner will be served.

April 16 will be the final Lenten film, it will be hosted by Shrewsbury Parish.



will meet at the Parish House at 11:30 am on Monday, April 21

Bring a bag lunch drinks/desserts will be provided.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

are needed to provide light refreshments (cookies, donuts). We supply the coffee, cream

and sugar after the 10:00 a.m. service. Coffee hour is a critical ministry, not only for the fellowship of our regular members but also for the meeting and greeting of newcomers. House.

Sign up sheet is in the Parish House.

WOMEN OF TRINITY

FIRST FRIDAY FARE May 2 at 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the Parish House.

Soup and desserts \$5.00 per person

Chili and desserts \$7.00 per person

Grass Cutting

Beautiful green grass will return before we know it. (I hope!)

And we could use your help keeping it under control. Please consider if you could join the dedicated few for about once a month to cut and trim God's lawn. No experience is needed. If you are able bodied, 18 or over, and somewhat mechanically inclined I will show you the ropes, and pair you with a seasoned Trinity grass pro for the "season". Family teams are also welcome. Please let me know if you can join our behind the scenes team.

Thanks! Rich Gilbert, 410-287-3580, richgilbert2003@yahoo.com

Ministry Schedule

8:00 AM

Date	CBR	P of P	Usher	
4/13	Mary Helen Atwood	Gordon Tozer	Mitzie Snyder , Paul Arbour Jr,	
4/20	Gordon Tozer	Mitzie Snyder	Mary Helen Atwood, Sam Smith	
4/27	Gordon Tozer	Mary Helen Atwood	Paul Arbour Jr, Susan Weed	

10:00 AM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>CBR</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>P o P</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
4/13	Marina White Carri Birdsall	Ross Lee	Margaret Russ Orville Potts	Diane and Dwight Hair	Judy Caffey	Kathy Davidson
4/20	Aaron Derby Hunter Taylor	Susan Burkholder	Kathy Davidson Mary Morrison	Ross Lee Charlie Davidson	Orville Potts	Jane Ayers
4/27	Carri Birdsall JP Fossler	Marina White	Heidi White	Wendy & Richard Gilbert	Janice Potts	Libby Keefer

4/17 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm
Acolytes-Jack Fossler and Aaron Derby
Lector— Marina White
CBR— Debbie McKeown
P of P- Mary Katharine Hitchcock
Ushers— Charlie Davidson,
Mary Katharine Hitchcock

4/18 Good Friday 7:00 pm CBR-Gordon Tozer Ushers— Diane and Dwight Hair

Lent and **Eas**ter Services

Palm Sunday, April 13th 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palms.

<mark>Maundy Thursday, April</mark> 17th

*7:00 pm - Special Liturgy & Eucharist

<mark>Good Friday, April 18t</mark>h

*7:00 pm Liturgy (with music)

Easter Sunday, April 20th 8:00 am - Holy Eucharist with hymns *10:00 am - Full Holy Eucharist

BIBLE STUDY & MID-WEEK EUCHARIST

Wednesdays at 9:00 am

in Trinity House.



Mark your calendars-Celebration of our new Ministry Sunday, May 4, 2014 at 4:00 pm