



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA

The Right Reverend Robert Stuart Skirving, Bishop

Easter 2016

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the Day of Resurrection and the season of Easter that follows, I look forward to proclaiming with you the great good news that “they put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear.” (Acts 10:39-40, NRSV) In these simple words, I hear an important distinction. It wasn’t just that Jesus rose from the grave, and certainly not that Jesus raised himself, but that God raised Jesus. It is God’s action that we celebrate each Easter and throughout our lives as followers of Jesus.

During Lent, my own prayers and contemplation have been centered in holding together two passages of scripture. One was proclaimed on the first Sunday in Lent and the other was proclaimed on the last. We began the season of Lent with the gospel story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness, and his refusal to misuse power for his own personal satisfaction or interests. We ended the season of Lent with a reminder that we ought to have the same mind “that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8, NRSV) Particularly during the last days of Holy Week, it can be seen that Jesus struggled with the temptation to follow his own will, as we can hear in his prayer on the last night of his life, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42, NRSV)

We human beings, it seems, are engaged in a near constant struggle for power. Too often we are tempted to take any means necessary to accomplish our own desires. We may hurt family or friends in the process. We may use language that we will live to regret. We may divide people into categories: those who agree with us from those who disagree; those whom we perceive to be the same as us from those who differ from us in some way. Then, too often, we are tempted to go a step further and demonize the “other.” We may strike out in violence, individually or as nations, in the attempt to assert power over others or to control assets. In the face of temptations such as these, it is difficult to “have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus” and to love one another as Jesus loved us, even to his death on the cross.

It would be tempting to understand the good news of Easter to mean that those of us in the Church can stand triumphant over others, confident in the belief that we are right and all others are wrong. It would be tempting, but in doing so we would not be faithful to the example given us by Jesus. Instead, I would argue, we are called to follow Jesus’ example of obedience by submitting our own wills to God’s will, by loving our neighbor without restriction, and by laboring to build God’s kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven, empowered to do all of these things by God’s Holy Spirit.

May your celebration of Easter be blessed, and may God transform our lives so that we have the courage to live and die with Christ Jesus and the confidence to know that God will raise us, with him, to the new life of the resurrection.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev’d Robert Skirving
Bishop, Diocese of East Carolina

RSS:jp

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St. Peter’s Episcopal Church

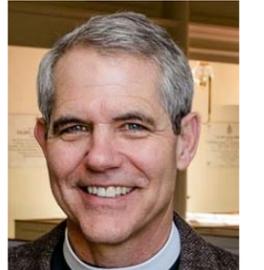
Keynotes

April 13, 2016



What to Do Until....

Edward A. White was a writer and consultant with the Alban Institute for many years. I’d like to paraphrase in this and next month’s issues of *Keynotes* some points White made in a sermon once, titled; “*What to Do until the Preacher Comes: A Sermon for the Transition Time in the Life of a Congregation.*” The points have to do with what he called, “the three major tasks that confront a congregation between pastors (I’m changing his word pastor to rector which better represents St. Peter’s situation). All of them have to do with trusting God. Here is his first point:



“*First, will you learn to trust God with your past?*” Rectors create strong feelings in people and when a rector leaves people feel it. These feelings cover a wide range of feelings from anger to joy. Sometimes people feel guilt but commonly people feel grief. As I heard many times and have said many times, feelings are not right or wrong. We feel what we feel. The issue is, can we own our feelings and work through them in appropriate and healthy ways. Resolving these feelings allow us to move on from the past. When we don’t, we get stuck in our history.

In Elisabeth Kubler-Ross’s book, “*On Death and Dying,*” Dr. Ross notes that the five stages of the grief process are: Denial, Depression, Bargaining, Despair, and Acceptance. Congregations must journey through these stages to let go of a relationship (s) that has ended with the previous rector, so they can be prepared for a new relationship with the next one.

Trusting God with our past means being open to learning from the experiences of the past. You have had opportunity to work on your past during the TT Wednesday night Events. If you’ve experienced some of the feelings associated with the grieving process I hope you will take them seriously. Emotions associated with past events can be triggered by present situations that stimulate the same feelings. Being aware of how we are feeling, taking time to ponder how we feel and why, help us to respond to grief in healthy ways that don’t keep us hostage to the past.

All of the transition focus points that we are exploring this year (Heritage, Mission, Leadership, Connections and Future) are interconnected. Each event builds on and leads into the next. Thus, talking about decision making in the context of leadership and past events will evoke feelings from our past which may be positive, negative or maybe we’ll feel nothing at all. It all depends on what value we place on the event. But if we notice feelings associated with the stages of grief it is important for us to be aware of them and face them appropriately. Talking about how we feel in an appropriate way is healthy regardless of how strong our emotion may be. This is one reason why we have the table groups with ground rules at the events. It is healthier for us to face each other and talk through issues than to do it in the parking lot in inappropriate ways.

Regardless of the past, being able to trust God for it is very important for a congregation. If we don’t trust God with the past, we won’t trust God now or in our future.

Faithfully,

Fr. Jim

Transition Event – Mission Report

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you..." Ezekiel 36:26

These words began our second Transition meeting, having the purpose of examining our call as a church, attempting to understand why we exist and what we value as the people of God, known as St. Peter's. Conversation centered around two questions.

What is it that brings you to St. Peter's today? Out of 220 total responses the top three fell into these categories:

Fellowship – 58 responses

Worship – 58 responses

Interest in the future of the church – 36 responses

Where would you like to spend your time and energy at St. Peter's? 213 responses, the three major areas being:

Outreach in the community and beyond -61 responses

Worship Services – 47 responses

Pastoral Care – 38 responses

We felt encouraged as we compared our responses to those healthy signs in a parish in transition, listed in guidance materials from The Center for Congregational Health. See what you think.

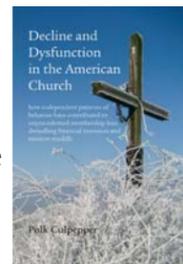
- * Focus is on the present and the future.
- * Willingness to do self-assessment.
- * Congregation faces reality and affirms its true identity.
- * Growing excitement about the congregation's envisioned future.
- * Asking the process questions. What happens next? How can we help?
- * Spirit of inclusiveness and outreach.
- * A rising trust level and humor.

Are we moving in a positive direction? Your dedication and attendance at the two transition events and three Lenten dinners that dovetailed them, tells us that we are! If you participated in the Stop Hunger Now food bagging, then you saw all ages of our parish members working toward a common goal and enjoying every minute of it. There is more work to do.....

Transition Mission Committee,

Nancy Hamblin, Keith Hardt, Catherine Partrick, Sallie Scales

The Rev. Polk Culpepper, Episcopal Priest and author of "Decline and Dysfunction in the American Church" will be our guest speaker on Sunday, April 17th at 9:15am during the adult education hour. We will meet in the Woolard Room. Many of you have heard Polk preach and already know he brings many years of experience in serving the Church. So grab a cup of coffee and come and hear what he has to say. Copies of his book will be available to purchase. This is excellent follow up to our transition meetings during Lent. We hope you will join us.



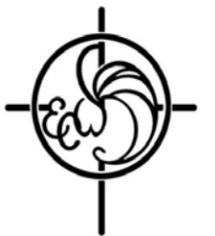
ECW Annual Spring Luncheon,

May 4th at noon

Wednesday, May 4th will be our last meeting until September and we are fortunate that Bet Archie has invited us to her beautiful home for our annual covered dish get-together. Bet's address is 103 South Reed Drive in Smallwood. We hope to see you at this very special meeting.



At the April ECW meeting Loraine Babcock introduced members to the use of Episcopal Prayer beads as a meditation and prayer aid. Pictured is Loraine instructing Peggy Koonce in making her own personal prayer beads.



The Lay Eucharistic Ministers remind the parish that if a member is unable to attend services, the gift of communion can be brought to them. To request this ministry, please call the church office. A reminder, also, that if you or a loved one is entering the hospital or nursing home, please let the church office know. Too often it is assumed someone else has called, and the clergy are late to learn of the situation. Too many calls are better than none at all!



Pleopeltis Polypodioides

(Resurrection Fern)

During this Easter Season as we all observe the new First Christian Church rise from the ashes of the old one, it brings to my mind the day that beautiful building burned. It was a tragic and terrible loss. My son, Ian called me and I misheard him advise me that the church was burning to the ground. I thought it was our beloved St. Peter's. What he actually told me was that the church down the street was burning to the ground. Panic and heartache filled my being.

As I sped home, my thoughts immediately turned to the loss of the many irreplaceable, tangible symbols of our church, our faith, our culture and our history.

Just think what we would lose if the fate of the old First Christian Church befell us:

1. The chandelier and font from the original church-destroyed.
2. The stained glass windows (especially the window of St. Peter that my sons, Whit and Ian for years thought was actually Bill Bradbury)-destroyed.
3. The pews of solid Beaufort County walnut that have seated generations of us- destroyed.
- 4.The bells that have rung in celebration of so many events in our lives-destroyed.
5. The altar, the vestments and the very body and blood of Christ all destroyed in such a devastating conflagration.

After I arrived home from the actual scene of the blaze, I reflected on my feelings and the terrible loss.

As great and devastating as such a loss would be, none of these physical objects symbolize St. Peter's and our Christian Faith to me more than something found just outside the church doors.

If you look into the branches of our ancient live oaks, you will observe a tiny, fern-like plant draping the boughs. When there is moisture, the plant is lush and green. When there is drought, the plant is dry, brown and brittle.

This simple little plant is more symbolic of our church and faith to me than the very bricks of our church. Let me just mention a few similarities we share with this little plant.

It is one of the smallest and most fragile plants in the entire churchyard and is attached to mighty oaks; just as we are small and fragile attached to this Earth spinning through God's vast universe.

It is hard to get to, just as we sometimes are hard for God to get to, as we are often resistant to God's never ending and freely given grace.

It is exposed to the weather and when starved of rain, it wilts, crinkles and turns brown. It looks dead after having lost up to 97% of its water, just as we are often starved of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of the church.

It is rootless without soil. It's only nourishment comes from the rains that moisten the bark from which it clings, just as we are lost and unsettled without our faith and the sure knowledge of salvation.

It clings to the ancient oaks in clusters, just as we cling to the church and love of Christ together and in communion with one another.

When the blessed rain comes, the fern unfurls lush, vibrant and green, filling the boughs of the great live oaks, just as we are replenished in our faith when we come together and worship, we are flush with the Holy Spirit and love of Christ.

So long as the rains continue, the Resurrection Fern flourishes, just as we renew our faith and are forgiven each Sunday, we flourish and our Christian faith grows.

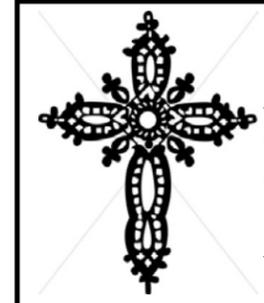
So the next time you come to Church, look into the boughs of the oaks, and appreciate God's gift of this little air plant known as Pleopltis Polypodides the Resurrection Fern.

Yours In Christ,
Don Stroud, Clerk



Church Attendance

	March 27	April 3	April 10
8 a.m. service	66	45	50
10:15 a.m. service	256	86	113
Spanish language service	38	44	42



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR APRIL

April 3: The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of James S. & Tillie Nunnelee, Jimbo & Jane Nunnelee, Ellen Nunnelee Buckman and all other Nunnelees who have gone before us by the family.

April 10: The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lee Cooper by his family.

April 17: The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Woodrow & Estelle Whitley and Hazel Whitley by Betty Whitley Brown.

April 24: The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Olzie & John Rodman, Lib & John Rodman, Meredith & Archie Rodman, Elizabeth Carrow & Owen Rodman, Olzie Clark Rodman, Clark Rodman & Mavis Rodman Peele, and Helen & Cam Rodman by the family.

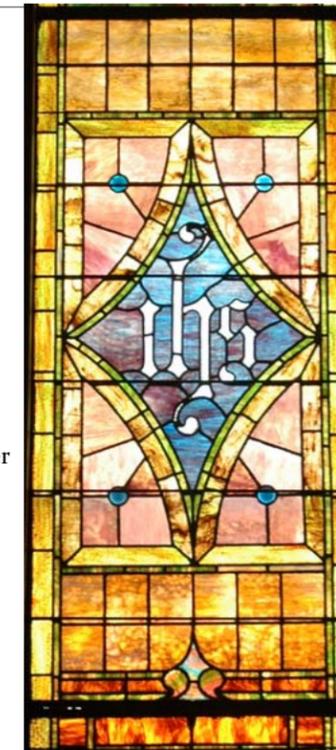
Saint Peter's Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Jim Reed Priest-in-Charge
946-8151
fr_jim@saintpetersnc.org

The Reverend Deacon Janet Sueiro Rodman
975-2214
gjrodman@yahoo.com

The Reverend Deacon Katherine Mitchell
617-721-6614
katherine@saintpetersnc.org

Doug Cutler Organist/Choirmaster
Vincent Holliday Sexton
Lex Mann Treasurer
Jennifer Spivey Parish Administrator
Susie Taylor Day School Director



Vestry Organization

- Tom Archie-Senior Warden
- Swanson Graves-Junior Warden
- Maria Gachuz-Hispanic Ministry
- Barbara Grimes-Worship
- Hodges Hackney-Administration
- Nancy Hamblin-Pastoral Care
- Mark Henley-Outreach
- Emma Holscher-Christian Education
- Marcus Jones-Stewardship
- Patrick Nash-Buildings & Grounds
- Don Stroud-Clerk
- Hank Van Dorp-Parish Life



Please Pray For:



Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. The Book of Common Prayer.

Please Pray for: Rev. Danny Allen-Pastor at First United Methodist Church (Washington), Cheryl & Fred Austin-friends of Trish Litchfield, Loraine Babcock-member, Phillips Babcock-brother of Dick Babcock, Mike & Marcia Board-friends of Sonia Privette, Lex Breckinridge-friend of Swanson Graves, Bev Fawcett-member, Nancy Chaffee-member, Peggy Daniels-daughter of Leslie Whitehurst, Janet Dixon-sister of Lynda Lawson, Mike Flanigan-friend of the Archies, Mary Wesley Harvey-member, Steven Hudson-cousin of John Hudson, Wilma Johnson-mother of Tamara Clark, C.T. Jones-cousin of Leslie Whitehurst, Carol Jones-friend of Laura Bliley, Rev. Lee Kinney-Pastor at First Presbyterian Church (Washington), George Maddrey-father of Trisha Baker, Mark McCoy-friend of Fred Holscher, Susan McFarland-friend of Mary & Ray Dennis, Katherine Mitchell-member, Dr. Jimmy Moore-Pastor at First Baptist Church (Washington), Jessica Orr-daughter of John & Leta Thompson, Pat Pate-mother of Dana Peters, Jamie Peabody-former member, Acra Samuels-daughter of Hodges & Marsha Hackney, Mark Simmons-nephew of Betty Cochran, Sawyer Sonefeld-friend of Sonia Privette & Tamara Clark, Elaine Stephenson-sister of Tricia Baker, Paul Stevenson-grandson of Dill Lynch, Sis Thornburgh-member, Nena Tyndall-member, Conoley Blake Williford & Family-members.

Prayer list requests may be made by completing a prayer card from the pew rack in church or by calling (946-8151) or emailing the church office (jennifer@saintpetersnc.org). Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days.

 *Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of Marilyn Roth.*

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life Everlasting.

 **Nursery** *We would like to welcome our new Nursery attendant, Tasha Daniels. She began with us on Easter Sunday and is excited to be here to take care of your children under age 5 during the 10:15am worship service. Please stop by the Nursery and introduce yourself and welcome her to our church.*

UTO Ingathering Is Sunday, May 8

What's in your Blue Box?

Are you practicing thankfulness ?

Are you putting coins or bills in your Blue Box in thanksgiving?

The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver.

Be a cheerful giver by expressing daily thanks for your blessings.

And bring your Blue box (or envelope) to the altar of Sunday, May 8.



United Thank Offering
Sharing Blessings with Thanksgiving and Love

Education for Ministry (EFM) Registration is Open for September 2016

EFM is a unique four year distance learning certificate program in theological education based upon small group study and practice. Since its founding in 1975, this international program has assisted more than 80,000 participates in discovering and nurturing their call to Christian service. EFM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experience of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together.

Questions: Contact Diane Furlough phone 757-272-6382 or e-mail d_furlough@yahoo.com.

When: EFM meet on Monday evenings at 6:30pm.

Where: Saint Peters Episcopal Church in the Woolard Room.

Start Date: To be announced

How to Register: Registration forms and payment forms will be located in folder next to the staff and vestry mail boxes.

Cost: 350.00 scholarships sometimes available.

Registration will be open to all Episcopal Church's in the Deanery.



Reflections on Efm by Paul Keel

Efm is not easy to describe; it's easier to describe what it is not. It is not a Bible study, though the Bible is thoroughly examined and studied. It is not a class in church history or theology, though both are learned about in Efm. It isn't really a class in anything. Efm is an adult learning seminar, designed to equip the people of God (us) for ministry. All baptized Christians are called to ministry, whatever form that may take, and Efm is an excellent preparation for whatever that may be. I will be graduating from Efm this year, having completed four years of seminars, and I can say that Efm does work. I grew up in a Christian home, went to a Christian school and studied the Bible from elementary school until early adulthood, yet I have learned more about holy scripture than ever before in the first two years of Efm. I've also learned much about the history of our faith, and have been exposed to the works of many theologians. The most important thing I've learned from Efm is Theological Reflection, which is a practice used to view anything in theological terms. My descriptions of Efm fall short of what it actually is, but if you are interested in exploring your faith and tradition, preparing to find your ministry or changing your perception of what that might be, Efm can help.

SAVE YOUR BLOOD DONATION!!

St. Peter's American Red Cross annual blood drive will be held on Tuesday, May 31st. This is the day after **Memorial Day** so mark your calendars now. If you donate between now and then, you will **not be eligible** to give on May 31st. We need you. Following a holiday makes it a tough time to have a successful blood drive. More information on how to be a donor or worker, to come.



31st.
be-
in-

WIND WARRIORS!!



Twenty+ of the faithful arrived with blowers, trucks, hand tools, sprayers, and big boy toys to labor diligently from 9 until 12 last Saturday in our churchyard. Though the churchyard looked beautiful at the start, much needed weeding in bushes and fenced plots, mulching, and trimming was soon underway. Check out the detailed list of accomplishments on the bulletin board. Many, many thanks to those who came. We had fun!! The next yard day will be in late October or early November. Join us!

Many thanks,
The Landscape Committee

St. Peter's is raising money for the Outreach Ministries by having a chicken plate sale on Sunday, April 24th. If you are interested in helping cook chickens, please contact Swanson Graves at 402-6556. If you would like to help prepare the side dishes or work in the kitchen, contact Mary Parker Liles at 402-1624.

Advance reservations are required for plates. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the Main Street entrance here at the church. You may also call (946-8151) or email (jennifer@saintpetersnc.org) the church office with your name and number of plates you would like to purchase. Please share this with friends and neighbors in the community; just make sure to make a reservation for them as well.

The plates include a half chicken, two side dishes and a dessert. Donations are welcome and appreciated at the time of pick up. Pick up is between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday April 24th.



Musically Speaking.....

The music for Easter Day this year was taken from Handel's "Messiah". This oratorio was composed by George Frideric Handel in 1741. The text was compiled by Charles Jennens using The King James Bible and The Psalter from The Book of Common Prayer. The oratorio is divided into three parts. The first part covers the prophecies foretelling of and subsequent birth of our Lord. The second part concentrates on the passion and ends with the "Hallelujah Chorus" and the final section covers the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in heaven.

The choir sang the chorus "Since By Man Came Death" which is taken from 1st Corinthians 15:21. John Tate followed with "Behold, I Tell You A Mystery" and "The Trumpet Shall Sound". (1st Corinthians 15:51-53) Marcy Long sang "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" which is taken from the books of Job and 1st Corinthians. (This text is best known to us as one of the anthems read in our Burial Office.)

"Messiah" was not initially met with the same popularity it enjoys today. It also was not presented by large groups as it is now. It was originally scored for a small chorus and an even smaller instrumental ensemble. It still remains as one of the greatest and best known oratorios of all time. To think that it was composed in less than a month is difficult to grasp!

I hope all of you enjoyed the choral service Easter Day. Remember, we always have room in the choir for YOU!

Doug



A hearty thank you to everyone who came out and helped polish, scrub and clean to make our church even more beautiful for Easter Day. Everything was glowing and bright! Thanks to each of you who helped !

New members of the Altar Guild are always welcome. Teams serve once every 7 weeks and provide important and very needed services to Saint Peter's. Please contact Barbara Grimes at 946-6446 or bgrimes10@suddenlink.net for more information. Thank you.



DeColores!

The Cursillo weekend is fast approaching! St. Timothy has several pilgrims going. Please plan to join in the fun today, Sunday, 4/17 after the 10:15 service to make placemats for the upcoming Cursillo weekend. Remember to bring your palanca for the pilgrims and team to the church office by Tuesday afternoon, 4/19 so we may get it to St. Timothy's. Thank you!

Also, the Cursillo Reunion Group will meet Tuesday, April 19th from 12:30pm -1:30pm in the Woolard Meeting Room. All are welcome to pray, share and touch base in fellowship. Please bring a bag lunch. We hope you will join us.



Dear Friends,

I have good news to share with you about my breast cancer treatment. The surgery to remove the tumor was successful and my oncology team have now established a plan of care and treatment for me. I am so very fortunate in that the cancer was found at a very early stage (stage one) and I will not need to undergo chemotherapy. I begin a 5-6 week course of radiation this week at the Shepherd Cancer Treatment Center here in Washington. As a rule radiation has very few side effects; therefore, I anticipate little disruption to my normal day to day activities.

Words cannot express the depth of my gratefulness and thanks for the outpouring of love and concern from our Saint Peter's family. It has been humbling and heartwarming to know and experience your concern, care and support.

I am blessed by God to have good medical care along with loving, caring supportive family and friends. With assurances from my health care team, I fully expect to remain cancer free in the future.

Thanks be to God!

Your friend,

Deacon Katherine



Nancy Hamblin will be installed as President of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of East Carolina on April 27th. Please see details below. We hope many will be able to join us.



Episcopal Church Women Diocese of East Carolina ANNUAL MEETING

"Stir Up The Spirit"

Keynote Speaker:

The Rev. Lauren Winner

Assistant Professor of Christian
Spirituality, Duke Divinity School,

and author of
her newest book,
Wearing God.



Rev. Winner will speak on
"Metaphors for God -
Looking at the many
ways that God speaks in
our lives."



Wednesday, April 27, 2016

10:00 AM

(Registration opens at 9:00 AM)

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Fayetteville, NC**

The meeting will be followed by Holy Eucharist
and Lunch. See back for details.

About the Speaker

Lauren F. Winner is an Asst. Professor at Duke Divinity School. Dr. Winner is an Episcopal priest and vicar of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Louisburg, N.C. Dr. Winner lectures widely on Christian practice, the history of Christianity in America, and Jewish-Christian relations. In 2012, Winner was selected by Christianity Today as one of the "50 Women That You Should Know".

Winner's books include *Girl Meets God*, *A Cheerful and Comfortable Faith*, *Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis*, and most recently, a book on overlooked metaphors for God, *Wearing God*.

Dr. Winner appeared on PBS's Religion & Ethics Newsweekly, and she served as a commentator on NPR's "All Things Considered." She has written for The New York Times Book Review, Publishers Weekly, and Christianity Today. Winner's essays have been included in The Best Christian Writing.

Schedule

- 9:00 AM - Registration and Coffee
- 10:00 AM - Meeting and Speaker
- 12:00 PM - Holy Eucharist and Installation of Officers
- 1:15 PM - Lunch

Registration

Cost of Lunch is \$15.00.

Lunch is free for clergy.

Register online at

<https://form.jotform.com/60191434367960>

(you may pay by credit card online)

or mail check to:

St. John's ECW,

302 Green St., Fayetteville, NC 28301

Deadline to register is Sunday, April 24, 2016

For more information, contact Ginger Jacocks, ECW President, at jacocks@ec.rr.com or (252) 393-8083.