



# Rejoice

118 North Washington Street ✕ Alexandria, VA 22314  
www.HistoricChristChurch.org ✕ March 2010



CHRIS NEWTON PHOTO

On February 20, the Christ Church youth raised more than \$4,000 at the Bid, Banquet, & Boogie fundraiser for their summer pilgrimage to New York City. Pictured from left at the event are Kelly Danver, Ashley Esquivel, Ariane Jaffe, Gus McMillan, and Andy Baker.

## Two Fine Actors Bring a Conversation about Race and Racism, March 14

By the Rev. Ann Gillespie

There's no getting around it. If you are in one of the Lenten *Five Weeks With Flannery* groups or are reading the Flannery O'Connor short stories on your own, there are a number of opportunities to feel discomfort with some of O'Connor's racist language. To encourage open dialogue about this language, we have invited actors, Jeff Allin and Craig Wallace, to come to Christ Church to perform a scene from the recent Roundhouse Theater production of *Permanent Collection*, and to talk about their experience of working on a show that sets out to expose the subtleties of racism in the art world.



CLINTON BRANDHAGEN PHOTO

*Permanent Collection* focuses on two high level members of a museum's staff as they engage in a racially charged battle over the display of African sculpture. The museum had flourished long and quietly under the guidance of the foundation's education director (played by Allin). When its new African-American director (played by Wallace) discovers African sculptures in storage and proposes to add them to the public

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## From Procession to the Paschal Lamb: Walk With Us to Easter

By the Rev. Ann Gillespie

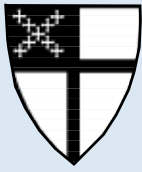
### Palm Sunday: Processions Abound

At the 9:00 AM service, we will begin our service in Market Square along with the congregations from St. Paul's and Meade Memorial Church. Join us at the church at 8:45 AM on March 28 and we'll walk down together or meet us at Market Square.

**Palm Sunday** or Sunday of the Passion begins our last week of Lent. In Holy Week, we walk liturgically with Jesus through the last week of his life. The liturgy for Palm Sunday begins with a procession that commemorates Jesus' triumphal arrival into Jerusalem. The Book of Common Prayer says the people gather when possible "at a place apart from the church." Three Episcopal congregations will meet in the center of Old Town, Alexandria. We will do a shared liturgy of blessing the palms. Then we will process up King Street to our respective churches waving palms and ringing bells. At the 11:15 AM service, we will begin in the courtyard and process, with palms waving and

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Look for details on two new services—a new Holy Saturday Service and a new Family Easter Service. See page 5 for details on the new Holy Saturday Service and page 8 for details on the new Family Service.



*Rejoice* is the official monthly publication of Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia, a parish in the Diocese of Virginia.

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston  
Thirteenth Bishop of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones  
Bishop Suffragan

**Vestry**

Rawles Jones, Senior Warden  
Liz Rudolph, Junior Warden  
Jim Totten, Treasurer  
Janet Beckmann, Jeff Dienno,  
Paula Dubberly, Rodney Fisher,  
Russell George, Elaine Ho,  
Laura Humphrey, Bob Thomson,  
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**Clergy**

The Rev. Pierce W. Klemmt, Rector  
The Rev. Ann Gillespie, Associate Rector  
for Worship & Pastoral Care

The Rev. Erika Takacs  
Associate Rector for  
Faith Formation & Evangelism

The Rt. Rev. Jane Holmes Dixon,  
Director of Foundations for  
Spiritual Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Diane G. Murphy,  
Priest Associate  
M. Jason Abel,  
Director of Music

**Clergy Residents**

*As a teaching congregation, Christ Church offers experience in ministry and mentoring, as well as support by its members in developing the spiritual leadership of these residents:*

The Rev. Jared Cramer  
The Rev. Nick Myers  
The Rev. Justi Schunior  
The Rev. Kim Seidman

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever they are and wherever they find themselves on their journeys of faith.

## Choirs Offer Variety of Special Music

By M. Jason Abel, Director of Music

Please join us for Choral Evening on Sunday, March 7. Dr. Kyle Babin, Director of Music at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD, will offer a 20-minute prelude/recital beginning at 4:40 PM and the service starts at 5:00 PM. Dr. Babin will then accompany the Christ Church choir for Choral Evening featuring works of Herbert Summison, Herbert Howells, and Philip Radcliffe. A wine and cheese reception will follow the service.

We will have a Lenten Taizé service on Wednesday, March 3, at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium. This meditative

service features simple songs sung repeatedly. The generous acoustics and open layout of the Auditorium provide a wonderful setting for this worship. Allow yourself to enter into communication with God through calm silence, simple music, and the beauty of hundreds of candles. The service lasts approximately 30 minutes. All are welcome to attend.

On March 28, Palm Sunday, the Christ Church Choir will offer a reflective Meditation on the Passion through music and art at 5:00 PM. The choir will sing a number of anthems, interspersed with readings and hymns, designed to help us enter into Holy Week.

## Jared Prepares for His Next Call—Back Home to Michigan

By the Rev. Jared C. Cramer

I have been called as the next Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven, Michigan.



Though I was not raised Episcopalian, I did grow up in Grand Haven and I am excited about my transition to serve that community as their priest.

I will finish my time here at Christ Church at the end of June, and then my wife, Bethany, and I will move to Western Michigan to begin the next phase of our life.

We are grateful for all the warmth and support we've received from Christ Church during these initial years of my ordained ministry. This parish will always have a special place in my heart.

If you're looking for a great July vacation, perhaps I'll see you in Grand Haven for my installation.



BETSY THOMPSON PHOTO

Children's Club at HIV/AIDS clinic at Mengo Hospital. Christ Church has been involved with Mengo for more than 27 years.

## Committee Plans May Visit to Mengo

Friends of Mengo Hospital are planning a mission trip from May 10 to 22 to the hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Our activities will be focused on the HIV/AIDS clinic. If you are interested in learning more about the trip, please contact Betsy Thompson at [cookthompson@gmail.com](mailto:cookthompson@gmail.com).

# WALK LENT WITH US: THE LABYRINTH AS LENTEN JOURNEY

By the Rev. Ann Gillespie  
Priest-in-Charge

Perhaps you have noticed in our Lenten banners the image of people walking a labyrinth. A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path.

Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. Prehistoric labyrinths are believed to have served as traps for malevolent spirits or as defined paths for ritual dances. In medieval times, the labyrinth symbolized a hard path to God with a clearly defined center, God, and one entrance, birth.

Labyrinths also have been thought of as symbolic forms of pilgrimage; people can walk the path, ascending toward salvation or enlightenment. Many people who could not afford to travel to holy sites and lands, have used labyrinths and prayer as substitutes for pilgrimage. Labyrinths are used by modern mystics to help achieve a contemplative state. Walking among the turnings, one loses track of direction and of the outside world, and thus quiets the mind.

When I have walked labyrinths, I am always surprised that it takes as long as it does and that I can never really see the way ahead. But I keep taking step after step and somehow I end up in the center.

A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze is like a puzzle to be solved. It has blind alleys and choices to be made at certain crossroads. A labyrinth has only one path. The way in is the way out. There are no blind alleys. The single path leads on a circuitous journey to the center and out again. With a labyrinth there is only one choice to be made. The choice is to enter or not.



A labyrinth, then, strikes me as a powerful metaphor for a Lenten journey, the way of the cross. The journey may seem circuitous, but there is no getting to Easter without first going through Good Friday. At the foot of the cross we encounter both

our complicity in the crucifixion of our Lord and our redemption and salvation through his resurrection.



CRAIG KEITH PHOTO

Our gospels tell the story of Jesus making his way towards Jerusalem and the cross from the moment he is born. Even the human Jesus wishes to reverse the inevitable: “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me,” Jesus pleads with God in the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing full well the answer. “Yet not what I want but what you want.” Jesus knows the only way out is the way in.

Like the labyrinth, the only way in is the way out.

Perhaps you have walked yourself into a Lenten small group, reading and reflecting on the complicated and dark stories of Flannery O’Connor. Perhaps you will walk yourself into our Liturgy of Loss service on Sunday, March 14 at 5:00 PM. Often the only way past our pain in grieving the loss of a loved one is to go right to the center of it and find God there waiting for you.

Perhaps on Palm Sunday at 9:00 AM, you will walk yourself down to Market Square where we will join with St. Paul’s and Meade Memorial churches in a procession commemo-

rating Jesus’ triumphant ride into Jerusalem. Perhaps you will walk the labyrinth here at Christ Church on a Sunday evening through March 21 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the Auditorium, or in McMurray Commons during the hours of 12:00 NOON to 3:00 PM on Good Friday, the hours Jesus hung on the cross.

A labyrinth is a symbol with which we can have a tangible experience. We can walk it. The choice is whether or not to walk Lent with us and encounter God at the center. The choice is whether or not to walk with our Lord to the foot of the cross. The choice is whether or not to begin a journey that will change your life.



KIRSTI THOMAS PHOTO

The Rev. Pierce Klemmt walks away from Christ Church as he begins his sabbatical on the first of February. Snow first fell very softly on our rector as he walked along the church path and then fell unrelentingly until more than 20 inches covered the ground. The snow provided the entire parish with a sabbatical experience parallel to the rector’s during his first week away.









