

March 2019—May 2019



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BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Lee Holland Vice-President



Lee was born Deaf and grew up oral, along with her deaf sister. She attended Gallaudet University at age 19, which was her first exposure to ASL and where she learned the language and culture. In addition, while attending Gallaudet, she had her first exposure to a Deaf priest, Rev. Otto Berg and a Deaf church, St. Barnabas.

Lee was elected as Member-at-Large in 2014, then she was elected as Vice President of the ECD board in 2017. In addition, she serves as liaison between the ECD and St. Ann's Church for the Deaf in New York City, the first Deaf church in the United States

Born and raised as Episcopalian, Lee has striven to bridge the gaps between the Episcopal Church and the Deaf community. Lee has Lay Ministry licenses by the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, allowing her to lead worship with the Deaf community. She also serves in her home parish, St. Matthew Episcopal Church in Tacoma, Washington.

ECD BOARD MEMBERS

THE ECD BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS ELECTED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF ECD CONVENTIONS.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear E.C.D. Members and Friends,

Hello, friends!

The ECD board members and I held our winter board meeting at the Church of the Ascension, next to St. Barnabas' Deaf Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland for three days, from February 5-7. Frances Croft, wife of the Rev. Jay Croft, Edward Knight, and Ginny Lindsay, beloved members of St. Barnabas, were gracious hosts and made sure that we had everything that we needed. The board members had dinner with St. Barnabas members and met the Rev. Betsy Bagioni, who is a deaf rector of St. Barnabas's Deaf Church. St. Barnabas is the second oldest Deaf Church in America (St. Ann's Church for the Deaf in NYC is the oldest). We noted that the Rev. Jay Croft will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of his Ordination at St. Barnabas on June 9, 2019. Nowadays, many priests are ordained at a later age (like me), and there are fewer priests, especially Deaf priests, celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry! Currently, there are only three active Deaf priests in the Episcopal Church. Lee Holland, our Vice President, and I will represent the ECD at Jay's celebration.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6, and continues through Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. In this season, we remember especially the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, confronting temptation as he prepared to start his ministry. Lent is a time of preparation, self-examination, and reflection on our lives and our ministries. It is also a time to remind ourselves not to worry or be afraid about the uncertainty of the future. God has promised to be with us always.

Wishing you peace and love and a Holy Lent!

In Christ,

The Rev. Dick Mahaffy



Board Meeting Highlights from the ECD to you Gaithersburg, MD — February 5-7, 2019

ECD Summer Retreat was a major discussion. We have a tentative schedule and ideas were presented. Registration will be on-line only.

Next ECD Convention will be mid-August, 2020. Team 2020 will continue to meet to further organize the convention and keep us apprised of developments.

An **updated grant application form** has been uploaded to ECD website for use by anyone who would like to apply for an ECD grant. The board reviewed three grants from 2018 as well as two 2019 grants.

Potential candidates for ordination who are deaf, or interested in deaf ministry, was a topic the board discussed. We are looking at ways the ECD can provide information to those who are unaware of the ECD. We will generate printed information that seminaries can distribute to their students.

A **current Aspirant's** process was acknowledged and we will provide support as needed. 3

Next ECD Face-to-Face Meeting: Oct 23-25, 2019 in Sarasota, Florida.

“THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS”

The Rev. Jay L. Croft



March 6-13, 1988 is a week that should be etched into the mind of every Deaf person. That was the week that Gallaudet University students, faculty, staff and the larger Deaf community worldwide rose up and successfully protested the Gallaudet Board of Trustees's selection of yet another hearing person as its next president.

On the evening of Sunday, March 6, my wife, Frances, and I were watching a Sunday night movie on television. Immediately after the conclusion of the movie, the screen showed Gallaudet students protesting the Board of Trustees's meeting at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. We spotted our foster son among the protestors on television, so the very next morning I was on campus, which was completely shut down. All entrances were blocked. At one entrance, students had commandeered a large Gallaudet bus, took it to a side entrance to block the gates, and let the air out of the bus's tires.

The history of that week is well-documented by books and videos, even by Gallaudet University's own sources. It is a very important chapter in the history of the Deaf community. Why? In previous years

there were student uprisings at various universities in America. They were all marked by violent clashes with police and security forces. I was an eyewitness to the bloody upheaval at Columbia University in 1967, while I was at Union Theological Seminary, across the street from the Columbia campus.

The Gallaudet protests were different. All aspects of the campus community were in one accord for this goal: “Deaf President Now!” Even some staff in the president's office took part. Since its founding in 1864 Gallaudet had always had a hearing person as president. Many felt that this had to change if Deaf persons were to truly become responsible citizens. Howard University is a historically Black university, also in DC. Both universities are on Florida Avenue, and the sports teams of both are named “Bison.” Howard was founded by a white man, and Gallaudet by a hearing man. Both were founded at about the same time, and both were, and are, heavily funded by the Federal government. Soon after its founding, Howard's presidents were Black. Gallaudet's presidents were white, for 124 years. Time for a change!



When Gallaudet's Board of Trustees selected yet another Hearing person—and one who knew no sign language or who had no roots in the Deaf community, the protests began. Every day that week, television crews arrived on campus, set up their large mobile broadcast trucks with antennas, and broadcast the protests nationwide. A march to the U.S. Capitol occurred later in the week, and we took our two young children out of school to participate. Their principal readily granted permission and encouraged us!

I was on campus every day that week, Monday through Saturday. On Sunday March 13 I held services in two locations, and I thought about going to the Gallaudet campus again. However, I was tired and went home. That was the afternoon that the Board voted to accept the resignation of the hearing person, and to select Dr. I. King Jordan as president. We got the news on television and so missed the celebration.

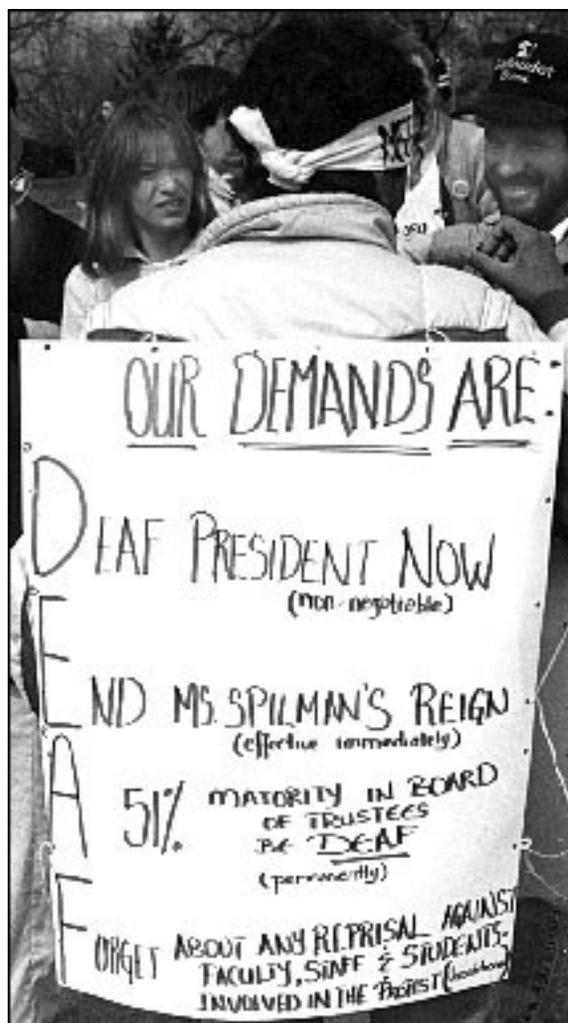
This was, and still is, very important for all of us. Dr. Jack Gannon in his book, "The Week the World Heard Gallaudet," writes:

The student protest that shut down Gallaudet University the week of March 6-13, 1988 accomplished far more than just the selection of the world's first deaf university president. It proved, convincingly, that deaf people could band together effectively for a common cause and succeed. The protest experience taught deaf people the need and value of being more assertive.

We learned that we do not need to accept the status quo, nor be told what is best for us. Decisions should be made in a collaborative way. All must accept responsibility, and all must contribute. That is the way the church must work,

too. Decisions "from the top down" ultimately fail. But we in the Deaf community must also be alert to opportunities to be part of the process, to be at the table from the beginning, and to contribute our skills and talents.

By the way, not many people know that the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel reading—used in Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, and many other denominations—on March 6, 1988 was of Jesus chasing the money-changers out of the temple! On that day, Scripture truly came to life.



What's happening this Spring?

Wednesday, March 6 - **Ash Wednesday**

The first day of Lent, ash cross marked during service is a sign of Repentance.
"For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."



Sunday, April 14 - Saturday, April 20

Sunday, April 21 - **Easter Sunday**

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead!

Thursday, May 30 - **Ascension Day**

A feast celebrating Jesus' ascension into Heaven



August 11–15, 2020

Dumas Bay Centre — Federal Way, Washington

For the first time in ECD's history, ECD Board voted and agreed to hold the next convention in Washington State, at Dumas Bay Centre. Greg Rickel, Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia, wrote *"I am delighted about all of this and welcome the meeting with open arms!"*

Team 2020 decided on August so that Deaf Episcopalians who do not attend Deaf churches can celebrate the Feast of Gallaudet and Syle with their Deaf peers.

All due-paying ECD members who are age 16 and above are eligible to actively participate and vote during the ECD convention, per the ECD by-laws.

So, save up your pennies and get ready to experience the beautiful Pacific Northwest!

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

by *The Rev. Dick Mahaffy*



The story of the Samaritan woman in John, chapter 4, is one of my favorite stories. In this story, Jesus begins a conversation with the Samaritan woman, which no Jewish man would have done. He even asks her for a drink. Not only is she a woman, but she also had a questionable reputation because of her numerous marriages, and she was currently living with a man who was not her husband.

Jesus breaks down the barriers of gender, race, religion, and social practice in order to show his compassion. Throughout the gospels he is shown as the friend of sinners and outcasts, the one who treats them with respect and dignity and is not afraid to love them or be with them. He lets sinners and outcasts know that they are wanted and loved by God, even if they are despised by everyone else. In this story, Jesus shows compassion to this woman by having a conversation with her, and by responding to her need by offering her “the water that gives life”, which will relieve her thirst and restore her to life. But she does not understand what he is saying: “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket and the well is deep. Where are you going to get this life-giving water?”

The climax of the story comes when Jesus tells her, “Go and bring your husband.” Something shifts here. At first, she tries to hide the fact that the man she is living with is not her husband. She says that she has no husband. Like this woman, we sometimes avoid the whole truth about ourselves by covering up and trying to hide, simply because we are afraid that others might not approve of us or that they might reject us. But Jesus sees and knows the whole truth about us. In his eyes, we are beloved children of God.

This is the truth that sets us free from pain or discomfort: *that God loves us, welcomes us, and delights in us*; but also that God sees us and knows us and lovingly reveals to us the truth about ourselves. He offers us the gifts of forgiveness, healing, reconciliation and hope. We can trust in God and let go of our worries and anxieties. We can keep reminding each other that we are God’s beloved children, each born with unique gifts and talents. God wants us to be collaborators with each other as co-creators with God by loving and supporting each other and everyone who comes into our lives every day. We can encourage each other to keep on keeping on. We can remind ourselves that nothing will separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ. No matter how scary and upsetting the present feels, or how uncertain the future may seem, God is walking beside us every step of the way. We can go through life with a deep sense of confidence, because we know that God loves us and that God delights to bless us more than we want or deserve. It does not matter how small our ministry is. Counting numbers is not important. Because we are brothers and sisters of Jesus, we can show our love and support to everyone in our Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities.

Q & A — LENT

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. The word of Lent means “spring.” During Lent, many Christians observe a period of prayer, fasting, self-examination, repentance, self-denial and spiritual discipline. The purpose of Lent is to reflect on Jesus Christ — his sacrifice: his life, death, burial, and resurrection. Bishop Curry is joining other Christian leaders requesting that we pray especially for our nation and “the least of these.”

DO ALL CHRISTIANS OBSERVE LENT?

Not all Christians observe Lent. Lent is mostly observed by Roman Catholics, Episcopalians/Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, and Presbyterians. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for 40 days through Holy Saturday (Sundays are not included in the count). The last three days of Lent are Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF 40 DAYS & WHAT IS FASTING OR SELF-DENIAL?

Forty days reminds us that Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days after his baptism, before he resisted the Satan’s temptations. In early Christianity, the forty-day fast was important for baptismal candidates who were preparing for their baptism at Easter, and for others to show regret for their sins. Today Lent is still important: it invites new believers to prepare for their baptism on Easter and also invites the rest of us to prayer and fasting, to reflect on our own lives, and to commit to changing what we don’t like about ourselves. Some Christians focus their self-denial on something in their life which is which is getting in the way of their relationship with God. They might try to change a bad habit by giving something up (e.g. alcohol, online shopping, or criticizing others) OR by starting a new practice (e.g. start exercising, reading the Bible daily, or volunteering to help others). Each person must decide what will be most helpful for their own spiritual growth.

WHY DO WE MARK OUR FOREHEADS WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS ON ASH WEDNESDAY?

On Ash Wednesday, many Christians attend the Eucharist, where a priest or other minister lightly rubs ashes onto their foreheads, marking them with the sign of the cross. In the Bible, ashes symbolize repentance and death. Thus, observing Ash Wednesday at the start of the Lenten season represents our repentance (desire to stop sinning) as well as Jesus’ sacrificial death to set followers free from sin and death. The Bible does not mention the custom of Lent, but the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is very common (e.g. II Samuel 13:19 and Matthew 11:21).

HOW MIGHT I PRAY IN LENT?

During Lent, you might consider praying with Jesus’ passion (suffering), his death on the Cross, his burial and his resurrection to prepare yourself for Holy Week. The gospel accounts of these events are found in Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; and John 18-21. Try to imagine each scene in the story. Imagine what Jesus was feeling and thinking, and what his family and friends were experiencing. Observe your own thoughts and feelings as you think about these events. What do they mean to you?

INSTALLATION OF PASTORAL MINISTER TO THE DEAF

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I write to tell you of a new resource available to strengthen your ministry to and with people living with sensory loss. Beginning this summer, I have appointed the Rev. Dr. Eugene Bourquin, a deacon of the Diocese, to serve as a Pastoral Missioner to the Deaf. Gene's twofold diaconal ministry will be to serve as a pastoral caregiver to people who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, blind, or experiencing other sensory loss (hereafter, Deaf), and as a missioner for strengthening the Diocese's evangelism and ministry to the Deaf, including helping congregations to improve their outreach, welcome, and incorporation of people with sensory challenges.

Gene comes to this ministry with an exceptional depth of experience. For nearly three decades, he worked at a national rehabilitation center for deaf-blind youths and adults as a sign language interpreter, travel instructor, researcher, and director of community services. Fluent in American Sign Language, he holds numerous certifications, a master's degree in deafness rehabilitation, and a doctorate in health administration. Gene is a native New Yorker who was ordained to the diaconate in May 2017 and recently returned to the United States after a year as a visiting deacon at All Saints Church, Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he also taught at a regional school for the blind.

My interest in equipping our congregations and other institutions for ministry to the Deaf reflects the Diocese's long and historical relationship with the Deaf community. One of our congregations is St. Ann's Church for the Deaf, established by educator and priest Thomas Gallaudet, today a saint in the Episcopal Church's liturgical calendar. The first service performed in sign language was held on October 3, 1852. Gallaudet served as vicar and then rector at St. Ann's for forty years, helping to establish St. Ann's as the mother church for Deaf Episcopalians in the United States. Building on this foundation, Gene's ministry will be to extend our outreach to persons with sensory loss throughout the diocese, paying attending to their needs and gifts, and the possibilities they offer to our common life and mission.

I encourage you to use Gene well as a resource for both pastoral care and evangelism. He is available to minister as an on-call chaplain and to make pastoral visits to members of your communities who have sensory loss, to assist you in developing accessible worship, and for consulting and educational workshops about incorporating the Deaf into your ministries. His Sunday liturgical ministry will be at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, but he is dedicating one Sunday a month for availability to congregations, for worship leadership, education programs, or pastoral response. On my behalf, Gene will also be serving as a liaison to institutions and associations for the Deaf beyond our Diocese, and if you have relationships with these, he will be glad to partner with you. Gene can be reached by email at gbourquin@dioceseny.org or by telephone at 646-832-6003.

Please join me in praying for Gene as he begins this new diaconal ministry in our midst. With every good wish, I remain

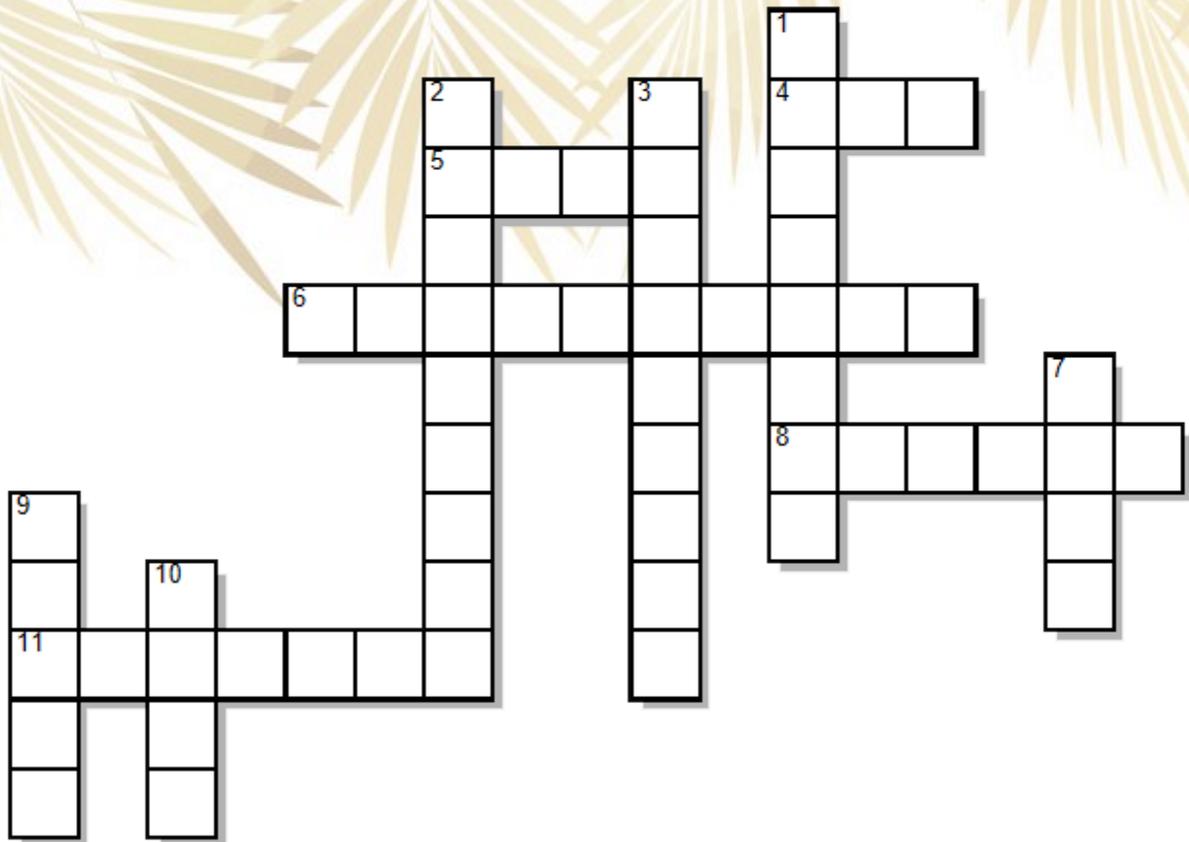
Yours,

The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche
Bishop of New York



TRIVIA & PUZZLES

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1) Rabbits are an ancient symbol for fertility | T | F |
| 2) Eggs are a symbol of new life, also the resurrection of Jesus | T | F |
| 3) The Easter Bunny is a religious icon | T | F |
| 4) The ash, for Ash Wednesday, comes from palm leaves | T | F |



Across

4. Placed on forehead at the start of Lent
5. Bunny hides them from children
6. Garden where Jesus prayed last in Jerusalem
8. The day Jesus was resurrected
11. April _____ bring May flowers

Down

1. What people eat on Shrove Tuesday
2. Chasuble, or robe, clergy wear during service
3. Jesus left earth for Heaven
7. 40 days of repentance
9. The only Son of God
10. Where Jesus' body was placed



EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

A National Organization Serving Deaf Ministries

2019 ECD Membership

Membership to is open to any person interested in supporting the Episcopal Church’s ministry with Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. Membership includes a subscription to our printed publication *The Deaf Episcopalian*.

Membership in the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf is \$10.00 per calendar year. If membership fee is mailed after February 28, 2019, please add \$5 late fee.

Please contact our ECD Membership Secretary, Ron Selinger at membership@ecdeaf.org if you have any questions.

New member Renewal

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: Voice/VP _____ Text _____

Parish: _____ City/State: _____

Your role in the church? (member, lay reader, rector, etc.) _____

Please send your check payable to the **Episcopal Conference of the Deaf** to:

Episcopal Conference of the Deaf c/o Ron Selinger
St. Thomas Deaf Church c/o Grace Episcopal
514 E. Argonne Drive
St. Louis, MO 63122



Donate Today

Donations and bequests are greatly appreciated.

Yes, I would like to donate \$ _____

WORDS OF A CHURCH MOUSE

Hello there! It's me again, the church mouse. I come and go from church to church, making sure that I take the time to meet with every Mouscopalian. It takes a while, as there are very many Episcopal churches in the United States, but I also like to visit my fellow Mouscopalians around the world! Visiting forty-four other countries is amazing, yet also time consuming and sometimes tries my patience. But I just remember to breathe. In... Out.... In... Out...



I love this time of year. We can take stock of what we have done, who we are, and how we can be in better relationship with God and our neighbors, including ourselves. Lent is this opportunity to see how we have lived our life and how we can change it to better match with God's vision and living into our baptismal vows. We can give up or take on something, such as giving up coffee or taking on a work of mercy. The options are too numerous to count. We also acknowledge that we are not perfect, and when we lapse or fail, we only increase our dependence on God. We cannot do this alone, but He is always with us. And to start off this journey, we get to eat pancakes!!!! I'll be sure to be scouting the crumbs on Shrove Tuesday (giggle).

Then it's the magic of Easter! The Easter Vigil service is beautiful, but I sometimes wish they would let a mouse sleep. Coming into church when you all should be in bed is a bit perplexing to say the least. But alas, you humans are odd creatures, and God still loves you, and so I shall forgive you for disrupting my sleep.

I am curious to see what everyone will be doing this year! There is so much going on and it can be easy to feel a bit overwhelmed. However, if you sit very quietly, you might see the church mice who are making sure all are cared for. You cannot see us, but we are all around spreading love to you.

Until next time, ta ta!

— The Church Mouse

If you have anything you wish to see in the newsletter, let us know! It can be a picture (with description), a story, an update, or even identifying certain people for their hard work in the Deaf Episcopalian community.

Contact us at deaf.episcopalian@ecdeaf.org

Answer Key:

1) true—Due to their high reproductive rates, rabbits have long symbolized fertility and abundance.

2) true—For thousands of years, the egg has been viewed as a symbol of new life in many cultures and religions.

3) false—The Easter Bunny has no religious meaning; the folklore arrived with German immigrants in the 1800's and spread quickly through the U.S.

4) true—The palm leaves from Palm Sunday are kept for a year. They are then burned and the ashes applied to the forehead.

Across:

4—Ash

5—Eggs

6—Gethsemane

8—Easter

11—Showers

Down:

1—Pancakes

2—Vestments

3—Ascension

7—Lent

9—Jesus

10—Tomb

DID YOUKNOW?

- Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon, after the Vernal Equinox (March 21st). It is because of this, that Easter can be as early as March 22 or as late as April 25
- The Passion of Christ is the final 12 hours of Jesus' life, while he was crucified. Passion means strong emotions, but the meaning for Christ's Passion derived from Latin, meaning suffering and pain.
- There are 40 days in Lent, not including Sundays, yet Pentecost is exactly 50 days after Easter.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Jay Croft will be celebrating 50th Anniversary of his Ordination at St. Barnabas Deaf church in Gaithersburg, MD: Board members, Dick and Lee, will travel to Jay's celebration. The celebration is tentatively set for June 9, 2019. If you can, come and celebrate with him!
- Lee Holland recently met with the leaders of St. Ann's Church of the Deaf understand how the ECD can best support their needs.

Contact the editors of The Deaf Episcopalian to have your events highlighted!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



Your donations help support the ECD in its mission to advocate and support deaf ministries around the country.

If you would like to donate, see the membership form on page

The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf

presents

THE BIBLE COMES ALIVE

The Power of Storytelling

With Deacon Patrick Graybill

When: July 15-17, 2019

Where: Pallottine Renewal Center, St. Louis, Missouri

Who: The Rev. Deacon Patrick Graybill

Why? To allow us to feel more comfortable signing the Gospel and Bible stories of our faith; allowing for greater access to the bible

The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf invites you to join in an amazing workshop, offered to all.

The presenter, Rev. Deacon Patrick Graybill, is Deaf and Roman Catholic. He has always been an advocate for the Deaf in church. He has been a presenter for many years and is very passionate about bringing the mass to the people, in ASL.

The Rev. Deacon Patrick Graybill will bring his wealth of knowledge to this two-day workshop and provide a safe atmosphere to learn. We, the ECD, encourage all to come and participate.

| | Active Member (double room) | Active Member (single room) | Non-member (double room) | Non-member (single room) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Early Bird rate before March 31 | \$75 | \$105 | — | — |
| Regular rate April 1 - June 15 | \$100 | \$130 | \$225 | \$255 |
| Commuter (meals only) | \$50 | | \$125 | |

***Check-in** Monday, July 15th, is between 1—5pm. **Departure** is Wednesday, July 17th, 1—2pm

*The ECD will be covering \$50, to be reimbursed upon arrival, to all active members (for a basic double room). Active members are due-paying members at least once between 2017 and now, or if you are currently involved in an ECD church or ministry.

***Scholarship applications** are available for those who need help covering traveling expenses.

***Early Bird** and **Regular Rate** cost includes room, meals, and program

Cancel by June 15 for refund (minus \$25 cancellation fee to cover costs)

Online registration only at: www.ecdeaf.org/retreat-2019¹⁵



The Deaf Episcopalian



Episcopal Conference of the Deaf
St. Thomas Deaf Church
c/o Grace Episcopal
514 E. Argonne Drive
St. Louis, MO 63122

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED