



# The Messenger

## April 2023

### *Easter Schedule*

Maundy Thursday, April 6th  
Agapé Meal to follow  
6:00pm

Good Friday, April 7th  
12:15pm

Easter Vigil, April 8th  
7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 9th  
9:00am

## Rector's Message

Spring has sprung...or so my calendar tells me. However, some of my perennials started coming up in late February, and the kids and I built a snowman in mid-March, so you can understand my confusion. Frankly, with how sporadically temperatures and snow availability changed, leaving me unable to partake in my usual outdoor seasonal recreation, I am not all that convinced winter ever came.

Anyway, I am a lover of all seasons, and the coming of spring is particularly awe-inspiring as new life begins to peek through the soil or inhabit the trees and wild places all around us. There are new smells, new sounds, and new sights all drawing our attention to a palpable sense of hopeful expectation as the Earth prepares to burst forth with new life.

It is a fitting backdrop for this time when we, as a people of faith, are also preparing ourselves with hopeful expectation for the celebration of new life in Jesus Christ through that ultimate triumph of life over death: the Resurrection. Holy Week, which may very well be underway as you read this, brings us through the darkness and agony of Christ's passion on the cross, and delivers us safely to the other side, where death has been vanquished and the promise of life everlasting becomes real.

In my experience, the new life, or redemption, promised to us by Christ's own Resurrection is not solely reserved for that time in which our mortal bodies cease to sustain life and we die.

Resurrection, redemption, new life are realities that we can experience many times over again in our lifetime in a myriad of ways. Our behaviors, worldviews, vocations, and even our faith can all undergo a death and resurrection to new life as we strive to become who God wants us to be.

In the spirit of new life, I would like to talk once again about the side ministry I have been working on for the past few years, Rebuilding Together Stephenson County, whose mission is to

refurbish homes for those financially or physically unable to make necessary repairs themselves. The repairs are meant to make the homes safer, weatherized, and more aesthetically pleasing to the community, bringing new life to both the structure and the homeowner.

With all this new life beginning to blossom around us, so too a new building season is about to begin for Rebuilding Together. Last year we constructed a new porch, put in new windows and doors, landscaped, and painted an entire house. Also, with available grant money, we paid to have a handicap ramp installed on a second home. When we presented RTSC to the monthly gathering of Social Service Agencies in March, some of the other agency representatives were overjoyed because they had been unsuccessful in getting a ramp for that same client. Their reaction was worth all that we have put into getting this ministry off the ground over the last three years, and they weren't even the ones benefitting from the ramp!

As we head into this next building season, a couple of houses have already been selected and applications continue to come in. We have even received one from a veteran who qualifies for a substantial grant RTSC received from USAA specifically for the refurbishment of homes owned by veterans. We are, however, still a relatively small force. I would like to finally officially invite all our Grace Family to join me in this ministry as it goes into its second building season, so that this very necessary ministry can continue to grow and thrive. There are several ways to get involved, including volunteering on builds, providing meals for work crews, financial and/or tool donations, and even membership on the Rebuilding Together Stephenson County board of directors.

If you feel called to this ministry in any of the above capacities, please get in touch with me. You can also check out RTSC at [www.rebuildingtogethersc.org](http://www.rebuildingtogethersc.org) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RebuildingTogetherSC](https://www.facebook.com/RebuildingTogetherSC).

There are plenty of opportunities to bring new life to our community through RTSC, and I hope that you can lend your time, talent, or treasure to its success.

Blessings,

Fr. Brian

## **Grace Community**

***Make Palm Crosses*** Saturday, April 1st at 9:00am.

***Agapé Meal after Maundy Thursday Service*** Please join us for the traditional Agapé Meal on Thursday, April 6th in St. Stephen's Hall, following the Maundy Thursday Service. The *Book of Occasional Services*, describes the meal as follows: "A meatless meal is to be preferred. The setting should be austere and the foods sparse and simple. Appropriate foods include soup, cheese, olives, dried fruit, bread, and wine." There will be a signup sheet outside the kitchen for people to bring these foods as well as others that have traditionally been served at Grace Agapé Meals before.

***ECW "2nd" Friday Lunch*** Friday, April 14th at 11:30am. Bring sack lunch. We will be fine tuning the details of the Rummage Sale.

***People of Grace Breakfast*** Saturday, April 15th at 8:00am. All are welcome to join us at Nine East Coffee Shop.

***Vestry Meeting*** Sunday, April 16th after the 9:00am service.

**Deadline** for the May "Messenger" will be April 20th.

## *Rummage Sale*

The ECW has decided to continue with our plans for the Rummage Sales on Friday, May 5th and Saturday, May 6th. We will have hand sanitizer available and masks if you need one.

We will also have to be very selective of what donations we can accept:

- No computers, TV's, electronic games or exercise equipment
- All clothing must be freshly laundered with no stains
- All dishes freshly washed
- All donated items must be cleaned and sanitized and setup ready

Items can be dropped off at the church beginning Tuesday, April 25th during church office hours (8:00am—5:00pm) through no later than Wednesday, May 3rd the week of the sale.

We need volunteers, both women and men. If you are able to help there will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board near the kitchen or call Linda Locascio at 815-990-3038. Any questions, call Carol Price at 815-541-5536.

Thank you, Carol Price  
ECW Committee

### Rummage Sale Hours

Thursday	Setup 9:00am to noon or until done
Friday	Sale 8:00am to 2:00pm
Saturday	Sale 8:00am to noon Clean up noon to 1:00pm

## Treasurer's Report

Below is a comparison of the first 2 months of 2023 financial results compared to 2022.

	2023	2022	Difference
<b>Total Revenue</b>	76374	53818	22506
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	24667	23681	986
Building & Grounds	17023	6647	10376
Diocese Pledge	1500	1417	83
All Other	5298	1740	3558
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>48488</u>	<u>33485</u>	<u>15003</u>
Gain (Loss)	27836	20333	7503

The total revenue for the first two months of 2023 was \$22,506 more than what we received in the first two months of 2022. The total amount of 2023 pledges received in the first two months was \$73,694 which is 45% of the total amount pledged for the year. Having this large amount of pledges paid this early in the year helps alleviate any cash flow problems that we may have later in the year.

You will notice that the amount paid for Buildings & Grounds was \$10,376 more than what was paid in 2022. In January we paid \$7,000 for the first six months insurance premiums for this year. Last year that payment was made in December. It is simply a timing issue. Also we needed to pay \$1,990 to replace the refrigerator in the rectory.

Our All Other Expense line item is higher because the church gave \$2,000 to FACC for their transportation program. This is considered a Community Outreach expense.

We are off to a good start this year financially thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and their concern for the church.

Thank you,  
Duane Price, Treasurer  
815-233-0006  
daprice68@yahoo.com



6th	Kyle Maize	17th	Cainan Becker
9th	Susan Lafferty	22nd	Mike Shore
	Maxwell Watson	23rd	Lucy Miller
10th	Karen Moderow	29th	Gail Hunt



3rd	Thomas & Dorothy Nord
	John & Allison Gush
16th	Richard & Marilyn Hepner
17th	Stanley & Frances Crowe

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April Newsletter