



# THE STAR

## ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SERVING GOD  
AND NEIGHBOR...

COMPASSIONATE

TRANSFORMING

EMPOWERING

REACHING OUT

COMMUNITY

April 2010

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### On the Cusp of Holy Week

We have been on the journey through Lent, a time of self-examination and inner reflection. Lent offers us a time to ponder on those things in our lives that cloud or inhibit our relationship with God, and Lent can also be a time to discern the spiritual practices that strengthen our relationship with God and with each other. Now, we find ourselves approaching Holy Week, and we have the opportunity to spend a week walking with Christ as He turns His face to Jerusalem for the last time.

As Christ enters through the gates of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we are invited to wave our palm branches, lay down our cloaks, and proclaim, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest." We rejoice as Christ, our King makes His way into the streets filled with people preparing to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. But what kind of king is expected? A king that is powerful and victorious for God's people at the expense of others, or a king whose power comes from a God who reigns with the humble heart of a servant, and whose victory over sin and death is for the salvation of us all. And as we acclaim Jesus as our king we make our way into the last days of Christ's life dwelling among us. Through the gospel appointed for Monday in Holy Week, our hearts fill with love and compassion as Mary offers her very finest possession of expensive perfume as a gift for Jesus and anoints Jesus' feet and dries them with her hair. We are blessed to be able to see the magnitude of her love for Jesus through this sacrificial offering, and we can also see this anointing as a sign foretelling Jesus' death. Kings and priests were anointed upon their heads and the dead are anointed in preparation for burial. This sign can be to us a gift that may help us prepare for the death of our servant King and Savior.

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FROM THE  
**Assistant  
Rector**

*The Rev. Lisa Mason*

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Our gospel on Tuesday challenges us to really look closely at Jesus' teaching that those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it in eternal life. Wow, those are hard and messy words to hear! Am I living the life I am called to live as a member of the Body of Christ, or like the prodigal son, who has squandered all that was given to him, am I finding myself in a life that weighs on me with the burden of sin, alienation, sense of failure, and regret? What does it mean to lose my life in order to live another way? What would it look like to live life bathed in the light of Christ? What steps am I taking each and every day to grow closer to Christ?

On Wednesday, scripture calls our focus to turn to Jesus' prediction of the betrayal of Judas. Am I ever guilty of denying my relationship with Christ? Have I ever been betrayed? How did I respond towards the one who betrayed me? Do the pressures of the world tempt me to turn away from following Christ, or am I ready to lay down my life, deny myself, pick up my cross, and follow Jesus all the way to death on the cross and empty tomb?

Then before we know it, we find ourselves on Maundy Thursday. Jesus celebrates the Passover meal with his friends, and then He takes His outer garment off, wraps it around His waist, and washes the feet of the disciples. Washing feet was one of the most humble acts of hospitality and servitude, and the Son of God kneels down at the feet of those who follow Him and washes off the dirt. Then Jesus takes the bread and, after giving thanks, He breaks it and gives it to the disciples and asks them to remember that it is His body given for them. He takes the cup of wine, gives thanks and asks them to remember that He has poured out His blood for the forgiveness of sin. And then he retreats to the garden and prays at the same time one of the disciples is in the very act of betraying Him. The altar of our church is cleared and the sanctuary

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becomes a symbol of the tomb of our Lord. Just as Jesus asks His disciples to stay awake and pray with Him, we attempt to do the same. Many of us watch and pray with Jesus that night as He waits for His fate at the hands of those who want to persecute Him out of fear.

Good Friday brings the remembrance of Jesus' suffering and death. We recognize and remember each step Jesus took on the path to Golgotha, the place of the skull, which was the site of His death. We feel the weight of the cross as Jesus carries it outside of the city of Jerusalem. We listen in horror as He is nailed to the cross, and we mourn as He suffers and dies a cruel and lowly death. On Saturday we wait, watch, mourn, and begin to think about turning our hearts towards the miracle of Easter.



Once we have made the journey to the cross of Good Friday, we can wake up in the early hours of dawn with hearts full of awe and joy at the empty tomb and resurrected Christ on Easter morning. We can indeed celebrate with flowers, music, song, and proclamations of Alleluia! Our Lord has conquered death and risen for us all! The Lord has risen!



Come; let us experience this Holy Week together as a faith community. We will have the opportunity to gather each and every day of Holy Week. Let us celebrate having observed a holy journey of Lent and a miraculous Easter morn uniting our voices in prayer together. Thanks be to God.

Peace,  
Lisa+



Donald Sebesta  
DMSEBESTA@aol.com

## The Great Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday starts at 7:00 am with The Great Easter Vigil, which begins in darkness and ends with light as we proclaim the ancient greeting:

*Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
The Lord is risen indeed.  
Alleluia!*

The Easter Vigil is much more than a sunrise service. It dates back centuries and is believed to be the oldest liturgy for celebrating Easter in both Eastern and Western Christianity.

The Vigil starts with a procession led by the Paschal Candle into the darkened church as responsorial acclamations are pronounced. This is the most dramatic of any liturgy in the whole Church Year representing the breaking of the darkness of sin and death by the Light of Christ, and is certainly a perfect sequel to Good Friday.

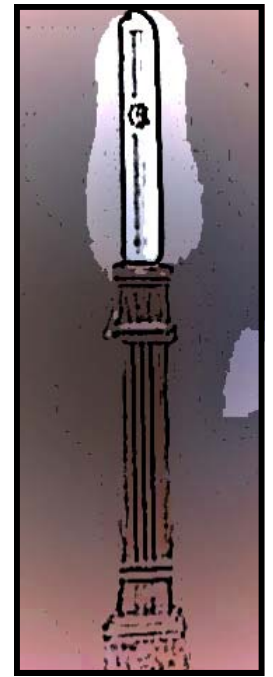
What follows is the EXSULTET, an ancient sung Easter proclamation, calling all to the anticipated feast.

Next comes a series of Old Testament readings starting with the story of creation, followed by other stories recalling how God loved and saved his people throughout Old Testament history. In between these readings are songs and Psalms which add commentary to the readings. The RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS ends this sequence of anticipation and preparation; and EASTER begins.

As we begin the Easter Eucharist, we experience a foretaste of that heavenly banquet which we receive in this life in the Eucharist. Past, present, and future-- that golden thread of salvation bursts upon us revealing the Glory of God as we celebrate and relive the Paschal mystery.

Come, taste, and see the goodness of the Lord.

*Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:  
Therefore, let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*



## Choral Consortium Spring Concert

The Episcopal Choral Consortium and Orchestra will hold its fourth annual spring concert at St. David's on Sunday, May 2, at 4:00 pm. The public is invited and admission is free. David Garcia is the conductor, and Dr. Gene Dowdy is the concertmaster.

The program will feature music for the Lent and Easter cycle of the Church Year in an eclectic mix of pieces ranging from hymn/spirituals to choral works by Flor Peeters and Randall Thompson. Featured also will be new compositions by consortium composers, James Garcia and Donald Sebesta.

Last year the consortium, based at St. David's, received favorable reviews from a local media outlet, and is the only church-based choral group to receive this kind of distinction.

## Classes leading to Confirmation

On Sunday, May 2 at the 10:30 am service, we will have baptisms, confirmations and reaffirmations. We will also recognize our graduates and award St. David's Acolyte Scholarship. A luncheon will follow.

**St. David's 101 (for adults)**  
 March 28 through  
 April 25 (except 4/4, Easter) @  
 9:15 am &  
 May 2 Confirmation @ 10:30 am

**Youth** Confirmation class through April 25 (except 4/4, Easter) @ 9:15 am & May 2 Confirmation @ 10:30 am



## Palm Saturday and Palm Sunday

St. David's will have our usual Palm Sunday service, but also this year for the first time, the Vestry will host a Palm Service and Processional followed by lunch for our Exceptional Adults on Saturday, March 27. This group has been meeting at St. David's every Saturday since the 1980's. Many don't have transportation to the church on Sundays and miss joining us for worship.

Please join us on Saturday, March 27 for the 11:00 am service, processional around the block with palm branches and lunch.

For more information, contact Suzan Reagor in the church office.



*Patsy McGaughy,  
 Vestry Senior  
 Warden*

## Lent and Easter Worship Schedule

**Palm Saturday Service, Procession and Lunch with Exceptional Adults** March 27  
 @ 11:00 am-1:00 pm

**Palm Sunday Services with Reading of the Passion Narrative**  
 March 28 at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

**Meditations on the Stations of the Cross**  
 Monday-Thursday, March 29-April 1 at 12:10 pm  
 Chapel of the Holy Spirit

**Maundy Thursday Service with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar**  
 Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 pm

**Maundy Thursday Vigil: Will You Keep Watch with Me?**  
 Thursday, April 1 from 8:00 pm-12:00 am  
 Friday, April 2 from 7:00 am-12:00 pm

**Good Friday Service**  
 Friday, April 2 at 12:10 pm & 6:00 pm

**Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt, Godly Play Story & Lunch**  
 Saturday, April 3 @ 10:30 am in  
 McAllister Hospitality Hall

Please bring to church office one dozen filled, plastic eggs per child by 3/29. Sign-up sheets for lunch donations will be available.

## Easter Sunday Services April 4

7:00 am **The Great Easter Vigil: Holy Eucharist**  
**Special Easter Breakfast** served until 10:00 am  
 10:30 am **Holy Eucharist with Flowering of the Cross**  
 Nursery available



To make a donation toward the lilies for the altar at Easter, please return this form with a check to St. David's in the church office by Monday, March 29. The cost is \$10.00.

**In memory of/honor of (circle one):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## For the Love of Kids and Calves

By Ethel Porter

When folk, farmers and ranchers, educators and entertainers, come together to share a love of the rodeo and their desire to help youth accomplish dreams, I would not have thought that they would have adopted calves (the cow thing) as the vehicle to make a difference. These adults dare to imagine that teenagers can become winners by catching calves and celebrating the victory of crossing a finish line. These volunteers give months-of-days a year to bring animals and high school-age youth together to teach lessons of responsibility and discipline. Byron Buzzini, a St. David's parishioner of many years, is Vice-Superintendent of the Calf Scramble event in the annual San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. In this mid-winter competition, he has found a way to celebrate Texas traditions by supervising an event in which young people test their skills to run into a herd of calves, put a halter on a calf and bring it into the "winners square" in six minutes in order to claim the prize.

Every year, thousands of Texas youth submit applications to participate in statewide Calf Scramble rodeo events. These youth, of the *Twitter* and *Facebook* generation, come from zip codes throughout the state. Motivated by the athletic challenge, the physicality of the effort, and the promise of monetary reward, the teens seek a winner's distinction and the collection of prize money that can change their lives.

Members of S.A.L.E. (San Antonio Livestock Exposition ) Rodeo Calf Scramble Committee are intensely involved in the February San Antonio Rodeo. Volunteers donate thousands of dollars at every Calf Scramble rodeo performance and give approximately \$250,000 throughout the stretch of the rodeo schedule. On average, they shepherd 21 shows each year and yell loud hoorays to 24 teenagers to prompt them to do their best in catching calves to compete for scholarship money. In each show, rodeo judges name twelve skilled youth as winners and those winners have the chance to compete for a bigger prize in the following year's rodeo event.

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St. David's  
Roving Reporter  
Ethel Porter



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Contributions from generous donors give members of Future Farmers of America and 4 H youth the opportunity to win thousands of dollars to fund college dreams and/ or entrepreneurial first-steps. These winnings enable youthful competitors to reach beyond the challenge of catching calves to envision the possibility of buying heifers, raising them, and showing them. Some people may think that the Scramble is just a rodeo event. No! I disagree. It is not just that. Rather, the event pits youth and animals in a competition out of which something exciting and different can result.

The Calf Scramble is not a worldwide Olympic exhibition sport. It does not have the cachet of the running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain. Rather, the rough and tumble of the Calf Scramble is a moment in which young people press themselves to catch calves by their tails or ears and in so doing yell a "Ya Hoo" to the possibilities of an exciting future. For Byron Buzzini, the Calf Scramble celebrates the vitality of youth, the fun of rodeos, and the belief that God may love the rodeo too.



Sarah Cozad  
Director of Children & Youth Ministries  
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## Bridging the Gap

Knowing the hidden rules of each socio-economic class can help bridge the gap between them. Jesus came to break down walls, destroy barriers, include the outsiders and teach everyone that they are the same children

through Him. Paul told us that there is no longer slave, free, Jew, Greek, male or female. We are all the same creation in Christ. Sometimes the only place to practice this way of living is in a church. Everyone is welcome. No matter the class, the gender, the race, or the ethnicity. But it is not just about welcoming people, it is about finding a place for them, helping them feel a part of the whole. Welcoming people to our church family is nice but giving them a reason to stay takes building a relationship with them.

Ruby Payne, a scholar and speaker from Corpus Christi, has studied and written many books on the socio-economic class system. She has found that if we are educated or well aware of the hidden rules of each class, we can bridge the gap between poverty and other classes and become a more understanding, tolerant nation and, most importantly, a wider church. Ruby says one of the ways a person can move out of poverty is by having friends or people in a higher class with whom they come in contact on a regular basis. Being involved in a church can be a ticket out of poverty. Having a mentor who truly cares can be a ticket out of poverty. Most of the time we only associate with those that are of our class because we have no patience and understanding of why the class above or below us act the way they do. Ruby also speaks about situational poverty or sudden wealth and how people can become confused and unsure about what to do or how to act.

Church is a place where the class system does not  
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matter. It *should* be a place where class does not matter, but it often gets in the way of our mission and sometimes without even realizing that it is happening. Jesus challenges us to bridge the gap, to feed those who are hungry, whether that means food or the body of Christ, to teach the golden rule and not specify it to only one class. Our baptismal covenant calls us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, not just people who speak our lingo or go to our grocery store. Jesus spoke in parables so the poor fisherman disciples would understand. Do we also take the time and to speak so the least of these can understand? After all, Jesus said they are the ones who will inherit the kingdom of heaven. If interested in reading more about the class system, the book by Ruby Payne is called [Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities.](#)



Karen Sebesta  
Librarian for Children and Teens,  
San Antonio Public Library.

## A Big Thank You

The Johnston Branch Library, located near the intersection of Loop 410 and Highway 90, serves a diverse community in Southwest San Antonio. Several members of St. David's have recently shared their talents by reaching out to those who live in the area that Johnston serves. The library celebrated President's Day with a visit from historian Alfred Evans, a long-time member of St. David's. He presented an informative program about the invasion of Normandy, featuring a slide show he assembled for the event. Alfred is well-known for his knowledge of World War II battle theaters and has traveled extensively to sites in both Europe and Asia. During Spring Break, Maggie Fox wowed a group of about 50 children and their parents with musical renditions of songs that tell stories. That same week, Clay McGaughy hosted a "Paint-a-Long" for nearly 60 children and parents as he taught them the basics of creating art. Patsy and granddaughter Hannah were there to help, too! And, of course, he brought along his guitar to accompany them as they sang their favorite song, *If You're Happy and You Know It*. Librarian Karen Sebesta extends her thanks to these St. David's people who responded to her request for outreach to the Johnston patron community



## Easter Egg Hunt, Godly Play Story & Lunch

Saturday, April 3 at 10:30 am in McAllister Hospitality Hall

Please bring one dozen plastic eggs  
per child to the church office.

Sign-up sheets for lunch donations will be available.

## What's happening at St. David's?

### Pardon Our Dust

We have made some needed renovations here at St. David's. St. David's School had electrical work done that shut down the phones during the week of Spring Break. The church office was open, and we missed talking to you, but the phones are now back.

Have you seen the Godly Play room lately? A complete renovation and cleaning of the entire basement area was directed by Susan Willcox. Check out the new floors and paint in the Godly Play Room, vesting room and hallway. It looks great!

