

## Madre's Musings

In 0.33 seconds Google finds 496,000,000 hits on the word hope. The topics range from financial to educational; from weight loss to diamonds. Sadly few of those hits have much to do with the season of Easter and the hope that comes with resurrection and new life in Jesus Christ.



The world around us can be a discouraging place and yet it is in relationship with God and one another we can find hope. There is hope even in the midst of the most difficult times. It was in time spent with a waitress while waiting to be able to return to the church after being evacuated. It was in connecting with a family in pain while waiting at the doctor's office. It was in the smiles on the faces of two little girls as they played with girls visiting our church for the week. It was in the tears of a friend who lost his grandmother yet could share the lessons she taught him. It was in the smiles of faces helping take care of our buildings and gardens. It was in the words of the Psalmist as he cried out to God. It was in the love of a savior who loved us enough to die for us.

I challenge you in the weeks to come to find hope in the midst of all things. As you do, share that hope with others. ~Mother Julie

## Senior Warden's Corner

One of our main goals we established during our 2008 Survey was to GROW the church. Do you have suggestions on doing that? Contact a vestry member NOW!!

Another GOAL was to have better communication. If you know of someone sick or in need

of pastoral care, please let Mother Julie or a vestry member know.

Easter Brunch - Bring a brunch covered dish for April 4 at 9:00 AM. Children have your Easter baskets ready for the Easter Egg hunt at 9:30 AM

St. Alban's Day - June 20 - Can you help?



## March Vestry Meeting Highlights

The March meeting began with a study of the Lord's Prayer. Business completed included: Treasurer's Report, report from the audit committee, hearing about Soup and Service, and some fantastic ideas about reaching out to the community around us. The first will involve our hosting an open house. Invitation will be by email, so watch for the email which you will be asked to forward to two people who do not have a church home.

A prayer for our parish: Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us as we seek your will for us as a worshipping community. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Around the parish:

### OUR IHN (Interfaith Homeless Network) HOST WEEK

Many thanks and much appreciation goes out to those who served during our IHN host week in March. For the week we had 40 volunteers who helped in numerous ways: setting up, transportation, greeting our guests as they arrived each evening, hosting dinners and activities, staying overnight, assisting with unloading, loading of the trailer, hauling of the trailer and with clean-up. During our host week, we had support from two area churches: Trinity Lutheran who hosted a dinner and activity one evening and from Abba's House (Central Baptist) with an activity. In adding up the volunteer hours we had close to 200 hours in serving our IHN guests. Please mark your calendar for our next host week of June 6-13<sup>th</sup> and think of how you may wish to be involved in this ministry.

For more info on IHN in Chattanooga: [www.ihnchattanooga.org](http://www.ihnchattanooga.org).



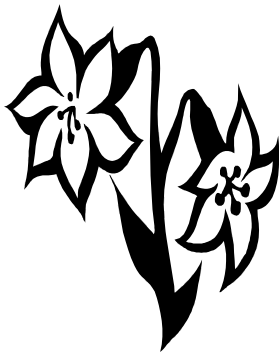
### Hosanna Community Product Needs:

Paper needs: towels, napkins, plates, bowls, cups and toilet paper.

Other needs: wax paper, saran wrap, tin foil, and copy paper.

### PAPER DRIVE FOR THE HOSANNA DURING APRIL

The Hosanna Community has two group homes located on Grubb Road in Hixson for people who are physically challenged. Hosanna Community has received designation as a Jubilee Center by our Diocese. Hosanna does not receive any direct government funding and is supported by area churches and organizations. One of Hosanna's greatest day-to-day expenses comes from consumption of paper products. During the month of April we will have a paper drive for Hosanna. Below is a list of paper needs for this community. If you wish to donate, please bring your offerings to the designated collection corner in the Narthex. For more info on Hosanna, their website is: [www.hosannacommunity.org](http://www.hosannacommunity.org)

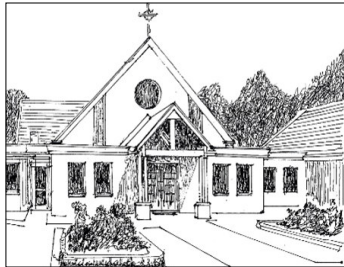


**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL** Stories abound every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Some Sundays will find the children sharing in a Feast Day, Work Day or maybe even a liturgical dance! Children of all ages are welcome.

**DOLLARS & CENTS....** Many thanks to Mary Helton and Mary Thomson who volunteered their time to perform the year-end 2009 review (as required by the Diocese) of our financial records. Their certification letter has been mailed to the Diocese. Serving on this year's Finance Committee will be Marge Davis, Sarah Barys and Martha Ann Shearouse. Martha Ann has also agreed to take on teller duties as has Sarah Fisher. Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the financial ministry of St. Alban's!

**Soup's on Us!** Beginning April 7 at noon, St. Alban's will be hosting its first monthly **FREE Soup & Service**. The vestry approved this new project as an effort to increase our outreach and presence in the Hixson community. Mother Julie will be using various alternative liturgies for the service, and as the summer months approach we'll be working with the community gardeners to incorporate their harvests into the lunch menu. Invite your elderly neighbors, your friends who might be experiencing hard times, stay-at-home moms who just want to eat someone else's cooking...you get the idea. Everyone is welcome! Mark the first Wednesday of the month on your calendars for **FREE Soup & Service**. Have questions or ideas, contact Sherri or Joe at 870-6021.

# April 2010



## Weekly Events:

*Sundays at 8:00 am: Holy Eucharist  
Rite I with anointing*

*Sundays at 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist  
Rite II*

*Sundays at 10:30 am: Children's  
Chapel*

*Tuesdays at 7:00 pm: Gamblers  
Anon.*

*Wednesdays at 10:30 am: Bible Study*

*Wednesday at noon: Holy Eucharist  
with anointing*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Birthdays:</b> <b>Dianna Skates (10)</b> <b>Dianne Albea (13)</b> <b>Trent Sanders (14)</b>	<b>T. McCroskey (19)</b> <b>Bill Tonkin (22)</b> <b>W. Rutemeyer (23)</b>			<b>1</b>  <b>7pm Maundy Thursday liturgy</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>Noon and 7pm Good Friday</b>	<b>3</b> <b>9:00 am Men's Group</b> <b>7pm The Great</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Easter</b> <b>Covered brunch and egg hunt at 9:30 am</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  <b>2-4pm Open House</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b> <b>10 am</b> <b>Chattanooga</b>	<b>21</b> <b>2pm Vestry</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Anniversaries:</b> <b>Harkness (2)</b> <b>Walters (7)</b> <b>Johnson (27)</b>

**The little church with a big heart.**

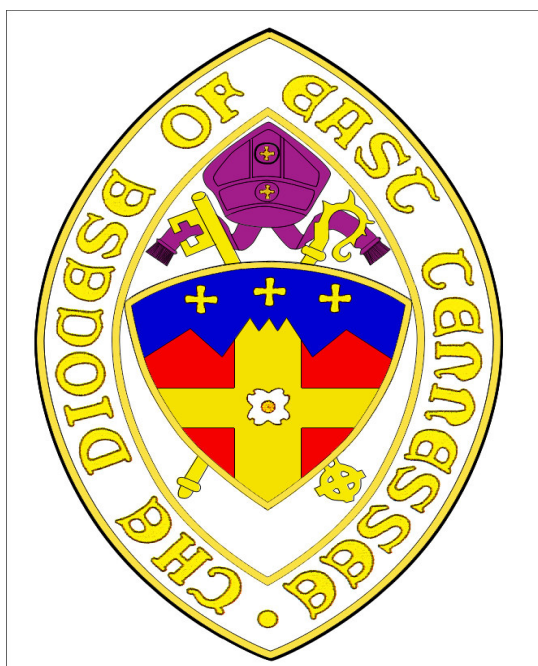
## Around the diocese:

Below is a **response from Mary Berl, diocesan administrator**, to a question regarding **what is done with voluntary asking funds**:

The funding of the voluntary asking is part of our parish commitment to support outreach ministries. Our Diocese asks each parish to make a voluntary commitment to advance the mission and ministry of the Diocese of East Tennessee. Some of the areas which are supported by the askings include: our seminarian support, support for newly ordained priests, outreach ministries such as Appalachian Ministries, AIDS, Anti-Racism education and training as well as support for the ministry of the bishop. The askings also support communica-

tions, such as the website and East Tennessee Episcopalian, Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center, and the deployment assistance that is provided to each parish in the search process. The diocesan voluntary commitment also includes our contribution to the larger church both in our commitment to The Episcopal Church and to our companion Diocese of South Dakota. It also provides assistance to parishes in stewardship development, in congregational development, and ministry development of lay leadership. The funds also provide sabbatical support and continuing education support for clergy in the Diocese of East Tennessee.

**Apr 28: Concert benefitting Chattanooga's Metropolitan Ministries with Atlanta-based soul-jazz group C.C. Booker III**, featuring Will Scruggs, to be held at Lindsay Street Hall (corner of Lindsay St. and MLK Jr. Blvd., by Bessie Smith Hall). Sets at 7 and 9 p.m. \$10/one set, \$15/both. For more information: the Rev. Perry Scruggs at [revperry@hotmail.com](mailto:revperry@hotmail.com) or 423 658-5587.



### The Role of a Bishop:

The bishops gathered at the 2008 Lambeth Conference undertook a study of what it means to be a bishop in the Anglican Communion, including the Episcopal Church. In the reflection document published at the conclusion of the conference, the participants defined the role of a bishop as follows:

- To gather the whole community in celebration, presiding over the sacraments and ordaining new priests and deacons
- To proclaim the Word of God as an apostolic witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- To be a teacher, guardian and interpreter of the faith and the apostolic tradition
- To be active in making and nurturing disciples To be a shepherd (pastor) of the whole people of God, with a special concern for the clergy of the diocese
- To be a prophetic voice for the voiceless

As bishops, we are committed to the life of the Church, to the wider communities in which we minister and to civil society. We recognize that it is in our calling to be bridge-builders, reconcilers and symbols of unity, representing the local to the universal and the universal to the local, taking our place within a world-wide college of bishops across the communion and with the one Church of Christ.

### THE REV. DR. DANIEL P. MATTHEWS, KEYNOTE FOR THE WOMEN'S SPRING CONFERENCE

The Rev. Dr. Daniel P. Matthews will be the keynote speaker for the joint Spring Conference of the women of all three Tennessee dioceses. His topic will be "Grow in Grace." Dan Matthews has served in all three dioceses and was the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Knoxville from 1972-1980.

As rector, but now retired, of 300 year old Trinity Church, Wall St., NYC, Dan Matthews was an apostle of hope and healing for lower Manhattan after the September 11 attack as the district sought to rebuild itself. He is an outstanding speaker and one of the most distinguished priests of our time.

The Spring Conference will be April 16-17, 2010 at Dubose Conference Center. Registration will be from 1:00-3:00 pm, followed by the Opening Service with all three bishops. The Conference ends Saturday after lunch. We hope you will join with us in spending time with Dan Matthews.