



From the Rafters

Vol. XI
Issue 4
April
2024

Our Mission

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

Dear Church of the Resurrection Family,

What a glorious Lenten season and beginning of the Easter season! My heart is full and grateful for all of you who attended our Lenten Wednesday formation program, especially those who helped with the logistics. I pray that your relationship with Jesus deepened!



As we begin the month of April, there is even more to celebrate! Earth Day Sunday (April 21st) and the Bishop's visit, confirmation, and celebration of our seniors (April 28th) and much more. Eleven people will be confirmed, received, or reaffirmed, and seven seniors graduating from high school will be celebrated. Thanks be to God!!!!

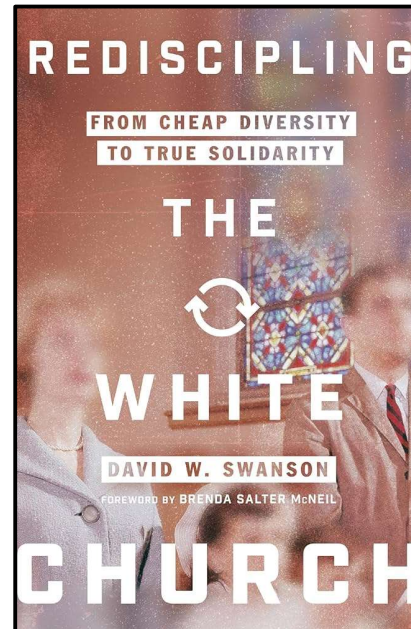
Often in my heart, I ponder, am I doing enough, am I being the best rector I can be. You all always reassure me that I am. Thank you for your support and encouragement. I want you to know as well that your vestry is amazing! They are digging deep with me; we are praying, discussing, and pondering how to continue to invite others into this amazing parish and how all of us can deepen our relationship with God.

You are so loved, you are so loved, you are so loved!!!! Never forget that!!!

Love, Mary Balfour+

I received this little card from a parishioner recently and thought I would share it with all of you!

Anti-Racism Library Book of the Month:



“In this simple but powerful book, Pastor David Swanson contends that discipleship, not diversity, lies at the heart of our white churches’ racial brokenness. Before white churches can pursue diversity, he argues, we must first take steps to address

the faulty discipleship that has led to our segregation in the first place. Drawing on the work of philosopher James K. A. Smith and others, Swanson proposes that we rethink our churches’ habits, or liturgies, and imagine together holistic, communal discipleship practices that can reform us as members of Christ's diverse body.”

This and many other books are available to check out from our Anti-Racism Library located in the Gathering Space.

Use the Bible . . . for daily comfort

When in sorrow Read John 14	For a great invitation -- a great opportunity, Read Isaiah 55
When men fail you Read Psalm 27	When you want courage for your task, Read Joshua 1
When you have sinned Read Psalm 51	When the world seems bigger than God, Read Psalm 90
When you worry Read Matthew 6:19-34	When you want rest and peace Read Matthew 11:25-30
When you are in danger Read Psalm 91	When leaving home for labor or travel, Psalm 121: 1-7; 23-31
If you have the blues Read Psalm 34	If you get bitter or critical Read 1st Corinthians 13
When God seems far away Read Psalm 139	If you feel down and out Read Romans 8:39
If you are discouraged Read Isaiah 40	If you are lonely or fearful Read Psalm 23

Redemption

During our last season of Epiphany, the Becoming Beloved Community Committee led a book study of *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bowles-Weber. I enjoy reading and participating in our Adult Forum book studies, but I confess that I was not at all excited to read this book. I considered taking a hiatus from the Adult Forum for that go-round because I just wasn't interested in it. I have watched some interviews with Nadia Bowles-Weber, and though I saw her popular appeal, her style just wasn't for me. But guilt got the better of me, so I went. The B.B.C. Committee did a wonderful job leading the discussion, and other participants shared touching, personal insights and experiences that quickly changed my initial reluctance to enthusiasm. From the very first chapter of the book, I realized it might be exactly what I needed to be reading after all.

See, I've been thinking a lot about redemption lately. *Accidental Saints* does not purport to be a book about redemption; it's promoted for its stories of grace found in unexpected places. Yet, the vignettes came across to me as examples of redemption. By way of timely example, a particular story stands out. It occurred on Good Friday in 2013. Nadia¹ led her congregation in an annual Good Friday tradition of visiting the location of an act of brutal violence where they would carry the cross from their church and bring tulips from their worship service. She describes it, "We bring the holy things of the church onto the holy streets of the city because on some level, the violence and despair of Good Friday is still a human reality." On this particular Good Friday, in the darkness of night, they visited the house where recently a mother had shot her three children and herself. They sang the Trisagion so beautifully that it silenced a pack of barking dogs. They laid tulips on the ground then returned to their homes. Later they learned that their voices had carried through the darkness and into the homes of the neighborhood, where it was felt and experienced as greatly needed healing. In my mind, their act of religious devotion redeemed

the site of horrific violence and made it a site of holy grace. At least it can be remembered now as both.

On January 10, 2023, my father-in-law, Hugh Floyd, passed away. One year later, to the very day, my own father passed away. I attended two funerals for two men whom I loved and admired deeply. Though I already knew first-hand, the speakers at each funeral shared the profound impact that these men had on the world. All that they contributed to their professions, all that they contributed to their families and friends, all the good that they did for the world ... their lives truly mattered. They left a legacy of servanthood and compassion that drives me every day to be a better person, to follow their lead. Now I know they weren't perfect. They made mistakes; they were human. Yet the kindness, love and light they shared more than redeemed whatever mistakes they made.

To redeem, according to Merriam-Webster, is to offset or compensate for a defect. But most often we hear the word redemption in religious contexts. Here is how the Episcopal Church's online glossary defines redemption:

Redemption may be understood in terms of atonement, forgiveness of sins, justification, deliverance from the power of death, righteousness, and the doing away with human alienation from God. Christians affirm that we may share the saving benefits of Christ's life, death, and resurrection through baptism and participation in the life of the church (see Col 2:12; Rom 6:4-5).

So redemption is an aspect of atonement theology. Our collective theology emphasizes the necessity of Jesus' death for the redemption of humanity; to atone for human sin, Jesus died. That is biblical. It's repeated often in the epistles. It's part of our Sunday liturgy. It's part of our Jewish heritage.

The Israelite culture, adhering to Mosaic law, practiced sacrifice as atonement in a ritualistic

¹ Nadia Bowles-Weber is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and holds a Master's of Divinity from Illiff School of Theology in Denver,

CO. She is a reverend but referring to her as Rev. Bowles-Weber in this little article seemed like something she might actually consider an insult. So Nadia it is.

way, particularly on the Day of Atonement, their holiest day of the year. See Leviticus 16 for the details. The short form is: Two goats are offered up to bear the sins of the people. One is released into the wilderness. The other is sacrificed. The high priest sprinkled its blood in the sanctuary of the tabernacle, their holy of holies, on the cover of the Ark of the Covenant. The sacrificed goat pays the price of death as a substitute for the death the people owed God for their sins. The other goat receives mercy as a symbol of God's mercy towards humanity. The Day of Atonement is an annual event, not a once for all atonement. It is known now as Yom Kippur.

Jesus is born into this covenant-focused religious culture, where people believed that humanity owed something to God in order to receive God's mercy. Jesus understood the significance of sacrifice and atonement to his people. He submitted himself to a sacrificial death because that was what the Jewish people needed in order to understand God's love more perfectly. Those who accepted Jesus as the Messiah could understand Jesus' death as the final Day of Atonement. They no longer had to practice ritualistic sacrifice to be restored in their covenant relationship with God. Even in living, Jesus showed his people that they didn't need rituals, rules and regulations to satisfy God. They need only to love one another as he loved them, in a self-sacrificing way.

In our modern, Western-European version of Christianity, we don't know God as demanding violence. Israelite culture is not our culture. We are people of the New Covenant. So what significance does Jesus' death have for Christians of modern day? The scholarly, theological answer to that question is above my pay grade. What I can tell you is that there are many versions of modern atonement theology, and there is no set dogma or "right belief" about it. Many, if not most, mainstream theologians emphasize Jesus' life and teaching, his death serving as the culmination of a life of grace and mercy. We may consider Jesus' death and resurrection as a demonstration that God forgives all sins, no matter how bad they are. Because Jesus died, we are forever forgiven. We will always receive God's

mercy, deserving or not. There are many ways to interpret atonement and redemption. We can wrestle with it throughout our entire spiritual journey.

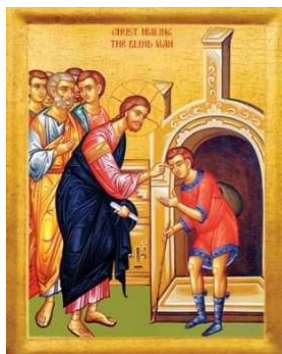
My current theology explains Jesus' death as an example of strength being made perfect in weakness. By his death at the hands of his own people, Jesus did not undo, cover or cleanse the sins of the Jewish people, or ours for that matter. Instead, he showed that submission of one's self for the sake of others is the calling of all God's people. We are drawn closer to God when we submit our self-interest to serve the interests of others. So it is in our living, our striving to be like Jesus that we redeem our mistakes. Jesus has shown us what we are capable of. We need to be reminded of Jesus' sacrificial death so that we never forget the love, not the violence, that God demands.

Humanity has much to be redeemed for. Every civilization I can think of has engaged in some form of slavery, attempted genocide, conquering and colonizing through means of violence, greed and oppression. The stain of slavery and racism still permeates our conscious and subconscious stereotypes and fears. Past sins carry into present consequences. We see terrible violence and despair in Gaza and the Ukraine every day. We see it in America, even on the streets of Greenwood. I think Nadia is right. The times of Jesus are not so different than today really. What can we do to offset it, to make it right? Nothing. There is no human way to fully atone for every mistake humanity has ever made, is making or will make. Redemption cannot be made complete at that world-wide or even nation-wide scale.

But might we find a way to bring our cross and tulips into the violence and despair? Can we bring the holy things of our church into the holy streets of our city and somehow redeem violence and evil in a smaller way? We're taught as children that we are all born with God's light inside us, and that we should live as children of light. The light of God within us motivating our self-sacrificing choices might carry redemption into effect.

~ Elizabeth Floyd

Upcoming Events and Opportunities for Ministry



Our monthly service of Holy Eucharist and Healing will be held on Wednesday, April 3, at 12 noon.

Our monthly service of Holy Eucharist at Wesley



Commons will be held on Tuesday, April 9, at 11:00 am.

ACOLYTE TRAINING

We are looking for adult acolytes!

Training will be provided on Sunday, April 14th after the 10:30 service.

RSVP to Mary Balfour:
615-900-6191

Primetimers Gathering with Jerry Rentz of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Thursday, April 18 at 11:30

RSVP to Denise Brown

Adult Forum Book Study

JOIN US AT 9:30 IN EMMAUS HALL

starting Sunday, April 7

Books will soon be available in the Gathering Space. If we run out, let Elizabeth know to order one for you!

April 21, 2024

Earth Day Sunday

Outdoor Worship at 10:30
Rite I at 8:30 in the Nave as usual

Picnic Lunch - B.Y.O. Lunchbox

Neighborhood Trash Pick-up following Lunch

Second Sunday
April 14, 2024

Supporting...
Community Initiatives

Please consider donating the following items:

<u>School Supplies</u>	<u>Access</u>	<u>Cleaning Supplies</u>
Composition Notebooks	their Amazon Wish List	Anti-bacterial wipes
Pencils	using this QR Code:	Lysol
Cap Erasers		Paper Towels
Washable Markers		Kleenex
Scissors		Toilet Paper
Glue Sticks		
Liquid Glue		
Construction Paper		
Pens		
Scotch Tape		

Please join us to celebrate!

**Confirmation and Senior
Recognition Sunday**

with

Bishop Daniel P. Richards

April 28, 2024



**A special
reception
follows
the 10:30 service**

April 21 – The altar arrangements are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Gerald and Donna Brooks by Laura Beth Brooks.

April 28 – The altar arrangements are given in memory of their parents, Willie Belle and C. Don Carson and Betsy and Lionel Flack by Larry and Libby Carson.

The Presence Candle for the month of April is given to the glory of God and in memory of Anna Woodiwiss by her family.

**Save-the-Date
Parish Yard Sale
Saturday, May 4**

Start looking through your attic and set aside what you might want to donate. Dates for receiving donations will come soon.
Proceeds will support our Mission Partnerships!

Altar Arrangements:

April 7 – The altar arrangements are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Whitfield Brooks, Lori Brooks, Catherine Brooks Sexton and Brice Sexton by Laura Beth Brooks.

April 14 – The altar arrangements are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Geraldine and Domer Ridings, Jr., and Joe and Virginia Robinson by Domer and Jackie Ridings.

Music	Donna Brooks 992-3738 dbrooksgwd@gmail.com
Altar Guild	Beverly Wilson 374-3507 bhallwilson@gmail.com
Acolytes	Mary Balfour Dunlap 615-900-6191 marybalfour@episcopalgreenwood.org
Christian Formation	Elizabeth Floyd 223-5426 elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org
Daughters of the King	Summer Booker (512) 417-5897 summer.b.booker@gmail.com
Readers/EMs/Ushers	Denise Brown 223-5426 denise@episcopalgreenwood.org
Giving Records	Laurie Smith 223-5426 finance@episcopalgreenwood.org
Columbarium	Dean Faden dfaden@hotmail.com
CO3R Tutoring	Elizabeth Floyd 223-5426 elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org
Online Directory	Jo Ann Brewer 941-7199 joannbrewersc@gmail.com
Youth Group	Diana Carver 993-4665 Mary Balfour Dunlap 615-900-6191

April 2024 Ministry Schedule

If you cannot fill the position assigned, please make arrangements for your replacement, and let the Parish Office know of the change. Thank you!

	April 7 The Second Sunday of Easter	April 14 The Third Sunday of Easter	April 21 The Fourth Sunday of Easter	April 28 The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Vestry of the Month	April 7 & 14: Salley Cathcart and Charlie Long April 21: Mary Charles Haigler and Mary Balfour Dunlap April 28: Mary Charles Haigler and Dawn Puderbaugh-Hodges			
Altar Guild	Noonie Fennell (Chair), Margaret Conrad, Marilyn Bennett, Celie Mescall, and Marty Cobb			
Readings	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1 – 2:2 John 20:19-31	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24: 36b-48	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3: 16-24 John 10: 11-18	Acts 8: 26-40 Psalm 22: 24-30 1 John 4: 7-21 John 15: 1-8
8:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite I				
1st Lesson and Psalm	Josie Ryan	Stephen Tucker	Emily Wallace	Mary Bright
2nd Lesson and Prayers of the People	Mary Bright	Dean Faden	Chuck McDonnell	Dick Daffin
E.M.	Tom Rohrer	Deryl McGuire	Chuck McDonnell	Dick Daffin
Usher	Walker Moore	Ken Rogers	Dean Faden	Deryl McGuire
10:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite II				
1st Lesson	Summer Booker	Ryan Floyd	Mary Charles Haigler	Andrew Hodges
2nd Lesson and Prayers of the People	Lucas McMillan	Jane Merrill	Celie Mescall	Helen Nazzaro
Eucharistic Ministers	Beverly Wilson Karen Whitfield	Cindy Hughes Norm Fawcett	Connie Hammett Trisha Craven	Laura Beth Brooks Eddie Barber
Crucifer	Julia Donaghy	Rhett Allord	Cannon Wooten	Lila Eisenreich
Book Bearer	Catie Robertson	TBA	Carolyn Hasting	Annie Eisenreich
Torchbearers	Maggie Rochester Will Wooten	Michael and Riley Floyd	Margaret Ann Hasting John Cobb	TBA
Acolyte Leader	Adrian Little	Ken Rogers	Ken Rogers	Adrian Little
Ushers	Richard and Salley Cathcart	John Cobb Abney Wallace	Tom Cobb Allen Hughes	Al and Rebecca Merrill
Nursery/Volunteer(s)	Mary Bright Hope Scurry	Elizabeth Floyd Kim Russell	Mary Bright Marty Cobb	Mary Bright Cindy Hughes
Hospitality	Mary Balfour Dunlap	Beverly and Barry Wilson	Donna Holtzclaw and Michelle Anderson	Fellowship Committee
Blessing Box	Josie Ryan	Josie Ryan	Josie Ryan	Josie Ryan
Flower Guild	Carla Hobbs	Ginger Long	Barbara Cameron	Barbara Cameron
Flower Delivery	Libby Cary	Celie Mescall	Sandy Gresham	Carla Hobbs
Laundry Love	Beverly Wilson	Susie Hinkle	Sandy Moore	Sarah Contakos

RESURRECTION CELEBRATES WITH YOU

BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES
1 – Maggie Snipes-Rochester	2 – Donna & Gerald Brooks
1 – Callie Turner	20 – St. Claire & Glenn Donaghy
4 – Sandra Daffin	21 – Lori & Whitfield Brooks
6 – Connie Hammett	26 – Anne & Aaron Crowe
6 – Cecily Hughes	27 – Cathy & Mike Robertson
7 – Al Hipp	30 – Taylor & Stephen Tucker
7 – Camilla Newlon	
8 – Pam Barchi	
8 – Sandra Lewis	
9 – Marty Cobb	
11 – Owen Willis	
13 – St. Claire Donaghy	
15 – Archie Booker, Jr.	

Your prayers are asked for these members of our parish and members of our immediate families: Bill Arnold, JoAnn Brewer, Paul Criswell, Roger Dean, Steve Driskell, Albert Faden, Joe Ferguson, Jim Gobble, Nan Hines, Bev and David Joosten, Diane Lawson, Mirta Lindsey, Rita Marshall, Deb Maschoff, Mary Jane Mobley, Helen Nazzaro, Erich Normandía, Bette and Burl Ricker, Domer Ridings, Mary Jo Tolbert, Shirley Walker, Carol Wynne, Jimmy Arthur (Shannon Jones’ father), Bryan Biggert (Karen Whitfield’s son), Linda Criswell (Paul Criswell’s sister), Michael Dunlap (Murray Dunlap’s brother), Riley Gillam (Sandy & Chuck Gresham’s niece), Norton Hughes (John Hughes’ brother), Vanita Hunt (Dawn Puderbaugh-Hodges’ mother), Cheri Hutchison (Jo Ann & Bob Brewer’s daughter), Jeanette Little (Adrian Little’s mom), Alison Miller, Tommy Morgan (Robin Lanford’s brother), JoAnn Lindsey Myers (Mirta Lindsey’s daughter), Carol Ann Pry (Susie Hinkel’s niece), Charlie Sheets (John & Susie Hinkel’s son-in-law), Mason Shirley, Stacey Spillum (Jo Ann Brewer’s niece), Bruce Stanley (Michael Whitfield’s nephew), and David Walker (Hope Scurry’s brother).

And for these persons: Nannette Earnest (Karen Bright’s cousin), Melody Johnson (Renee Love’s friend), Sally Kauffmann (Beverly Wilson’s friend), Nancy May (Cindy Hughes’ friend), and Jenny Perkey (Cindy Hughes’ friend).

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

	Pledges (Actual)	Pledges (Budgeted)	Unpledged/Plate (Actual)	Unpledged/Plate (Budgeted)	Expenses (Actual)	Expenses (Budgeted)
Month as of 3/19/24	\$21,647	\$36,188	\$2,583	\$1,458	\$10,843	\$36,577
Year as of 3/19/24	\$112,814	\$108,560	\$4,938	\$4,324	\$98,957	\$110,412

We give thanks for your generosity, which makes the ministry of Resurrection possible! Please note we paid our entire insurance bill for the year in the month of March, that is why our expense line is higher than normal.



From the Rafters

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Email: cor@episcopalgreenwood.org

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Church of the Resurrection

Vestry Members

Jim Nazzaro, Senior Warden
Charlie Long, Junior Warden
Eddie Barber
Diana Carver
Salley Cathcart
Mary Charles Haigler
Deb Maschoff
Dawn Puderbaugh-Hodges
Jean E. Shirley
Stephen Tucker
Kelly Wiseman
Beverly Wilson
Adrian Little, Vestry Clerk
Archie Booker, Treasurer

Clergy and Staff

Mary Balfour Dunlap, Rector
Al Hipp, Deacon
Donna Brooks, Director of Music Ministry
Denise A. Brown, Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Floyd, Associate Lay
Minister for Families and Outreach
Cox Accounting, Financial Contractor
Mary Bright, Nursery Attendant
Catherine Brooks Sexton, RN, Parish Nurse