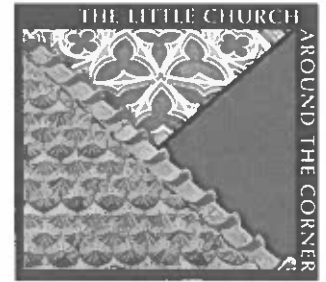


April 2013



THE CHURCH OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Church of the Transfiguration,

As ever we had a wonderful series of services for Holy Week and Easter this year. Each service, be it for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve or Easter Day, has its own particularly integrity and beauty and I would be pushed to say which was my favorite. As I have said before they are designed to be all of a piece and that is the best way to experience and appreciate them. Many of you were able to share in that full experience and I trust benefitted from it. Of course the church looked magnificent for the Easter services: everything shiny and bright; the place full of flowers, and filled with the sounds of magnificent music. Many thanks to those who helped prepare the church with polishing and arranging flowers and to all who contributed so generously to the flowers and the music. We received over \$5000 for both the latter. So Christ is Risen. Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia.

Three major events stand out in coming weeks.

First our fine organ is 25 years old this year. To celebrate that event Claudia Dumschat is given a recital called **“Bach to the Future” on Friday April 19 at 7.30pm**. Come and enjoy the richness and beauty of the music and bring your friends.

Second on **Ascension Thursday, May 9, at 6.30pm** Bishop Chilton Knudsen, a part time Assistant Bishop in the diocese and retired Bishop of Maine, will be making visitation with us and will confirm and receive candidates as well as preside and preach. In preparation for that visitation I will be conducting a **Basic Faith series after the 11am service on Sundays 14, 21 and 28 April in St Joseph’s Chapel**. I would encourage any parishioners interested in confirmation or who would like to be received from another denomination into the Episcopal Church or who would simply like to renew their faith to attend this series. Please contact me if you have any questions about this or would like to discuss the matter in general.

Third on **Sunday May 5**, the Sixth Sunday of Easter commonly called Rogation Sunday, we will be **Rededicating the Restored Lychgate following the 11am Solemn Mass**. The Lychgate is looking magnificent with only the mosaic floor around the statue to be finished. Many of you have given so generously to this appeal as a result of which we have raised nearly \$150,000 towards the \$200,000 goal.

On a personal note many of you know that I visited Rome last month to take a course at the Anglican Centre there taught by Dr Paula Gooder. She would have to be the best Bible teacher I have come across in many a year. The week I was there just happened to be the week of the Papal Conclave and Election. By pure chance (or was it providence?) I met the new Pope, Francis, the morning after his election. I was staying at the Domus Internationalis Paulus Sixtus, on the Via Della Scrofa, which is a clergy residence at which the new Pope had also been staying prior to his election. So he came by to pay his bill, collect his bags and to thank the staff. I just happened to passing through to reception at the time and was shepherded into the dining room with the staff by security where we were lined up to meet the Pope. My protestations that perhaps I should not be there were cheerfully ignored. So I and all the staff shook hands with Pope Francis after which he spoke briefly and blessed us. Later that day as I returned from my class the NY Daily News and other newspaper reporters were waiting at the entrance. The Daily News was delighted to find someone from New York and so interviewed and photographed me! You can imagine the reaction from my fellow course members when I arrived at the lecture and offered as my excuse for lateness that I had just met the Pope!

This comes with every good wish for a joy-filled and peaceful Eastertide.



Rector