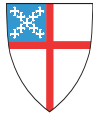




The Gleanings of *St. John's*



October 2009

*Dear friends in
Christ,*

At the end of every service I send you out with a blessing. It is a combination of the blessing of Aaron found at the end of the 6th chapter of Numbers and of the classic, Christian blessing in the name of the Trinity: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace now and evermore. And the blessing of God Almighty; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever."

What you may not know is that, for me, this is a very tender, intimate blessing. It is the same blessing I use when I put my children to bed at night.

Parents have the right and the responsibility to pray for and bless our children. I make sure that my children hear me give thanks to God for the wonder of who they are. I also let them hear me pray for areas of their lives that trouble me. Most of all I lay my hands on them and pray for God's blessings upon them. I use the words of a priest because I am a priest. Each parent can and should use language that is right for the style of that family.

Many of you know that I have mixed feelings about the title "Father" for a priest. I maintain a working awareness that we have one Father in heaven and that I am not him. On the other hand I keep a working awareness that, in my priestly role, I have been called by the Church to speak for God in certain circumstances. The blessing is one of those situations.

Just as I pray for my children as their dad, in the concluding blessing I believe I address you on behalf of God. Our Father in heaven is more deeply in love with us than any of us are able to love our own children. To bless you on behalf of God is a passionate, loving privilege. Each time I do it I speak what I believe God wants you to hear before you return to face the changes, chances, and trials of the world: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace now and evermore. And the blessing of God Almighty; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever."

Your brother in Christ,
— Wilson +

Upcoming Events & Parish News

Blessing of the Animals Service

October 4th is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. It has been our custom over the past few years to hold a special service for the blessing of animals on that day, and Rector Wilson Brown will be happy to bless any animals brought to the church's parking lot at 5.00 pm on that day. Tom Mustard drew the line at reptiles, but Wilson is more intrepid: he'll bless anything that won't bite! This is always a joyous occasion, so please come with your pets, and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same.

Breakfast, Sunday October 18th

Breakfast is offered at 9:00 am on the third (Youth) Sunday of the month during the Christian Formation year. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the food preparation. If you can help, please contact Chandra Schmehl.

Help Diocesan Youth Fill The Ark

Ready or Not, Here We Come!
Yes, you have heard all kinds of stories about what our youth and crumb snatchers are up to, and yes it is all true. The Diocese

Sunday Services

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:30 am Sunday School/Choir Practice
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
(1st Sunday, Rite I)
11:30 am Morning Social Hour

Wednesday Service

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II
(Healing Services 1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

How to Contact Us:

314 North Bridge Street
Bedford, VA 24523

540-586-9582

email: jshuttstjohns@verizon.net
wbrownstjohns@verizon.net

www.stjohnsbedford.org

The Staff

The Rev. F. Wilson Brown Rector
The Rev. Kay Waff Deacon
The Rev. Carol Cross Deacon
Mary Anne Eubank Organist/Choir
Jenny Shutt Administrative Assistant
Tom Sendall Sexton

Address Changes: Please help us to keep our postage costs down by notifying the church office if you have a change-of-address. The Post Office charges us for any returned mail. Also, notify the office if you have a young person in your family away in school, we will be happy to send them a copy of the newsletter.

Submit Newsletter articles
to Chandra Schmehl by email at
stjohnsnewsletter@verizon.net
or call 587-9093 with questions, suggestions,
or complaints.
November Deadline: Saturday, October 17

Upcoming Events & Parish News (cont.)

has embraced a plan to fill an Ark for Heifer International. There have already been some early contributions and now the campaign is set and ready.



Starting on October 1st and running through November 1st, it is our intention to raise \$700—our portion of the \$5,000 goal set by the diocese. So keep your pockets full of change and be ready in a snap to whip out those dimes and quarters to help our younger ones fulfill their goals. Contact Jim Church if you have questions. For more information about the good work of Heifer International, visit their website at www.heifer.org.

Successful Yardsale

There is no adequate way to thank Blu Ayers and Jenny Green for heading up the work crew for the St. John's Yard sale. They worked Thursday to set up the room, all day Friday to bring in donations and price everything, and arrived before 7:00 am to open the Saturday sale.

Those items not sold by noon were donated to Christian Ministries, Bedford Domestic Violence Services, and Friends of the Library. Thanks to all who brought items, baked goods and worked so hard to make it a success. Approximately \$1,200 was raised which will be used for the improvement of the church Sacristy.

Secret Shepherd Sunday, November 1st

The tradition of lifting our families up in prayer throughout the year was started several years ago as an outward sign of our inward spiritual journey as a parish family. We remember each other in our prayers. The power of prayer is an amazing and necessary tool to support and nurture our youth. You may become a Secret Shepherd to our youth as an individual, a couple, or as an entire family. A bulletin insert will provide more information about this outreach of prayer and support. If you participated last year and would like to continue to shepherd the same children, please let Martha Nowlin know so those names will not be included in the drawing. This year we begin the Secret Shepherd ministry on All Saint's Day, November 1st. Thank you for your support!

Stewardship Sunday, November 1st

Stewardship Sunday is November 1st. Look for a letter and "Time and Talent" form coming to your mailboxes prior to that date.

The Vestry Report

Jenny Shutt, recording secretary

The Vestry Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009. Father Wilson called the meeting to order and after the opening prayers, the Treasurer's report was submitted by Mary Page Gwaltney. She reviewed the August 2009 financial statements, and stated that pledges are down by about 4%. She then reviewed the 2008 Audit. She noted that the audit was very thorough and there were no problems with the exception that the money counters need to initial the collection form each Sunday. Money counters will be advised. The audit was accepted.

Senior Warden's Report: Frank West reported that the elevator fundraising is going well, and he expects a few more gifts for this project to be forthcoming. He also met again with Skip Tharp about the parking lot lease and they agreed on the terms of the lease.

Junior Warden's Report: Bill Jackson reported that he has someone coming to look at the front stairs to have them re-pointed.

He also reported that the engineer and the elevator company representative are still working on getting the construction permit needed to begin work on the elevator. He is hopeful that construction will begin as scheduled around the first of October.

Wilson then read a request from Jenny Green asking that half of the yard sale funds be given to the Altar Guild for renovations to the sacristy. After some discussion, the Vestry voted to give the

funds to the altar guild for the sacristy renovation.

Under new business: St. John's is in receipt of some funds from a class action settlement involving a natural gas well in which St. John's holds an interest. After some discussion, it was decided that the settlement funds be designated for the elevator project. There may be an additional amount to be received later. These funds will be designated when they are received.

St. John's Trustees were then discussed. St. John's needs to appoint two new trustees. It was agreed that Wilson would approach two appropriate people about being trustees and present the proposed candidates at the next meeting for vestry approval.

Following the committee reports, Wilson reported that he has visited a number of parishioners over the last month. He has also spoken with Bishop Powell who is doing well following his surgery.

Wilson also advised that he will be out of town October 5th through 11th for a continuing education seminar. The Rev. Robert Morrison will be the supply priest.

He also reported that the directory is still underway and asked Chandra Schmehl to give an update. Chandra reported that the printing costs for having the directory done professionally would be prohibitive. She suggests that we do an in-house black and white version, and supplement that with a color version on digital media for

Vestry Report (cont.)

those that request it. She will be working with Jenny Shutt over the next few weeks to get this completed.

The meeting closed with prayer at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
—*Jenny Shutt, Recording Secretary*

Next meeting:
Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 pm

The Vestry

Frank West Senior Warden
Bill Jackson Junior Warden
Pat Rieley Clerk of the Vestry
Mary Page Gwaltney Treasurer

Members:

Blu Ayers Winston Burks
Jim Church Lynne Forster
Rob Jarvis Tom Montgomery
Chandra Schmehl Pete Thomas
John Waff
Tyler Watkins, *Youth Representative*

Vestry Person of the Month for October:

Rob Jarvis

C O M M I T T E E S

Fellowship

We owe a great gratitude to Rebecca Mays for the time she has devoted to the Fellowship Committee over the past seventeen years. She has spent countless hours scheduling teams, keeping the pantry stocked and writing newsletter reports. We also thank Bill Mays for helping Rebecca shop for all the needed supplies.

With a new committee on board, we're looking forward to continuing the tradition of successful fellowship events. We thank Julia Baker for doing the coffee team schedules, and Bill Linkous for buying supplies and stocking the pantry shelves.

Blu Ayers & Julia Baker

The search is still on for a new co-chair for the committee. Anyone interested in learning more about this is asked to contact Blu Ayers.

"Thank you very much for honoring me (and surprising me) in church as I stepped down as Fellowship chairman. I appreciate the framed print of the church and the kind thoughts."
—*Rebecca Mays*

Christian Formation

Kara Brown & Heather Garrett

Christian Education classes are off to a great start this year. Our children are lucky to have this opportunity to explore their faith and learn Christian principles for life. Rumor has it that Jim Church has even been known to bake cookies right before class and serve them warm during Sunday School! Thank you to our wonderful teachers! Also, we have a great new group of teachers helping with Children's Chapel. With their help, we have a rotation that is easy to keep up. Thanks to Chandra for revamping our chapel service and training the new volunteers! Thank you, also, to Judy Whitehead for providing a fabulous breakfast for our monthly pre-Sunday School breakfast! It is a real treat to enjoy great food and fellowship before heading up to class. Don't miss it on October 18th!

Just a couple of reminders this month:

All the youth of the church are invited to join the youth group on a picnic and easy hike after church on October 4th.

Secret Shepherds will start up for this year on All Saints' Sunday, November 1st. Don't forget to set your clock back the night before!

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, October 4

9:30 Sunday School Classes

*Godly Play, Journey to Adulthood
Adult Forum*

10:30 Worship Service/Children's Chapel

12:00 Hike with Youth Group

Sunday, October 11

9:30 Sunday School Classes

*Godly Play, Journey to Adulthood
Adult Forum*

10:30 Worship Service/Children's Chapel

Sunday, October 18 (Youth Sunday)

9:00 Breakfast

9:30 Sunday School Classes

*Godly Play, Journey to Adulthood
Adult Forum*

10:30 Youth Sunday Worship Service

(No Children's Chapel)

Sunday, October 25

9:30 Sunday School Classes

*Godly Play, Journey to Adulthood
Adult Forum*

10:30 Worship Service/Children's Chapel

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Godly Play (age 4–5th grade)
a worshipful hands-on class for children
Meets upstairs in the Atrium (end of hall on the right)

Journey to Adulthood (6th–12th grades)
a questioning class for our teens
Meets downstairs behind the kitchen to the left

Adult Forum
a discussion group on a variety of topics.
Meets in the sanctuary

Nursery (infant–age 3)
available during Christian Ed and
10:30 Worship Service

Youth Group

The youth gathered for the first time this Fall on Sunday, September 20th, to go over the youth calendar for the year. We also made plans for the youth gathering on September 27th where we will be joined by youth from St. Stephen's Church in Forest. We will be roasting hotdogs and marshmallows on the brick grill at the far end of the parking lot at St. John's. Games and fellowship will follow after lunch.

Sunday School Hike

October is going to be a busy month for our youth. We are excited to have all the Sunday School classes gather for an outing on Sunday, October 4th. We will have lunch and go for a hike along Otter Creek. We will plan on leaving the church at 12:00 noon and return around 4:00 pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Be sure to sign up—it will be loads of fun!

Mass on the Mountain

The next Mass on the Mountain will be held in the Augusta convocation October 16-18th. Camping will be at Sherando Lake. We will be meeting at the church at 4:30 pm on Friday. This has become a big favorite of many. We play games and sing around the campfire in the evening. Youth and their families (including younger siblings) are encouraged to attend. If you cannot attend the entire weekend please consider joining us for the hike on Saturday which begins at 10:00 am. We

Jim & Brenda Church, Leaders



Sherando Lake

have Eucharist at a clearing on top of the mountain. It is a great time to get away and back to nature. Registration forms are in the Parish Hall. We do hope you will join us and remember this is for everyone, not just youth. See Jim for details/directions.

Dinner at St. Stephen's

On October 25th we will have dinner and an evening youth worship service at St. Stephen's in Forest at 5:00 pm. They have been doing this for some time now and we have been invited to join them.

If you have any questions please call us. We are very blessed to have these many opportunities for fellowship, I do hope you will be able to join us!

God's Peace,
—Brenda & Jim

Outreach

Judy Whitehead

Each Fall season we begin to think more about those in need of our help and assistance. The Outreach Committee hopes you will want to participate in several of the local and international projects which we sponsor through St. John's. We also invite those who are interested to meet on the Outreach committee. Please contact or see Judy Whitehead if you can help.

Monday, November 30th is the next opportunity to prepare and serve a meal at the Shepherd's Table in Bedford. Please look ahead and volunteer your morning for this worthwhile Outreach project. Contact Judy Whitehead for information.

Our thanks to those who helped prepare and serve the Monday, August 31st luncheon at Shepherd's table including Bev Henderson—chair, Blu Ayers, Mary Anne Eubank, Shirley Mustard, Mary Ann Wilson, Kay Waff, Kara Wagner Brown, and Wilson Brown.

There are simple ways to recycle and help others:

- Save tabs from beverage, vegetable, and soup cans. Place your baggie of tabs in the can opposite the church office. This helps our new Hospice House project, which recently sold 507 pounds of tabs, and earned \$400!
- The Boys' Home has begun their annual Christmas Sponsor program. Proceeds from the sponsorship program are used to

purchase clothing and Christmas gifts for the boys who reside at the home. The cost to sponsor a young man is \$100. St. John's hopes to sponsor as many boys as possible. If you would like to support this special program, please make your check payable to St. John's and write "Boys' Home" in the memo. All donations must be received by November 8th.

- Locally, there is great need for food donations. Please remember, when you go to the grocery store, the plight of those people who do not have enough money to buy food. Food Lion, for example, always has a pile of "bargain reductions" just inside the front door, and many stores have "two-for-the-price-of-one" items. Please use these as the basis of your weekly food offering, and bring your gifts and place them in the boxes or baskets provided. As an added incentive to encourage parishioners to bring canned goods and other non-perishable items, the Rector has decided to bless these offerings as well.
- Save your soup labels putting them on the table opposite the office. Jean Brobeck continues to coordinate this Boys' Home project.
- Our youth group is spearheading the Heifer Project as part of the Diocesan effort to purchase an ark. Please be generous in contributing to this International program. Note: the deadline is November 1st with the goal of \$700.

Outreach (cont.)

Excerpt from email received from Nancy:

"I am writing this quick e-mail from the hotel of Shyira Diocese in Musanze, Rwanda. I have been in Rwanda almost a week and already so many blessings have poured back to me... I have cried more tears of joy in my few days here than any time in my life.....

In Bigogwe these are the things that have been accomplished with our donations that they shared with me: Gentille Bukimi is being fully educated at a university, the community came together to repair a roof, a family has a cow and their children have milk, a woman now has medical care for her family who was sick before now, and the community has come together to build a 5 part community center. They showed me the restaurant they have opened, the 6 new sewing machines with women now working, the fabric shop, the barber shop, the food shop, and their association office. One lady reported that the money I sent helped her buy a proper door...

The final thing they showed me blew me away completely: the property and foundations they are giving to me for a home in Rwanda!!!

I also learned that day that one of the ladies of Inyakurama in Musanze has named her new baby girl Nancy in gratitude for me. The Inyakurama reported to me yesterday that since working on the prayer dolls and clothing projects they have come together much more often and are a much stronger community. They also report that more of their children are in school, are better fed, are receiving proper medical care, and have lovely new clothes. So much more is happening...in their lives. They just feel so loved and cared for and it touches me deeply to hear their stories....."

....All for now. God Bless you and THANK YOU. Keep me in your prayers.

—Love, in Christ, for Rwanda, Nancy Strachan

COMMITTEES

Parish Concerns

Katy Craig

The Parish concerns committee is working hard to update all of our college and military addresses for the Halloween boxes. Please contact the church office to make these updates. Donations of cookies, candy and other goodies will be greatly appreciated to fill 17-19 wonderful boxes.

Suggestions from the *Roanoke Times* included: sugar-free hot chocolate mix, dried fruits in snack bags, energy bars with protein & fiber, sugar-free gum, individual soups, homemade granola or trail mix and, the ever favorite popcorn balls!

A sign-up sheet and collection box will be placed in the Fellowship Hall very soon!

We plan to pack and mail these boxes the week of October 26th, so we will need all donations by Sunday, October 25th.

Parish Concerns was pleased to provide meal gift cards to the Sensenig family in the days following the birth of baby Isabel. They are grateful and thankful for all of our prayers and thoughtfulness during this exciting time!

St. John's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	SEPTEMBER 2009 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	OCTOBER 2009 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Pentecost 18 4 8:00 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite I</i> 9:30 am Choir Practice/Christian Formation Classes 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite I</i> , Children's Chapel 11:30 am Morning Social Hour noon EYA Hike 5:00 pm Blessing of the Animals <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>BD: Rande Beckman</i> <i>BD: Valerie Chastain</i> <i>BD: Tom Sendall</i> </div>	5 6:00 pm EfM Classes	6
Pentecost 19 11 8:00 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite I</i> 9:30 am Choir Practice/Christian Formation Classes 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite II</i> , Children's Chapel 11:30 am Morning Social Hour <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>BD: Wendy Plattus</i> <i>BD: Destiny Greer</i> </div>	12 6:00 pm EfM Classes <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>BD: Carol Cook</i> <i>Anv: Walt & Sally Busch</i> <i>Anv: Carter & Heather Garrett</i> </div>	13 7:00 pm Cub Scouts
Pentecost 20 18 8:00 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite I</i> 9:00 am Breakfast Youth Sunday 9:30 am Choir Practice/Christian Formation Classes 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite II</i> 11:30 am Morning Social Hour Mass on the Mountain 3:00 pm Gold Wing RR <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;"> <i>Anv: Langley & Debbie Weber</i> </div>	19 3:00 pm Alzheimers Caregiver Support Group (Adult Day Care Center) 6:00 pm EfM Classes	20 7:00 pm Cub Scouts <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>BD: Charlene Merritt</i> <i>Anv: Tom & Sue Montgomery</i> </div>
Pentecost 21 25 8:00 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite I</i> 9:30 am Choir Practice/Christian Formation Classes 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite II</i> , Children's Chapel 11:30 am Morning Social Hour 2:30 pm Lynchburg Convocation Mtg 5:00 pm EYA <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>BD: Julia Baker</i> <i>BD: Randi Cooper</i> </div>	26 6:00 pm EfM Classes	27

October 2009

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
<p>NOVEMBER 2009</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						<p>1</p> <p>10:00 am DOK meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Anv: Jim & Betty Hueber</i></p>	<p>3</p>
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<p><i>12:15 pm</i> 7 <i>HE/Healing Service</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>2:30 pm Parkinson's Support Group—BMH Conference Room</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>BD: Stan Merritt</i> <i>BD: Louise Robertson</i></p>	<p>10</p>																																										
<p><i>12:15 pm</i> 14 <i>Holy Eucharist</i></p> <p>4:00 pm Liturgy Meeting</p> <p><i>BD: Rick Guerin</i></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:30 pm Youth depart for Mass on the Mountain</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Mass on the Mountain</p>																																										
<p><i>12:15 pm</i> 21 <i>HE/Healing Service</i></p> <p>6:00 pm Vestry Meeting</p> <p><i>BD: Greg Baltad</i></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>BD: Bill Mays</i> <i>BD: Kyle Olson</i></p>	<p>24</p>																																										
<p><i>12:15 pm</i> 28 <i>Holy Eucharist</i></p> <p><i>BD: Philip Baker</i> <i>Anv: Bob & Marge Rucker</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>BD: Virginia Philbrick</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Anv: Peter & Kristy Waff</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>BD: Dick Whitehead</i></p>																																										

Daughters of the King

Janet Hardison, Secretary

Who are the Daughters of the King?

The Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the Historic Episcopate but not in communion with it. Today our membership includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic churches. The order was founded in 1885 by Margaret J. Franklin at the Church of the Holly Sepulchre in New York City. Our Anglican tradition includes episcopal oversight, Holy Scripture containing all things necessary for salvation, recognition of the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, the real presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist and worship according to *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Members undertake a *Rule of Life*, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish.

The mission of the Mary and Martha Chapter is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism.

Election of officers was held at the September meeting and they are as follows:

President—Blu Ayers
Vice President—Louise Pipkin
Treasurer—Betty Hueber
Secretary—Janet Hardison

Helen Ann Spessard, Brenda Arbogast and Louise Pipkin sewed beautiful dresses for the children of Rwanda for Nancy Strachan, which she took with her in September. Thanks to these talented and gifted ladies. Also, God Bless Nancy as she continues her missionary work.

Rebecca Mays was installed as Vice President of the Diocesan Order of the Daughters of the King. Congratulations and thank you, Rebecca, for all of your service.

Prayer cards are in every pew. If you have any special prayer requests, please let us know. All prayers are confidential.

Our sister, Dr. Louise Robertson, is still recuperating from her illness. Everyone, please continue to pray for her complete healing. God Bless you, Dr. Louise. We miss you and love you.

During a recent prayer service for one of the Daughters, Father Brown, called us "Prayer Warriors." Webster's dictionary describes a warrior as a person who has shown great vigor, courage or aggressiveness. This certainly describes how diligent we are in our mission of this Order as

Daughters of the King (cont.)

Christ's servants through Prayer, Service and Evangelism.

The Mary and Martha Chapter of St. John's will host the Fall Assembly at Evans House, St. John's Roanoke, October 31st.

If you are interested in our Order, please contact any member and we will be happy to give you information and invite you to join the Mary and Martha Chapter.

Our next meeting will be held Thursday, October 1st, 10:00 am, promptly in the Parlor at St. John's.

Prayer is so simple. It is like quietly opening a door and slipping into the very presence of God. There in the stillness, we can listen to His voice or even petition. What we have to say matters not... Just to be there...

In His presence... Is prayer.

COMMITTEES

Altar Guild

Back in the early '80s, when The Rev. Jim Henry came to St. John's, he requested that we use Tawny Port as our communion wine. We've continued to use it from that time to this, but it has become harder and harder to find locally the brand we prefer, which is Taylor's. I've brought it back from trips to North Carolina, but rebel at paying 7% sales tax! We've tried Sheffield, which is cheaper and easy to find, but had a number of complaints, and other Tawny Ports are too expensive for our budget. All of this is to say that with the rector's advice and consent, when these last two bottles of tawny are gone, we'll be switching to Taylor's Port. If you're interested, search "Taylor's port wine" on the Internet. You'll find lots of information, not the least of which is that Taylor's has been made for over 300 years, and is still owned by relatives of the original family.

Jenny Green, Chairperson

Has anyone seen a long brass box with handles that the altar guild uses for flower arrangements? We have one, but there should be two. It was last seen at the columbarium on July 5th. If you know of its whereabouts, please give me a call.

We need some more altar guild members! Please call me if you're the even least bit interested and let me talk to you about the guild. In brief, it's doing things we all know how to do – washing linens, silver and glass, polishing brass and silver, and setting a table in a prescribed way. You would work with others (never alone), one month out of every seven months. It's understood that not everyone arranges flowers, but if you do and would like to do that without being on a regular team, we can arrange that!

Liturgy Committee

Kay Waff

The Liturgy Committee will hold a meeting at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, October 14th. The meeting will held in the rector's office. The agenda will include offering of food baskets, strengthening of Sunday morning ministries, and the Advent,

Christmas, Epiphany cycle. All members of this committee are encouraged to attend.

Prayers

Our Clergy and their Families: Pray for our Bishops Katharine and Neff, and for Richard and Dorothy; for Wilson, our Rector, and Kara; Carol and Kay, our Deacons, and Michael and John; for the Parish Nurse Ministry; and for the Mother Teresa Orphanage and the Mustard Seed Project in Rwanda.

Diocese of Bradford: Pray for all who work with children, for Sunday Schools and After School Clubs, for those responsible for implementing the Child Protection policy, that the care of children and vulnerable adults may always be on our minds.

Episcopal Church of Sudan: Pray for the Church's work in pastoral ministry to all people, for schools and the development of education at every level, and for the Commission for General Education.

Diocese of Southwestern Virginia: Pray for God's blessing on all church administrators.

Daughters of the King: Pray for all those on their prayer list.

Pray for all those who are sick, especially for Anne, Beverly, Arline, Louise, Edith, Mike, Ted, Phyllis, Dick, Nikki, Julia, Shannon, Al, Helen, Chris, Sally, Doug, Diane, Larry, Dixie, Virginia, Neff, Julie, Norah, Abbey, Cathy, Janet, Cornelia, and Jason that they may have improved health.

For all those who are shut-in or who have suffered a loss, especially Harry, Lucille, Jane, Polly, Delphine, Gloria, Nenie, Marion, Gladys, Bill, Laura, Mary, Virginia and Vera, that they may know God's comforting spirit.

Pray for all members of the Armed Forces, especially those deployed from Company "A" and "C," and and Katie, Travis, Chris, Robert, Adam, Rob and Joe.

Around St. John's

Sherri Blanks and **Linwood Hodnett** were married on September 9th in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Following the ceremony, they spent a week in Pigeon Forge in a house appropriately named "A Walk in the Clouds." Sherri will continue to reside in Bedford as well as in Sutherlin, which is near Danville. On October 24th, their marriage will be blessed at St. John's. by **Rev. G. Thomas Mustard**. Congratulations Sherri and Linwood;—we wish you years of happiness! †

Bishop Neff Powell continues his recovery from surgery for prostate cancer. He feels a little better each day, though he is still "a ways away from being back to full strength." He spends part of each morning in Evans House and then continues with his e-mails at home. He and Dorothy are tremendously grateful for all the messages of support they have received. †

John Waff's photo was published in the Boys' Home newsletter along with Donnie Wheatley as the Virginia Theological Seminary conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Wheatley at the school's commencement in May. John is a former trustee. The **Rev. Dr. Bob Copenhaver** piped the Marine Corps hymn as part of the program. †

Judy Whitehead will be traveling to Chicago for the October 2nd birthday celebration as the twins turn 2! Hope to see pictures of **Catherine (Whitehead) Mellon** and her family. †

Michael Cross & Rebecca Mays



Congratulations to **Kara & Dave Sensenig** on the birth of **Isabel Grace Sensenig**. This tiny miracle arrived on September 5, 2009 and weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces. Those attending church on September 20th, were treated to a glimpse of Baby Isabel when Father Wilson included "The Blessing of a New Birth" as part of the service. She is pictured above with her parents and big brothers **Jacob** and **Joshua**. †

We send our very best wishes to **Frank Lea** for a speedy recovery. Frank recently had major reconstruction surgery on his foot, and he will be spending a couple of weeks in the Veterans' Association rehabilitation center in Salem. †

Amongst the many people who serve as Lay Ministers the Ushers perform a very important service. They are the first people that newcomers to the church meet, and so the welcome they give is crucial. They are

Around St. John's (cont.)

also responsible for ensuring that everyone, especially newcomers, have a service sheet, and can maneuver their way through the service. Thanks to the initiative of **Gordon Eubank**, the ushers now have a manual to guide them in their work. This new publication, which was presented at a meeting of the ushers after the 10.30 service on Sunday, 20th September, is available in the church office to anyone who would like a copy. †

Director **Nancy Johnson** is having auditions now for the Little Town Players November production of *The Trip to Bountiful*. Check the web site www.little-townplayers.com for details.

John Waff heads up the LTP ushers for each of the four productions, if you'd like to volunteer. Kathie Childers, Carol & Michael Cross helped him at *Fiddler on the Roof*. **Katie Gardner** had the role of a beggar in that production. †

We appreciate the kind hospitality of **Joe & Mary Page Gwaltney** for entertaining at a house party at their newly remodeled home in Roanoke. Mary Page did all the painting of inside trim and maybe more. Thank you for inviting the entire church to a Sunday night party. †

Les Strachan tells us that Nancy was met by 20 friends when she landed in Kigali where she deposited money into a bank account and bought a telephone to use in Rwanda. She is at the Sonrise School now and doing many projects of teaching women sewing and jewelry making. †

Rebecca Mays has joined a committee for the Domestic Violence Services Gala which will be held at the Elks National Home on Thursday, October 22 from 7:00-9:00 pm. Please consider buying a ticket for \$5.00 and attending the silent and live auction. Wonderful refreshments will be served and many items on which to bid. One of **Irv Brobeck's** large paintings will be included in the auction. †

Both **Tyler Watkins** and **Kate Brown** played at their band competition at William Byrd High School in September. The LHS band received a 2nd place in Division II. Congratulations! This was one of the six competitions the band will be competing in this fall. †

Urgent: October 4th deadline for Hospice House Challenge Grant

One of the tragedies of current Western "civilization" is the breakdown of the extended family. The historical role played by the women in our society has been to nurture the young and care for the elderly. Sadly this has all changed and the care of the elderly increasingly falls on nursing homes or professional caregivers. One movement which is currently gaining momentum is the provision of a home-like structure where the terminally ill can spend their last days with dignity, receiving palliative care from caring professionals. For some time now, a group of Bedford citizens have been raising money for the construction of such a house and their

Around St. John's (cont.)

efforts were rewarded recently when the money raised or pledged passed the target of \$1.6 million. It is hoped that an announcement will be made shortly about the ground-breaking ceremony. St. John's Church has been well-represented in this project. **Frank West** and **Michael Cross** serve on the Board of Directors and **Kathie Childers** is on the Capital Campaign committee. More importantly, the members of St. John's have pledged more than \$103,000 towards this campaign.

The income of Bedford House (as it will be called) will always be less than the cost of running it, since patients will be admitted on the basis of need, regardless of their ability to pay. So the Board has embarked on a campaign to establish an Endowment Fund. This has got off to a tremendous start. An anonymous benefactor has offered a grant of \$100,000, but this offer comes with a challenge. **The Board must raise \$30,000 itself before the 4th October, 2009.** This is a tall order but, at the time of writing, just over two-thirds of that had already been raised. Please look deeply into your heart (and your pocket) and, if you possibly can, make an immediate donation to this most worthy cause. Checks may be handed to any of the parishioners mentioned above or mailed to Bedford Hospice House, Inc., P.O. Box 985, Bedford, VA 24523. Please act quickly: we only have a couple of days left. ✚



Please give your contributions to "Around St. John's" to Rebecca Mays or Michael Cross or email them to Chandra at stjohnsnewsletter@verizon.net.

The deadline for the newsletter is the 17th of the month.