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## Holy Week 2023





## ***Restarting Curbside Prayer***

***By the Rev Joe Klenzmann, Deacon***

Curbside prayer is a ministry of presence and prayer that helps us all as a community grow in faith and that reaches into the world.

It was started in 2018, but due to COVID it stopped. The need to extend a hand of friendship, offer a listening ear or a prayer still grows.

I believe when we first started, we all set out to be the face of Christ through this ministry, I think we'd all agree that we saw his face in each person that came for prayer. Because of this, I would like to restart this ministry if there is a desire to participate within our HoCo community.

It is my hope that we can expand our curbside prayer ministry from once a month on Monument Avenue to include community events, bottled water for folks that stop by, and maybe a prayer box on the street so we can add the prayers of our community into our prayer chain.

“The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth,” Psalm 145:18.

Curbside prayer allows us the opportunity to remind our brothers and sisters in Christ that they are seen, known and cherished by their heavenly Father who desires to be in relationship with them.

If this ministry calls to you, please contact me. Let's discuss any ideas you may have, and what times or days work best for you.



## ***New T-Shirts***

We will be taking orders through April and will be ordering just the number of shirts that you order. This shirt is 100% cotton, and our logo and name are on a dark navy blue shirt. There is nothing on the back.



## ***The Marathon and the HoCo Spirit team***

***By Susan Boze***

Earth Day is April 22, the same Saturday as the Richmond Marathon.

The Marathon turns at Monument and Chantilly, a block from the church. We're planning a spirit team with the HoCo banner at that corner to cheer them on. We'll also be in front of the church with an Earth Day banner and our Girl Scout Troop tending the rain garden and talking to people about creation care.

Watch the weekly eMessenger during April for breaking news. We will want your help.





## ***A Message from Hilary +***

Dear Friends and Companions in Ministry,

On April 9, at 10:00 a.m. we will celebrate Easter Sunday together. Our first service of Easter will be the night before when we hold our Easter Vigil service at 8:00 p.m. We are having at least two baptisms, and one of those being baptized will be Vera's baby, Livi! Whether you attend our Easter Vigil service or our Easter Sunday Morning service or celebrate somewhere else or in a different way - Easter arrives - Resurrection happens - a new day dawns.



What does Resurrection mean to you? What does Easter mean for you? What does it mean or what can it mean for our church? My spirit is strengthened when I consider the power of the Resurrection to make all things new. You hear me speak often about the weight of history and tradition that we carry as Christians and as those who participate in a church. We participate in practices and structures established long ago by people who could not have imagined the lives we live today. Some of these practices, if not many, still speak to us, or more to the point, God still speaks to us through them; God speaks to our hearts in ways that are meaningful to us. Both the traditions that we love and the ones we put up with exist in the light of Christ's Resurrection.

To exist in the light of Christ's Resurrection means, to me, that everything must be valued in relationship to Easter. The power of God to bring life out of death and to make all things new means that nothing is as important as what God is doing in this every moment. God is always moving us forward; God is always showing us a path that we have never walked. God invites us to be about new life, and Jesus shows us how.

All that we know about Jesus from the stories about him and the stories that he told, tell us that

people found freedom, healing, belonging, and everything grace-filled in the presence of Jesus and his friends. This meant that many traditions and structures of both religion and society were disregarded in favor of something new that valued every person. Jesus broke down walls and crossed boundaries to bring new life, often to the poorest, the most feared, or despised.

Once again, this year, we are invited to celebrate Easter. We are invited to celebrate Easter every day of our lives no matter our circumstances. Deep in our souls, we know the truth of Resurrection, not as part of an ancient creed, but as part of our lived experience. May the joy of Easter be yours, and may we share that joy with everyone we know and everyone we meet.

Easter Blessings be with you and yours,

*Hilary+*



## ***Vestry officers elected, Liaison volunteers***

***By Jamey Hooks, Register***

### **Officers:**

- Senior Warden - Steve Van Voorhees
- Junior Warden - Lian-Marie Holmes
- Register - Jamey Hooks

### **Liaison:**

- Children and Youth - Evan Herr
- Education/ Formation (Adult) - Emily Chilton-Souder
- Worship - Lian-Marie Holmes
- Pastoral Care - Julie Edwards
- Parish Life - Jamey Hooks
- Outreach/ Social Justice - Susan Boze
- Property - Jerry Scholder
- Stewardship/ Finance - Gale Turner



## ***Un mensaje de Hilary +***

Queridos amigos y compañeros de ministerio,

El 9 de abril, a las 10:00 de la mañana, celebraremos juntos el Domingo de Resurrección. Nuestro primer servicio de Pascua será la noche anterior cuando celebremos nuestro servicio de



Vigilia Pascual a las 8:00 p.m. Tendremos al menos dos bautizos, y uno de los que serán bautizados será el bebé de Vera, ¡Livi! No importa si participas en nuestro servicio de Vigilia Pascual o en nuestro servicio del Domingo de Pascua por la mañana o celebres en otro lugar o en un diferente camino - Llega

la Pascua - Acontece la Resurrección - Amanece un nuevo día.

¿Qué significa para ti la Resurrección? ¿Qué significa Semana Santa para ti? ¿Qué significa o qué puede significar para nuestra iglesia? Mi espíritu se fortalece cuando considero el poder de la Resurrección para hacer nuevas todas las cosas.

Me escuchan hablar a menudo sobre el peso de la historia y la tradición que llevamos como cristianos y cuando participamos en una iglesia. Cuando lo hacemos, participamos en prácticas y estructuras establecidas hace mucho tiempo por personas que no podrían haber imaginado la vida que vivimos hoy. Algunas de estas prácticas, si no muchas, todavía nos hablan, o más concretamente, Dios todavía nos habla a través de ellas; Dios habla a nuestros corazones de maneras que son significativas para nosotros. Tanto las tradiciones que amamos como las que aguantamos existen a la luz de la Resurrección de Cristo.

Existir a la luz de la Resurrección de Cristo significa, para mí, que todo debe valorarse en relación con la Pascua. El poder de Dios para sacar vida de la muerte y hacer nuevas todas las cosas, significa que nada es tan importante como

lo que Dios está haciendo en cada momento. Dios siempre nos está haciendo avanzar; Dios está siempre mostrándonos un camino que nunca hemos recorrido. Dios nos invita a vivir una nueva vida, y Jesús nos muestra cómo.

Todo lo que sabemos sobre Jesús a partir de las historias sobre él y las historias que contó, nos dice que las personas encontraron libertad, sanación, pertenencia y todo lleno de gracia en la presencia de Jesús y sus amigos. Esto significó que muchas tradiciones y estructuras de ambos la religión y la sociedad fueron ignoradas en favor de algo nuevo que valoraba a cada persona. Jesús derribó muros y cruzó fronteras para traer nueva vida, a menudo a los más pobres, los más temidos y despreciados.

Una vez más, este año, estamos invitados a celebrar la Pascua. estamos invitados a celebrar Pascua todos los días de nuestras vidas sin importar nuestras circunstancias. En lo profundo de nuestras almas, conocemos la verdad de la Resurrección, no como parte de un credo antiguo, sino como parte de nuestra experiencia vivida.

Que la alegría de la Pascua sea tuya, y que podamos compartir esa alegría con todos los que conocemos y con todos los que nos encontramos.

Bendiciones de Pascua sean contigo y los tuyos,

*Hilary+*



## ***Story Time returns in September***

***By Hilary Smith, Rector***

After consulting with parents and families, we have decided to suspend Story Time until September. This will give us time to organize for it in good ways, such as doing some advertising in the neighborhood and recruiting people to provide meals after the Story Time services on the 3rd Sunday of the month. If you would be willing to provide food, maybe two people each time, for the meal following Story Time, please let me know. Our next Story Time service will be on Sunday, September 17th at 4:30 pm followed by dinner.



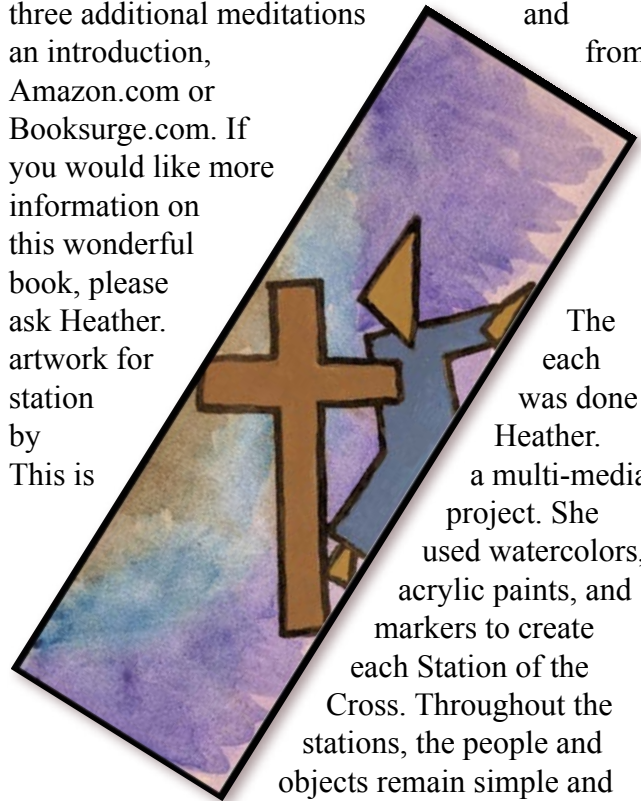
## ***Women of the Passion - Journey to the Cross***

***By the Rev Hilary Smith, Rector***

If you have heard the Rev. Heather Baggett preach, you know how creative she is and that she has brought many wonderful expressions of faith to us. Heather is a full-time Hospice chaplain and Priest-in-Residence at HoCo. On Good Friday for our 7:00 pm service, the sermon will be a special Stations of the Cross that Heather has developed, "Women of the Passion, Journey to the Cross." The readings for each of the stations

come from *Women of the Passion: A Journey to the Cross* by Katie Sherrod. You can purchase a copy of this book, which includes three additional meditations and an introduction, from Amazon.com or Booksurge.com. If you would like more information on this wonderful book, please ask Heather.

artwork for station by This is



The each was done Heather. a multi-media project. She used watercolors, acrylic paints, and markers to create each Station of the Cross. Throughout the stations, the people and objects remain simple and abstract so that the focus can be on the colors in the background. The colors represent the emotions and interactions taking place in each station. For more information on the pieces themselves or to obtain a copy for yourself, ask Heather.

### **Holy Week Schedule**

***April 2***

***Palm Sunday, 10:00 am service***

***April 5***

***Wednesday in Holy Week, Noon service***

***April 6***

***Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm service***

***April 7***

***Good Friday, Noon Stations of the Cross  
7:00 pm service***

***April 8***

***Holy Saturday, Noon service  
8:00 pm Great Vigil of Easter***

***April 9***

***Easter Sunday, 10:00 am service***



*Power Play | Rev. Lisle Gwnn Garrity*

### **Hoco Birthdays**

#### **For the month of April:**

***Kathryn MacAlister, 1st; Michael Rey, 8th;  
Ruggeri Gloria, 9th; Joseph Klenzmann, 9th;  
Laura Hunt, 11th; Lyman Flinn, 14th;  
Rose Woodward, 18th;  
Steven Van Voorhees, 22nd;  
Donna Brodd, 23rd; James Munro, 23rd;  
Bonnie Atwood, 27th; Carli Nelson, 28th***



## ***Spanish Ministry in Action - Ministerio Español en Acción***

*By the Rev Frank Castellón, Deacon*

### **Spanish Ministry in Action**

We hold bi-lingual services on the second Saturday of each month. Please plan to attend one of these service and meet our Spanish members.



It is the only such service held in the greater Richmond area.

Ministry to the Spanish community is more than just holding a bilingual service, and HoCo has applied for a Bishop's Appeal Grant to provide additional funds to pursue other needs. If the grant is approved, the funds will be used for public announcements

of the ministry in Richmond, and for immigration help and education.

Sunday, March 26, we will hold our first wedding in Spanish for one of the families that attends the bilingual service regularly. Moises and Eugenia came to us from Peru together with their two sons, daughter-in law and grandson. They need to formalize their marriage in the U.S. to meet immigration laws.

### **Ministerio Español en Acción**

Realizamos servicios bilingües el segundo sábado de cada mes. Planee asistir a uno de estos servicios y conozca a nuestros miembros hispanos. Es el único servicio de este tipo que se lleva a cabo en el área metropolitana de Richmond.

Ministerio a la comunidad hispana es más que solo celebrar un servicio bilingüe., HoCo ha solicitado una subvención del Bishop's Appeal Grant para proporcionar fondos adicionales para atender otras necesidades. Si es aprobado, los fondos se utilizarán para anuncios públicos del ministerio en Richmond y para ayuda y educación sobre inmigración.

El domingo 26 de marzo tendremos nuestra primera boda en español para una de las familias que asiste regularmente al servicio bilingüe. Moisés y Eugenia vinieron a nosotros desde Perú junto con sus dos hijos, la nuera y un nieto. Necesitan formalizar su matrimonio en los Estados Unidos para cumplir con las leyes de inmigración.



## ***Side by Side Meal Program Returns on April 27th***

*By Peggy Hombs*

Holy Comforter will again be providing a monthly meal for about 15 LGBTQ+ youth who attend group programs at Side by Side. Holy Comforter has been a long-time supporter of Side by Side (formerly known as ROSMY). Side by Side is dedicated to creating supportive communities where Virginia's LGBTQ+ youth can define themselves, belong, and flourish.



We will begin Thursday April 27th - preparations will begin about 4:00pm, and we will leave to deliver the meal around 5:15. This meal support will occur on the 4th Thursday of each month - same day, time and prep location (HoCo kitchen) as our Vets' Feeding Program. Unlike the Vets' meal, which HoCo volunteers deliver and stay to share with the folks, this meal is just delivered to Side by Side - for the privacy of those attending, we are asked not to stay.

If you are interested in helping, please contact me.

Of course, the Vets' meal folks can always use more hands - and that contact is Bruce MacAlister.



## ***Side by Side gets Easter donations***

***By Bruce MacAlister, member Social Justice & Outreach***

As Peggy Hombs notes in her article (“Side by Side Meal Program Returns on April 27th”), we have been working with Side by Side since it started as ROSMY. The first office for ROSMY

was on the second floor of our parish house. And it was controversial, but that is normal behavior for Holy Comforter! Any cash or undesignated offering you make at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday will go to Side by Side. Their motto is “Dedicated to creating supportive communities

where Virginia’s LGBTQ+ youth can define themselves, belong, and flourish.” For more, see [www.sidebysideva.org/](http://www.sidebysideva.org/).



## ***Girl Scout Sunday at HoCo***

***By Deborah Taliaferro, Troop Leader***

Every year the second Sunday in March is Girl Sunday. It begins Girl Scout week, a week of activities to celebrate the beginning of Girl Scouts USA. On March 12, 1912, the first Girl Scout meeting with 18 girls was held in Savannah, GA. Now each year Girl Scout Troops celebrate together in their places of worship on Sunday (or Saturday). This is a reminder that at the heart of Girl Scouting are many of the same values most faiths hold. It also connects our faith to the Girl Scout Law.



We thank Hilary for allowing the girls to have the special opportunity to be an active participant in the service! Two girls, Brooklyn (grade 6) and Leah (grade 5), took a risk and had the confidence to read the scripture lessons. Two things we try to instill: to take risk and to have confidence. Renee McGilvary-Miller, a Leader of 3 years, read the Prayers of the People to represent Adults in Girl Scouting. Our younger girls were ushers and greeters. They handed out bulletins enthusiastically to anyone who walked by, whether they needed one or not!

It was so amazing to see Hilary in the stole the girls created. Many didn’t understand what we



were making, however, once seeing it “in action” they really loved their work.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the day. The Daisies have really bonded to Hilary. She has incredible patience with them. I believe the girls enjoy interacting with the congregation. Especially after the enthusiastic response when Hilary announced we were in attendance.

As a result of our attendance, we have a new Assistant Leader! Caroline Smith, a Girl Scout Life Member, has volunteered to assist the troop. We welcome her and are all excited to work with her!



## April Book Club – River of the Gods

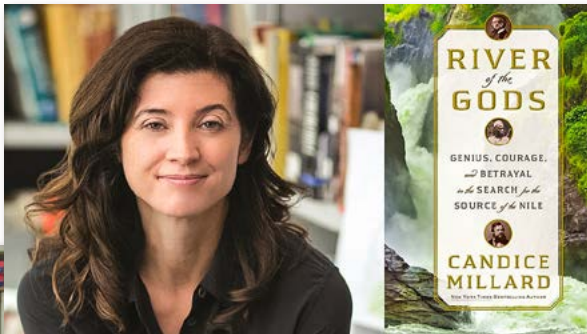
By Stephanie Turner

In the interest of full disclosure and transparency, my go-to type of book is fiction. But this nonfiction selection, *River of the Gods* by Candice Millard, reads like an exciting novel. This book is extremely well researched and contains many direct quotes by the main players. I had a great time reading it, and hope you will, too.

On Tuesday, April 18 we'll be using the Zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99461451877>.

"Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Best History & Biography (2022)

"From the New York



Times bestselling author of *River of Doubt* and *Destiny of the Republic*, the stirring story of one of the great feats of exploration of all time, and its complicated legacy

"The Nile River is the longest in the world. Its fertile floodplain allowed for rise to the great

civilization of ancient Egypt, but for millennia the location of its headwaters was shrouded in mystery. Pharaonic and Roman attempts to find it were stymied by a giant labyrinthine swamp, and subsequent expeditions got no further. In the 19th century, the discovery and translation of the Rosetta Stone set off a frenzy of interest in ancient Egypt. At the same time, European powers sent off waves of explorations intended to map the

unknown corners of the globe - and extend their colonial empires.

"Two British men - Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke - were sent by the Royal Geographical Society to claim the prize for England. Burton was already famous for being the first non-Muslim to travel to Mecca, disguised as an Arab chieftain. He spoke twenty-nine languages, was a decorated soldier, and literally wrote the book on sword-fighting techniques for the British Army. He was also mercurial, subtle, and an iconoclastic atheist. Speke was a young aristocrat and Army officer determined to make his mark, passionate about hunting, Burton's opposite in temperament and beliefs.

"From the start the two men clashed, Speke chafing under Burton's command and Burton disapproving of Speke's ignorance of the people whose lands through which they traveled. They would endure tremendous hardships, illness, and constant setbacks. Two years in, deep in the African interior, Burton became too sick to press on, but Speke did, and claimed he found the source in a great lake that he christened Lake Victoria. When they returned to England, Speke rushed to take credit, disparaging Burton. Burton disputed his claim, and Speke launched another expedition to Africa to prove it. The two became venomous enemies, with the public siding with the more charismatic Burton, to Speke's great envy. The day before they were to publicly debate, Speke shot himself.

"Yet there was a third man on both expeditions, his name obscured by imperial annals, whose exploits were even more extraordinary. This was Sidi Mubarak Bombay, who was enslaved and shipped from his home village in East Africa to India. When the man who purchased him died, he made his way into the local Sultan's army, and eventually traveled back to Africa, where he used his resourcefulness, linguistic prowess and raw courage to forge a living as a guide. Without his talents, it is likely that neither Englishman would have come close to the headwaters of the Nile, or perhaps even survived." - Courtesy Goodreads





## Parish Life Ministry

By Jamey Hooks, Vestry member

“The Parish Life Ministry seeks to foster and promote a sense of community within the Holy Comforter family of parishioners and friends. We do this by organizing and hosting various social events throughout the year.” – [hoco.org/ministries\\_parish\\_life.htm](http://hoco.org/ministries_parish_life.htm)

We are excited that Connection Time after the 10am service on Sundays has been going well. It has been nice being able to visit, catch up and get to know one another. I know that personally I have sat and talked with multiple people and have been able to share a little about my life as well as learn about others within our parish. For myself, it has built a feeling of community and belonging.

It has been noted that previously there have been social events such as talent shows, special dinners, picnics, etc.,



in which the Holy Comforter family of parishioners and friends have gotten together for fellowship

and fun. We are looking to bring some of these events back and coming up with new ideas for future events in which we can all get together and fellowship.

With that being said, we are looking to create a committee for the Parish Life Ministry. If this is something that you feel you would be interested in being a part of, please reach out to me and let’s talk about it!



## Adult Formation Updates

By Peggy Hombs, Adult formation

**Sunday Morning Class:** The class will resume on Sunday, April 16th with a new 6-week DVD-based course with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine entitled *Signs and Wonders: A Beginner’s Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*. The class will explore selected miracles in a historical and theological context. Amy-Jill (‘AJ’) “discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today’s readers can draw meaning from Jesus’s words and actions.” The group meets from 8:45-9:45am in the parlor.



Read-ahead material is sent out in advance; the class views a video segment and has a vigorous discussion on what they have read and seen. This class will conclude on May 21st; we will then be on break for the summer.

**Monday Evening Class:** The class was paused for Lent, but will resume after Easter on Monday, April 17th. The class meets from 7-8pm via Zoom. We will continue with the DVD-based course *The World of Biblical Israel* with Professor Cynthia R. Chapman.

Read-ahead material is sent out beforehand; the class then views a video segment and has a wide-ranging discussion on the material. When that curriculum is concluded on May 22nd, the class will then be on break for the summer.





## April Men at the Movies - Life Goes On

By Steve Van Voorhees

In January, our movie took place on a boat, the HMS Surprise. While we skipped February for our Valentines, in March we went to sea in *Life of Pi*, but in a lifeboat with a 16-year old boy and a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. Continuing

our parallels, in April, we will be viewing *Life of Brian*. The original



title is Monty Python's *Life of Brian*. If you know Monty

Python's television series or other movies, you are already tipped off about what kind of movie this is. *Life of Brian* has emerged as the best film produced by the Monty Python group in its 44-year life. There is a 40th-year anniversary edition; Roger Ebert gave it 3 out of 4 stars and commented, "What's endearing about the Pythons is their good cheer, their irreverence, their... small insanities." It was a box office success. It received a 96% fresh rating from Rotten Tomatoes. In 2006, in a British poll, it was ranked 1st on a list of 50 Greatest Comedy Films. It got an 8/10 IMDb and a 77% rating from Metacritic. A little known fact about this movie is that the Monty Python group did not have the money to make the film and couldn't find backers for it. Probably this was because of the subject matter. George Harrison of the Beatles loved their work and formed a production company to make the film. Harrison thus became what is known in showbiz as an 'angel.'

The 1979 movie was banned at the time of its release in England, Ireland and Norway. Movie

posters in Sweden advertised, "It's so funny, it is banned in Norway." The reason for banning was "blasphemy." All the bans were lifted eventually. This is a grand irony because the movie's story is about Brian Cohen and his mother Mandy Cohen, who gives birth to him on Christmas Day, one stable over from Jesus and Mary. In further irony Brian's father is a Roman. This is also made even more interesting because the film was designed as a comedy and a parody highlighting these phenomena, mass mania (the 2nd Temple period was rife with increasing rumors of messiahs - see Philo and Josephus' histories), diversity of reactions to Roman rule, differing expressions of Judaism, e.g., Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, etc., and confusing aspects of recorded history, i.e., Talmud and the four Gospels.

Further, theologians and seminaries generally applaud Monty Python for its treatment of Jesus (only mentioned directly twice) and for the accuracy of history of the period. Richard Burridge, the recent Dean of Kings College, London, and continuing Canon Theologian of Salisbury Cathedral caps this controversy in this way, "Life of Brian is an extraordinary tribute to the life and work and teaching of Jesus - that they couldn't actually blaspheme or make a joke out of it. It is a wonderful satire on the way that Jesus' own teaching has been used to persecute others. They were satirizing fundamentalism and persecution of others and at the same time saying the one person who rises above all this was Jesus."

Poor Brian Cohen is an anti-Roman Jew, who is mistaken for a messiah by his followers and stumbles into the arms of an occupying power. Brian is in love with one of Jesus' followers, Judith, and a member of the Peoples Front of Judea. As things develop, he is the wrong man in the wrong place and ends up being crucified by error of the Roman guards and because Judith and the PFJ are enthusiastic about his martyrdom. He is almost rescued at the end by a suicide squad from the rival Judean Peoples Front, but they do commit suicide at the scene.

If you are Christian with only a superficial Sunday School education, you could take all this in one or other ways: either it is hilariously funny satire or terribly misplaced humor or an abomination. Obviously, I picked the first and still quote lines from the movie, like, "What have the Romans ever done for us?", followed by a listing of Roman development successes.

If there is a lesson in all these shenanigans and Monty Python silliness, it is as Immanuel Kant said, "Have the courage to use your own understanding - this is the motto of enlightenment." Or, from Brian Cohen, "Think for yourselves." As he is dying on the cross, Brian and others being crucified, start singing, "Look on the bright side of life."

So on Easter Tuesday, April 11th we will gather in the Parlor at 6:00p.m. for fellowship. Bring your own snacks and beverages; bring a friend. The movie will roll at 6:30 p.m., with discussion to follow.



## ***On Helping***

***By Joella Rhoades***

Recent news articles have touched my heart in a sad way. They reported two suicides - a female veterinarian in Ohio, Kathleen Lennon and an Anglican priest in England, Canon Anna Matthews. Both were in their 40's, well educated, and successful. Full disclosure: I have two adult daughters in their 40's, one is a veterinarian and the other an attorney and both are successful. So you can understand my dismay at reading about these suicides. Suicide in the helping professions is not uncommon. In fact, we often forget the toll helping takes on doctors, nurses, veterinarians, lawyers, clergy, and others like them.

I read a recent article by Mike Rayson, a Methodist minister, lamenting Canon Matthews' suicide. I thought some of his comments were pertinent to all helping professions. Here are some excerpts.



"Often times clergy..." (and other helping professionals) "...are placed under enormous pressure and when the load becomes too much to bear we don't know who to turn to.... Clergy face unbelievable pressure from all sides all the time. To ask for help, any help, even ask[ing] another clergy friend to lend an ear...feels dangerous and has the ability to cast yourself as a failure in the eyes of the church ..."

"So...what can we do? Firstly, regardless of how well we think... (they) are doing, we should pray for them regularly. Second, we can be a help and support...in some practical ways. "...listening is always good...an encouraging note...a gift card to a local restaurant."

"Third, the culture of 'we pay our pastor... (vet,therapist etc)...to do...' should never enter your mind...A minister is a co-laborer with you...not the paid representative to do the work of evangelism, hospitality and generosity for you...when you decide you are just too busy for a ... commitment, it falls on your minister to pick up the slack and eventually that role gets so tight, it snaps. Fourth, always encourage...take good care of your pastor so they can take good care of you."

I'd like to add one more thought. Helping professionals listen to human stories of all kinds. We often forget that they're human just like us. Listening to these stories takes an enormous emotional toll. Being with someone who's dying, then attending a meeting, then rushing off to check on something else is exhausting - physically and emotionally. I, for one, don't want suicide to be the answer to this exhaustion.

I want to end with a prayer of hope - hope for strength for those in the helping professions; hope that we, as the "helpees" will support the "helpers"; hope for those of us who are followers of Jesus that like Jesus we will be compassionate and loving in all we do.

# Church of the Holy Comforter, Richmond

a parish in the Diocese of Virginia under the Episcopal Church in the USA

which is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion

Monument Avenue at Staples Mill Road

web - [www.hoco.org](http://www.hoco.org); e-mail - [office@hoco.org](mailto:office@hoco.org);

phone 804-355-3251; fax 804-355-0049

[Hoco web site calendar page](#)

## *Schedule of church events following the Covid-19 period (still evolving)*

- **Sundays:**
    - ◇ 8:45am Sunday Morning Adult Class, in person in the Parlor - current course curriculum concludes on March 19th; new course curriculum begins on April 16th .
    - ◇ 8:45am Sunday Morning, Choir practice in the choir room (through January 1st).
    - ◇ 10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II, in person with nursery available; the service is live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube and posted following the service
    - ◇ 4:30pm Story Time, in person on the 3rd Sunday of the month, 4:30pm
  - **Monday:**
    - ◇ 7:00pm Adult Class via Zoom - pauses for Lent; current course curriculum resumes on April 17th.
  - **Tuesdays:**
    - ◇ 7:30am Morning Prayer, Facebook
  - **Wednesdays:**
    - ◇ 11:30am Centering Prayer, in person in the in the church
  - **Thursdays:**
    - ◇ 7:00PM Lenten class via Zoom - final class on April 3
    - ◇ 7:30am Morning Prayer, Facebook
    - ◇ 4:00pm Lectionary Study, Zoom
    - ◇ 7:00-8:15pm Weekly choir rehearsal
  - **Segundo sábado de cada mes:**
    - ◇ 11:00am Misa en español
- Food Pantry Hours:**
- First and third Saturdays, 11:00am to noon
  - First and third Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30pm
- Veterans Shelter Dinner:**
- Fourth Thursdays, prep in HoCo kitchen, 5:00pm, delivery to the shelter, 5:45pm
- Side by Side Dinner:**
- Begins on April 27th
  - Fourth Thursdays, prep in HoCo kitchen, 4:00pm, deliver to Side by Side, 5:15pm

*Editing of the Messenger is done by Bruce MacAlister, the layout by George Collier.*

*The April Messenger will be available Sunday April 2nd, deadline for that edition is Friday March 24th. Earlier submission would really help the volunteers who put it together.*

*If you feel that you have something you'd like to contribute, please contact Bruce MacAlister at*

[editor@hoco.org](mailto:editor@hoco.org)

