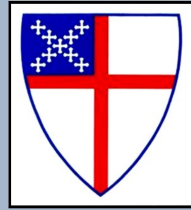


# The Builder

## Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church  
(540) 672-3761  
Rector: The Rev. Dr. Lin Hutton



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Editor: Ann Wood

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Issue No. 3

### From the Pastor

I once heard a story about a Toddler who managed to “Buy a Car” on eBay, with her Father’s Smartphone. Apparently a 14-month-old little girl was playing with her father’s Smartphone: tapping keys, enjoying the sights, sounds and colors that the phone produced and she inadvertently purchased an automobile.

At some point, she hit the key that put her onto the eBay online auction app. She continued tapping and suddenly, her father was the proud owner of a “gently used” 1962 Austin-Healy Sprite. Happily, the cost was not exorbitant, just \$225. The car, it turned out, needed major repair work. “It comes with two engines,” her mother said. “They’re both in the back seat.” Her father said that he hoped to have the car fixed up and drivable by the time that his daughter is 16. Given its state of disrepair – the car’s former owners named it “Frankensprite” – he may well need all that time.

All of which leads me to some thoughts on prayer. St. Paul says; *“The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God”* (Romans 8:27-28). In other words, prayer is beyond us, as incomprehensible to us as a Smartphone to little girl. Oh, we do our best: “hitting the keys,” so to speak, praying with our own words or the words generated over the centuries in resources like the Book of Common Prayer. But do we really know how it works? Do we understand how human words can touch the heart of God? Do we comprehend the process by which the Lord of the Universe takes the prayers of, quite literally, billions of Christians and deals with them? Of course not, and I’m not even sure we’re supposed to.

Rather, St. Paul tells us that when we pray, God does a miracle. God takes our inarticulate groans and “translates” them, so to speak. Our poor human words become, in a way beyond our grasp, part of the infrastructure by which God accomplishes his purposes. We say the words (or, sometimes even better, simply sit in silence). That’s a good thing. We do our part. Then the Spirit works in us.

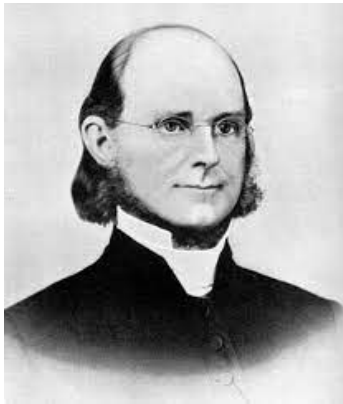
The collects of the long season following the Feast of Pentecost – provide extraordinary reflections on the nature of prayer. For example: *“Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”* We don’t know what we’re doing. But that’s fine. Jesus yearns for us to pray through him to the Father. Jesus will take care of the rest.

With blessings and best wishes for Easter refreshment,

*Pastor Lin +*

## *For All the Saints...*

### **James Lloyd Breck, Priest & Missionary, 1876 ~ April 2**



James Lloyd Breck was one of the most important missionaries of the Episcopal Church in the nineteenth century. He was called “The Apostle of the Wilderness.”

Breck was born in Philadelphia in 1818, and like many important Churchmen of his time, was greatly influenced by the pastoral devotion, liturgical concern, and sacramental emphasis of William Augustus Muhlenberg. Breck attended Muhlenberg’s school in Flushing, New York, before entering the University of Pennsylvania. Muhlenberg inspired him, when he was sixteen years old, to dedicate himself to a missionary life. The dedication was crystallized when Breck, with three other classmates from the General Theological Seminary, founded a religious community at Nashotah, Wisconsin, which in 1844 was on the frontier.

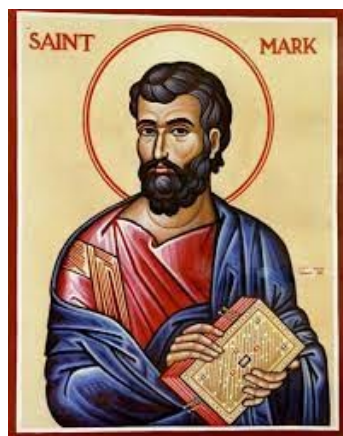
Nashotah became a center of liturgical observance, of pastoral care, and of education. Isolated families were visited, mission stations established, and, probably for the first time since the Revolution, Episcopal missionaries were the first to reach the settlers.

Though Nashotah House flourished and became one of the seminaries of the Episcopal Church, the “religious house” ideal did not. Breck moved on to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he began the work of the Episcopal Church. At Gull Lake, he organized St. Columba’s Mission for the Chippewa. It laid the foundation for work among the Indians by their own native priests, although the mission itself did not survive.

In 1855, Breck married, and in 1858 settled in Faribault, Minnesota, where his mission was associated with one of the first cathedrals established in the Episcopal Church in the United States. He also founded Seabury Divinity School, which later merged with Western Theological Seminary, to become Seabury-Western. In 1867, Breck continued his movement west with the settlers and pioneers, ending his travels in California where he founded five parishes which continue faithfully to this day.

In 1876, Breck died prematurely at age 55, yet he founded numerous successful churches, two seminaries, brought the gospel to countless pioneers and Native Americans, and opened the door to the priesthood for Native Americans.

### **Saint Mark the Evangelist ~ April 25**



A disciple of Jesus, named Mark, appears in several places in the New Testament. If they all refer to the same person, we learn that Mark was the son of a woman who owned a house in Jerusalem, possibly the house in which Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples. Mark may have been the young man who fled naked when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul refers to “Mark the cousin of Barnabas,” who was with him in his imprisonment. Mark set out with Paul and Barnabas on Paul’s First Missionary journey but for an unknown reason turned back which caused a temporary rift with Paul (Acts 15:36-40). As a result, Paul refused to take Mark on his Second Missionary Journey, so Mark went with his cousin Barnabas to Cyprus instead. Mark’s relationship with Paul healed and Mark became one of Paul’s companions in Rome, as well as a close friend of Peter’s.

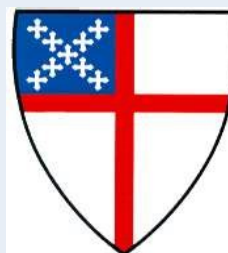
A very early tradition of the Church, recorded by Papias, Bishop of Hieropolis at the beginning of the second century, names Mark as the author of the gospel bearing his name. This generally accepted tradition holds that Mark drew his information from the teaching of Peter. In fact, in his First Letter, Peter refers to “my son Mark,” which indicates a close relationship between the two men. (*1 Peter 5:13*)

The Church in Alexandria Egypt claimed Mark as its first bishop and most illustrious martyr. The great Church of St. Mark in Venice commemorates the disciple who progressed from turning his back while on a missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas to proclaiming in his Gospel: “Jesus of Nazareth as Son of God,” and bearing witness to that faith in his later life as friend and companion to the apostles Peter and Paul.

St. Mark the Evangelist is traditionally depicted symbolically as a Lion with Wings on its back.

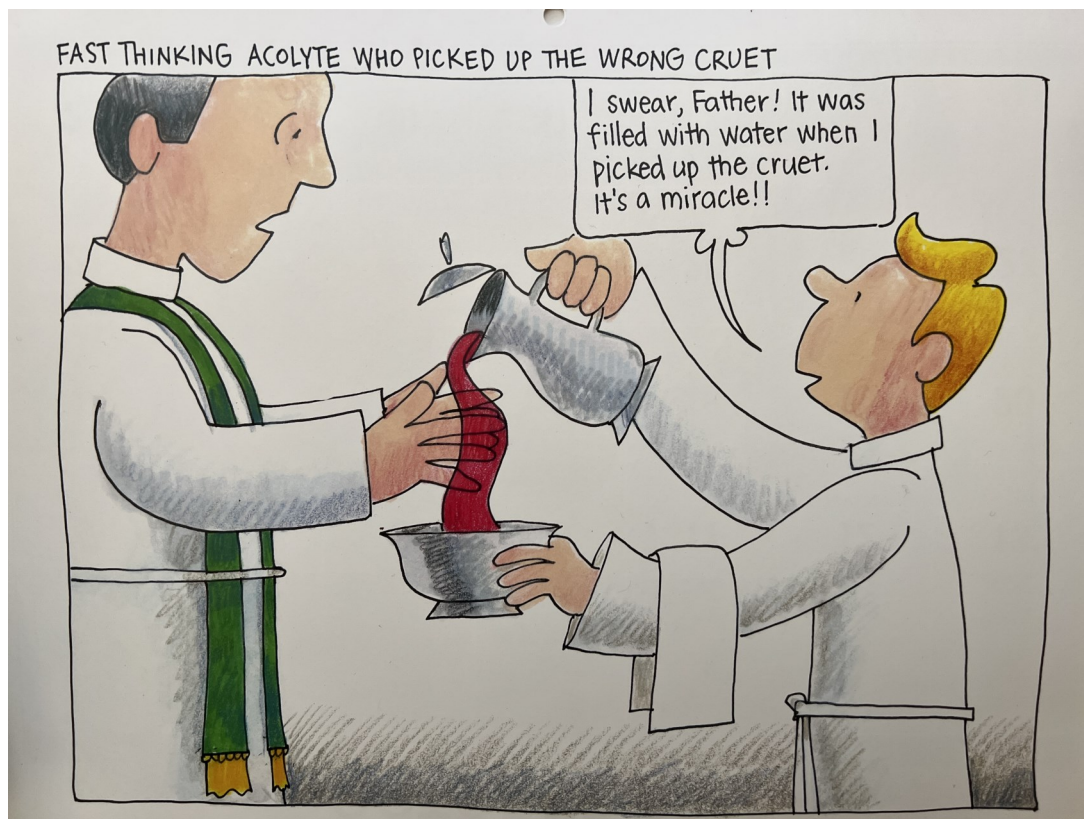
### MORE, “101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian”—

**Reason # 3:** “I became an Episcopalian because of an invitation in a Sunday bulletin: “All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord’s Table.” The state of my life, my marriage, my lostness didn’t matter. I responded to a community’s magnanimity of spirit. Through them I learned of God’s abiding love affair with us through the Risen Christ in whom we live and move and have our being.” *The Rev. Jessica A. Hatch, Diocese of Utah*



**Reason # 90:** “Episcopalians don’t tend to be demonstrative, no one expects you to shout Amen or Halleluiah! On the other hand, it’s OK if you do.” *Donna H. Barthle, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania*

### April Cartoon



Thank you

Thank You to Everyone Who Assisted with our Wednesday Night Lenten Program on The Book of Ruth!

Great Food, Great Friendships, Great Learning about God's Care for us and what it means to have a "Kinsman Redeemer."

**HOLY WEEK**



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

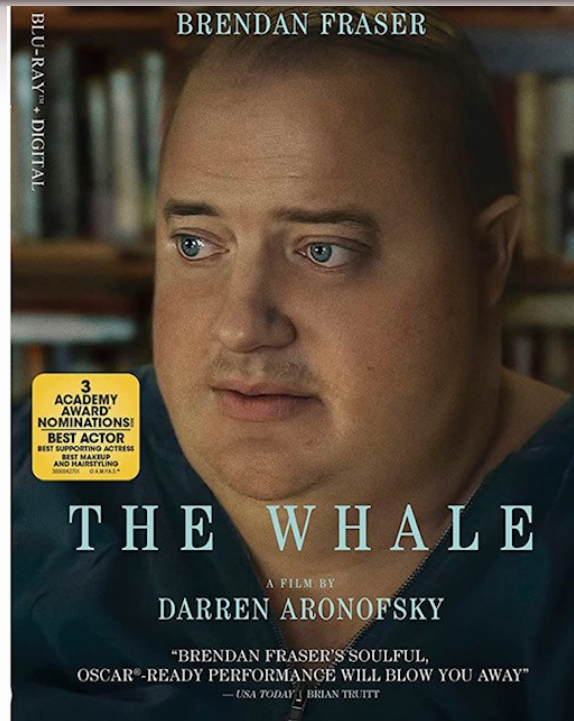
Our Holy Week Schedule

[April 2-9]

<b>Monday:</b>	Evening Prayer	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Evening Prayer	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Evening Prayer	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b><u>Maundy Thursday</u></b>	
	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
	Foot Washing	
	<i>WATCH in Chapel</i>	<i>7 p.m. – 7 a.m.</i>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b><u>Good Friday</u></b>	
	Celtic Way of the Cross	Noon
	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>EASTER:</b>	<b><u>Sunday of the Resurrection</u></b>	
	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>



**NOW SHOWING**



Idaho, 2016. Scarred by the profound wounds of grief and guilt, couch bound Charlie, an online writing instructor living with chronic obesity, now has a crystal-clear view of his secret intentions. And confined to his claustrophobic and musty apartment, the self-destructive shut-in has all the time in the world to contemplate the damaging faults of the past, fatherhood, and reconciliation. Because, more than anything, flawed Charlie longs for communication and reconnection. After all, he hasn't spoken to his estranged, angry teenage daughter Ellie in years. But everyone knows whales don't live in the shallows. Can love and forgiveness wipe away the tears and the painful mistakes of a lifetime? Starring Brendan Fraser, Sadie Sink, Hong Chau, Ty Simpkins, and Samantha Morton, this film has numerous nominations and won two Oscars. ~IMDB



**Friday, April 28th at 7pm in Robertson Hall**

**~ cost of admission is one non-perishable food item ~**



# April 2023

## St. Thomas Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 The Sunday of the Passion: <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	3 Evening Prayer 6 pm	4 Evening Prayer 6 pm	5 Evening Prayer 6 pm	6 Maundy Thursday 6 pm Holy Communion Foot Washing Chapel Watch 7:30 pm - 7 am	7 Good Friday Celtic Way of the Cross Noon Holy Communion 6 pm	8
9 <i>The Sunday of the Resurrection:</i> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 8:00 am HE Rite I 10:15 am HE Rite II 	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i>  8:00 am HE Rite I 10:15 am HE Rite II and vestry commissioning	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>The Third Sunday of Easter</i>  8:00 am HE Rite I 10:15 am HE Rite II	24 <i>Newsletter items due</i> 	25	26	27 5:30 pm  <b>Vestry Meeting</b>	28  Movie night 7:p.m.	29
30 <i>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>  8:00 am HE Rite I 10:15 am HE Rite II						



**~Birthdays~**

- 04/07 Lexie Rogers
- 04/08 Claire Yowell
- 04/17 Jamieson Floyd
- 04/17 Raymond Palmer
- 04/30 Elliot Robinson

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
 the Lord make his face shine upon you and be  
 gracious to you;  
 the Lord turn his face toward you and give  
 you peace.*



***Food Pantry***

Special request for April is **cake mix, frosting, and brownie mix**. All food items and cash gifts are always welcome and appreciated. You can drop off donations at the Love Outreach Food Pantry each Tuesday from 9:00-10:30 and on Wednesday from 8:30-12:00. Their mailing address is: Love Outreach Food Pantry, Inc., P.O. Box 788, Orange, 22960. You may also bring any donations to the church to be delivered.



***Prayer List***

**We pray especially for our church's leadership:**

Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop; Mark, Gayle, David and Ted, bishops for this diocese

Our country: President Joe, Vice President Kamala, & Governor Glenn

For the men and women in our armed forces serving our nation around the world.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

**For:** Terrell, Margaret, Harriet, Ellen, William, Susan, Casey, Bev, Aubrey Elaine, Heather Charlie, Lynne, Lola, Keith, Kevin Carroll, Susie, Sarah, Julie, Marty, Lesley, and Carl

Want to add something to The Builder? Contact Ann Wood at [annwood304@gmail.com](mailto:annwood304@gmail.com) by April 24, 2023 with your information!

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
**119 Caroline Street**  
**Orange, VA 22960**

**April 2023**

