



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HILLSBOROUGH, NC.

APRIL 2024

A Message from the Acting Priest-in-Charge



Dear friends in Christ,

I hope this finds everyone well and settled into this hope-filled Easter season. It was a joyous Easter day at St. Matthew's, following a deeply moving Holy Week in preparation. Special thanks to all who helped make these services possible. You each know who you are, and I am grateful.

This month you will notice some changes in the liturgy as we move into the Easter season. The altar frontals

and hangings will be white, a change from the red of Holy Week and the purple of Lent. White is a symbol of our baptism, and we renewed our baptismal vows at the first Easter eucharist. Throughout the Easter season, the paschal candle will be lit, another symbol of our baptism.

You'll notice too the return of Alleluia, which was "buried" on Shrove Tuesday! We'll sing or say Alleluia throughout the service: at the beginning with, "Alleluia Christ is Risen, the Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia;" and at the end with the dismissal: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia. Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia." You'll hear it at the fraction when the large wafer- the priest's host- is broken (fraction meaning to break) and we say, "Alleluia, Christ our Passover is Sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia." And you'll hear it in our hymnody as we sing our Easter hymns. All are ways of embodying in worship - in what we say and what we do - this Easter joy that is central to our faith.

One other change you may have noticed is in the Prayers of the People. At the beginning of Lent, we returned to using one of the forms for the Prayers of the People out of the Book of Common Prayer. This change isn't tied to a particular season; it's simply tapping into these most beautiful prayers available in our prayer book for use in worship.

In the fall and through Epiphany, we had been using a Lutheran liturgical resource called *Sundays and Seasons*, provides different prayers each week, often incorporating themes from the readings. There is an immediacy and freshness to using these prayers. Now, for a season, we'll use the forms of the Prayer Book which offer their sense of



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constancy and beauty. There are six to choose from, and I imagine some will sound familiar.

You might find it interesting to read what the Prayer Book says about the Prayers of the People. It sets out guidelines - what the church calls rubrics. If you turn to page 383 in the BCP, you'll see what's required in any Prayers of the People used as part of a service. Whether from the Prayer Book or elsewhere, they must incorporate prayers for the church, the Nation and all in authority, the welfare of the world, local concerns, those suffering and in need, and the departed. Notice too that adaptations and insertions can be made. What's significant though is what they name as matters of highest priority.

I share all this simply as an invitation to pay attention to our worship, to the changes made depending on the season or as we try something new. All are in an effort to to deepen our knowledge and understanding and love of God through the common ways we worship and pray together.

Happy Easter!
Lisa+



SPRING 2024 BICENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES:
Diocesan History Day 2024
Saturday, April 27, 9 am, at Christ Episcopal Church, Raleigh
with follow-up lecture at St. Matthew's
featuring Rector Emeritus Brooks Graebner
Thursday, May 2, 6:30 pm, in the Church

The next event celebrating our Bicentennial is a lecture series that begins with the Diocesan History Day. Our parish bicentennial dovetails nicely with the bicentennial of the installation of the first bishop of the North Carolina Diocese, John Stark Ravenscroft, who is also an important figure for St. Matthew's. History Day 2024 explores the early history of the Episcopal Church in the South, its relationship to slavery, and how Ravenscroft's views fit into those issues. Rector Emeritus of St. Matthew's, the Rev. Dr. Brooks Graebner, is one of the principle organizers of the event.

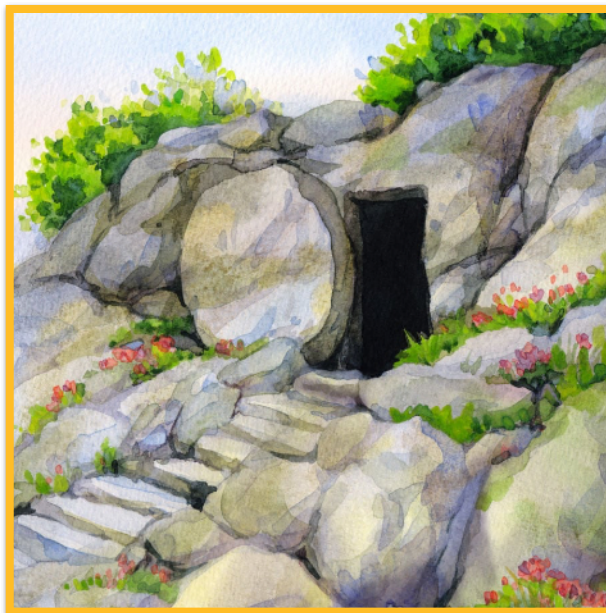
We hope to take a large group to Raleigh for History Day. There are sign-up sheets in both the Parish House and Fellowship Hall to indicate your interest. Please add your name and email address or phone number, and we will be in touch with registration and carpool information. The deadline to sign up is April 18.

Following the History Day, Brooks+ will present a lecture at St. Matthew's. Brook's lecture will focus on the first rector of St. Matthew's, William Mercer Green, a figure close to Bishop Ravenscroft. This lecture, entitled "Hillsborough and beyond: William Mercer Green's Mission Field in the 1820's" will explore Green's work to establish parishes, St. Matthew's among them, and nurturing the practice of evangelizing enslaved person. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. A light reception will follow the lecture. All are welcome, whether or not you attended History Day.

Please contact Sonja Tilley (welcome@stmatthewshillsborough.org) for more information about the lecture series.

Walking into the Mystery of Easter

Children openly show us their curiosity and their flexibility of viewing the world in different ways. How often do we give ourselves the opportunities to question what we see as "known"? Could we look at the Mystery of Easter and embrace it with more wonder? We welcome the season of Easter with great jubilee—alleluias, wonderful songs, the beauty of spring, and our own family traditions. Then, if you're anything like me, life kind of continues as normal. I forget that Easter is a whole season, not just a day. This year, with the reminders of Godly Play and Little Way Chapel, I have set the intention of embracing each liturgical season, of letting the church calendar guide more of our family focuses than our normal calendar.



This makes space for curiosity, what does it mean to really walk into the Mystery of Easter for 50 days? What could that look like for all of us, individuals, families, adults? This is a question to consider at any age or stage of development.

In Godly Play, we refer to Christmas and Easter as Mysteries. We spend Advent and Lent preparing for these mystical seasons, where we know some of what to expect, but also where a huge part is a wonderful mystery. Using this language has helped me walk with more curiosity: what if this story means something different to me now? what if we try adding candles to our ritual...? what if...?

Here are some ideas to consider:

- Lighting a candle or two with dinner to remember the light of Christ in our world
- Rereading each Sunday's gospel story as a family and chatting about what it means to you
- Keeping up Easter decorations for the whole season
- Saying short breath prayers during times of meditation
 - Inhale- The old is gone, Exhale- The new is here. (Little Way Chapel)

I hope that these small, simple suggestions will make you look again at your usual rhythms during Easter. That together, we can walk as a community into this wonderful mystery and look again, with new eyes, at the promise and hope we've been given.

May you have a blessed Eastertide, that fills you with curiosity and helps you turn toward God.

- *Stephany Lazo, Director of Formation*

Safe Haven for Caregivers: Sunday, April 14 at 2 pm on the Meeting Channel

St. Matthews recognizes the need for caring, non-judgmental support for anyone who is caring for a loved one at home, out of town, or in a facility. Safe Haven Support for Caregivers does just that. Join us at our monthly gathering for an hour of support through the [Zoom meeting channel](#). All are welcome.

- *The Rev. Para Drake*

Spring Music Gala: Saturday, May 4, 6:30 pm

Join us for what we hope will become our Annual Music Gala to raise funds for the music ministry of St. Matthew's. Several of the professional singers who have sung for various liturgies throughout the year will present a fun program of Broadway show tunes. Light refreshments and beverages will be served during intermission.

Tickets are \$50. A complimentary coffee hour will begin beginning Sunday, April 28th. Please purchase tickets during the week at the parish office. For more information, contact Jason Wright (music@stmatthewshillsborough.org).

Mark your calendars for May 4th and come out to support the music ministry. This is an event you don't want to miss!

POSTPONED UNTIL A LATER TIME



Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Workdays

We look forward to our 2024 Orange County Habitat for Humanity "Faith in Hillsborough" build days starting soon. The dates scheduled so far are:



- April 6
- April 20
- May 4
- May 18

Additional dates may be scheduled for May and June.

You may sign up for a 1/2 day (8-12 or 1-4) or a full day. To sign up for one or more of these dates, please visit <http://vhub.at/faithinhillsborough> and register.

A great community experience and a great way to participate in providing affordable housing for a family in need! No experience necessary, just a desire to be involved.

If you have questions or have any trouble registering for a build day, please contact Charles McCamy (charlesmccamy@gmail.com)

- Charlie McCamy

Parish Work Day Saturday, April 13 starting at 8 am

The Spring Parish Work Day at St. Matthew's has been scheduled for Saturday, April 13 starting at 8 am. We have a good number of projects, both outdoors and indoors, that need attention as we work to get spiffed up for our Bicentennial celebrations. So grab your work gloves, clippers, rakes, and whatever else you have on hand and join us. Wheel barrows would be especially helpful. And don't forget your water bottle. We need LOTS OF HANDS and have something to do for all ages.

We certainly want our campus to look its best & hope you'll come out and join us!

- Charlie McCamy, Junior Warden



Photo Credit: Julia Wall, for The Assembly

Creation Care--- How we can help our planet

Hillsborough is holding its first ever climate summit in through the month of April. This evolved out of a sense of concern by a number of local citizens that the climate was indeed changing, and it was mostly due to increased carbon in the atmosphere. The goal is to make us aware of what is happening and how we can all help in some small part to slow down this process and protect our planet for the future generations.

Passports for the Hillsborough Climate challenge can be obtained from the visitor center. There will be a **number of educational activities including the following: climate talks and films, Hillsborough's sustainability plan, recycling and composting, how to decrease your home's carbon footprint, climate books, electric vehicles, Native American's Earth ceremony, special children's activities at Gold park (April 14, 2-4 PM) and Ramble Hill Farms (April 13, 3-5 PM).**

We will also have special events here at St. Matthews focusing on creation care. Our **Sunday Forum on April 21 will be led by our own David McDuffie discussing his book, Nature's Sacrament: The Epic Of Evolution And A Theology Of Sacramental Ecology.** The book focuses on the religious and ecological significance of the evolutionary epic in an effort to seamlessly connect the ecological value attributed as a part of an understanding of the evolutionary connectedness of life on earth with the Divine grace understood to be present in Christian sacramental worship. With a particular emphasis on the Eucharist, he argues that the sacramental perspective of grace being conveyed through material reality provides the potential for Christian sacramental tradition to make a significant contribution to protecting the threatened ecological communities of our planet. David C. McDuffie is a faculty member in the Religious Studies Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

In addition, there will be a tree planting ceremony at St. Matthew's after the 10:30 am service. We have also applied to be certified by the Audubon society. They will visit us soon to assess our eligibility.

So, lots to do and think about on this very important topic. - Sharon Billings, Churchyard Guild

Becoming an Earth-Friendly Church: An Invitation from Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

Greetings fellow Hillsborough churches!

As part of the town's Climate Challenge series of events in April, we would like to invite you to a roundtable discussion on becoming an Earth-friendly church. Hillsborough Presbyterian Church has been a certified Earth Care Congregation through the Presbytery for the last 10 years. Members of the congregation would like to share information on the process, give a tour of our Earth-friendly kitchen, and also engage in a conversation about ways your churches recycle and reuse.

Churches can be instrumental in leading the way to engaging in climate-friendly practices.

Join us in the Hillsborough Presbyterian sanctuary on **Sunday, April 7, at 1 pm.** Let's get **Better Stronger Greener** together!

To learn more, visit [Hillsborough Climate Challenge](#)

- The Stewardship Commission of Hillsborough Presbyterian Church



Photos from Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter 2024

The journey through Holy Week to Easter, which retraces the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem, Golgotha, and Resurrection, is the most sacred time in the Church year. And from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, St. Matthew's marked this time with rich liturgies that recalled this difficult journey. We washed one another's feet, we added our voices to those demanding "Crucify him!" as the Passion Narrative was read, and we were there on Good Friday when that demand was met. Finally, we joyfully celebrated the Resurrection with a Festal Eucharist and the traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Here are some snapshots taken along the way.





Special thanks to ...

- ✦ *Pelham Jacobs and The Churchyard Guild* for all their work making the parish grounds a place of springtime wonder and beauty;
- ✦ *Ellen McRae and Cindy Cook* for leading the palm weaving and doing the altar arrangements;
- ✦ All who participated in the reading of the Passion Narratives on Palm Sunday and Good Friday: *Dorothy Wood, Ashely Romero-Love, Ken Garrison, Dana vanBever-Green, Bill Kodros, Edward Wright, Mary Beth Berkley, and Sonja Tilley;*
- ✦ All who read, ushered, served as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, or served in any capacity at the Easter and Holy Week services: *Bob Shelton, James Emmanuel, Jr., Rick Brewer, Charlie & Martha McCamy, Conrad Fulkerson, Clem Satterfield, MaryAnn Plambeck, Ellen McRae, Jehanne Gheith, Katie Bracy, Bea Jenson, Jim Charton & Yvonne Petitmaire, Carolyn Parsley, Bartow Culp, Austin Stapella, Will Lee, Harper & Kaylen Gallegly, Ann & Taylor Kenyon, Emmaline Frost-Phillips, Leo Moehring, Ashely Romero-Love, Elizabeth Barber, Jasmine Trinks, Robin Langford,* with apologies if anyone was left out;
- ✦ *Chris Peterson and everyone* that helped stuff Easter eggs for the Egg Hunt on Easter Day as well as *all who donated candy* so we had stuff to stuff;
- ✦ *The Altar Guild* for preparing the church for numerous services and decorating the church so beautifully for Easter.

Congratulations to...

- ✦ *Darnell Arnoult* for the release of her new book, *Incantations: Poems;*
- ✦ *Andrea Moore* for the release of her new album, *Searching the Heart;*

We extend sympathy to...

- ✦ Ruth Wiley and her family at the loss of her father, **Tom Roberts;**



*Rest eternal grant
to him, O Lord:
And let light perpetual
shine upon him.*



Palm Weaving a Smashing Success!

Many thanks to those who wove palms for the Sunday services and taught weavings: Carolyn Cattle, Marion Horn, Glenn Sumner, Cindy Cook, Sandy Thompson, Emmaline Phillips, Lisa Frost-Phillips, Ash Banes, Ellen McRae, and to Regina Webster and Christie Jordan (who also prepared bags of weavings and hot cross buns for those confined at home). Thanks to those who cleaned up and got the parish hall set up for the next gathering on Maundy Thursday. Special thanks to Cindy Cook for reorganizing the Sunday morning format and for her beautiful altar weaving. And, last but definitely not least, thanks to those who have indicated an interest in learning the more complex weavings for the altar.

Stay tuned next year for more details!

- Ellen McRae



PARISH OPERATING BUDGET STATUS			
as of the end of:	February 2024		17%
EXPENSES:	Budgeted	Spent	%
Work Outside the Parish	\$77,240	\$1,725	2%
Maint. & Improvements	\$75,282	\$13,652	18%
Clergy-related	\$221,715	\$36,598	17%
Administrative	\$102,508	\$24,392	24%
Christian Ed. Program	\$54,906	\$8,001	15%
Worship-related	\$60,132	\$8,538	14%
Total Expenses:	\$591,783	\$92,906	16%
INCOME:	Budgeted	Spent	%
Plate/Gift Offerings Received	\$70,000	\$15,986	23%
Pledge Payments	\$527,742	\$225,838	43%
Other	\$25,600	\$22,650	88%
Total Income:	\$623,342	\$264,474	42%

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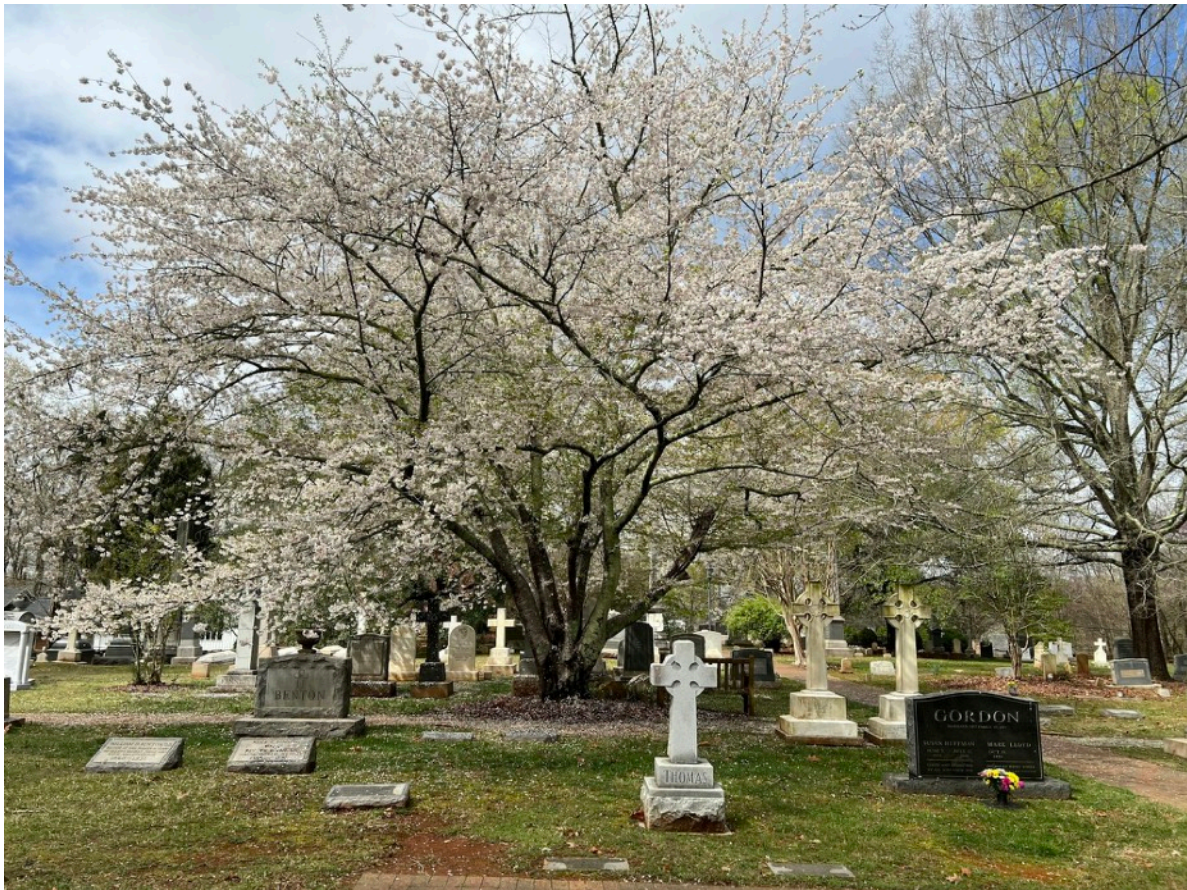
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Some of the beauty of the St. Matthew's churchyard in springtime. Special thanks to Martha McCamy for sharing this photograph.