

The Rev. John P. Bailey, Rector

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To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ...From the Rector's Desk:***Making sure we see the resurrection – and keep on seeing it!***

This year we will hear on Easter Day the resurrection of Jesus from John's Gospel. I like all of the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection. But there is one part of John's story that I find incredibly endearing. It's the engagement with Mary Magdalene when at first, she thinks somebody stole the body of Jesus. The angels ask her why is she weeping. Jesus, whom Mary at first, thinks He is a gardener, asks her as well why are you weeping. Each time Mary is blinded by her sadness that she cannot see what is literally right before her very eyes. The grief which she carries blinds her to the very blissful fact that Jesus has risen from the dead.

But then of course when Jesus says, "Mary," she knows right away it is him. She exclaims, "Rabboni," meaning teacher. Jesus then has to tell Mary that she can't hold on to him for he will soon be ascending to the Father. In the meantime, she needs to go tell the disciples what she has seen, better who she has seen. Poor Mary doesn't know which way is up in this passage. At first, she is to overcome with shock and grief to ascertain Jesus' resurrection. Then once it dawns on her that Jesus is alive, he says to her that she needs to get going and tell the disciples that He is alive. It seems that there is always lots to learn and a lot to catch up on even when wonderful and miraculous things are happening.

As I think about the resurrection and the new life that it brings, I wonder what that should mean to us today. Life hasn't been the same in some ways since the pandemic. There's inflation, the Ukraine war and on and on it goes. Sometimes all these things can blind us to the wonderful realities that Jesus has risen and conquered death. Even though certain circumstances can cloud our reality, the risen Son still shines his resurrection glory on all of us and he can lift us to new heights as we reach out to him in faith.

I have enjoyed going through Mark Eldredge's book *Revive* this Lent and were not quite done yet. I have been encouraged by other members reading the book and sharing their hopes and insights about our parish life and the ministry we have and can have in the future. Jesus is definitely in the midst of that and he has plans for us to continue his resurrection life in all of us. He has plans for all of us to share the good news of his resurrection life with others. The message continues to be, hope in Him. Seek Him and then find Him in the work he has called us to do together.

One thing I love about the Easter season is that it is ten days longer than Lent. Let's be looking for and witnessing the signs of new life that show up still in our world today. It truly is a miracle to behold as you know. Let's not let our current circumstances cloud the reality of Jesus victory over death. For those who follow him it is our victory too and there is much to rejoice over.

In the grave that laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Love has come again as Jesus bursts forth from the tomb. Jesus also can burst forth through the haze of our despair and despondency by simply calling our name now that he has conquered the arch enemy. His victory is our victory. Let us rise with him and walk the path of new life.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. John+



Sheldon Park Easter Egg Hunt, Wednesday, April 5 after school. It's been a while but the Sheldon Park Easter Egg hunt is back. We could use some help with the craft and general crowd control while Dan Miller shares one of his own picture stores. Fr. John will lead a few songs as well. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.



GriefShare support group will meet on **Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:30.** If you or someone you know has lost a loved one and could use some help GriefShare is there to help. Through informative and helpful videos, group discussion and a workbook, you will find healing and hope for the journey ahead. If you have questions, please see Fr. John (412-848-2066 or frjohn@cohac.org), Kim Brannock (412-999-8234 or brannock@zoominternet.net) or Fran Reynolds (724-331-6386 or choirgirl21252@yahoo.com).



Soup Supper You are invited to a **Soup Supper** on **Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.** The service with foot washing will follow at approximately 7:15 p.m.



Diaper Pantry April 8th

Our next diaper pantry distribution will be on **Saturday, April 8th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Your continued support for this ministry is crucial. We are getting more and more people so we can always use more diapers. **Donations of diapers and wipes can always be accepted** in the bin on the split-level staircase.



COMMUNITY CAFÉ On **April 13**, COH has sponsored a **Grab-n-Go Dinner** at the **Knead Café**. We need **four volunteers** to help distribute the dinners. If you are interested in helping, please see Julie Polczynski or Fr. John. Volunteers are needed from **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.



On April 23rd, **Cecelia Wampler and Reese Carnahan** will receive their First Holy Communion. Please join us in celebrating!





April 5	Sheldon Park Easter Egg Hunt after school GriefShare 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
April 6 – Maundy Thursday	Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Service 7:15 p.m.
April 7 – Good Friday	Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross at Trinity UMC, Breckenridge Noon – 3:00 p.m. COH Traditional Prayer Book Service 7:00 p.m.
April 8	Diaper Pantry 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
April 12	GriefShare 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
April 13	Knead Café Grab-n-go dinner 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
April 17	Final Revive Book study 7:00 p.m.
April 19	GriefShare 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
April 26	GriefShare 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Matthew Beacom 4/2
Leslie Zellers 4/4

Grace Miller 4/7
Doug Brannock 4/9

Sherry Klingensmith 4/9
Jordan Bailey Merkel 4/27



Tony and Pat Errico 4/21