

Volume 28, Issue 3

April 2016

St. John's Episcopal Church

# APRIL EPISTLE

## From the Rector

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago I read a wonderful blog that spoke of “praying it forward.” We’ve all heard of paying it forward—everything from paying for the drive through order behind you to doing good in the world for the sake of those to come. Praying it forward is much the same idea, only with prayer. For example, when you are standing in line, pray for the person behind you; when you get up from a chair or leave a room, pray for the person who will come in next.

As I prepare to leave St. John’s and move to Kansas, I find “praying it forward” a wonderful idea. I treasure my time with you and I will miss all of you, but I have already begun to pray for whomever will occupy the pulpit, move into the rector’s office and celebrate at St. John’s altar. I know that whoever that may be, he or she will be a person of God, committed to the church and its ministry. I am also assured and grateful that the parish will be in the strong, capable and loving hands of Senior Warden Ken Marsh, clergy Brian Benton, Mid and Joann Wootten and an interim rector to come, as well as a dedicated and skilled vestry and staff.

I hope you will also pray for Kevin and me as we embark on this new adventure.

As we prepare to say goodbye, I am filled

with gratitude for your friendship, love and the ministries we have shared. Together we have cared for each other, learned and grown, and served God well. May God bless both you and me as we go forward into the future He has prepared.

In Jesus’ Name,  
Vicki+

**Celebration of Love** for Vicki, Kevin and Ethan will be held on **April 6**, 6pm to 8pm. More details are in the Senior Warden’s Corner on page 2.

**Wednesday Service:** Rev. Mid Wootten will be doing only one Wednesday service **each month** at 11:45am on **April 6** and **May 4**. No other Wednesday services will be held. These will be healing services.

**Volunteers Needed:** We need your help for nursery or coffee hour!. Sign-up sheets are in the parish hall awaiting your signatures!.

**Special thanks** to all the folks who made Holy Week and Easter at St. John’s so special. The services were deeply meaningful and Easter was so joyous! Thank you to the flower guild, altar guild, choir and soloists, acolytes, readers, chalice bearers, office staff and volunteers. It all came together to make a wonderful week. *Mother Vicki*

**Grief Counseling at St. John’s:** Beginning April 7, the Bereaved Parents Central NC chapter will meet on the first Thursday monthly in the Parish Hall starting at 7pm and ending at 8:30pm. If you’d like to attend these counseling sessions, you are welcome to join, no sign-up is necessary.

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# Senior Warden's Corner

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Spring has sprung, Easter is here  
“Alleluia the Lord Has Risen,” and so it  
must be our transition time is near!

Greetings,

What with signing a letter of agreement  
for a supply priest, preparation for the  
Vestry Retreat, beginning to bring together the Search  
Committee, and finally, the Vestry's preparation for a  
Celebration of Love for Vicki+, Kevin and Ethan. It has  
been another busy month.

I am continually amazed at the resources and talents we  
have available to us at St. John's. One of those blessings is  
Father Mid+ and Deacon Joann Wootten. Mid has  
graciously agreed to serve as our supply priest for the  
months of April and May. He will begin on April 4 and  
finish his ministry with us on May 30. Mid's first Sunday  
service will be April 10. His primary responsibilities will  
consist of Eucharistic Services with sermons on Sundays,  
one Wednesday Service a month, pastoral care for the  
parish, and helping with a confirmation class, if needed,  
for Bishop Anne Couple-Hodges' visit on June 12. All  
administrative duties will be managed by Barbara in the  
church office and by your Senior Warden and Vestry. We  
are so blessed to have Mid and Joann with us. Please share  
your appreciation with them.

Our Vestry is another blessing among us! We had our  
annual retreat on April 18 and 19. Canon Rhonda Lee  
from the Diocese was our facilitator. Thank you Rhonda!

Friday night we celebrated all that Vicki and her minist-  
ry have done for St. John's. Unfortunately, Vicki was away  
and could not hear all of the wonderful things said. The  
list started with her preaching from the pulpit, taking the  
Gospels and making them available for all in the congrega-  
tion to understand, leading us to think about how we carry  
the Gospel into the community. She has shown the ability  
to deal effectively the with the conflicts that arise among us  
and has demonstrated acceptance of all the strangers who  
cross into our lives, regardless of their journey, and has  
welcomed them to the communion rail.

We heard many stories of Vicki's pastoral care; always  
knowing when and where to be in time of need. Over time,  
we've heard much praise of Mother Vicki from the Church  
Staff, who value her deeply as an effective administrator!

She worked to push the vestry spiritually to hire a part-  
time youth director. Oh the benefits we have gained from  
the love and joy that Joy has brought our youth! I could go  
on. As I have said before, we have moved from where St.  
John's was five years ago to the many opportunities that lie  
ahead of us today.

On Saturday at the Vestry retreat, the book *Unabashedly  
Episcopalian* by Bishop Andrew Boyle, was the foundation  
and framework of our discussion. We focused on St.  
John's history, our connectedness, congregational  
strengths, and community opportunities, and looked to  
identify what skill set is needed to go forward in hiring an  
interim rector and the discernment process of selecting a  
new rector. It was a wonderful weekend; I am thankful for  
the Vestry we have who will make this transition work.

There is progress with the Search Committee. We have  
a list of twenty individuals interested to be on the commit-  
tee. The Search Committee Chair will be announced on  
Sunday, April 10. The Senior Warden and Chair will pre-  
sent a list of 6 to 10 individuals to the Vestry at their  
Meeting in April to review, adjust if needed, and accept as  
the Search Committee. You might be asking, “why not  
start that process now?” It is because Kevin and Vicki are  
here at St. John's now, and our job, now, is to celebrate  
their ministry while they are still with us.

I hope everyone has marked their calendar for **Wednes-  
day, April 6, from 6pm to 8pm**, to be part of the Cele-  
bration of Love for Vicki, Kevin and Ethen. Canon Ernest  
Graham will represent the Diocese and conduct a service  
at about 7:15pm celebrating Vicki's ministry and Vicki's  
and Kevin's journey of faith going onward to Kansas. (Any  
secrets you may know about the celebration—keep them a  
secret—Vicki is reading this.) And finally, Canon Graham  
will offer a blessing for St. John's as we formally move into  
our transition process. So stay tuned. There is more infor-  
mation to come.

My goal as I share this information with you is to con-  
tinue to keep you informed as much as we can as we move  
onward. The Vestry and I appreciate all of the discussions  
and suggestions folks have offered. I hope it is evident to  
the broader congregation. Please keep Mother Vicki, St.  
John's and the Vestry in your prayers! Thank you.

Faithfully yours,  
Ken Marsh

# From the Junior Warden

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Hello, my name is Jason Byrd. I am new on the vestry this year. Some of you already know me and some of you may not, so this is my way of reaching out to introduce myself. I am your Junior Warden working closely with Ken Marsh as Wardens of St. John's.

Junior Wardens are very good about getting things fixed, repaired and maintained. One of my goals is to come up with a five-year facility maintenance master plan for St. John's. But, I need your help. If you know of anything that needs fixing or you think will need repair in the next couple of years, please let me know.

My long-range ideal goal is to repair things before they break if we can. So if you know of something needing repair, short-term or long, you can always grab me at church, call me (telephone numbers for the vestry are on the back of the Sunday Bulletin), leave a message with a vestry member or call Barbara at the church office. And even if you don't have a repair item for me, feel free to introduce yourself and say hi and meet Beth, my wife, and my two children. Together we can keep St. John's in tip-top shape. I look forward to talking with you, and thanks!

*Jason Byrd*



## Episcopal Youth Community

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As I have said many times before, the youth program at St. John's seems to reflect the Easter story. It has experienced many deaths and many resurrections. Three active seniors who graduated last year from our small but mighty EYC group, low attendance and the very busy schedules of young people have landed us in a very long Lenten season this year. Our younger members have formed some wonderful friendships, but we are very much trying to redefine what our next reincarnation will look like for the EYC program.

Balancing fellowship, Christian education and outreach work continues to be the main goal of our program. I am so grateful for the adults who have offered time, talent and treasure to keep our group going. I hope to expand this commitment and attract new families through this period of transition. If you have hopes or ideas, please contact me or see how you can help by visiting our Sign Up Genius site.

We will continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis through the Spring and Summer. On April 24, we will

hopefully host a youth leadership team from the Diocese to discuss the summer opportunities that are offered through the Diocese. We will also discuss our tentative schedule for our Close to Home Mission Days, which will take place from Friday, June 24 to Sunday June 26.

Like last year, we will need plenty of adult and youth participation to make this a meaningful experience. Please plan to attend the parent and youth meeting on April 24! In the meantime, reflect on how you can be a part of our resurrection.

As always, check out our Sign Up Genius and the Diocese Youth page:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844aaa6292-eycfall1>

<http://www.dionc.org/Youth/youth-main.html>



# Faith Action Climate Week, April 15-24

## *Spring into Action!*

Earth Day and Earth Week are not new events, but St. John's observance this year will be. As a participant in North Carolina's Interfaith Power and Light's (NCIPL) Faith Action Climate Week April 15-24, St. John's will kick off local IPL observances on Friday, April 22, beginning at 5:30pm. with a special guest.

The Rev. Jerry Cappel, Environmental Ministries Coordinator for Province IV of the national Episcopal Church, will lead us in blessing our new Native Habitat Teaching Garden. Afterwards, he will join us for a potluck tailgate dinner in the lower parking lot, weather permitting, followed by an open discussion of climate and creation care issues, indoors.



Please mark your calendars today to participate in what promises to be an inspiring and fun family celebration! Anyone who would like to help plan the event, please contact Helen Holt at [hwholt09@gmail.com](mailto:hwholt09@gmail.com) or Joy Shillingsburg at [joyshill@yahoo.com](mailto:joyshill@yahoo.com). New ideas and suggestions are always welcome!

Friday's event will kick-off a weekend of creation care activities featuring Rev. Cappel and organized by churches within the Raleigh Convocation (see his schedule in accompanying text box). Episcopalians throughout the convocation are cordially invited to attend.

Earlier in April, North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light (NCIPL) will host nationally-recognized climate scientist and evangelical leader Dr. Katherine Hayhoe who will speak at two Triangle locations on Thursday, April 7:

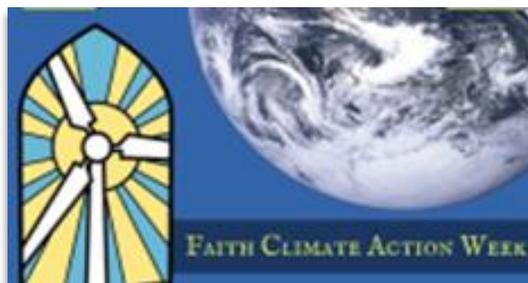


first, at Duke University, for a morning lunchtime presentation with Greg Fishel and the Healthy Air Alliance and; second, at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences for an evening Town Hall discussion, also with Greg Fishel.

There are two more *Springing into Action* events planned by NCIPL which might interest St. John's parishioners:

**Thursday, April 6, 7-9pm**, the Church of the Nativity will show the film *Shore Stories*, sponsored by [350.org](http://350.org), NCIPL, and Environment North Carolina.

**Wednesday, May 11:** Advocacy Day at the NC General Assembly.



**Friday, April 22:** Blessing of Native Habitat Teaching Garden, 5:30pm. St. John's; potluck/tailgate dinner; open discussion of creation care in fellowship hall.

**Saturday, April 23:** Lunch/workshop on the "letter," St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham

**Sunday, April 24:** Sermon at 9 and 11:15am services, and Adult Formation at 10:15am, Church of the Nativity, Raleigh.

# In Our Prayers



## Parishioners, Friends and their Families:

Robert Lownes	Pat LaBarbera	Maren Channer	Carla Lovely
Jase Brown	Joe Cronin	Ariel Garner	Bud Spalding
Virginia Olsen	Dewey Jordan	Louise Howard	Al Hinton
Milly Nelligar	Ellie & Karl Wolf	Ann Ireland	Worth

## Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:



Dylan Cate	Chris Jones
John Cooke	Charles Kelley
Michele Cooke	Tom Moore
Bryan Cooke	Kyle Weinel

## April Birthdays



01 Chloe Hellier	10 Tara Fitzpatrick	17 Mike Allen	23 Patti Davis Vivian Jones Helen Richardson
02 Nathan Barham Samantha Oates	11 Aimee Berger Beckie Dunn Durward Matheny	18 Beth Byrd	25 Betty Bland
04 Mary Thibodeau	Denise Munz Michele Wilson-Reynolds	19 Walt Kwiatek	26 Matthew Curran
06 Justin Bethea Tyler Carper	13 Alexa Mammolito	20 Reid Calhoun Perri Holt	28 Sue Blake
09 Kate Hanlon Lauren Manfreda John McDuffie	14 Jacob Holt 16 Tony Graber	21 Sue Gay Johnson	30 Emma Renfrow
		22 Katharine Ferguson Ayden Oates	

## From The Register

### New Members:

Diane & Paul Rill

# April 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Flower Cart (PH)	2 10am Baptism Preparation Mtg (S)
3 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Holy Eucharist & Baptism 10am Sunday School (E) 11am Hot Dog Sunday (PH)	4	5 6:30pm Handbells (S)	6 10am Alzheimer's Mtg (PH) 11:45am Holy Eucharist (S) 6pm <b>Mother Vicki's Party!</b>	7 7pm Wake Forest Singers (S)	8 Flower Cart (PH)	9
10 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School (E) 11am EYC Mtg (E)	11 7pm Book Club (PH)	12	13 11:45am Holy Eucharist (S) 6pm Handbells 7pm Adult Choir (S)	14	15 Flower Cart (PH)  <b>EPISTLE DEADLINE</b>	16 10am Sophia Sisters (PH)
17 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School (E)	18	19	20 6pm Girl Scouts (PH) 6pm Handbells 7pm Adult Choir (S)	21	22 Flower Cart (PH)	23
24 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School (E) 11am EYC Mtg (E)	25	26	27 11:45am Holy Eucharist (S) 6pm Handbells 7pm Adult Choir (S)	28	29 Flower Cart (PH)	30

**Office Hours: 8am – Noon Monday -Thursday PH=Parish Hall, S=Sanctuary, E=Educ. Bldg., PS=Preschool, EYC=Educ. Bldg**

# April 2016 Ministry Assignments

Calendar	Acolytes	Readers	Chalice	Greeters	Ushers	Flower Guild	Altar Guild	Lessons	Sermon
April 3		Bob Bidwell	Katherine Ferguson	TBA	Monica Brewbaker			Acts 5:27-32 Revelation 1:4-8	
	8:00	John Rich Barbara Kwiatek Carole Friedman	Kevin Smith Henry Allen	Patti Davis Harold Davis	John Rich Bob Nelliger	Don Myers	C. Friedman, Bill LaBarbara	John 20:19-31 Psalm 150	Vicki Smith
	10:00	Henry Allen Taylor Roberts Nicholas Roberts	Bob Bidwell	No Greeters	Larry Demanovich	Shirley McHose	C. Knights, K. Baumgardner, K. Demanovich	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19 Psalm 30	Mid Wootten
April 10		Mark Goodwin Carol Smith Joe Paulonis	Christine Knights Harold Davis	Dorie Allen Arlene McCullough	Michael McDuffie Spencer Renfrow				
	8:00	Tom Baker	Emily Graney	No Greeters	Alton Hare			Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17	
	10:00	Jack Bell Graham Campbell Maddy Flowers	Brian Benton Kelly Osborne	Vivian Jones David Bland	Durbin Goodwin Al Hinton	Melanie Murphy	M. Murphy, M. Shalar	John 10:22-30 Psalm 23	Mid Wootten
April 17		Emily Graney	Tom Baker	No Greeters	Mike Morse			Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 21:1-6	
	8:00	Nathan West Laura Santos Chris Walkup	Kenille Baumgardner Mark Goodwin	Laura Santos Mildred Wilkerson	Frank Toney Bill LaBarbara	Julie Arthur	S. Davenport, S. Rhodes	John 13:31-35 Psalm 148	Mid Wootten
	10:00	Jack Bell Maddy Flowers Ryan Fitzpatrick							



# ST. JOHN'S

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**Tara Henderson**, Review

**Christine Knights**, Review

**Laura Santos**, Review

*Please consider helping us conserve our resources.*

*Contact the church office to receive the Epistle electronically.*

## Preschool News

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It is hard to believe we are coming close to the end of our school year. But there is plenty more playing and learning left! Many of our activities this month will revolve around Spring, flowers, plants and bugs! Our children will

soon be planting flowers and vegetables in our outdoor garden.

Registration is now over for the 2016-2017 school year, but we do have spots available in the Playgroup, 2's, 3's and 4's classes. Please call the preschool if you are interested in learning more about the preschool or would like a tour. Did you know that St. John's Preschool has a Facebook page? Please send a friend request if you'd like to follow us!



*Our Busy Bears and Curious 4's classes enjoyed painting colorful river rocks with their Church Buddies recently. Afterwards, they were able to enjoy some outdoor fun!*