

From the Rafters

Our Mission

We are a people rooted in worship, branching out into the world.

Vol. VI Issue 4 April 2020

Dear Church of the Resurrection Family,

God is present, God loves you, God is with us! Please know in these times of uncertainty that God is among us, loving us just as God always does. I know you may feel fearful, alone, anxious, unsure – along with many other emotions.



That is okay, emotions are part of being human. If I am honest, I am worried as well. But I keep reminding myself of God's light and love. I keep repeating to myself: "God is present, God loves you, God is with us." I believe these words with truth and passion!

Even though we are not able to conduct services and gatherings in person at this time, we are working very hard to continue to be the Body of Christ. I do need your help. If you need us, please call the church office. We would love to help you! There are plenty of people, willing and ready to do so! As of March 21st the physical church doors are closed until at least April 30th. That means please don't come to the church. Please call us or email me if you need us. We will be in touch with you!

Our services will be streamed online on the Church of the Resurrection's Facebook page at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. We will also have nightly prayers at 8 p.m. every evening on the Church of the Resurrection's Facebook page. If you don't have Facebook and would like us to mail you a copy of my sermon every week, please just call us and we will make that happen. The church office number is 864-223-5426. My email is marybalfour@greenwoodepiscopal.org.

I am praying for you! Know that you are loved by

me and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Love, Mary Balfour +

These are prayers I am praying daily, please join me:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbor, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

During this time, please do not forget your donation to the Church of the Resurrection. Your gift is essential to the work we do as a church. You can give online:

http://www.episcopalgreenwood.org/giving/donate/

or mail your gift: P.O. Box 3283 Greenwood, SC 29648.

You may also give towards Easter flowers and music, online or by mailing a check. Those funds will be donated to Greenwood United Ministries, and we'll share our thanksgiving for those donations in our May bulletins.

And keep on collecting money for your mite boxes! We will bless and celebrate them when we all gather in person again.

Remember, Jesus loves you and I do too!

Love, Mary Balfour+

EYC on Zoom!

Resurrection's EYC is still going strong in spite of the



current limitations. We're meeting through Zoom each Sunday evening at 5:00 PM to catch up with all that's happening in each other's lives, to exchange ideas for loving and serving our neighbors and to pray. If you haven't been able join our Zoom meetings, send a message to Mary Balfour and she'll see that you are able to join in next time.

Online Worship and Formation: Holy Week and April

Facebook sharing daily devotions: For the past couple weeks, we have enjoyed our evening devotions on Facebook live. If you haven't seen them yet, just visit Resurrection's Facebook page each evening at 8 PM. Different families and individuals are taking turns leading compline, reading a spiritual reflection or children's book, or sharing a litany of prayers relevant to our time. We've even had gifted performers sharing their musical talents! These devotions are holding us together as a community of believers, and we will continue them as long as we can. If you would like to lead an evening devotion, just email Mary Balfour: marybalfour@greenwoodepiscopal.org.

Sunday worship: Our Sunday worship services will continue to be broadcast on Facebook live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM. Our weekly email announcements will provide additional details for each service. You don't need a Facebook account to participate in our worship service. We are sending an email to all members with a link. If you click the link, you'll be able to watch the service live at 10:30 on Sunday morning.

Adult and youth formation: Starting the week after Easter, we will begin a new formation program, Feeding our Faith. This is a video series prepared by The Work of the People. (See www.theworkofthepeople.com) Through interviews with several theologians and pastors, the series examines the meaning of the Eucharist and how it affects the people as we engage in

it. Our time of distance worship is making our hearts grow fonder for our beautiful sacrament, and it is a good time to reflect on what that sacrament really means to us. When we come back together again, we'll appreciate it all the more. On Saturdays beginning April 18, we will email a video link and discussion guide. Be watching for it.

Children's Formation: Starting with Palm Sunday, Resurrection will begin offering our Holy Moly program for families to use at home. Each Saturday, we will send an email to parents with a link to a bible story video and a learner leaflet. The email will include a few instructions to guide families through a reading and discussion of the bible story, and the Holy Moly learner leaflets serve as a paper-crafting activity requiring simple supplies that are in every home. We used Holy Moly for our children's formation program for two years, and the kids loved it. Now parents will get to enjoy the very thoughtful (and a little silly) videos and activities too.



Children's Worship is Online for April

We are proud to announce the continuation of our program, Young Children & Worship, online!
Beginning April 1, we will post a video of a Children's Worship lesson on Resurrection's Facebook page. We invite your children and grandchildren, cousins, friends and neighbors to watch the video, wonder and respond online too. Here's how: Mary Balfour will post the video on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. The video will show a story-teller using the children's worship manipulatives to tell a bible story and present wondering questions, just as she would with children physically present. She will then invite the children to respond by creating a Lego model or

drawing of what he or she wonders about the story. Caregivers may take a photograph of the drawing or Lego creation their children make and share the photo as a Comment to the Facebook post. We hope those photographs will inspire continued wondering and response by others and serve as a demonstration of the continued spiritual growth our children will enjoy, even while at home.

God's Kingdom on Earth

Before our circumstances changed, the children of Resurrection were enjoying a creation-care formation program based upon the Story of Stuff Project. (See www.storyofstuff.org) We had plans to share what we learned from that program with the entire congregation on Earth Day Sunday at Resurrection, April 26. Our plans were interrupted by a virus that has shaken the entire world. We see now with striking clarity what it means to share in a global economy. We are all connected – all, the whole population of the world. We cannot deny the responsibility that globalism brings, a responsibility to consider the consequences that our choices will have, not just on us, not just in our community, but upon the whole world.

Our choices are often about our stuff. I use that word, stuff, not to be lazy but to indicate the diversity of consumable goods we purchase for our comfort, convenience and entertainment. The Story of Stuff Project teaches the consequences of making and purchasing so much stuff. Our purchasing choices have consequences, positive and negative, intended and unintended. When we choose to purchase a bottle of soda, for example, we contribute to a linear system with unintended negative consequences at every stage. Let me explain.

Plastic is made mostly from petroleum. Petroleum is made from a combination of crude oil and gases, including natural gas. Both are extracted from the earth by drilling. Think of the geo-political and environmental consequences of oil and natural gas extraction.

¹https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment/#close. You can also check out What a Waste by

After extraction, the oil and gases must be transported to refineries and production facilities. (That transportation requires the burning of even more petroleum.) The facilities that refine the oil and turn them into plastic require the burning of coal for electricity to operate the machines that yield by-products that must be emitted. Think of

the emissions from burning coal. Think of the other byproducts yielded by the refining process. Where do they go?

After the plastic bottle is produced, it is distributed to the soda company which fills it and transports it to the marketplace, again burning coal for electricity and petroleum for transportation.

Now we enter the picture. We are the consumer who purchases the bottle of soda. We consume its contents, and then we dispose of the bottle. I'd wager most of us would at least think of recycling the bottle. But be honest, do

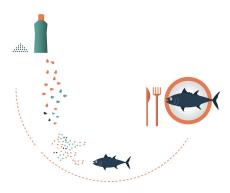


we always recycle the bottle? According to the National Geographic Society, 79% of plastic is simply thrown away in a trash bin and winds up buried in a landfill or dumped on land or at sea.¹

Even if you make the effort to recycle your plastic bottles, what about all the other stuff you

Jess French, which is available on our Children's Bookshelf and can be purchased online.

purchase? Plastic has become the primary source of packaging for our consumer goods, whether it is food, toys, entertainment, clothes or shoes. It is a consequence of consumer demand for convenience. Plastic is ubiquitous. It is everywhere, even in our oceans. There are five oceans gyres: one in the Indian Ocean, two in the Atlantic and two in the Pacific. In the center of each is a garbage patch, a collection of debris that is drawn by wind and ocean currents into a type of whirlpool. Marine scientists refer to one of them as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch located in the north Pacific Ocean. It is three times the size of France and contains around 1.8 trillion pieces of trash. A significant portion of that trash is plastic.²



Plastic degrades very slowly and never fully disappears. It breaks into small pieces called microplastics (less than .2

in.) that fish and birds mistake for food and eat.

This story of plastic is just one example of a linear system. Though we like to think of life as cyclical, the lifecycle of most of our stuff is decidedly not cyclical. It is not self-sustaining. It is linear, and it ends in landfills or the ocean. We cannot sustain a linear system. The landfills and oceanic garbage patches will just keep growing until we change our consumption patterns.

So what can we do? The ideas are too numerous to list in a newsletter article. But a few are:

- > Stop using plastic shopping bags. Grocery stores in Greenwood still have paper sacks, and they sell inexpensive reusable bags as well. Keep some in your car so you're always prepared.
- > Stop buying bottled water. Greenwood's water supply is safe. Use metal water bottles. It just takes a little forethought.

- > When you are shopping for food, pay attention to the packaging. Do you really need to buy the individual snack-size plastic containers of chips or crackers? Do you really need to put your produce in a thin plastic bag for it to be weighed and then placed in yet another plastic bag to transport it home? There are others options.
- > Plastic isn't the only culprit. Think about how quickly technology offers us a new and improved electronic device. What should you do with your old ones? Don't throw them in the trash. They contain metals that are toxic. Return your outdated electronic devices to the store from which you purchased them. Verizon, Best Buy, Office Max, and other dealers will take them back and recycle them responsibly. Just call ahead to make sure. Beginning soon, Resurrection will join many other organizations in supporting Recycle4Chimps, the Jane Goodall Institute's program to collect ewaste for responsible recycling. We'll have a collection bin in the Gathering Space for you to leave your old device and know that it will be recycled responsibly and will support Jane Goodall's work in Africa.3 Also, at least once a year, Lowe's hosts an e-waste collection event in Greenwood. Watch the local news for information, and Resurrection will share it through church announcements.
- > Participate in our Mug Drive! Leslie Juul Merrill has kick-started an effort by our church to stop using disposable coffee cups. She's inviting everyone to bring a mug to leave at church. When we're worshipping together in person again, you'll see a basket at the back of the nave. Go ahead and pick out which mug you want to bring and show your support for LJ's creative idea and wise leadership.
- > Remember God's first command to humanity, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." We are all God's children, living as a global society charged with caring for one another and for creation. Let us pray that we may honor God with our choices

² https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/patch.html

³ https://www.janegoodall.org.au/the-forest-is-calling/

and protect and preserve God's kingdom on earth.

I look forward to a day when Resurrection's children, Leslie Juul Merrill and perhaps some other youth will be able to present a more comprehensive display of information on the lifecycle of our stuff. We hope to offer many ideas and alternatives for changing consumption patterns and making wiser purchasing choices. Until that great day, I pray you will stay healthy and connected to your church family.

God's peace, Elizabeth Floyd

Trinity Episcopal Church, Abbeville, SC

Our trip to visit Trinity Abbeville will be rescheduled for a later date. If you have any questions, please call Robert Headley-Downs at 864-321-8933.



Altar arrangements:

April 5/Palm Sunday: Palms are given in memory of Joe Lincoln Tolbert, Jr. and Miss Margaret Allen Gaillard by Mary Jo Tolbert.

April 12/Easter: Open to all parishioners

April 19: in loving memory of Jim Jefferies by Mrs. Cynthia Jefferies.

April 26: in thanksgiving for her grandchildren: Ginger Nance, Kate Di Zio, Jennifer Peterson, Stephie, Christine, Nathan and Adam Himes; and great-grandchildren: Andrew Navarro and Elijah and Gillian Ham by Christine Jayne.

The Presence Candle is given in memory Anna Claire Woodiwiss by her family.

Parish Connections...

Music **Donna Brooks**

992-3738

dbrooks@nctv.com

Altar Guild Noonie Fennell

223-7769

cfennell@nctv.com

Acolytes Norm and Roxy Fawcett

227-3421

fawcett@nctv.com

Christian Elizabeth Floyd

Formation 223-5426

elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org

Daughters Marty Cobb

of 992-6306

the King <u>martycobb@hotmail.com</u>

Episcopal **Susu Wallace** Church 229-5690

Women <u>swbwallace@gmail.com</u> =

Readers/ **Denise Brown**

E.M.s 223-5426

denise@episcopalgreenwood.org

Giving **Lindsey Farver**

Records 223-5426

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Columbarium Joe Fennell & Dean Faden

jdfennell@nctv.com dfaden@hotmail.com

CO3R Chuck McDonnell

Tutoring 229-7701

mcdonnell.chuck@gmail.com

Ushers/ Adrian Little

Greeters 223-0027/ a.p.little@live.com

Easter Formation Feeding our Faith

A six part video series that examines the meaning of the sacrament and how it affects the people as we engage in it.

We're all missing the Eucharist these days;
perhaps we had been taking it for granted.

Our time of distance worship is making the heart grow fonder for our beautiful sacrament, and it might be a good time to reflect on what that sacrament really means to us. When we come back together again, we'll appreciate it all the more.

The video and discussion questions will be emailed out every Saturday (until we gather again). Join us April 19 and 26 and May 3, 10 and 17.





MUG DRIVE

Church of Resurrection will be organizing
a mug drive to reduce our
plastic pollution.
Disposable coffee cups can not
be recycled because they
are either made of styrofoam or a combination
of paper and plastic.

Since most of us are spending time at home right now you probably have time to declutter.
If you have any mugs you no longer want, please donate them to the church.
When we are together again, you can drop them off in a basket in the back of the sanctuary.

If you have any questions please text or call Leslie Merrill at (864)-942-7826

RESURRECTION CELEBRATES WITH YOU

Birthdays

02 – Katie Cooper 18 – Lander Adams 30 – Mary Woodiwiss 04 – Sandra Daffin 18 – Robert Headley-Downs o6 – Connie Hammett 18 - Robin Lanford **Anniversaries** o6 - Cecily Hughes 21 – Sandy Singletary 02 - Gerald & Donna Brooks o8 – Sandra Lewis 22 – Lainey Davis 07 - Kenneth & Robert Headley-09 - Marty Cobb 22 – Shannon Jones Downs 11 – Will Sharpe 24 – Justin McCabe 20 – Glenn & St. Claire Donaghy 11 - Owen Willis 25 – Domer Ridings 21 – Whitfield & Lori Brooks 12 – Jerry Kent 26 – Marlowe Crowder 26 – Aaron & Anne Crowe 13 – St. Claire Donaghy 27 – Anne Crowe 27 - Mike & Cathy Robertson 13 – Annabel Grace Wood 27 – Catie Robertson 30 - Stephen & Taylor Tucker 15 – Archie Booker, Jr. 30 - Doris Clay

Your prayers are asked for these members of our parish and members of our immediate families: Jim Bright, Libby Carson, Doris and Evan Clay, Bruce Craven, Carol Dean, David DiBenedetto, Bobby Ellerbe, Joe Fennell, Charlie and Mary Joe Ferguson, Troy Glawe, Nan Hines, Chris Jayne, Nicholas Kent, John Nazzaro, Dick Reeves, George Rush, Elsie Speer, Bill Tarrer, Michael Whitfield, Terry Wynne (Lou Wynne's brother), Winnie Bolle (Fr. Stephen Bolle's stepmother), Trey Booker (Archie and Summer Booker's son), Loudon Brooks (Ginger Long's brother), Linda Criswell (Paul Criswell's sister), Joe Daggett (Beth Wood's nephew), Hazel Hammett (Connie Hammett's mother), Jeanette Little (Adrian Little's mom), Jennifer Love (Renee Love's sister), Linda Love (Renee Love's mother), Earl McCombs (Mary Ann Cooper's father), Elliot Norton (Karen and Bill Bright's nephew), Chip Parker (Nan Hines' son), Kurt Penney (Bacon family member), Bill Waggener (The late Elizabeth Schuler's son-in-law), Anne Cheshire Wideman (Frank Wideman's sister), Bill Wilson (Barry Wilson's father)

And for these persons: The Brown Family (Mary Jo Tolbert's caregivers), Mitchell Capps (Mary Bright's friend), Jody Conley (friend of the Cary Family), Madalyn Leonard (Jean Shirley's friend), Craig Loner, Bridges Poston, Josh Strange, Brenda Weems

Those in our nation's service: Will Carroll, Aaron Crowe, Reid Furman, Cameron Roberts, Grant Roberts, Trip Wash, Noah Woodiwiss

- We remember in Resurrection hope, Barbara Locke, who died February 21.
- We remember in Resurrection hope, Bruce "Skip" Adams, husband of Judy, who died March 14.

Please send additions/deletions to the prayer list or family news and prayer concerns to Denise at denise@episcopalgreenwood.org or call 223-5426.

Including the church in your will ensures its life into the future and offers your witness to generations that follow.

We give thanks for your giving, which makes the ministry of Resurrection possible!

	Pledges (Actual)	Pledges (Budgeted)	Unpledged/Plate (Actual)	Unpledged/Plate (Budgeted)	Expenses (Actual)	Expenses (Budgeted)
Last Month	\$21,089	\$28,800	\$2,652	\$1,652	\$18,214	\$29,135
Year to Date	\$90,705	\$86,400	\$6,319	\$4,975	\$86,674	\$101,102

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From the Rafters

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Church of the Resurrection

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