



# And Also With You

MID-APRIL 2014

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Drive Fairhope, Alabama 36532  
251-929-1606 www.graceanglicanfairhope.com

## APRIL

### SUNDAYS

9:00 am  
Redemptive Gifts Class  
10:00 am  
Worship  
(nursery provided)  
&  
Children's Chapel

### MONDAYS

6:30pm-Graham  
Cooke Group-  
Information 455-5940

### WEDNESDAYS

10:30 am  
Women's Bible  
Study-  
Information 990-2973

12:00 noon  
Holy Communion

### FRIDAYS

8:15 am  
Men's Group-  
Information 422-3169

## CHALICE BEARERS

**April 6-Lent V**  
Becky Johnson  
Jan Bogue

**April 13-Palm  
Sunday**  
Kitty Barksdale  
Janic Terry

**April 17-Maundy  
Thursday**  
Bob and Jane  
Grafe

**April 20-Easter**  
Jan Bogue  
Becky Johnson

**April 27-Easter 2**  
Janic Terry  
Kitty Barksdale

## The Birth Canal



The Rev'd Scott Davis

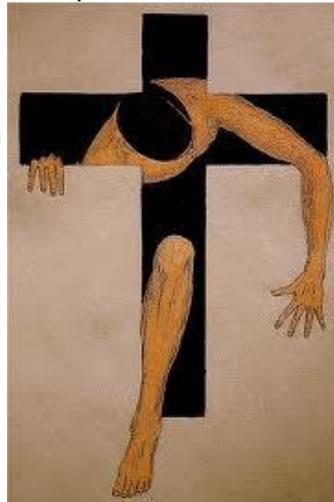
There are times when I notice pastoral patterns. When this occurs it is often a signal that a new season is beginning. We witness the shift from winter to spring in the physical realm,

so in the spiritual realm we see similar changes. I want to describe the spiritual season I believe we are entering. I am calling it *the birth canal season*.

When conception occurs, life begins in the mother's womb. There is plenty of room for growth which occurs exponentially for a time. One cell becomes two, two become four, and so on. If this exponential growth continues then the new life will quickly run out of room, and so the growth shifts from outward to inward, focusing on the development of organs and the brain. The once comfortable space, however, becomes crowded by the ninth month.

You know what happens next. When the womb gets too small the new life moves into an even smaller space called the birth canal. To gain more room the baby must move to an even tighter place for a short period of time.

This is a picture of what some are experiencing in their life right now. Life up to this point has been working.



There has been plenty of room to grow as a person, in their relationships, vocation, and spiritual walk. However, what once was roomy has now become too tight. In order to move from a tight place to a more open place we must go through an even tighter place—the birth canal. Jesus told His disciples, *"...small is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life, and only a few find it."* (Matthew 7:14)

Your destiny begins as a dream that is kept safe within the womb of God's love. At a certain point in development a person has to move from the place of dreams and growth or else the life within them will die. To get to the larger place of realizing those dreams

and destiny we have to enter a smaller place. It seems to be a principle of the kingdom. The *birth canal* can feel like a *death canal*. The tight place, however, always opens to a larger place. Few find it, according to Matthew 7, and I believe it is because people give up too easily or that they refuse to enter the even tighter place because they do not believe that it is the way to life.

If you are one of those whose life has suddenly moved from a tight place to an even tighter place then rejoice because you are on the right path. This is the way to your destiny. It always has been and always will be.

We often mention Joseph (Old Testament) and King David quite often as

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examples because both of their lives illustrate this pattern. To end up in the open place of destiny they each had to go through the narrow gate—the birth canal of God’s training. You will too, and the other good news is that others will be on the same journey with you.

God designs the birth canal to contract and expand in order to push the life from one realm to another. It is no fun for the mother or the child but is a necessary part of the maturing process in Christ.

James 1:2-4 says, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

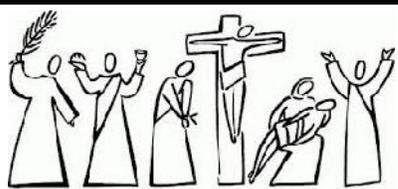
Remember, Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again. This means that he would have to pass through God’s birth canal and the gate would be narrow. Do not give up. If this is your season, enter the narrow way with joy, courage, and determination because there is a wide world out there waiting for you.  
Blessings,  
Father Scott



 “The enemy longs to make us anxious because he is.” *Graham Cooke*

If you would like to give an Easter Lily in thanksgiving for or in memory of a loved one the cost is \$10. Please call the church office asap so that we can list these in the Easter bulletin.



  
Holy Week Schedule  
April 13-Palm Sunday-10am  
April 16-Maundy Thursday-6:30pm  
Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar  
April 17-Good Friday-12:noon  
Liturgy of the Cross-No Communion  
April 20-Resurrection Sunday-10am

**Congratulations to...**

*Becky and Matt Castellano on the birth of their grandson, Michael Valentino Caponi on March 30, 2014.*



**Our love and prayers go out to...**

*The family of Mary Rettig who died on April 10, 2014. Mary was a much loved member of the Wednesday Bible Study. Her laughter, love, and sense of humor will be greatly missed by all her friends in Bible Study.*

