



# From the Rafters

## Our Mission

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

Vol. VI  
Issue 10  
October  
2020

### **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.” - Leviticus 19:18b**

Dear Church of the Resurrection,

I just finished lectures on Leviticus and Deuteronomy for my Introduction to Hebrew Bible course at Lander. Through reading the many admonitions to love through action, I have been reminded of how God cares about how we treat our neighbors. “Neighbor” in the Hebrew translates to friend, companion or fellow-citizen. These responsibilities are hard and holy. They reflect God's desire for God's people to live in ways that reflect goodness, holiness and what it means to be a follower of God. We, like the Israelites, need reminders that we have a responsibility to do likewise.

A few months ago, I was invited to facilitate dialogue with a group of Church of the Resurrection parishioners around issues of discipleship. I have witnessed that you are a community that is deeply committed to demonstrating love and compassion for your members. This group discussed the histories of horror that we did not choose. We discussed that throughout history, the Church has been complicit in fostering denigration and divisiveness among its neighbors. We agreed that in order to love our neighbors well, we must name the evils and brokenness that keep us from doing so. We affirmed that such awareness comes with a responsibility to examine our own practices in regards to how we love our God and show love to our neighbors.



This group of parishioners will continue to discern and listen for what God is calling the Church of the Resurrection to do in regards to your neighbors. Their work is hard, yet it is holy. They are being asked to name the traditions that trap us, the practices that prevent us and the comfort that confines us from radical love and connection. These include racism, classism, and an array of phobias that hinder us from loving because we become too busy putting people into boxes. Breaking open these kinds of boxes will liberate us to love more like God. I encourage you to join in praying for them and being open to the wonderful ways that God might be calling them to lead you.

I invite you into honest reflection and vulnerable dialogue, not for the sake of shaming or judging, but for the purpose of becoming more faithful disciples. Please take time to reflect on these questions and to discuss their answers with one to two other people in the coming weeks.

1. Is there a particular group of people, ethnicity or race, that you were raised to dislike or fear?
2. Are most of the groups that you belong to completely homogenous in race/ethnicity/culture? If yes, why?
3. Are you gracious and hospitable to people who do not look/think/act like you?
4. When you think about images that portray good, beauty and sophistication, what comes to mind?
5. What race/ethnic background would it be unacceptable for your child to marry?
6. When is the last time you have been to the home or shared a meal with someone of a different race/ethnicity?
7. How might the privilege of choosing your neighbors make it more challenging for you to love those who do not fit your standards?
8. Would you be uncomfortable if a large number of people who are of a different race/ethnicity that

live in close proximity to COR joined? Why or why not?

9. What might it look like to name the evils that hold us back from radical love—not simply the issues and people that we do not understand, but actually name our struggles and preferences that may be antithetical to the kingdom of God? And to extend grace to ourselves and one another as we do so?

What is keeping you from loving your neighbors more faithfully?

You are doing great work in the world, Church of the Resurrection. May these reflections assist in helping you to increase in truth, righteousness and love for you and all the neighbors that God calls you to take notice of—that you might experience deeper abundance and the world greater healing.

Grace + Peace,

Rev. Alexis Carter Thomas

\*Questions adapted from Pete Scazzerro

## Dear Church of the Resurrection Family,

Fall is here! We are enjoying the cooler weather. If you haven't been to Morning Prayer on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. or a Wednesday night Home Communion at 6:30 p.m., I encourage you to attend.

We all wear our masks and stay a safe distance from each other. Many have commented that worshipping together and breaking bread as a community have been very uplifting and nourishing! If you have specific questions about these services, just reach out to me. I am happy to talk you through it and answer any questions.

We will have our annual Blessings of the Animals on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 p.m. Drive through with your animal or a picture of your animal and I will give them a blessing. I will be under the porta cohere waiting for you!



If you have not turned in your 2021 stewardship pledge card, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. We will be working on our budget for 2021 in October and your pledge is essential! Thank you for giving to our parish!

For the month of October, this is my prayer for each and every one of you: Jesus, our Redeemer, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you carry the lambs in your arms. I place the people of Church of the Resurrection in your loving care. Stop their pain, give them help and strength, and raise them up to a life of joy. I pray, for your dear Name's sake. Amen.

I love each and every one of you!

Love,

Mary Balfour+

## Altar Flowers Memorials for 2021

Now is the time to sign up for giving flowers for the altar for next year. All parishioners have the opportunity to participate. If you have given on a yearly basis in the past, those memorials will continue unless you contact Denise in the office ([denise@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:denise@episcopalgreenwood.org)) or myself ([cfennell@nctv.com](mailto:cfennell@nctv.com)).

Also, let us know of any changes in the wording for your memorial or thanksgiving. If this is the first time for participating, please let Denise or me know your preferences for time and wording. Debra Case at The Floral Case is our primary florist. She charges approximately \$100 for 2 arrangements.

The Sanctuary or Presence Candle can also be given as a memorial. Two candles are used each month at a cost of \$50 to the church. As with the altar flowers, please let us know if you do not want to continue for 2021 or if you are interested in this opportunity for next year.

As in previous years, all parishioners can contribute to The Flower Fund for special Easter and



Christmas decorations and the memorials/thanksgivings they represent.

Your Altar Guild wants to assist you in any way we can. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Noonie Fennell  
Altar Guild Chair



### Formation Moment: St. Francis of Assisi

The feast day of St. Francis of Assisi is Sunday, October 4.

St. Francis is the patron saint of many things, but perhaps best known is his patronage of animals. I look forward to St. Francis' feast day each year because I love animals and I so admire Francis' advocacy for the poor. There a

few aspects of his life, however, that are less well known, and I thought they might bring you some comfort and insight.

Francis was born into a life of nobility and privilege, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant and a French noblewoman. He was provided a distinguished education and a position in the military that would have led to knighthood. But after some illnesses and spiritual experiences, Francis began a lifestyle that his peers considered crazy and culminated in his father's decision to disown Francis. In a dramatic scene before the bishop of Assisi, Francis is reported to have said to his father, "Until now I have called you my father on earth. But henceforth I can truly say: Our Father who art in heaven." From that point forward, Francis began a life utterly dedicated to the humble service of his heavenly father.



Francis of Assisi adopted a rule of life devoted to poverty as a reflection of Jesus' human experience. He lived as a beggar. He preached, sang and danced in the streets of Assisi to earn money for the restoration of churches. His odd behavior drew the attention of others, and ultimately Francis founded a religious order, the Friars Minor. Francis later met a young woman named Clare, and together they founded a women's order that also adopted a vow of poverty, the Poor Clares. Francis' dedication to humility and sacrifice had a profound impact on the practice of Christianity in his time.

Francis of Assisi lived a life worthy of remembrance, and it thrills me to see so many churches now celebrating a blessing of the animals in honor of his feast day. Resurrection will host a blessing event on the Sunday following, October 11. Information about this event is in this Rafters and has been shared through emails as well. I hope you'll bring your pet by for a blessing as well as a donation to the Humane Society of Greenwood, our Second Sunday Give for the month of October. But most of all, I hope you'll remember the pivotal moment of Francis' life when he rejected his biological sonship and accepted God as his only father.

We will soon be electing or re-electing a president. It is easy at this time to get lost in the divisive politics and to feel anxious, or downright angry, at the state of our nation and its leaders. I encourage you to remember that God is always on the throne. God is our king, our queen, our Holy Father and our Holy Mother. Ultimately, we swear our allegiance not to a country or to a state or even to a human. Our allegiance, like Francis' allegiance, is to God alone.

If you feel tempted to vent on social media, keep in mind that all places on the political spectrum are represented by members of your church family. If you are sharing criticism or insults of any side of the political debate, you are sharing criticism and insults of your brothers and sisters in Christ, of members of your church family. So take a moment and count to 10; consider how what you write and share may be received by the people you love in this church and in life. We are God's children, and



like Francis of Assisi, we must take very seriously our duty to love all our neighbors – Democrats and Republicans, rich and poor, red, yellow, black and white.

I'll leave you with a prayer attributed to St. Francis:

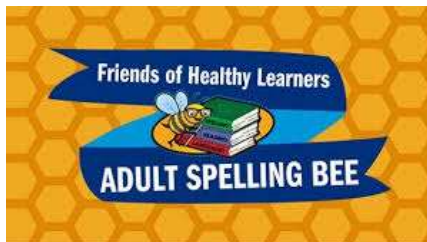
Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that we may not so much  
seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that  
we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Take some time to write to Mitchell! He is doing well in seminary but misses us and would love to hear from us:

Mitchell Felton  
Virginia Theological Seminary  
MH 302  
3737 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, VA 22304

## Congratulations to our champion spellers!

Resurrection's team – **Ann Arnold, Jan Puzar, Shana Southard-Dobbs and Beth Wood** – won the 6:45 session of the Healthy Learners Adult Spelling Bee!! It all came down to spelling “onomatopoeia,” and our team nailed it. We are so proud of them, and we are equally thrilled that Healthy Learners received over \$30,000 from this event. Well done!



## Opportunities for Ministry:

**Second  
Sunday Give,  
October 11  
Supporting  
the Humane  
Society of  
Greenwood**



Wondering what you can donate? Here are few items from HSOG's wish list: pet food, dog and cat treats, cleaning

Bring a donation to worship Sunday morning or drop it off under the Porte Cochere between 2:00 and 3:30 PM



products (trash bags, paper towels, sponges, hand sanitizer), office supplies, puppy pads, any size metal bowls, pet carriers or crates. You can see HSOG's full wish list on their website, [www.gwdhumanesociety.org](http://www.gwdhumanesociety.org).

October 13, 14 and 15 - Three times each day: 5:30 to 6:15, 6:30 to 7:15, 7:30 to 8:15.

## Pumpkin Deliveries

We are delivering pumpkins to a few of our parishoners who cannot get out and about yet.

Are you available to deliver?

If so, please contact

Reva Davis:

[davisrm2001@gmail.com](mailto:davisrm2001@gmail.com)

or Text: 864-992-4542

The delivery date is October 18th from 2-3. Drive through the church parking lot to pick up the pumpkin and your delivery address.



## CO3R Needs Greeters!

Our tutoring program will resume in mid-October, and we have developed a healthy roster of tutors from Greenwood High thanks to the recruiting efforts of Perrin Roper and Salley Hyatt. We could still use a few more adult volunteers to assist with administrative duties, including sign-in supervision, safety at student drop-off and pick-up and post-session cleaning. Sessions are on Monday and Wednesday afternoons beginning at 4:00. Contact Elizabeth Floyd if you can help in any way, (205) 807-7293 or [elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org).



## What's Happening in October:

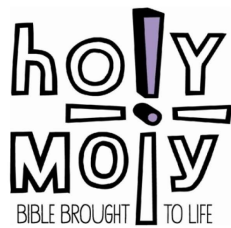
### Formation Programs



Adults are exploring those Transforming Questions, a program by Forward Movement that encourages Christians to consider the tougher topics of our faith. Join us under the porte cochere immediately after

the outdoor worship service!

Children will enjoy our Holy Moly program in the parish courtyard. All ages are welcome to follow Elizabeth Floyd to the courtyard for a light snack, bible study and fun activities.



### EYC Plans

Our youth have a lot to look forward to this month! High school kids will meet with Mary Balfour on Zoom for some online fun on October 4<sup>th</sup> and again on October 18<sup>th</sup> for a movie night at Resurrection. Middle school youth will join Elizabeth Floyd on Zoom for a Scribblio competition on October 4<sup>th</sup> and then at

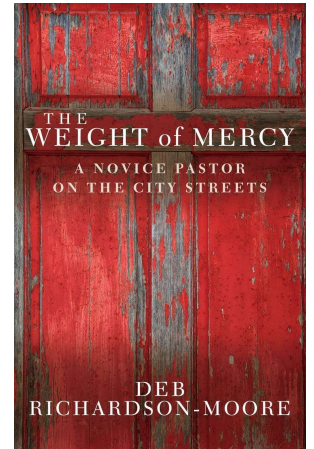


the Art Center Courtyard for a Paint & Pour session on October 18<sup>th</sup>. All gatherings start at 5:30 PM. We'll send a text and GroupMe message to remind you to join us. But please block off those dates and times in your calendars now!

## Resurrection Book Study:

### The Weight of Mercy by Deb Richardson-Moore

If you enjoy reading and would enjoy rich stories of miracles, humility and grace, please join us for a discussion of this provocative memoir by Rev. Deb Richardson-Moore. We will come together live and on Zoom weekly at a time that accommodates the group. Contact Elizabeth Floyd if you are interested in participating – [elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org).



If you're curious about the book: Deb Richardson-Moore was the pastor and director of Triune Mercy Center until July 2020. Triune is a mission church in downtown Greenville that serves the poor through a variety of ministries including medical care, drug and alcohol recovery, food and clothes pantry, music and visual arts, and more. But the chief ministry is worship. All those who serve and are served through Triune's programs worship together on Sunday mornings in a starkly diverse congregation. "This is what the kingdom of heaven looks like!" is a frequent reaction from new worshippers, according to Triune's website. The Weight of Mercy chronicles Richardson-Moore's experience at Triune with great honesty. It is certainly worth reading even if you cannot participate in the book study.

## The Race is on!

Register now for our **Thanksgiving Day 5K Race to be Thankful!** Run or walk along the gently rolling hills of the



Gatewood subdivision, and you'll feel much less guilty about eating all the turkey and pie later. You'll be supporting local charities at the same time. If you aren't able to run or walk the route, consider giving a little time to help our fantastic, devoted organizer, Kim Russell. She's seeking help with sponsorships, pre- and post-race goodies and route-pointers. Contact her at [Kimjer100@gmail.com](mailto:Kimjer100@gmail.com). Race registration is through It's About Time - <https://itsabouttime.run/event-registration/?ee=168>.



#### Altar Arrangements:

**October 4:** In memory of Carroll and Anita Brooks, E. Loudon and Myrtle Brooks, and Palmer H. and Maude R. Brown by Karen and Mike Whitfield.

**October 11:** In memory of Henry and Caroline Thayer, and Mr. and Mrs. H.K. Thayer, Sr. by Nancy and Larkin Jennings.

**October 18:** In memory of our fathers, John R. Hawthorne and Leonard Juul Merrill, and in thanksgiving for our mothers, Leslie Lusk Hawthorne and Carolyn Pratt Johnston Merrill by Albert and Jane Merrill.

**October 25:** In memory of Ailene L. Byers, Deaver O. Byers, Myrtle Feller Brooks, and E. Loudon Brooks by Edie and Emmett Brooks.

**The Presence Candle** is given in memory of Carrie and Braxton Wallace, Abney's grandparents, by Susu and Abney Wallace.

#### Parish Connections...

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Music                  | <b>Donna Brooks</b><br>992-3738<br><a href="mailto:dbrooks@nctv.com">dbrooks@nctv.com</a>   |
| Altar Guild            | <b>Noonie Fennell</b><br>223-7769<br><a href="mailto:cfennell@nctv.com">cfennell@nctv.com</a>   |
| Acolytes               | <b>Norm and Roxy Fawcett</b><br>227-3421<br><a href="mailto:fawcett@nctv.com">fawcett@nctv.com</a>  |
| Christian Formation    | <b>Elizabeth Floyd</b><br>223-5426<br><a href="mailto:elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org">elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org</a>                                    |
| Daughters of the King  | <b>Marty Cobb</b><br>992-6306<br><a href="mailto:martycobb@hotmail.com">martycobb@hotmail.com</a>   |
| Episcopal Church Women | <b>Susu Wallace</b><br>229-5690<br><a href="mailto:swbwallace@gmail.com">swbwallace@gmail.com</a> =   |
| Readers/ EMs/Ushers    | <b>Denise Brown</b><br>223-5426<br><a href="mailto:denise@episcopalgreenwood.org">denise@episcopalgreenwood.org</a>   |
| Giving Records         | <b>Lindsey Farver</b><br>223-5426<br><a href="mailto:finance@episcopalgreenwood.org">finance@episcopalgreenwood.org</a>   |
| Columbarium            | <b>Joe Fennell &amp; Dean Faden</b><br><a href="mailto:jdfennell@nctv.com">jdfennell@nctv.com</a><br><a href="mailto:dfaden@hotmail.com">dfaden@hotmail.com</a> |
| CO3R Tutoring          | <b>Elizabeth Floyd</b><br>223-5426<br><a href="mailto:elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org">elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org</a>                                    |
| Online Directory       | <b>Jo Ann Brewer</b><br>941-7199/ <a href="mailto:joannbrewersc@gmail.com">joannbrewersc@gmail.com</a>  |



## RESURRECTION CELEBRATES WITH YOU

### **Birthdays**

|                             |                           |                         |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 – Jane Merrill           | 14 – Shana Southard-Dobbs | 26 – Laura Beth Brooks  |
| 02 – Phil Ellenberg         | 16 – Robert Crowder III   | 26 – Helen Nazzaro      |
| 02 – Sandra Miller Kern     | 16 – Walker Whitehead     | 28 – Craig Church       |
| 03 – Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges | 16 – Aiden Willis         | 28 – Mike Robertson     |
| 07 – Jan Puzar              | 18 – Henry McMillan       | 28 – Anne Wells         |
| 08 – Lisa Wideman           | 18 – Nicholas Wells       | 29 – Walker Moore       |
| 09 – Susan Wash             | 19 – Claire Gillespie     | 30 – Anna Burns Padgett |
| 09 – John Wiseman           | 19 – Michael Whitfield    | 30 – Caroline Newlon    |
| 10 – Emma Kate Lataille     | 20 – Terri Bacon          | 30 – Anna Lee Padgett   |
| 11 – Matthew Bachinski      | 20 – Joel Cleland         |                         |
| 11 – Mary Bright            | 22 – Bob Brewer           |                         |
| 12 – Carmen Kinney          | 23 – Ben Dobbs            |                         |
| 13 – Nancy Miller           | 23 – John Hinkel          |                         |
| 13 – John Park              | 24 – Lattie Gillespie     |                         |
| 13 – Julie Rieger           | 25 – Nan Hines            |                         |

### **Anniversaries**

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| 11 – Katie and Patrick Craven   |
| 17 – Ann and Bill Arnold        |
| 23 – Jennifer and Adrian Little |

**Your prayers are asked for these members of our parish and members of our immediate families:** Evan Clay, Bruce Craven, Carol Dean, Cynthia Dougherty, Bobby Ellerbe, Joe Fennell, Charlie and Mary Joe Ferguson, Nan Hines, Chris Jayne, Dave Joosten, Nicholas Kent, Bart McGuire, Nancy Miller, Sarah and Erich Normandia, Betty Perrault, George Rush, Stewart Russell, Elsie Speer, Terry Wynne (Lou Wynne's brother), Winnie Bolle (Fr. Stephen Bolle's stepmother), Trey Booker (Archie and Summer Booker's son), Linda Criswell (Paul Criswell's sister), Olive Daggett (Beth Wood's nephew), Carolyn Decore (Dyan Webb's sister), 1994

Hazel Hammett (Connie Hammett's mother), Jeanette Little (Adrian Little's mom), Jennifer Love (Renee Love's sister), Linda Love (Renee Love's mother), Elliot Norton (Karen and Bill Bright's nephew), Susan Pendergrass, Kurt Penney (Bacon family member), Mason Shirley, Brad Thomas (Henry & Libby Cary family), Lee Van Zandt (Mary Balfour's cousin), Anne Cheshire Wideman (Frank Wideman's sister)

**And for these persons:** Denise A. Brown, The Brown Family (Mary Jo Tolbert's caregivers), Carol Cauthren (Laura Shealy's friend), Ed Cleary (Shirley Walker's friend), Donna Knight (friend of the Floyd, McMillan and Woodiwiss families), Craig Loner (friend of George Rush), John McCravy, Sr. (Jon Newlon's friend), Joan O'Donnell, (friend of Jeanne Brown), The Seymour Family, Brenda Weems

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

Please send additions/deletions to the prayer list or family news and prayer concerns to Denise at [denise@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto: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!***

|                         | <b>Pledges<br/>(Actual)</b> | <b>Pledges<br/>(Budgeted)</b> | <b>Unpledged/Plate<br/>(Actual)</b> | <b>Unpledged/Plate<br/>(Budgeted)</b> | <b>Expenses<br/>(Actual)</b> | <b>Expenses<br/>(Budgeted)</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Last<br/>Month</b>   | <b>\$23,974</b>             | <b>\$28,800</b>               | <b>\$3,951</b>                      | <b>\$1,675</b>                        | <b>\$33,664</b>              | <b>\$33,014</b>                |
| <b>Year to<br/>Date</b> | <b>\$274,062</b>            | <b>\$259,200</b>              | <b>\$16,565</b>                     | <b>\$14,925</b>                       | <b>\$244,244</b>             | <b>\$292,782</b>               |



*From the Rafters*

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# Church of the Resurrection

## **Vestry Members**

Cecily Hughes, Senior Warden  
Walker Moore, Junior Warden  
Adrian Little, Vestry Clerk  
Summer Booker  
Jo Ann Brewer  
Reva Long Davis  
David Dougherty  
Rick Green  
Bill McCabe  
Perrin Roper

Shana Southard-Dobbs  
Lou Wynne  
John Scurry, Treasurer  
Abney Wallace, Assistant Treasurer

## **Clergy and Staff**

Mary Balfour Dunlap, Rector  
Donna Brooks, Organist/Choir Director  
Denise A. Brown, Administrative Assistant  
Elizabeth Floyd, Associate Lay Minister for Families  
and Outreach  
Lindsey Farver, Financial Contractor