

April 2016

We Are All Jews Now

The Old Testament is a book about Jesus. It is not a book about some other god who is much angrier and scarier than the Christian God. From beginning to end, it is about Jesus. It was Jesus who spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. It was Jesus who broke bread with Abraham. Jesus led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. Jesus called down fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Jesus and Yahweh are one and the same. If the God of the Old Testament scares you, then you are afraid of Jesus. If the morality of the Old Testament God offends you, then you should never claim that Jesus is a great moral teacher.

Our Lord Jesus is very clear that the Old Testament is about Him. “Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). The story of salvation that we find in Holy Scripture is not something that begins in Bethlehem. It begins at the very beginning, with creation and with the fall. God begins His great work of saving us right from the moment we first reject Him in the garden. He says to Satan, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15). This is the first time the promise of salvation is given. The seed of the woman is Christ. It will be a long journey, but salvation is coming. God planned on rescuing us from day one.

To say that the Old Testament is about Jesus is not to denigrate Judaism. On the contrary, Jesus was a Jew. But more than that, Jesus was the embodiment of Israel. God chose the people of Israel to be His ambassadors to bear witness to Him. Jesus is the fulfillment of that calling, revealing in Himself the truth about God to the world. All the promises of the Old Testament are promises that find their fulfillment in Jesus. The descendants of Abraham were promised land (Genesis 15:18-21). Jesus is that land. He is that promise fulfilled. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:21-24). It was never about a piece of property. It was about God reclaiming the world through His own great sacrifice out of love.

And we, in turn, are more than mere bystanders. We are Jews too, whether we are linked to Judaism by ethnic heritage or not. The great gift of Easter is that we who were not born a part of Israel are able to become part of Israel by faith. Jesus *is* Israel, and by faith we are one with Him. We are the chosen people, those set aside for salvation. When by faith we are brought into Israel, we accept all that comes with that, including suffering and hardship. But what we receive is far greater. It is the love of God poured out for us and upon us. What we receive is meaning and purpose for our lives. What we receive is hope. And all of that has been available from that moment in the Garden when God set His plan in motion to rescue us, because the God of the Old Testament is Jesus, and in Him alone we are healed.

In His Mercy,

Fr. Jonathan



MOTHERS' HOME

Welcome Bags for the Mother's Home – Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the **Mother's Home Welcome Bags**. On March 13, we assembled 20 bags including donated toiletries and journals and pens purchased by the Women of Holy Comforter. With your support we continue our long-standing tradition of helping welcome new residents to the Mother's Home in Darby.

Save the date for our next dinner at the Mother's Home which will be a **Mother's Day Dinner on Monday, May 16 (new date) at 6 p.m.** As the date approaches, we will ask for contributions for the dinner and participants to attend the dinner.



The Executive Director extends her appreciation for our efforts when she writes "I can't thank you enough for what you do for our residents at the Mother's Home!"

Questions about this parish-wide outreach, contact Barbara Wilson.



Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
AND NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

Our Mission

As Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, we believe God calls us to be a sign in the world of the power of the Eucharistic Christ to effect unity and community among all peoples.

Instead of having a book discussion/lunch on **Saturday, April 23**, we are going to **visit the National Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel in Bensalem, PA.** Last Fall, we read "Meet Katharine Drexel: Heiress and God's Servant of the Oppressed" by Mary van Balen Holt. Saint Katharine Drexel has an extraordinary story of going from "riches to rags" in her journey to serve the poor.

At the National Shrine, we will have the opportunity to watch a presentation about this local Saint's life, visit her tomb, chapel, exhibits and gift shop. We will carpool from Holy Comforter. **We will leave at 10 a.m. and return by about 3 p.m.** You can bring your lunch or there are options to buy lunch there. It is not necessary to have read the book to participate.

Men and women are welcome. See sign-up sheet in the Upper Parish Hall.
Questions, contact Barbie Swartz.

Souvenir Roof Tiles

On Sundays, April 3 & 10, "Through the Roof" Capital Campaign Co-Chairs, Jack Davis and Barb Irving, are planning to display and distribute 28 souvenir slate tiles, which were removed from Holy Comforter's original roof, to the top donors who have contributed \$2,000 or more to the project.

The tiles are most attractively printed with a white on black version of the familiar black on white line drawing of the Church. Eligible recipients will be notified individually during the coming week. If you are eligible but do not want a souvenir tile, please let Jack or Barb know so that other donors may become eligible.

Annual Ladies' Tea



Sunday, May 1, 2016

*11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Upper Parish Hall
Girls and Women of All Ages Welcome*

Guest Speakers

from Upper Darby Community Outreach Corporation

- ❖ Rachel Rugh, After School Program Director*
- ❖ Jayme Worthington, Administrative Assistant*

Please join us for this lively annual tradition!

United Thank Offering (UTO) is Celebrating It's 125th Anniversary

What is UTO?: It is a ministry of the Episcopal Church. Through the UTO, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving thanks to God. We recognize and name our many daily blessings. A short prayer of thanksgiving leads to an offering in the United Thank Offering box. All offerings are used to support grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church.

How is the UTO received?: As each church hold an ingathering twice a year during the spring and fall. Holy Comforter usually collects our offerings on the 1st. Sunday in May and the Sunday closest to All Saint's Day in November.

How is our offering joined with others?: We send our monies to the Diocesan Coordinator who records our offering and forwards it to the National UTO Offering in New York. In New York, these monies are immediately put to work earning interest. Both the principle and interest are used for grants.

A little background history: As part of missionary efforts of the Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Missionary, authorized by General Convention in 1871. The first official UTO offering was held in 1889. The money was used to send a woman missionary to Japan and to build a church in Anvik, Alaska. Other examples through the years include: funding women missionaries; training and appointing women workers, including their pension funds; building loan funds; scholarships for women; major funding for overseas missionary dioceses; and overseas development funds. Current grants have funded: In Maryland, \$20,000 to the Diocese of Maryland to hire an educational consultant to develop a Life Skills Workshop Curriculum for the Advocates for Homeless Families in Frederick. In New Jersey, \$23,000 to the Diocese of New Jersey for repairs and replacements to St. Thomas Episcopal Church's preschool, in Red Bank, leading to a certificate of occupancy and a healthy, safe environment for children and staff. The Diocese of Rochester, in New York, used \$39,980 for St. Stephen's Sunday Supper Kitchen Renovation. Also in New York, the Diocese of Western New York, used \$24,980 to install a wheelchair lift in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in Springville. In Pennsylvania, 3 recent grants were provided: \$25,000 to the Diocese of Bethlehem for equipment for a newly renovated kitchen for Trinity Episcopal Church's Lunch Program, in Easton. \$15,000 to our diocese to expand the Community Outreach Partnership's Communicare program, which provides trained volunteer support to elders whose quality of life suffers due to their fragile health and/or social isolation. Lastly, \$7,000 to the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania for the purchase of a fence to provide outdoor play space for Youth Summer Program and preschool at St. John's Episcopal Church, Carlisle. There have been many Companion Diocese Grants where a grant is given to a diocese to help another country. Many dioceses obtained grants to help Haiti in 2010. UTO, also, has given international grants. In Burundi, \$63,184.19 was given to the Anglican Church of Burundi toward the 3rd phase of a multipurpose center to accommodate visitors and church programs and foster efforts of the growing Anglican Church of Burundi to be self-sustaining.

Now, what can Holy Comforter help this wonderful gift the Episcopal Church provides. Our fall 2015 offering yielded 305.00; this pleased me immensely! BUT, I feel we can do better. In the past, we have used the UTO envelopes where you have put in cash or a check. You weren't given a chance to pray about the dollar amount you would want to give. This year, on Sunday, May 1st, I will provide you with an UTO box. From May 1st. until the fall offering in November, I am challenging you to prayerfully, throughout the day, to put a coin or two in the box for each thing you are thankful for. As Joanne Christopher suggested a \$1.00, \$5.00. or \$10.00 bill will do , also.

Although, this is a women's project, we will honor men and children's boxes; make it a family affair! You can pick up your box, on May 1st, at the back of the church and at the Women's Tea on that same day. Let's out-do last year's \$305.00!

Thank you in advance.

Barbie Swartz, UTO Coordinator



Church of the Holy Comforter Calendar of Events ~ April 2016

Friday, April 1

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Sunday, April 3

7:15am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

Monday, April 4

9:30am Morning Prayer

11:00am **Women's Brown Bag and Prayer**

5:00pm Evensong

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Wednesday, April 6

10:00am Healing Eucharist

5:00pm Evensong

Thursday, April 7

9:30am Morning Prayer

7:30pm Choir

Friday, April 8

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Sunday, April 10: Music Sunday

7:15am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

11:30am **Womens' Group Meeting**

Monday, April 11

9:30am Morning Prayer

5:00pm Evensong

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Wednesday, April 13

10:00am Healing Eucharist

5:00pm Evensong

Thursday, April 14

9:30am Morning Prayer

7:30pm Choir

Friday, April 15

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Sunday, April 17

7:15am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

11:30am Bible Study

Monday, April 18

9:30am Morning Prayer

11:00am **Women's Brown Bag and Prayer**

5:00pm Evensong

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 19

7:15pm **Vestry Meeting**

Wednesday, April 20

10:00am Healing Eucharist

5:00pm Evensong

Thursday, April 21

9:30am Morning Prayer

7:30pm Choir

Friday, April 22

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Saturday, April 23

12:00pm **Trip to St Kathryn Drexel Shrine**

Sunday, April 24

7:15am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

11:30am **Delaware County Abuse Project
Presentation**

Monday, April 25

9:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am **Mass for the Feast of Saint Mark**

5:00pm Evensong

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Wednesday, April 27

10:00am Healing Eucharist

5:00pm Evensong

Thursday, April 28

9:30am Morning Prayer

7:30pm Choir

Friday, April 29

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Saturday, April 30

9:00am **Women's Tea Set-Up and Plant Sale**

~ **HAPPY SPRING!** ~

SPECIAL DATES ~ FIRST WEEK OF MAY

Sunday, May 1

11:30 a.m.

Women's Annual Tea

Monday, May 2

11:00 a.m.

Women's Brown Bag and Prayer

Thursday, May 5

6:30 p.m.

**Ascension Holy Eucharist
& Pot Luck Supper**

***Women of the Church of the Holy Comforter
Annual Spring Fundraiser Plant Sale***



March 13 - April 17

Plants will be Available for Pick Up on April 30

*Potted Geraniums, a Variety of Hanging Baskets
and Flats from Wedgewood Gardens.*

Plant Order Form on next page.

**Completed forms and payment deadline
is Sunday, April 17.**

Thank you for your support.

Questions, contact Barbara Wilson

Women of Holy Comforter

Plant Sale to Benefit Our Selected Missions

Geraniums

- ❖ 4 ½ " pot, \$5.00
 - ❖ 7 " pot, \$12.00
- colors: pink, red, salmon, violet, white

If there is something else you want, please ask and we will see if it is available. There are many more choices on Wedgewood Garden's plant list.

Hanging Baskets

- ❖ 8 " flowering baskets \$16.00
- varieties: ivy geraniums (purple, pink, red), new guinea impatiens (pink, lavender, red, white, salmon), petunias (purple, pink, blue, red, salmon), scaevola (blue)
- ❖ 10" flowering baskets \$22.00
- varieties: ivy geraniums (purple, pink, red, lavender), fuchsia (Dark Eyes, Swingtime), cascade petunias (blue, pink, red, salmon, purple), scaevola (blue), lantana (pink, red, yellow)

Flats \$22.00

- ❖ Impatiens (lavender, pink, red, salmon, violet, white, orange, mix)
- ❖ Petunias (dark blue, neon rose, pink, red, white, yellow, lavender)
- ❖ Marigolds (dwarf yellow, tangerine, two tone, large yellow)
- ❖ Vinca (lavender, pink, red, white, purple, mix)
- ❖ Begonias (bronze or green leaf) (pink, red, or white)
- ❖ Coleus (wizard mix)
- ❖ Dusty Miller (silverdust)
- ❖ Alyssum (violet or white)
- ❖ Snapdragons (mix)
- ❖ Zinnias (profusion mix, Cut and Come Again, State Fair)

Your Name _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Type/Description	Color *	Quantity	Total Amount Due
SAMPLE 8" basket ivy geranium	pink	2	\$32.00

* Color substitutions may be necessary

Total Amount due: _____ (check payable to Women of Holy Comforter)

Return form and payment by no later than Sunday, April 17. Thank you!