

### A Word from the Weiss

We're closing in on the Church's holiest of days: Easter! Once again, a theologian has come out with a book—released while everyone has Easter on their mind—questioning, among other things, ***whether the Resurrection happened***. (This latest book is *A New Christianity* by Brian McLaren.) Now, I can't come down too hard on a book I haven't actually read (!); and, as a card-carrying Episcopalian, I see questioning our faith to be a good thing. I do believe that it's helpful to ask, "Did the Resurrection happen?" and "How can I know?" For that matter, there's a lot written about these things, notably Josh McDowell's *More Than A Carpenter* and *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*. But all this writing attempts to *disprove* the arguments against the Resurrection, rather than *prove* it. This is because that's the best we can do with a supposedly supernatural event. Since that seems to be true, and since questioning is good for our faith, an equally important question is ***whether the Resurrection happens***. That is, whether we see Love breaking through in difficult, seemingly hopeless situations. As we say in Eucharistic Prayer C: "Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us." I suppose we should never stop asking whether the Resurrection happened; but, maybe even more, we should never stop asking whether it *happens*.

May God open our eyes to Resurrections these days!

Along with you on the journey of faith, *Fr. Chuck Weiss*



## MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

On Saturday, April 10, everyone is invited to ***Moving Forward Together*** at Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue, Squirrel Hill. This event is meant to help people throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh renew and establish friendships.

During our time together we will:

- *Reflect*: Explore how we value our common life in Christ, even with different perspectives;
- *Renew* : Examine ways to can move forward together with new energy and purpose;
- *Rebuild*: Identify parish needs which are unmet and resources to share.

More information is available at [episcopalpgh.org](http://episcopalpgh.org). You may register with Fr. Chuck or Lorra Brannen. Hope you'll join us!

## Women Gather for Festive Spring Lunch

The St. Thomas ladies are gathering for their monthly Lunch on Saturday, April 17. They're meeting at Nonni's. The festivities begin at Noon.

For directions and to RSVP, contact Michelle Lucarelli at 724-942-0719.



## Outreach Committee Makes "Cookies in a Jar"



Our Outreach Committee is supporting the Washington Women's Shelter's Volunteer Recognition Dinner in April. The dinner is called *We Would Crumble Without You*, including "Cookies in a Jar" centerpieces—with all the ingredients to make cookies. On Sunday, April 18, the Outreach Committee—and anyone who would like to help—will assemble 15 jars.

*The committee is looking for donations to purchase supplies for this project; please contact Pam Gardner for more information.*

## YOUTH GROUP SUPPORTS OUTREACH EFFORT

On Sunday, April 18, during Coffee Hour, our Youth Group will do the following:

- Help the Outreach Committee organize centerpieces for the Washington Women's Shelter Volunteer Recognition Dinner;
- Make Mother's Day cards for the Moms at WWS;
- Decorate hats for St. Thomas Moms to wear on Mother's Day!

Afterward, we'll head over to the Canonsburg Youth Center for lunch and indoor and outdoor games. Hope to see you there!

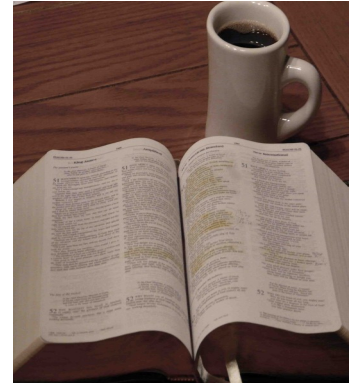


## Special Guest Preacher

*Because Easter is the first Sunday of April, we are moving our Coffee Chats to the second and fourth Sundays this month.*

On April 11, everyone is invited to take part in an informal Sermon Discussion.

On April 25, we are privileged to have Mr. Peter Domencic join us as our Guest Preacher. Following worship, Peter and his family will join us at Coffee Hour for an informal “Coffee Chat”. (Peter is a Christian author and friend of our own Nicholas Vayansky. He is a Roman Catholic who has a special sense of call to share his faith across denominational lines.)



## Diocesan News—[episcopalpgh.org](http://episcopalpgh.org)



- **The Diocesan Youth Retreat to Calvary Camp** is set for May 14-16! More information will be coming soon.
- The Outreach and Social Justice Committee is hoping to start building a **Habitat for Humanity house** this May.
- **Grace Happens**, the weekly diocesan newsletter, is available online. If you'd like to receive it, go to the diocesan web site and enter your email address.

### Notes from the Senior Warden

With Spring comes a new agenda for your Vestry. We are looking at our direction for the year and making plans. Each committee on the Vestry will be meeting in the next two months to determine how we can reach our goals and live our mission. Primarily our mission is *to grow in numbers and in faith*. We have also added this year a vision. The vision is *to become self sufficient* (which means not using the endowment to support the standard operation of the church) and *to grow the Episcopal Church in Washington County*. In the coming weeks and months you will be asked to participate in certain activities that support both our mission and vision. We hope to create enough variety of activity to interest everyone but not so much that we are overwhelmed.

In May we will be publishing our goals and objectives so that you can all see where we are going. In the meantime, listen to the announcements in church, read *The Parish Post*, and decide where your time, talents and money can best be utilized to support the work of the church overall and St. Thomas specifically.

*Pam Gardner, Senior Warden*



Jakob Brannen—April 3  
 Lori Turney—April 11  
 Nickolas Vayansky—April 14  
 Etta Senay—April 15  
 Matthew Yerkey—April 16  
 Andrew Brannen—April 25  
 Dale Cianflone—April 29

**LOOKING FOR  
 SUNDAY SERVANTS!**



*We're looking for some new  
 Acolytes, Readers, and  
 Ushers/Greeters.  
 If you feel drawn to any  
 of these ministries,  
 please contact Fr. Chuck.*

**Notes from the Church Mouse!**

*Wow, Spring is coming! Went outside and saw a lot of great stuff coming up in Mary's Garden...Heard the Ladies had another fun luncheon—not too somber! They talked about eating ribs, but I'm more into Coffee Hour goodies!...Saw some folks cleaning up the kitchen—nice job! A couple guys were in the basement, taking out leaves and other things I like to use...The cleaning crew said something about a "flea market". Who wants to buy fleas?...One night I heard a group talking about a book called R-E-V-E-L-A-T-I-O-N. Interesting, but hard for a mouse to understand...What a wonderful St. Patrick Potluck! The corned beef was out of this world, and how about that singing!...Snuck into Fr. Chuck's bag and headed to Canon House. Nice crowd, great guitar playing by Pam and Nickolas, and—as always—great snacks and punch!...Hey, why was the church filled with palms? Can I have some for my house?...Well, HAPPY EASTER to all!*

*See you around (but you won't see me!), TOM*



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