



Christ Episcopal Church

The Rev'd John Kevern

Senior Warden's Corner

Spring is certainly one of my favorite seasons. The flowers blossom, the trees and grass regain their green, the sun and blue sky return and begin to warm our daily lives. It is truly a time which we should count our blessings.

Hopefully you have seen some recent improvements around the grounds of our church. We have removed five (5) trees around the parish hall. Four were dying (or dead) and one huge oak presented a liability potential to the parish hall. Also, the two (2) spring clean-up days arranged by Junior Warden, Lisa Capsey-Baker, resulted in a real improvement to the Memorial Garden. Thanks again to all who participated in these events!

The search for a permanent priest with the assistance of Bishop Klusmeyer continues; however, I am pleased to indicate that Father John Kevern has agreed to remain with us as our priest-in-charge for a term of two (2) years on the same basis as his present arrangement, unless we are able to secure a permanent priest in the interim. We should all be extremely thankful for Father John's willingness to continue to assist our parish. He has been instrumental in revitalizing our services, providing meaningful sermons, working with and training our acolytes and taking care of all the other pastoral aspects of our church. I continue to ask all of you to make Father John feel at home while he is with us and to appreciate his sacrifice in committing to our parish away from his home in New York.

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Peace,
Neal Jay Hamilton, Senior Warden

**NOW YOU SEE HIM, NOW YOU DON'T
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THE ASCENSION?**

In all likelihood, you have probably not asked yourself the above question. You might be more worried about the protracted Great Recession, the mess in the Middle East, or possible future terrorist attacks (well, probably not in Fairmont; but what happens to New York City affects all of us, like it or not). And you want your Christianity to be a convincing feeling of God's power and healing presence NOW, in the midst of a multitude of messes, societal and personal. But forty days after Easter Day, the Church summons us to continue the celebration of victory as Jesus apparently stages some sort of "lift off", rocket-style, if St. Luke's account is to be taken literally, and not metaphorically. Well, if Jesus the Christ in his resurrected humanity IS God's answer to sin and death, wouldn't it be good if He stuck around for the benefit of all of us? We could go straight to Him to get all problems sorted out, AND we could get to experience that tidal wave (excuse me, tsunami) of God's life whenever we were feeling a need for it – which would be, conservatively, at least every other day. True, therapists might be put out of business, and so would priests, bishops and the Pope – because all they purvey are micro-sized bits of bread and a small sip of wine, and we are asked to believe that this is the real Body and Blood of Christ. And this is supposed to solve our problems? No wonder therapy was invented – and by a Jew at that (I refer to Sigmund Freud).

Well, like all spoofs or send-ups, there's a certain percentage of truth to the above irreverence. (I could also add to my spoof/complaint/critique that the only obvious good thing about the Ascension for Anglophones in general and Anglicans in particular is that the hymns are really good!) Still, what's so good about God going away, as it were? Isn't His object precisely the opposite, to STAY on permanently and "up close" (St. John is always using the verb "abide" for this.)

This is just the point, actually, which is not immediately apparent if we focus on the "special effects" public disappearance of Jesus in front of the Disciples on the Mount of Olives. It is part of the nature of the human condition to be in one place at one time, and that for a limited duration – then we move on and ultimately we die (even if 100 years appears to be the approaching new norm). Would a child mature if the parent were ALWAYS there AND with the capacity to solve all problems upon mere request? (Yes, some have tried, but they have failed.) It seems to be that the Ascension is not about Jesus taking His leave in a grand farewell, but preparing for a NEW mode of permanency that is just as sure but not "in our face". This mode will be the universalizing of the resurrected Jesus to us, available at all times and places, but internalized in us in an adult way, and not as immature dependents. This "way" of presence is the Holy Spirit, which requires the departure of the human "answer man", even if He is resurrected. And yes, I'm afraid this is tough theology to get our heads around. Which is why the preaching of the Ascension – not to mention Pentecost! – is notoriously difficult. One poor priest, trying to do his best and make it "relevant", likened it to "lift off" at Cape Canaveral. Perhaps those hymns known to most observant Anglicans are a special blessing: the Ascension "sings" more than it "preaches". But grapple with it we must, because it is about the fullness of Easter, and that new life that God intends for US, not just Jesus. The earthly Jesus still exists, but in God's presence, still bearing the scars of the Crucifixion, but they are now "glorified". (There, another murky concept!) So, lest this column fall prey to the "ever-greater" elusiveness of this Good News, I'll let an Ascension Day hymn have the last word (well, for this edition of MANNA):

"Mighty God, in thine Ascension, we by grace behold our own,"



R. I. P.

Condolences to
David Seamon on the loss of
his cousin, Regina.

May she rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Bible Study

By Jim Kerr

All persons interested in an in-depth study of the Holy Bible are invited to our Wednesday, 11:00am fellowship and luncheon in the Patterson Parish Hall. I will lead us through the pages of our Biblical quest of our Christian beginnings. Carolyn will serve a delightful noontime meal. Warm and wonderful friendship will be enjoyed by all and we can be on our way by one o'clock. Our last meeting will be held on May 22nd.

Average Sunday Attendance

April: 36

Financial Report

April Income: \$13,155

April Expenses: \$12,294

Softball Season has started. Please come out and support our team!!!



May games

Sunday, May 5, 2pm at Windmill Park

Sunday, May 19, 2pm at Trinity Field

Church Contact List

Website: www.fairmontepiscopal.com

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Liturgical Assistants Calendar

If you cannot be at church on one of your appointed days, please make arrangements for a replacement. Ushers should be in place at 10:15 to serve as greeters and provide assistance to those needing help. Lectors can find their weekly readings at: <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

Date	Service	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Acolytes	Sacristans	Ushers	Counters
5/5 Easter VI	10:30am Holy Eucharist	Tara S. Jude M.	Tara S. Meredith M.	Meredith M. Leah M.	Team 2 White	Glenn B. Tara S.	Tara S. Toni B.
5/12 Easter VII Sunday after Ascension	10:30am Holy Eucharist	Kyle H. Lisa C.-B.	Kyle H. Joyce H.	Hunter B. Abby W.	Team 3 White	Baker Family	Lisa C.-B. Chris M.
5/19 PENTECOST	10:30am Holy Eucharist	Barb B. Donna N.	Barb B. Nikki L.	Nikki L. Nicolas G.	Team 4 Red	Kent B. Glenn B.	Barb B. Toni B.
5/26 Pentecost I	10:30am Morning Prayer Rite I	Bruce H. Dot H.	Bruce H. Dot H.		Team 1 White	Glenn B. Tara S.	David B. Neal H.

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