

April 4, 2019

**“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”**

On Sunday, April 7

— 8 am Said Eucharist

—10 am Sung Eucharist

Sunday School meets in the Undercroft at 10am

—11:15 am Coffee Hour

—2:30 pm Service at Lakeside Manor

—6 pm AA meeting

Inside this issue:

—“Dr King’s Anniversary”  
Lenten message from Fr Bill Baker

—Meetings and Events for the next few weeks

—Volunteers needed for the Maundy Thursday supper 6PM at Ascension—joint with St John’s

—Review of the IPC Lenten Service—“Stations of the Cross”

—Photos from church service on March 31.



## Ascension This Week

### Dr King’s Anniversary — from Fr Bill Baker

Today we remember the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The anniversary of his death reminds us of the greatness of the life that he lived and how he tried to improve the lives of those around him, especially those who were treated poorly in this country. This reminds of a story that I heard from one of my friends.

My friend Annie, who lives in Manhattan, has a daughter named Sofia. When Sofia was little, Annie and her partner started reading to Sofia. Because they wanted her to have knowledge of the Bible, they got Sofia a Children’s Bible and started reading that to her every night.

Sofia loved the stories, especially the ones about Jesus. After each story Sofia would ask Annie question after question about Jesus. How did he heal people? Why did he love people so much? Finally, they were getting close to the part where they crucified Jesus and Annie got a little worried about reading about Jesus dying to Sofia. However, before she could get to that story in the Children’s Bible, they were walking in the City one day and Sofia said she wanted to go in a Roman Catholic Church near their house.

Upon entering the church, Sofia immediately saw the crucifix and asked her mother, “Who is that?” The gig was up and Annie sat Sofia down and explained to her daughter that some leaders were afraid of all the good that Jesus was doing, helping the poor and healing the sick. Annie tried to explain it to her young daughter so she would understand. She said that some leaders were so afraid that people would want Jesus to become the king and take their place, that they killed him. Sofia seemed a little upset, but she was young and resilient, and she had a few questions but seemed to move on quickly.

*(next page)*

A few weeks later the school sent a letter about the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday holiday. The letter asked the parents of the students to talk to their children about Dr. King's life, especially in light of his work to help those in need and fight for the rights of African Americans in the United States. That night, Annie sat down with Sofia to talk and she explained about all the good work that he had done and how he really loved people. Sofia's response was quick and surprising. She asked Annie, "Oh, did they kill him, too?"

Children often understand more than we assume that they will. Sofia surprised her mother because she made the connection between Dr. King and Jesus so quickly. Clearly they were both great men. Sofia understood that. However there is a difference. Jesus is our Savior and Martin Luther King we remember as an activist and martyr. What Sofia seemed to understand was that both men set out to change the world through spreading love.

Dr. King followed the example of Christ through his work. He worked for equality for all people, especially for African Americans in the United States. In some ways it might be easier for us to try to follow the example of Martin Luther King because he lived in more recent history than Jesus. However, Jesus died for our sins. Dr. King died fighting for freedom for the oppressed.

We should remember Dr. King today. We should also remember that there are still people so afraid of changing this world and making it equal for all people that they would martyr those who follow the example of Christ. Let us pray for peace, and for those who in the name of Christ, work for liberation for all. Thank you Dr. King for be willing to give your life fighting for the rights of others. Your legacy lives on!

Blessings, Fr Bill+

**On Sunday, March 31, the** "Stations of the Cross", written by the Rev. Deacon Joanne Depue, was presented by 14 readers from several different churches. This was the Annual IPC Joint Lenten Service. Deacon Joanne began the program with an explanation of how she came to write this service, and some history of the Stations of the Cross. Since it was held in Hemsley Hall, and not in the church, the 14 stations were represented by paintings made by children from the churches. It was an inspirational time. Following the presentation, the IPC provided a meal and a time of fellowship was enjoyed by all. Maybe this could become an annual event!

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**Opportunities to Help:**

**Maundy Thursday (April 18):** This year, at Ascension we will be coordinating with St. John's to host a joint Maundy Thursday light supper of soup and rolls at 6:00 pm, just before the 7:30 pm service. We are in need of several volunteers to bring a pot of soup and others to bring rolls and or beverages. Help can also be used for setting up, cleaning up, serving.

Please contact Diane Gurgone to volunteer : e-mail: [dianelmt@gmail.com](mailto:dianelmt@gmail.com) or phone (718) 982-7291 or text (347) 495-3383.

***On Easter Sunday,** there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children immediately following the 10am service. Donations of plastic eggs would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Laura Wonica.*

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**Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:**

**\*Thursday, April 4:** Adult Forum/Lenten study at Ascension, 7pm in the rectory. A light supper will be served. Meetings continue through Lent.

**\*Sunday, April 7:** Adult Forum/Lenten study at Ascension after coffee hour. Meetings continue through Lent.

**Thursday, April 18:** Joint Maundy Thursday light supper of soup and rolls coordinated with St John's. 6PM at Ascension.

**Sunday, April 21:** Easter Egg Hunt at Ascension. *"On Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children immediately following the 10am service. Donations of plastic eggs would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Laura Wonica"*

**Saturday, May 4:** *Mothers' Day Off.* More information to follow

**Saturday, May 4:** Spring 2019 Youth Lock-In presented by Richmond Inter-Parish Youth Council. Christ Church at 5PM. Worship! Games! Music! Food! Friendships! Grades 6th—12th. Permission Forms Required—please submit by March 28. Permission form printed in last week's newsletter, which is available on the website. (Ascensionsi.org— Home Page, then select from the left margin.)

**For more information or questions, please contact:**

**Christ Church NB: Catherine Barnett, [cgb1@hotmail.com](mailto:cgb1@hotmail.com)**

**St. Albans: Chris Gerard, [christian.girard@msnbc.com](mailto:christian.girard@msnbc.com)**

**St. Andrews: Pam Mullane, [pamelamullane46@gmail.com](mailto:pamelamullane46@gmail.com)**

**Saturday, June 8:** St John's community yard sale. More information to follow.

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The children brought the gifts from the food basket up at the Offertory. Below, Fr Bill is holding Juliana Thomas, and Stephanie Wonica & Katelyn and Lucas Thomas are there as well. Fr Bill picked up Juliana so she could see what was going on as he did the consecration. The others were standing behind the altar & all processed down the aisle at the end. Deacon Joanne Depue is leading the procession at left.



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