

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

April 2016

Rector's Message

Dear People of Christ Church,

When the date for the celebration of the resurrection comes so early in the year, I sometimes find that we, the community of the church, are left like those first disciples waiting for what is next. After all, the excitement of that day and seeing the empty tomb is past, and we celebrate our Lord's conquest of that last enemy, Death. How do we top that? In many ways, we might appreciate even more the early church after the feast of the Ascension, which expresses the reality of the physical presence of Jesus being gone (ascended), and we are left looking up, waiting and wondering what to do next.

For the months of April and May, we take this time to step back and contemplate the implication of the resurrection, not just for those first disciples, but also for ourselves. We consider how our lives are transformed. This stepping back is not to retreat from our discipleship. Instead, it is to engage seriously in contemplation expressed in praxis – the practice of living out our lives as a people transformed.

Clearly, we do this through our continued participation in the life and worship of the church. It's not only something we do on Sundays, but at other times and in other ways: Keep Day is a morning we spend to care for and clean up the church buildings. Apple Blossom in Winchester is a weekend (or longer for some!) that we help host the world by selling chair tickets and sharing hospitality for those wanting to enjoy the parades in great seats on the parade route. And during our parish weekend at Shrine Mont, we grow and deepen our relationships with one another in a beautiful setting away from the routines of life. All of these spring happenings offer ways to contemplate community in the season of Easter.

There is another way or another part of post Easter/pre-Pentecost waiting which is riskier for some, but also perhaps, more transformative for the wider community. That is the invitation. Often, when we have parish events, we can miss the opportunity to invite the wider community. One such opportunity is the April 2 Yard Sale, which I am calling, "Rummage through the Rummage Sale." This event is not exclusive to the parish. Please invite and bring friends and neighbors with you! The items for sale are not simply "leftovers" from the fall rummage sale; they are items for which there was not enough room in the fall to display. This is a great way for the community to gather.

We can also use help with Keep Day, our clean-up effort. No, it is not as grandiose as Easter services, but it is

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From the Rector

the opportunity to engage in a project together and get to know others. As is the setup and cleanup of chairs and ticket sales at the Apple Blossom parades.

All of this is to say, as we wait, we do not wait by sitting down. I do not see those first disciples being couch potatoes! In fact, the book Acts of the Apostles gives us a pretty good clue of what waiting might look like:

1:14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

In that action of prayer, I am reminded of a conversation my grandfather had with a parishioner who complained about the constant standing, sitting, and kneeling in the church service. When asked why they did this, my grandfather said, "Because we work in our worship." Prayer in worship is an action. A life of prayer involves our being active in service, invitation, and community.

I know that none of this is new for you to hear. However, I do want to remind the community that our waiting as an Easter people does not mean to stop. Rather, it is reflective engagement to share the transforming good news of the resurrection with others. Thank you for all that you do to make this good news known in the world.



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org

Highlights from the March Vestry Meeting

- The Treasurer reported that pledges are a little behind probably due to the snowy weather. Expenses are lower than anticipated, as is income.
- Efforts to educate people about other religions and encourage conversation were successful through our interfaith studies series, Feast & Fast. There was good attendance at the adult forums, as well.
- The Outreach Committee announced that Jeremy Welts is the new committee chair. A Stop Hunger Now event will take place on June 25, 2016.
- The Properties Committee is still collecting quotes on structural repairs in the basement of the Smith Building and for asbestos removal. Recommended security enhancements to the exterior of our multiple buildings, including changes to landscaping and lighting are being reviewed following a report from local law enforcement.
- Webster talked about the letter from the Bishop explaining the church relationship to the Anglican Communion and also the Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices publication on conflicts. Webster has been appointed Dean of Region 14. Ashley Bingaman resigned from the Vestry and Karey Starnes was then appointed by the Vestry to fulfill the term through the next Annual Meeting. Sexual Misconduct training was held on March 12 for Vestry members, staff, and those who work with children and youth at Christ Church.

From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?” – Luke 24:5

This is the question posed to the women who come to the tomb of Christ early on the first day of the week. They came to lovingly anoint the body of their friend and teacher with fragrant spices and ointments as was their custom. But finding the tomb empty they were perplexed. The two figures go on to remind the women that Jesus had told them of his impending death but that on the third day he would rise again. The emptiness of the tomb should not have been a shock, but I think we, like the women in this story, often find ourselves looking back into the dead spaces of our lives and wondering, forgetting what we know – that new life is already at work.

For many of us, Lent has indeed been a time of self-reflection, of prayer, and fasting. During Lent we may have set aside something that was hindering our relationship with God, we may have fasted from some behavior, practice, or certain foods. Maybe we started considering the dead spaces in our lives, places that take up our time and energy but yet do not add to our lives; places we keep coming back to despite knowing there is no life in them. Do we keep hoping that we will find the old life still there unchanged? Are we looking for the living among the dead? Easter invites us to instead acknowledge the dead spaces in our lives and trust in God’s power to breathe new life into them. To trust that God can and will bring about new resurrected life out of them. Just as we need a focused time like the season of Lent to lay aside those things that come between us and God, we also need the season of Easter to ask what new life God is bringing forth from death.

Death Valley National Park is not a likely place that one would find listed on places to visit by a garden club. It is usually a place of rock and soil, barren and desolate. But, as some of you may have read or seen in the news recently, Death Valley National Park has been experiencing a rare “super bloom” this spring. After a very wet fall and just the right conditions through winter, the valley has been bursting with color as wildflowers have begun to spring up in record amounts. It is considered a “super bloom” because the beauty bursting forth is beyond all expectations and is a rare occurrence. The valley is being overwhelmed with spectacular color rising up blanketing that which is bleak through most of the year.

Death Valley’s transition to a valley full of life is not permanent. Eventually the blooms will fade and seeds will fall to the ground and await the opportunity to grow. Sometimes, we go through things in this life that lead us to feel like death, the end of an era, the end of our time in high school, the end of a relationship, or any ending is the final word. But our transition from the valley of death to the valley of life through baptism in the name of the holy and undivided Trinity is eternal. Death does not get the final word. Our life blooms brightly with the richness of God’s love overflowing through us. So this Easter season, remember that we do not need to wait around for a rarely occurring super bloom. Instead, trust in the promises of God that offer new life that is always, always bursting through.

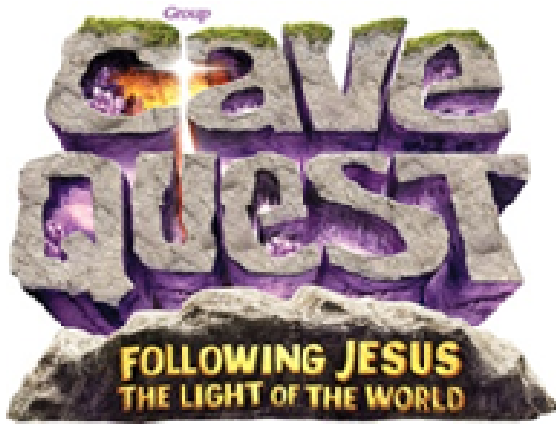
Blessings,



The Rev. Bridget Coffey, Assistant Rector
bcoffey@christchurchwinchester.org

Christian Formation

Sunday School News



Vacation Bible School is getting closer! Mark **July 11-15, 2016** on your calendars now for *Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World*. Look forward to tons of learning and fun in our yearly program and its outreach to our community's children.

Based on stories from Matthew, Luke, and Acts, kids will learn about following Jesus, the light of the world. They will learn about God's love that takes us through life's dark times through Deep Bible Quest, enjoy Spelunker sports and games, visit the Cavern Café for snacks and crafts, and learn those unforgettable VBS songs. The program is from 9:00 am until Noon each day at Grace Lutheran Church.

Preparations are underway! **Registration forms** will be distributed in Sunday School classes this month and registrations will be available on our website (www.christchurchwinchester.org) as well as in classrooms, and in the Tilford Room.

This is a **major children's outreach**. Together, with our neighbors at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, we make it one of our primary goals to reach out to the whole community. Remember, we include more than just the children of our two congregations. Let's include as many two year-olds through current 6th graders as we can – neighbors, visiting cousins, children of co-workers... All are welcome!

Adults, do you often think you would like to work with our children's program but aren't able to take a role during the regular program year? VBS always needs support. Your time, talent, and treasure can be a big part of what we, as a community, do to help a child to grow spiritually. We offer a huge, energy-filled, fun experience in which every parishioner can play a role and virtually everything is provided including plans, materials, all kinds of support and lots of fun. Can't make a year-long commitment? This is your chance to contribute!

And, we would love to have youth who are currently in 7th grade, or older, serve as helpers in the classrooms and at games. Please contact Margery Wingenbach (540-667-0386) to see how you can help with VBS this summer.

Our Lenten Mite Box Offering

Throughout Lent, our preschool through grade 5 classes have enthusiastically supported several projects through Episcopal Relief and Development and Heifer International. We will hold a celebration of the projects supported by our efforts during the Sunday School classes on April 3, the Sunday after Easter. Offerings will still be accepted through the first week of May in support of these projects. You don't have to be parents of young children to participate yourself! Thanks for your help!

Graduating this spring?

Please let us know!



We would like to recognize high school and college graduates in June. Please email communications@christchurchwinchester.org or call the church office (540-662-5843) with graduate's name, where they are graduating from, and where they are heading!

Christian Formation

Adult Forum

Adult Forum is one of our Christian Formation offerings for adults. We meet each Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Tilford Room with our coffee for learning, discussion, and fellowship. There is no registration required; you are welcome to come when you're able.

In the month of April, join us on Sunday mornings as we explore the Abrahamic faiths in the Book of Genesis.

Adult Daytime Faith Study

Our Adult Daytime Faith Study in April continues to explore the Old Testament using the Great Courses DVD, "The Old Testament." Because of the large number of lectures in this program, we will focus on the lectures pertaining to the book of Genesis. The study is led by Webster and meets in the Parlors at 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Meetings in April are the 14th and 28th. Everyone is welcome to join us. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the Church Office (540-662-5843) or email Webster at rector@christchurchwinchester.org.



Parishioners enjoy the "interfaith potluck" dinner that was part of our Lenten Feast & Fast program.

Calendar and Upcoming Events

Church Services

Sunday

Holy Communion Rite I 8:00 am
Holy Communion Rite II 10:30 am

Wednesday

12:00 pm Pilgrim's Chapel
(Healing Service 3rd Wed)

Second Monday

6:30 pm Special Needs—Sanctuary

Weekdays

7:30 am Morning Prayer Pilgrim's Chapel

April

- 1 Magic Lantern Film (see p. 10)
- 2 Yard Sale (see p. 10)
- 9 Men's Fellowship
- 11 Special Needs Service
- 12 Vestry Meeting
- 23 Keep Day from 9:00 am -Noon
- 27 Salvation Army Dinner
- 29-30 Apple Blossom Festival

Committee & Group Meetings

Adult Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Daytime Faith Study	2nd/4th Thurs: 10:00 am
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Liturgical Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am
Community Fellowship	2nd Thurs: 7:00 pm
Men's Fellowship	2nd Sat: 7:30 am
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am-4 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Bible Studies	Tues: 10:45 - Noon Thurs: 6:30 pm – 7:45
Youth Group	Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm



The Rector's day off is Friday.
The Assistant Rector's day off is Monday.

Children's Chapel

Join us on the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall from 10:30 am until the Peace. We welcome children ages 3-7. No registration is required. The service is child-sized and allows our young parishioners to explore the same Gospel we hear in the Sanctuary but with more opportunity to wiggle and talk! Our Children's Chapel leaders always welcome an extra pair of hands if you would like to join them!

Nursery

Our nursery, on the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall, is open from 10:15 am through the end of the 10:30 am service to serve infants and children up to age 3.

April Birthdays

- 2 Martin Tabaka, Dan Wall
- 3 Ali Mislowsky
- 4 George Gunnell
- 6 Toni Sloan
- 7 David McWhorter, Stewart Wiley
- 8 Mary Rodriguez
- 10 Ann Carroll
- 11 Lauren Soltas
- 12 Nora Garber, Brock Whipkey
- 13 Hayden Armstrong, Alexandra Dastjerdi
- 14 Dixon Whitworth, Elizabeth Raymond
- 16 Sylvia Petrie
- 17 Doug Ewell, Dennis Wise, Ben Arthur
- 18 Kevin Kennedy, Kathy Nerangis,
Timothy Fairbanks, Maria Nelson
- 19 Michael Mohn, Dan Troup,
Victoria Ellington, Thomas Northrup
- 20 Jane Thompson, Paulette Jennis,
Leslie Harper, Tom Wise, Nathan Crowell,
Don MacDonald
- 21 Diedra Kriewald
- 22 Laken Whipkey
- 23 Ruth Gregory
- 24 Molly Whitworth, Joan Claybrook
- 27 Melissa Ferguson, Nicholas-Ryan
Herrington, John-Henry Herrington



Wedding Anniversaries

- 19 Bernie & Rosemary Swope
- 26 Scott and Leslie Harper
- 30 Bill and Sue Jones



Saturday morning, April 23, is Spring Keep Day!

Keep Day is our parish clean-up day as we tidy up before summer. We work from 9:00 am until Noon on all kinds of basic house cleaning projects, such as window washing (never a joy, but very necessary!), leaf raking, drain clearing, and other projects around the church grounds. The more hands who help, the quicker we finish! Please bring rakes, brooms, and joy for summer!



**Look for Christ Episcopal Church
Winchester and like us to stay up-to-date
on the latest news!**

Please Note:

We will publish birthday and anniversary information only with explicit permission. Please contact the Church Office if you wish to be added to or deleted from these lists. Please keep the Church Office informed of any changes to your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Please let the office know the school addresses of our college students.

From the Finance Committee

2016 Budget & Actual: The table below shows current details of all budget categories through February.

2016	Jan - Feb Actual	Jan - Feb Budget	Jan - Feb Actual - Budget
Total Revenues	\$76,737.87	\$86,740.00	(\$10,002.13)
Expenses			
Total Personnel	\$70,204.60	\$70,024.35	\$180.25
Utilities	\$4,902.58	\$5,730.00	(\$827.42)
Property/Maintenance	\$2,048.76	\$2,617.00	(\$568.24)
Office Expenses	\$3,934.77	\$5,140.00	(\$1,205.23)
Christian Education Expenses	(\$191.60)	\$638.00	(\$829.60)
Music Expenses	\$471.26	\$350.00	\$121.26
Worship	\$68.45	\$90.00	(\$21.55)
Stewardship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	(\$1,100.00)
Pastoral Care	\$286.83	\$0.00	\$286.83
Parish Life	\$15.00	\$160.00	(\$145.00)
Communications	\$443.80	\$398.00	\$45.80
Total Expenses	\$82,184.45	\$86,247.35	(\$4062.90)
Net Total	(\$5,446.58)	\$492.65	(\$5,939.23)

Revenues were down \$10,000 versus the projected budget. We had hoped to see more people fulfill the balance of their 2015 pledges in the first part of 2016, and we are still about \$5500 short on pledged receivables through February 2016. Thankfully, expenses were \$4000 below estimations; this helped to offset SOME of the revenue shortfall.



"I can't believe it. The same woman, who sends me to my room for staining my clothes, just donated money for stained glass."

If you have questions about this financial information, please submit them by e-mail to Theresa Seitz at tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org

From the Outreach Committee

Panda Pantry New Initiative

You too can be a volunteer for the Panda Pantry! The Panda Pantry is a group of church members who pack meals each week for hungry Frederick Douglass Elementary School children to eat on the weekends. We have plenty of packers, unloaders, and delivery folks but we need **shoppers!** We are hosting Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 24, and we will have bags available for you to take. Inside each bag will be a list of specifically needed items for which you can shop. After you fill the bag, you will return it to a collection box in the Tilford Room. This will to be an ongoing effort and will enable more people to be “hands-on,” involved, and will help curtail some of the expense of this ministry. The Panda Pantry has spent nearly \$10,000 to feed 54 children two breakfasts, lunches, and dinners each weekend during this past school year. We would like to expand this ministry to offer something to these children (who are selected by the school) during the summer when there are no school breakfasts or lunches provided, in conjunction with whatever the local School Board and the Salvation Army plan for feeding these children during the summer. We hope to talk with you about the Panda Pantry during Coffee Hour on April 24 or please contact Bridget Coffey in the Church Office (540-662-5843) with any questions. ~ Sara and David Bicking

Shepherd's Table Ministry

The Shepherd's Table is calling on members of Christ Church to join in as ministers of God's commandment to care for others as He cares for us. Our current group of volunteers has answered the call to take meals to families in our church when needed. These volunteers know when they receive an email from Take Them a Meal (www.takethemameal.com) which person or family has requested help, the family's likes and dislikes regarding food choices and allergies, the dates meals are needed, and directions to the recipient with a map and sometimes a picture of the house. If volunteers would like to provide a meal or meals, they sign up to take a meal on the date(s) of their choice. It is as simple as that! No one calls you. If you can't help at the time, there will be another family, another chance at another time. We average helping six to eight families a year (usually three to five meals per family), so volunteers are not spending a lot of time cooking.

Wonderful things have happened when David and I have volunteered. Sometimes, when the request comes in, we are so busy that we think we really cannot help at that time. But then we think about the person who will receive the food and how they must feel - ill themselves with a family, or they may be worried about a member of their family who is sick, or a hospital trip may be involved, or the family may be grieving the loss of a loved one, so ... David and I make the effort to be volunteers for this person. *Always, always* the experience is heart-warming, with love-filled appreciation, huge smiles, and enough of God's grace in the air that you can almost see it! David and I have met and then visited with amazing people. Some of these people are ones we say hi to in church, but did not really know. Sometimes, there might be someone waiting who needs to talk, just talk to anyone. There are wonderful extended family members to meet and lots of fabulous pets! We have seen wonderful areas of the city and the county that we did not know even existed. Never has the work of providing the meal outweighed the emotional feeling of joy we get from the gratitude and love we feel from our church family recipients.

David and I will be at Coffee Hours on Sunday, April 17, and Sunday, May 15, to answer any questions you may have about the Shepherd's Table, and offer signup sheets to those who are interested. Come join the work and reap the reward! You can also talk with the clergy or Helen Zebarth about this ministry. ~ Sara Bicking

Parish News

April Yard Sale

Christ Church is hosting an Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, April 2, from 7:00 am until Noon in the Tilford Room. Please join Chris and Melissa Ferguson for bargains galore as we display and sell over-flow donations that were not put out for sale during last fall's rummage sale. This sale will make room for your fall 2016 rummage sale donations—slated again this year for October. Come by to shop, say hello to fellow parishioners, and to enjoy some burgers prepared by our own Dan Wall. Invite your friends and neighbors along! Please see Chris or Melissa with any questions.

Apple Blossom Parade Chairs Fundraiser

It's that time of year again in Winchester and, once again, Christ Church will sell seats for parade-watching. Proceeds from past sales have supported everything from parish projects to mission trips. This year's proceeds will support the 2017 youth pilgrimage.

Many hands are needed to assist before, during and after both parades. Chairs are set up on Friday morning, April 29, at 9:00 am. We also need help selling tickets, seating people, and picking up the chairs after the parades. If you can help, please call the Church Office (540-662-5843).

Parishioners are invited to purchase tickets before they go on sale to the public. Parishioners may purchase tickets, **beginning on Tuesday, April 5**, at the Church Office between 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday, and Friday between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Tickets will go on sale to the community on April 12. Tickets cannot be reserved. Payment by cash or check is required at the time of sale.

Tickets for the Firefighters' Parade (Friday, April 29 at 5:30 pm) are \$4 for first row and \$3 for second row. Grand Feature Parade (Saturday, April 30 at 1:30 pm) seats are \$6 for first row, \$5 for second row, and \$4 for third row. (Third row is on the Church sidewalk only.)

There are three seating areas again this year—along the side of the church on Washington Street, in front of the Baden Center on Washington Street, and along the bank property sidewalk across Washington Street from the church. Four parking tickets for the Baden Center lot are available for \$35 each. They can be used Friday and Saturday and each ticket includes two parking spaces—one in front and one in back.



Magic Lantern Event

On April 1, 2016, the film "Salam Neighbor" will be shown. It's a new documentary on the Syrian refugee crisis that reports inspiring stories of individuals in a Jordanian camp trying, against all odds, to rebuild their lives. Free-will donation for Save The Children. The screening at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Shenandoah Valley (6380 Valley Pike, Stephens City, VA) begins at 7:30 pm; afterwards there will be a reception and discussion.



STOP HUNGER NOW
Meal Packing Day
JUNE 25, 2016

Our Palm Sunday brunch
donations totaled \$952!
Thank you for your support!

Parish News

Register Now! Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont

Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont will be May 6-8, 2016—Mother's Day weekend. Registration is underway now with forms available in the Tilford Room and the back of the church on Sundays. Our theme this year is "**LEGO® my Gospel: Building Community.**" We will gather as a community of neighbors, getting to know one another better, guided by LEGOs and the Parables in the Gospels. Retreating to the peaceful mountain, we find ourselves in a different setting to enjoy each other's company, learn about our parish family, and understand why it's important for us to know who our neighbors are. Please see the Parish Weekend brochure for the weekend's schedule and other details. And, as always, look for Shrine Mont Committee members in church and at Coffee Hour to talk with about the weekend if you have questions!



CCAP Collection for April



In March, we will collect **DISPOSABLE DIAPERS** for CCAP. CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project) is a ministry of 46 worshipping communities in Winchester and Frederick County that have come together to support our neighbors in need with financial, material, and other assistance. There is a bookshelf in the foyer of the Parish Hall marked CCAP. Please leave items there and thank you for your generosity!

Fellowship Groups Meet

The Men's Fellowship meets Saturday, April 9, at 7:30 am, in the Tilford Room, where we will watch the feature film, ***On a Clear Day***, starring Peter Mullen. The movie is based on events at the Glasgow, Scotland shipyards and one man's long journey at rediscovering his family, his friends, and his Christian faith. Coffee and breakfast will be served.

The next **Community Fellowship** gathering will be Thursday, May 12, 2016.



The Treasure Box is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am—4 pm.
114 W. Boscawen St.

The Treasure Box is brimming with the fresh-looking pastels to herald in the spring/summer fashion season. Our selection is especially good for women's wear and preteen clothing. We are in great need, however, of men's blazers, outerwear, and ties. Please think of us when you purge your closets for spring cleaning. Always useful to us, as well, are household items--especially bedding, linens, and cooking items.

Many thank you letters from local charities have come in as a result of our increased giving this year. These will be on display during the Coffee Hour sponsored by Treasure Box in April. Our charitable support is only possible thanks to a steady supply of gently-used merchandise from you! Our volunteers invite you to shop Wednesdays, Fridays, and many Saturdays. Saturday openings are announced in the Community Bulletin Board section of the Winchester Star each weekend that we open.

THE ANGELUS

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For weekly updates, please see *The Sunday Announcements* in the bulletin.

Parish Nurse Musings



This spring weather has been crazy—snow one day and 75 degrees the next! Because of it, I think we are seeing more colds, stuffy noses, and coughs, even as seasonal allergies start for many of us. These tips may help slow the spread of colds and alleviate symptoms. Please remember to cover your cough by coughing into your sleeve. A good way to clear the nose is to inhale some fresh water from a clean washcloth in the morning and at night. Putting a little Vick's VapoRub just under your nose at bedtime will help clear the nose enough to be able to sleep better. Wash your hands before

opening the jar and use a Q-Tip to get it out of the jar so you don't contaminate it for the rest of the family! Change your bed weekly and wash linens in hot water to rid them of allergens and germs. Don't share food utensils with others. Wash your hands frequently with regular soap. You don't need to use a high-powered soap! Drink plenty of water each day in addition to other liquids, like coffee. If you are not feeling well, don't expose others by going out if you don't need to be out. Colds will not be cured with antibiotics; however, if symptoms last more than a few days and you aren't getting better, please contact your physician. Spring is here and getting out in the WARM weather is good for you in many ways!

Your Parish Nurse, Helen