



The Grapevine



March 2008

www.ResurrectionLongwood.org

+ Gathered in Christ's Love to Serve in His Name +

Baptism Dates

Our spring baptism dates are Sundays March 30, and May 11. The fall dates are September 14 and November 2. Contact the parish office for information about how to arrange for a baptism.

Confirmation

Bishop Hugo Pina-Lopes will be with us on Sunday, April 20, at the 10:30 service for confirmation. Adults who wish to be confirmed or received should, now, be in the Inquirer's Class on Sunday evenings from 7-9. Youth to be confirmed (age 11/ 6th grade and up), should be in the Confirmation Class with Deacon Brenda between services on Sundays. Speak with one of the clergy if you need help with these arrangements.

Vestry News

With two appointments, the Vestry is now back up to its full strength of twelve members. Paul Perkins was appointed to an open position. Tom Britt resigned due to a busy personal and business schedule, and Brian Butler was appointed to serve in his position.

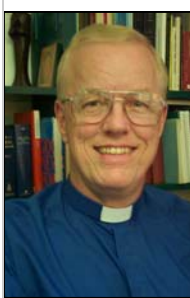
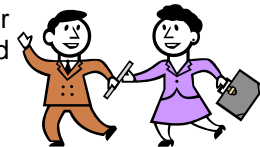
Beverly Paulk is our Senior Warden, Sandra Blossey is our Junior Warden. Bill Thomas continues as Clerk, and Dianne Grundy as Treasurer.

Transition Update

Your vestry is following the guidelines laid out by the national Episcopal Church and our Diocese. The past three weeks have focused on plans for the celebrations for Fr. Joe and Margaret and also on gathering information, wisdom, and suggestions from Canon Bennett from the Diocese and our parish members who were involved in our transition 15 years ago.

In looking ahead, if you would like to volunteer for the search committee, contact the senior warden, Beverly Paulk, at 407-774-1206, bpaulk@woolner.com or a message to the church office by the end of April.

Please do save the dates of June 28th for the farewell dinner to honor Fr. Joe and Margaret, June 29th for Fr. Joe's last Sunday with us, and May 17th for our



From Where I Sit ...

Well yes, indeed, I am going to retire. There is an ad which is currently running on television – the one that has someone looking out an office window as heavy objects fall onto a car on the street. The punch line is that "Life comes at you fast!" It sure does!

It was only a few years ago that I was convinced that I would continue on as a (your) rector until I couldn't do it any more. But then came my heart attack and my cancer and their related surgeries. Fortunately, all of my checkups since have shown me to be clean and clear of any of those issues.

If you may recall, whenever I have written these articles, I have always ended them with, "See you in church ...". Following my heart issues some seven years ago, I modified that line to say, "Life is precious – see you in church!"

And, I suppose it is that preciousness of life – "the shortness and uncertainty of life," as our Prayer Book puts it – that is a key reason why I choose to retire at this time.

We are (I am) very fortunate that the Episcopal Church has a superb pension system. It was established in the 1920's, a time before which priests and bishops literally had to work until they dropped. That is why if you go into an old Episcopal church and look at a picture gallery of rectors from the 19th and early 20th centuries, they are often in their 80's, or even 90's.

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Deacon Susie Bruno...

Many years ago at a debriefing gathering following the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, I became acquainted with prayer shawls. One of the women's groups in a parish in the Diocese had knitted prayer shawls for all of the delegates from this Central Florida Diocese. One of the delegates gave a special thank-you tribute to these women and stressed how powerful this symbol of their prayers and those being offered by the Diocese as a whole was to each delegate...the prayer shawls reminded our delegates of the arms of the Diocese embracing them in prayer and the arms of our Lord sustaining and guiding them in decisions.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Resurrection is one of the newer ministries and certainly one that is powerful and thriving. There is no question but that God's hand is in the midst of it: Jeanne Asher received a flyer from Canterbury Retreat Center about a knitting retreat; she decided to attend, taking with her a partially completed sweater...a sweater that was still "partially completed" when she returned home since the retreat was centered around *prayer shawls*. She returned to ECR with her newly embraced ministry which St. Elizabeth's Guild readily adopted; women in St. Elizabeth's Guild, other women of the parish, and friends and relatives around the United States are now involved in knitting, crocheting, and loom-ing the beautiful shawls which are blessed periodically during our Sunday services.

To date approximately 30 prayer shawls have been made, 26 of which have been given away to loved ones near and far. The witness of the recipients and their loved ones validates the power and presence of our Lord in using these prayer shawls as outward signs of his love and ours. Hugo Metts, who died in November, received one of the first...it "happened" to be in his favorite color and was over him when he died. His wife Debbie now has it in a special place in their home, and she now is making prayer shawls for others. Several others have had the same comment, "Oh, it is beautiful...and even in my favorite color." At least two recipients have been buried with their shawls. One of our families has a relative involved in the war in Iraq...a small square was made for him as a reminder of our prayers; a mother with a child with a chronic illness cherishes hers and the knowledge of her church family embracing them in prayer. God works in such diverse and mysterious ways...Resurrection's prayer shawl ministry is certainly one of those ways. I even suggest the sacramental nature of the prayer shawl: an outward sign of an inward and spiritual grace where Christ is surely present.

As we once again anticipate and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus and His living presence in our midst, may He rise in a new way in your heart that you might make Him known in and through you...perhaps in the prayer shawl ministry, perhaps in another way here at Resurrection and beyond.

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Music News

Tim Hanes
First, a huge thank you to everyone who sings or plays an instrument in one of our choirs. Your dedication and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. We have four choirs and welcome any one who likes to sing to come join. All you have to do is to show up at rehearsal and we'll take it from there.

The Cherub and Children's choir are busy practicing for *Disney's High School Musical* which will be presented in the Good Shepherd Hall on May 9 and 10. If you are age 5 - 13 and missed the auditions but would like to participate, we rehearse on Wednesdays at 5:00 - 6:30. Parents get to participate also and help back stage. We don't want the kids to have all of the fun, do we?

The Youth Praise Team is working hard and will be featured in a concert in May called *Sing Hallelujah, Shout Amen*. (That is our annual Gospel music concert.) The group is also exploring an invitation to travel to North Carolina in August to join Tim Hanes on a concert tour. Please keep the group in your prayers.

Are you an adult that likes to sing? The Adult Choir is continuing to grow and add members. We are eagerly seeking male singers to join so that we have a more balanced sound. All you have to do is to like to sing. We have a cd of our music to help you practice during the week.

Make A Joyful Noise

Allcomer's Dinner

Allcomers' Dinner will be held this Friday, March 7 at 7:00pm at the home of Al and Terry Lovisek. Please bring a covered dish to share and your favorite beverage for an evening of fun and fellowship. All members of Resurrection are invited to attend.

Parish Retreat

The Parish Retreat is this Saturday March 8, from 9am-12noon. We will discuss, expand and prioritize the results of the survey. This is an important step in the direction of our church and you are urged to attend. We will have breakfast and child care. Please call Sandra Blossey at **407-740-7758** and leave a message (how many?) or email at **scblossey@cfl.rr.com** if you plan to attend. This is your opportunity to take part in the planning of parish activities.

Stewardship

Although stewardship has to do with how we handle our entire life, it is through financial stewardship that we are able to support God's work – especially through our parish church and its ministries. If you have not yet completed your pledge of financial support to Resurrection for the coming year, please do so as soon as possible. A pledge card is available at the church or in the office, or if you are receiving this Grapevine by email, go to our web site and click on the Annual Canvass link on the home page. www.ResurrectionLongwood.org

Sunday School

Jill Chester

On Sunday, March 16 the Sunday school classes from Kindergarten through 8th grade will participate in the Palm Sunday Procession at the 10:30 a.m. service. Please arrive to your Sunday school class by 10:15. The children will receive their palms from their teachers. At 10:25 the teachers will bring their students to the church. The Sunday school classes will process together following the Adult choir. We will follow the procession into the church, up the center aisle, turn left towards the organ, exit out the side door, and return to our Sunday school classes until the Children's Homily.

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt for children from birth through 5th grade on Easter Sunday, March 23, between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. We will be collecting donations of candy or treats to fill the eggs in the box located in the narthex. The deadline for donations is March 16. Thank you!

Kid's Club

Children of the Parenting Class participants attend Kid's Club from 9:00am to 10:15am where they enjoy activities such as crafts, music, playground time and snacks. The children are escorted to their Sunday School classes at 10:15am.

Bible Study

Blind Leading the Blind has returned on Sunday morning in the lounge at 9:30 to 11:00 am on the following dates: March 9, March 30, April 13, April 27, May 18. The Study material is, *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancy and *Meeting Jesus AGAIN for the First Time* by Marcus J. Borg.

Email Address – Please be sure to notify the church office at 407-788-3704 if there are changes, additions or deletions to your email address. This will help to insure prompt church communications.

Bulletin Announcements – Please submit any articles for the bulletin by the Tuesday before the Sunday you would like the article to appear. Email the announcement to mcharles@resurrectionlongwood.org.

In The Family**Births:**

Congratulations to Caroline and Craig Duvall on the birth of a daughter, Emerson Rose, on February 11. Emerson is the granddaughter of Ed and BJ Boeckel.

Congratulations to Luther & Brandi Davis on the birth of a son, Luther IV, on January 25, 2008

Deceased:

May the souls of all the departed rest in peace.

Tom McKean, the husband of Sharon Clark, February 29, 2008.

Outreach

Shari Denaro

February Outreach Focus

Could anyone say “no” to Bingo and an Ice Cream social? Of course not, particularly when the “Bingo Barking” Bob Burks was calling the numbers and many other parishioners were serving up the ice cream for the residents of Pathways to Care, our Outreach focus for February. A good time was had by all and the residents greatly appreciated our being there!

March's Outreach focus is product driven - we are in need of animal food (unopened) and supplies (new) such as leashes, collars, pet toys. Please place them in the donation box in the Narthex. The items collected will be going to several different pet-oriented non-profit organizations in central Fla. Thanks for your help!

Loaves & Fishes has an urgent need for non-perishable food (canned fruits & vegetables, soups, rice, pasta and canned tuna & meat). They presently help over 550 families per week with supplemental food. Please drop off food donations in the outreach box located in the Narthex.

St. Elizabeth's Guild

Hillary Courson

The St. Elizabeth's Guild will meet on Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00pm for dinner (location to be determined). All ladies of Resurrection are invited to attend. Please contact Hillary at 407-389-1691 for additional information.

Activities and Events**Sunday Schedule**

7:45 a	Nursery Open in Church
8:00 a	Holy Eucharist
9:15 a	Adult Study Classes
9:15 a	Child Care in the pre-k playroom
9:15 a	Kid' s Club
9:30 a	Blind Leading the Blind
10:15 a	Sunday School Children K-8 Grades
10:30 a	Holy Eucharist
5:00-7:00 p	Middle School Youth Group

Monday

7:00p	Boy Scouts
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Tuesday

7:00p	Bible Study
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Wednesday

12n	Holy Eucharist and Healing
4:00p	Cherub Choir (Grades K-3)
5:00p	Children's Choir (Grades 4-6)
6:30p	Youth Praise Team (Ages 13-19)
7:30p	Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00p	Alcoholics Anonymous C2
8:00p	Al Anon—Room C1

Special Events

March 16	8&10:30	Eucharist And Blessing of the Palms
March 18	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
March 20	7:00pm	Eucharist, Foot Washing & Stripping of the Altar
March 21	12n & 7P	Good Friday Liturgy
March 23	7,9&11a	Holy Eucharist
March 27	7pm	Vestry Meeting
March 29	1pm	ECR Seniors

From Where I Sit

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Of course, as you cannot help but know by this time, grandchildren came for Margaret and me. And we delight in being with them. I have always felt that a father's role in the life of a child is far more than just earning income – and the same is true for a grandfather. .

Despite the distances, I want to be there for our grandchildren, especially during the early formative period of their lives.

I really do believe that which I have preached for the past forty years. All of life, inside or outside of the church, is ministry. We can serve our Lord no matter where we are or what we are doing. I will continue to serve Jesus in the years to come.

One of the frequent questions that I have been asked is "What will you do?" Knowing me, I doubt that I will spend much time sitting around. I have a whole host of projects around our home that I will work on. I can certainly fill in for clergy in the diocese when they are away, or even perhaps have an extended time with a parish in need. With a little re-tooling, some type of non-church work is not out of the question. And, of course, traveling and visiting.

I have never been especially comfortable with the traditional association that the word "retirement" has. I am fortunate that I am young and in good health and in good physical shape – one of my goals is to complete a marathon on my inline skates. The future is wide open for Margaret and me to determine where we will go from here.

In the meantime, I think that I am leaving Resurrection and Sweetwater Episcopal Academy in very good shape. We have come a long way over the past fifteen years. The growth and enthusiasm that we can sense all around us will continue, and new leadership will take Resurrection into the future.

See you in Church.

—Fr. Joe

Deacon Susie

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If you would like to participate in the making of prayer shawls or if you would like to receive one or give one to a loved one, contact Jeanne Asher or BJ Boeckel, one of the clergy or the Church Office.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, March 16
8am – Holy Eucharist
10:30am – Palm Procession and Holy Eucharist
Holy Wednesday, March 19
12noon – Holy Eucharist
Maundy Thursday, March 20
7pm – Holy Eucharist with Foot-Washing and the Stripping of the Altar.
9pm to 12midnight – Prayer Vigil
Good Friday, March 21
12noon and 7pm – Good Friday Liturgy
Easter Sunday, March 23
7am – Holy Eucharist at Lakeside
9am, 11am Easter Eucharist
10am – Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Sweetwater Summer Day Camp

Summer will soon be here. It is time to start making your summer plans.



We hope you will consider Sweetwater Summer Day Camp in those plans. Our camp is designed to offer a rich variety of discovery experiences with fun as the central theme. We create the environment that enables children to discover their interests and develop their special gifts and talents. We offer art, science, swimming, canoeing, sports, music, and much, much more.

This year we are also offering a camp for 7th & 8th graders stop by or call the office for more information.

Registration for Sweetwater Summer Day Camp begins in February. Our summer day camp runs for 8 weeks; June 9 – August 1. Come the whole summer or choose the weeks you like.

For more information and to enroll you child(ren) please call Cindy or Karen @ 407-788-2267.

New service schedule

Our new service schedule seems to be working well. The 10:30am time for the late service gives our education programs time between services without feeling rushed.

Serving Resurrection

Staff Members

The Rev. C. Joseph Sitts, *Rector*
jsitts@ResurrectionLongwood.org
The Rev. Paul McQueen, *Assisting*
The Rev. Peter Madson, *Assisting*
The Rev. Suzanne Bruno, *Deacon; Pastoral Care Coordinator* sbrunorev@aol.com
The Rev. Brenda M. Taylor, *Deacon; Communications Coordinator* btaylor@ResurrectionLongwood.org
Tim Hanes, *Director of Music*
Janet Stroup, *Sweetwater Episcopal Academy; Head of School*
Sherry Shuman, *Parish Administrator*
Marcy Charles, *Administrative Assistant*
Cindy Castanheira, *Resurrection Preschool Director; Sweetwater Summer Camp Director*
Karen Gordon, *Asst. Preschool & Asst. Camp Director*
Jill Chester, *Children's Ministries & Financial Assistant*
Matt Marcus, *Youth Ministry*
Pedro Melendez, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Eliese Lanaris, *Kid's Club*

Members of the Vestry

Beverly Paulk, Sr. Warden
Sandra Blossey, Jr. Warden
Bill Thomas, Clerk
Dianne Grundy, Treasurer
Dianne Grundy Leo Bessette Catherine Davidson
Brian Butler Steve Cook Matt Curran
Sharon Clark Paul Perkins