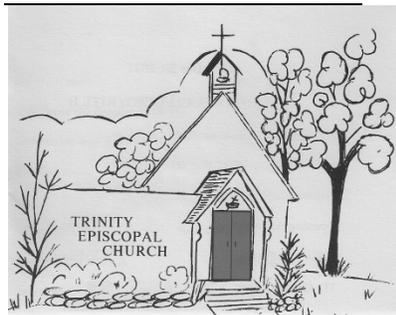


TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Episcopal Church
100 Harwood Lebanon, MO

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From Behind the Altar

Dear People of God:

What is conspicuous in the Gospel accounts of the resurrection story is that no where do you hear what people say today when someone dies. No one says, well, at least Jesus is in a better place. Or, it was just his time to go. Or, he had a full life; what more can you ask for? Or, you were lucky to have had him this long.

There are no pious clichés in the Gospels. Back then Jews understood very well that death was the end of a person, and for those who loved that person it was a tremendous loss.

The conversation of the women leading up to the

visit to the tomb was not filled with hard-to-believe sayings. Instead the women discussed the practical problem of how they were going to roll away the stone from the tomb so they could anoint Jesus' body. The women only expected to find a corpse and do to it what Jewish custom required.

If the women who went to the tomb believed in any kind of resurrection at all, it was belief in a general resurrection of the righteous at the end of time. This general resurrection did not apply to individuals but to the Jewish community. They most certainly did not believe or think it possible that there could be the resurrection of an individual in time and within history. That is why they seemed so terrified and uncertain. They did not know what to make of the empty tomb.

What the women finally came to realize is that God had done something absolutely new. And this

new thing is what we call "the resurrection" and it is what we celebrate on Easter Day.

But it is imperative that we make clear what "the resurrection" is. The Resurrection is not belief in an immortal soul. The Resurrection the Church celebrates is very different from the "immortality of the soul." The writer/theologian Frederick Buechner makes this distinction aptly in a book he wrote in 1993:

"Immortality means death-proof. To believe in the immortality of the soul is to believe that though John Brown's body lies a-moldering in the grave, his soul goes marching on simply because marching on is the nature of souls just the way that producing butterflies is the nature of caterpillars. Bodies die, but souls don't."

Buechner goes on to say in his book that the biblical view of human beings is far different from what many people believe today. Today most people

talk about having a body. In the Bible human beings are bodies. What a significant difference! In the Bible body and soul are inextricably united—as much part and parcel of each other as the leaves and flames that make up a bonfire. And when a person dies, they kick the bucket 100 percent. All that a person is—body and soul—ends. There is nothing left to go marching on.

That is why the Church begins its preparation for Easter with the solemn day of Ash Wednesday when we are concretely reminded that we are mortal and will return to the dust of the earth from which we came. It is also why in the Creeds of the Church we profess that Jesus really died. He experienced real death, not notionally but actually. And in the Creeds we also profess belief in the resurrection of the body, because there is no life a part from the body.

So when we get to the Easter Day liturgy and shout that Christ is risen from the dead we are saying that God did something that is entirely unnatural. God gave Jesus' life back to him. He called him back from being dead as a doornail. In fact, that is a good definition of Resurrection, being called back from the dead to a new life, one that will never end.

The source of the belief in the immortality of the soul is the

experience of humanity's indomitable spirit. The idea of the resurrection of the body is based upon the experience of God's unspeakable love. God called Jesus back to life and promises to call those who believe in him back to life. But it is not something that God has to do for any of us. Resurrection is a gift from God, and it is only up to God to decide to raise us or not.

For people who believe in the immortality of the soul Easter is just an asterisk in their minds. Easter is a way of saying that all people are immortal and will never die. But that is not what the Church tries to teach us and it is not the truth about who we are as human beings.

But if we really embrace the clear reality that when we die we die completely, and that we are dead as a doornail—100 percent, and nothing in us goes marching on forever, then we put ourselves in a position to hear with clarity the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus' Resurrection. If we understand that, we can begin to realize that Jesus' Resurrection is totally unnatural and absolutely extraordinary. His resurrection is not only good news, it is wonderful news. That is why we sing "alleluia" until we are exhausted. We really have something to celebrate. And that something is what God has done for Jesus and for us.

So shout and yell and laugh and party because our enemy death has been trampled down and defeated by the Resurrection of Jesus.

Father Miller

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 13 (Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday)

Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist 10: a.m.

Wednesday, April 16

Stations of the Cross
5:30 p.m.

Lenten Potluck and Study Group 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 17 (Maundy Thursday)

Holy Eucharist and Stripping of Altar 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 18 (Good Friday)

Liturgy of the Day
12 noon

Stations of the Cross
5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 20 (Easter Day)

Holy Eucharist 10: a.m.

Crosslines News

Special needs for April are sugar, pancake mix and syrup, Pop Tarts and kid friendly foods

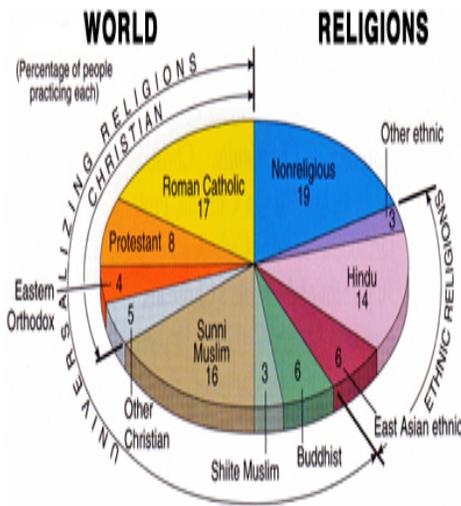
Crosslines will be sponsoring a hunger walk on May 7. Details to be announced at a later date.

During the past month, Crosslines has assisted 563 Laclede County families which includes 1,569 individuals.

Bill Danek

Geography of Religion 101

World Distribution of



About three-fourths of the world's population professes one of the four largest religions:

1. *Christianity* with 35% mostly in Europe and the Americas;

2. *Islam* with 19% in northern Africa and southern Asia;
3. *Hinduism* with 14% in India;
4. *Buddhism* with 6% in eastern and southeastern Asia

About 6% profess one of the ethnic religions of Japan, China, and Korea.

About 3% profess an ethnic religion of another world region such as the Jews of Israel and the Animists of Africa.

19% of the world remains non-religious or atheist.

Some of the ethnic religious adherents also profess a belief in one of the universalizing religions: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Sikhism.

Submitted by David Daniels

*Part of this article was omitted in the March newsletter due to editor error.

Religion in US Geography
(based upon information in **CS Monitor**, February 2014 edition)

Your religion is strongly associated with the place where you live. Most likely with a

slight majority, you are Protestant. But the nonreligious are rapidly increasing in number.

If people are Protestant, they're more likely to live in the South. The 10 states with about 3/4 of the people identifying as Protestant are below the Mason-Dixon line. Mississippi has the highest percentage of people that are "very religious" at 6%.with Alabama, Louisiana, and South Carolina not far behind.

Catholics probably live in the Northeast or Southwest. Seven of the ten most-Catholic states are in the Northeast – although California and New Mexico, with heavily Hispanic populations, have large numbers of Catholics as well.

Jewish people are likely located in the Mid-Atlantic, New England, or the District of Columbia. The New England states are also known to have the largest proportion of not very religious people (22%).

Mormons are most likely live in Utah or Idaho. 6 % of Utah Mormons think of themselves as very religious.

An increasingly large (30%) of the youthful US population think of themselves as spiritual but not religious and are unaffiliated with churches. The "unchurched" include about 60% of Democratic Party members who profess political liberalism. The federal representatives of the US are losing their Protestant dominance to a rising number of Catholics. We now have Buddhists and Muslims among our federal leadership.

Submitted by David Daniels

Youth Happenings

In Diocesan Youth news, Happening #69 took place a couple weeks ago to great success. Father. Jerry served as the Spiritual Director and exceeded our high expectations. It was wonderful to have a priest able to spend time with the youth (and adults) all weekend and share both in sacramental and education roles. Several youth shared with me that they found Father. Jerry to be "really funny" and "great to have around." I was impressed, as I so often am, at this retreat weekend that is led mostly by youth. It was a great time to grow spiritually and in community with each other.

The Junior High Retreat and the spring meeting of the Youth Ministry Commission are on the calendar for April.

Amanda Perschall

Altar Guild News

The Altar Guild is requesting donations of money to purchase palm branches for Palm Sunday and to purchase lilies to decorate for Easter. Checks of any amount will be gratefully accepted. Please make out your donation to the church and either put it in the offering plate or give to Treasurer, Patti Brayfield. Please make a note it is for the flower fund. If you want to give in memory of a loved one please note that on the flower calendar on the bulletin board. The Altar Guild will be cleaning brass and silver before Easter. We plan to clean Tuesday, April 8 at 1:00 p.m. This is not limited to the Altar Guild. Any member of Trinity is welcome to lend their "elbow grease" to this task.

Karen Miller

Ordination of Laura Hughes

On May 3, 2014, at Christ Church in Springfield, Laura Hughes will be ordained to the diaconate. It would be a nice tribute to Laura if a group from Trinity would attend to witness this wonderful event, not only in Laura's life, but in the life of

Trinity. We have been blessed to have her at Trinity. So, plan to attend the ordination if you can.

Karen Miller

In Memoriam

The Trinity Church Family extend their sympathy and prayers to Peggy Graydon and her family at the death of her father, Hilmar Carl Dittmer on March 24, 2014, in Hamilton, Texas.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Dana Heard, a member of Trinity Episcopal Church who recently passed away.

Articles for the Newsletter

Articles for the Trinity Tidings Newsletter may be emailed to Bonnie Daniels, editor at bonnieraydaniels@centurylink.net. If you do not have email access, we will also accept paper submissions.