



Greensboro Gleanings

April 2017

From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
 in cocoons a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
 In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
 unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
 (Natalie Sleeth)

At this time of year, in the north country, it can be hard to believe in the reality of spring. Snow still covers much of the ground, and where the snow has withdrawn, mud has taken its place. It's not unusual for us to celebrate the first fragile crocus blossoms, only to see them be buried under several inches of new snow. Spring in Vermont can try the spirits of even the most determined optimist.

This time of year can be particularly difficult if our spirits are in a wintry place. We may see the signs of new life all around us, we may hear the Easter resurrection promise, but something within us is still sealed inside the cold and darkness of the tomb. At such times, more than ever, we need to believe that God is always on the side of new life, of resurrection, of leading us out of darkness into light. It may be unrevealed to us, for now, but, as the hymn verse above assures us, God sees the hidden promise in every situation.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus encourages his followers to ask God for what they need, saying, "Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?" If we, with our limited human ability to love, know how to give good things to our children, "how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Mt. 7:9, 11)

If we believe that God is on the side of our growth and our renewal, of resurrection and new life, then we can bring our situation, whatever it is, to God and ask God to help us to see the flower hidden in our bulb, the butterfly in our cocoon, the song in our silence, the dawn in our darkness. Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,

Rona

THANK YOU

April

Ushers and Greeters



- April 2 — Beth LeCours
& Cathy Pollard
- April 9 — Andy Dales
& Ken Johnston
- April 16 — Anne McPherson
& Susan Coffey
- April 23 — Clive Gray
& Nancy Hill
- April 30 — Hal & BJ Gray



*April
Coffee Hour Hosts*

- April 2 — Eleanor Guare
- April 9 — Judy Dales
- April 16 — Lucy Keefe
- April 23 — Mary Landon
& Jake Cota
- April 30 — Roger & Judy Waible

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April 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sundays 8:30am Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall 10:00am Worship Service Sanctuary	Mondays & Wednesdays 10-11am Growing Stronger Fellowship Hall	Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30-10am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall				1
2 11:30am Book Study Fellowship Hall	3	4	5 1:30pm Deacons 7:00pm Lenten Service GUCC	6	7	8
9 PALM SUNDAY 11:30am Book Study Fellowship Hall	10	11	12 4:30pm Pleasants Fund Parsonage	13 6:30pm Pot Luck-FH 7:30pm Maundy Thurs. Service-Sanct.	14 GOOD FRIDAY	15
16 EASTER SUNDAY	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 6:30pm Church Board Parsonage	27	28	29
30						

MEMBERSHIP IN GUCC

**Interested in Becoming a Member of Greensboro UCC?
The Why's and How's of Membership
 (for both prospective and long-time members!)**

When I was in seminary, I took part in a wonderful “Readings in Retreat” course, held at Glastonbury Abbey, a Benedictine abbey, in Hingham, Massachusetts. During the week, the Abbot met with us to talk about monastic life. He told us that the brothers take a “vow of stability.” This means that they make a commitment to stay with one particular community, learning, growing, and, yes, sometimes bearing with this group of people, rather than going from monastery to monastery in search of the “perfect” match. Believing that the spiritual journey involves growing in love for other people, as well as for God, monastics view their communities as microcosms in which to learn unconditional love for one another.

In our consumer culture, where people go “church shopping,” I see the decision to become a church member as being similar to the vow of stability. There is nothing wrong with trying several different churches to find the place that most calls to you, but, once you’ve found it, there’s a lot to be said for making a commitment to stay with and walk with this particular group of people.

When you become a member, you not only make a commitment to a particular church community, you also make a commitment to being a part of that community’s future. You invest yourself, not only in the church as it is now, but in the church that is always in the process of becoming. You take an active interest and role in shaping the church’s identity and mission, and participate, as you are able, in the ministries that embody that identity and mission.

I would like to offer a new member orientation in the near future. Please let me know if you are interested.

Rona

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Continues Sunday, March 5, after coffee and conversation and continues through April 9. We begin with a soup and bread lunch, and then enjoy conversation about the week’s reading assignment. This year we read *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World’s Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian*, by Brian D. McLaren. All are welcome to both sessions, or one.

THE MUSIC CORNER

With this being a High Holy season, we continue our music ministry of *Serving God through music* during April:

2nd— For this Fifth Sunday in Lent our communion anthem is *The Upper Room* by Lloyd Larson and Paul Williams. With text freely adapted from Luke 22:7-23 the composers ask us to visualize the last supper when Jesus called the twelve to come and dine with Him. Featuring a soloist and beautiful ascending vocal lines, we are refreshed with the text: “Remember me.”

9th— From the iconic Lenten cantata *Song of Shadows* we bring you this Palm Sunday *On the Road to Jerusalem* Full of irony, this poignant anthem reminds the listener that the hosannas of Palm Sunday soon become the cries of “crucify!” The tempo simulates walking and has a surprise conundrum within the musical conclusion.

16th— *Let Music Fill This Place* is a glorious Easter anthem combining the opening call “Christ is Risen!” with “Let music fill this place!” Embedded in this exciting piece is Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy* (Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee), with the piano replicating big Westminster-like chimes accompanying the full choir. Composer Joseph Martin has over 600 published compositions and lives in Austin, Texas.

Our early music consort will offer a prelude of Sonata # 10 by Giuseppe Sammartini featuring two recorders, gamba and harpsichord with three movements.

23rd— From Jeremiah Ingalls’ *Christian Harmony* (1805) *I Love Thee*, this flowing, expressive anthem is prayer-like in it’s simple message in our quest to love Christ. The text requests: “Hear Thou the prayer I Make on bended knee.”

30th— Pacific Northwest composer L. Stanley Garum (1908-1976) was a prolific creator of sacred music and we bring you his *Lord, Hosana in the highest*. This rhythmic anthem with text from Mark 11: 9-10 has a contemporary feel with tight modern harmonies and is full of motion and contrast. Our early music consort will offer a prelude by C. F. Dieupart from *Six Sonatas for Treble Recorder and Basso Continuo, Sonata #3*.

Hal Parker
 Music Director

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

- April 2 ~Ezekiel 37:1-14 ~Psalm 130 ~Romans 8:6-11 ~John 11:1-45
- April 9 ~ *Liturgy of the Palms* ~Matthew 21:1-11 • Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 ~ *Liturgy of the Passion* ~Isaiah 50:4-9a • ~Psalm 31:9-16 • Philippians 2:5-11 ~Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
- April 16 ~Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 ~Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 ~Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 ~John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
- April 23 ~Acts 2:14-a, 22-32 ~Psalm 16 ~1 Peter 1:3-9 ~John 20:19-31
- April 30 ~Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 ~ 1 Peter 1:17-23 ~Luke 24:13-35



MILESTONES

Happy April Birthday to

Bill Alley, Tracy Collier, Rosita and Jeff Durbin, Patti and Abigail Foster, Stuart Hill, Gina Jenkins and Tom Anastasio, Rev. Rona Kinsley, Ernest Lapierre, Ainsley Launer, Jason Larrabee, Jackie and Richard Lovett, Jeanette Ruffel, Jan Travers, John and Marianne Weaver, and Alyssa Wheeler, **AND** a Happy Anniversary to Joel & Sara Behrsing!

Is your birthday listed this month when it shouldn't be? Have we missed you in our celebrations? Contact the church office and let us know if your birthday is listed incorrectly or has been missed.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is upon us and it's time to place your orders for Easter lilies to be placed in the sanctuary. If you wish to order a lily, there is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. You may also call the Church office or email to greensborochurch@gmail.com. Please give your name, the number of lilies, and if the lily is in memory of someone, give that person's name as well. The cost of the lilies is \$15.95 each and we need to receive all orders by Wednesday, April 5 in order to guarantee delivery for Easter. Checks are payable to "Greensboro UCC" and write "lilies" on the memo line. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me in the office.

Bronwyn Massé