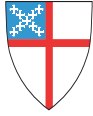




*Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the
gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate
with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be
raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for
ever. Amen.*



The Gleanings of *St. John's*



April 2009

Dear friends in Christ,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!!

Like you, I have stood
beside too many death

beds and graves: parishioners, family, friends, and (cruellest of all) children. I am not a big fan of the “death is a natural part of life” approach. It may be technically true but I recoil when confronted with the reality of that awful stillness where there once was vibrant life. Death mocks us. Death robs us.

The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!!

About 2000 years ago, yet another itinerant preacher named Jesus strode onto the scene proclaiming; “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” I understand that he was not the only one. His name was not unusual. (It is essentially Joshua, “the Lord saves.”) His message was not unusual. (There was an absolute fervor for the coming of the messiah who would drive out the Romans and establish a new kingdom under God.) There were other such preachers throughout the period.

The Romans and the Sanhedrin (temple rulers) did what they usually did when they felt like someone was getting out of line. They made an example of him: crucified, dead, and buried— just like so many

who had come before and would come after. It is business as usual.

Usually, the preacher's followers would scatter and the movement would disintegrate. Jesus of Nazareth's followers report that they ran for their lives and cowered in terror, afraid that they might be next. They had seen death and wanted no part of it.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

We are blessed to have baptisms coming up fast. Easter Day is one of the very best times to baptize people into the Body of Christ!

We say some pretty audacious things at baptisms. We proclaim that these beautiful, precious children are “buried with Christ in his death.” Please do not gloss over that. This borders on insanity. What do we parents fear most? For me, this names it: death. We claim Jesus' death for our children.

The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Inside of two months after Jesus' death, his followers are found to be out in the streets proclaiming loudly that they have seen Jesus risen!! He is the Messiah! He is the Lord! Through this “Christ” God has conquered death! Through Christ, God has

Message from the Rector (cont.)

reconciled humanity to God! The divisions are broken down!

Remember that these are the same people who were hiding in terror while Jesus was being tried and crucified. Something happened; something so life changing that they were not afraid any more. There were no riches or power to be gained. In fact most of them were executed in various ways. The accounts tell us that even in death, they praised God for the freedom and joy that they had received through Jesus Christ!

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

What we claim for our children in baptism is this: “In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.”

Human life is wonderful, playful, love filled and holy. This is what God created us to be. Human life has also fallen into sin: selfishness, hatred, fear, addiction, domination. In Christ we die to that sin. That is to say, we are given a new opportunity to become what we were created to be. In baptism we choose life: the life of Jesus' resurrection, life that cannot be removed from us in suffering or even our final breath.

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

Submit Newsletter articles to Chandra Schmehl by email at stjohnsnewsletter@verizon.net or call 587-9093 with questions, suggestions, corrections, or complaints.

Deadline: Friday, April 17

Address Changes: Please help us to keep our postage costs down by notifying the church office if you have a change-of-address.

Message from the Rector (cont.)

We exist as a church solely to proclaim this life in Christ. For our baptismal candidates we will once again promise to do all in our “power to support these persons in their life in Christ.” I tell folks preparing for baptism that the people of St. John’s will keep this promise. We will provide a community in which to grow in faith, worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, good exam-

ples, and love. This is what we are. We are the disciples proclaiming the Good News.

The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!!

Your brother in Christ,

— *Wilson* †

Upcoming Events & Parish News

Wednesday Night Lenten Series:

The Rector has presented a provocative series of talks on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Each talk has been preceded by a pot-luck supper, and followed by a service of Compline. The Rector chose “Brother/Sister are you saved?” as the theme for the series. The concept of salvation is not an easy one to grasp, partly because it is not at all clear what we are being saved for. The second session included a very lively discussion about the nature of whatever it is that awaits us after our earthly death. To what extent does our behaviour on earth govern our experience after death? If God is a forgiving God, does he forgive all sins, or are some beyond redemption? Does the fact that purgatory and limbo are unfashionable concepts mean that they don’t exist? We might be in for a great surprise if we think so! Will the remaining talk answer these questions to anyone’s satisfaction?

The final potluck and program, “*Response–Sanctification*” is April 1st at 6:00 pm. We thank Wilson for preparing and presenting this challenging series of Lenten addresses.

Holy Week Services

April 5 Palm Sunday

8:00 am: Holy Eucharist

10:30 am: Liturgy of the Palms,

Holy Eucharist

Congregational Reading of
the Passion Narrative

April 6 Monday

(Last day to order Easter flowers)

April 7 Tuesday

12:15 pm: Holy Eucharist

April 8 Wednesday

12:15 pm: Holy Eucharist

April 9 Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm: Solemn Foot Washing

7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Service,
Stripping of the Altar

Upcoming Events & Parish News (cont.)

April 10 Good Friday

- 12:00 pm: Ecumenical Good Friday
Service at Bedford
Presbyterian Church
- 7:00 pm: Good Friday Service and
Stations of the Cross

The church will be open all day for prayer

The Stations of the Cross recall the points in the Gospel story on that Friday when Jesus died. Each of the fourteen stations gives an account of a particular incident and offers a reflection and series of prayers. Those attending will move from one station to the next until all are covered. The service ends with people spending however long they wish in silent meditation.

April 11 Holy Saturday

- 9:30 am: Decorating the Church for
Easter Day
- 7pm–12am Easter Prayer Vigil

The Daughters of the King will sponsor the Easter Prayer Vigil from 7:00 pm to 12:00 midnight in the church. There will be a sign up sheet in the Parish Hall seeking persons to sit in silence in the church for 30 minute periods.

March 23 Easter Sunday

- 8:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:30 am: Sunday School Easter Egg
Hunt
- 10:30 am: Festival of Holy Eucharist,
Rite II, with the
Flowering of the Cross
- 11:30 am Coffee Hour

VBS Dates

Looking ahead, Vacation Bible School will be held from Sunday June 21st through Wednesday June 24th.

The Bishop's Visit

One of the highlights of our church year is the visit of the Bishop. This year was no exception. He and his wife, Dorothy, arrived early in the morning of Sunday, 22nd March, and the Bishop celebrated the 8:00 am service of Holy Communion. At 9:30, while Dorothy joined the choir practice, the Bishop addressed the Adult Forum. He told us about his recent visit to the House of Bishops' Conference at Kanuga, at which he felt that some of the heat generated by the recent furore in the Episcopal Church had dissipated. This had been in contrast with his experience at the Lambeth Conference, at which some vociferous bishops had dominated the deliberations with their views on sexual orientation, much to the dismay of those bishops who wished to address more pressing issues. The Bishop thanked St. John's for donating more than our annual assessment to the Diocese. Sadly, many other churches had not been able to make their assessments and, in spite of massive reductions in some of the diocesan program expenses, the Diocese had failed to meet its full commitment to the National Church.

Three of our parishioners were scheduled to be received into the church. Very sadly, Michael Mason was too ill to be able to

Upcoming Events & Parish News (cont.)

attend, but we were all thrilled to share the joy of Laura Mason and Renée Vest as the Bishop welcomed them into the church. The sermon was a moving reflection on Jesus as the bread of life, which was an appropriate precursor to the amazing amount of bread and other delicious victuals provided in the parish hall after the service. Rebecca Mays, Barbara Murphy, Marilyn Rowe and their teams excelled themselves, and the coffee reception went on much longer than usual. There was much competition to win the beautiful quilt that Jo Bell had made as Treat of the Week, and we were delighted to present

the proceeds from the Treat of the Week, along with the loose plate collection, to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. The Senior Warden, Frank West, delivered our pledge to the diocese for 2009 in the sum of \$24,000 and the Bishop responded by offering a check for \$90, the amount that he and Dorothy had decided to give to each parish to celebrate the 90th year of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. This most memorable visit ended with a delightful luncheon hosted by Kay and John Waff for the clergy, vestry and their spouses.

—submitted by Michael Cross

The Vestry Report

The Vestry's March meeting was held on Thursday, March 19, 2009

Father Wilson called the meeting to order, and after the opening prayers, newcomers Mary Page Gwaltney and Tyler Watkins were introduced. Tyler will be serving as the new youth representative and Mary Page is the assistant treasurer.

Father Wilson then read a letter from Jennifer Murphy, advising of her resignation as St. John's Treasurer. Jennifer has taken a new job in Richmond, which will prevent her from continuing her duties as Treasurer. The Vestry wishes her well in her new endeavors!

The Treasurer's report followed, with Jennifer noting that pledges were coming in well, and overall things look good for

Jenny Shutt, recording secretary

this time of year. The treasurer's report was accepted.

The election of a new treasurer was the next item of business, and Mary Page Gwaltney was elected without dissent to serve as the new treasurer for St. John's. A new assistant treasurer will be looked for.

The Senior Warden reported that the Long Range Planning committee has met and discussed the elevator proposals. The response was enthusiastic. A significant portion of the funds for the project have been promised from a parishioner of St. Johns. Frank then reported that the Lenten Potluck Dinners are going very well and are being well attended.

The Bishop will be visiting Sunday, March 22nd and the Vestry is invited to the Waff's

The Vestry Report (cont.)

home for a luncheon after the service. He then expressed his deep appreciation to Jennifer Murphy for her service as St. John's Treasurer.

The Junior Warden reported that he had met with the engineer regarding the elevator project. The current proposal is to install the elevator in corner near the Parish Hall bathroom, and have it go up to the room that formerly served as the Parish Nurse's office. There is also the possibility of re-doing the bathroom there for handicap accessibility. He is waiting on a new estimate to include the additional work for the bathroom renovation.

Under new business the parochial report was discussed, and accepted by the Vestry. The overage from the Christmas Flowers was designated to be used for the elevator project, and Michael Cross, Rob Jarvis, and Helen Ann Spessard were elected delegates to the 2010 Diocesan Council.

The various committees then gave their reports. The Christian Education Committee reports that they are in serious need of teachers for Godly Play and Journey to Adulthood, and that Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 21-24. The Fellowship committee reports that the freezer ministry needs some assistance. Community Outreach reports that the canned food collection is going well. They have had a request for \$500.00 from the Bedford Community Christmas Station. The Communications Committee reports that Michael Cross will be handling mass e-mails.

Father Wilson reported that the newcomers committee met and he asked that the Vestry Person of the Month stand and greet with him following Sunday services. He then reported that there were a few changes to the Parish Concerns Committee duties, and that the Committee Membership lists had been updated. He then discussed the finalized Holy Week Schedule.

Additionally there are several members of St. John's who are ill. Joyce Moorman is still struggling with infection, Winston Kendrick had been in the hospital with pneumonia, but is at home now, and Louise Robertson is in the hospital recovering from her shoulder surgery.

The meeting was concluded at 8:00 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Next meeting:
Wednesday, April 15, 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 April:
Frank West

Christian Formation

Kara Brown & Heather Garrett

Happy Spring! March has been a busy month learning about the Heifer Project and learning about Lent! Remember to bring in your Heifer Project donations (in your little ark) on April 5th. The calendars have been a good way to remind our families of just how much we have and how much our little donations add up to make a difference for families around the globe. The 'Instructed Eucharist' was a great learning experience for our whole congregation. Did you ever know there were so many symbols all around us in the church? What a delight to learn that so many of our windows depict children and teachers!

Our monthly Breakfasts continue to be great! Think about joining us for one, if you haven't tried it. Laura Mason and Katie Craig will be putting together a rotation of breakfast providers for April and May. Please let them know if you can help.

Easter

Easter arrives soon! We will be having an Easter party during the Sunday School hour including an Egg Hunt! (If you are willing to donate some candy (non melting) that we can use in our eggs for the hunt, please drop it at the church office marked 'Easter Party' or give it to Heather Garrett or Kara Wagner Brown. Thank you!) Easter Sunday, we will have no Children's Chapel as we will have an Easter Children's Sermon and some baptisms to enjoy during the worship service.

Looking Ahead:

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School, coming up June 21–24 in the evenings. It'll be a great event!

—submitted by Kara Brown

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday)

- 9:30 Sunday School Classes
Godly Play, Journey to Adulthood
Adult Forum
- 10:30 Worship Service/Children's Chapel

Sunday, April 12 (Easter)

- 9:30 Sunday School Easter Party
Adult Forum
- 10:30 Worship Service
(No Children's Chapel)

Sunday, April 19 (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, April 26

- 9:30 Sunday School Classes
Godly Play, Journey to Adulthood
Adult Forum
- 10:30 Worship Service/Children's Chapel

Youth Group

“Just one more time!” were the voices of youth on our annual Wintergreen Ski trip. We had a grand time, with twenty-seven youth and adults attending. We were delighted to have our friends, Chris Frank and youth from St. Stephen’s join us for the adventure. We are thankful to our adults, Randi Cooper, Laura Rodes, Rev. Wilson Brown and wife Kara and Brenda and Jim Church. I heard plans being made for next year already!

The Anglican Rosary workshop held by the youth during Lent was well represented. What a great opportunity it was for youth to share a creative way for prayer.

The Youth Ministries Team is at work again! On March 13th–15th at Phoebe Needles Center youth were learning, planning and scheduling events for Diocesan Youth. The theme for the weekend was *Fashioned in Christ*. The guest speaker for the weekend was Lyle Griner from Peer Ministry of the National Church. Lyle had much to offer such as, when people try to solve other people’s problems they are using their own values instead of the people’s values. It is important to listen and observe in their youth ministry and to make a list of options to choose from in resolving a problem. Workshops were also held for leading small groups, worship, games, and music. All enjoyed The Coffeehouse on Saturday night with a Fashion Show. Seniors on YMT received a Christ ring to remind them of Christ’s love

Jim & Brenda Church, Leaders

and YMT’s love for them on this new journey they are about to begin. Seniors from St. John’s were Marsh Baker, Jacob Church and Kim Nowlin. Serving another year is Tyler Watkins, and joining YMT is Marjorie Baker. A big Thank YOU to these youth who give up their time and talent to help serve other youth.

Upcoming Diocesan Youth Events

April 17–19 Spring Mass on the Mountain

We will be hiking Cascades Falls in the New River Convocation. This is not only for youth but for everyone. Bishop Powell will once again be joining us for the hike and leading the Eucharist.

May 1–3 Spring Youth Event

For grades 5th–8th The theme for the weekend is Exploring Youth Ministry with Dr. Seuss

July 3–5 Middle School Mission Trip

Harvest of Hope in Exmore VA., near the Chesapeake Bay. Youth grades 5–7 will be working with Harvest of Hope gleaning fields for food to send to local food banks.

July 14–22 High School Mission Trip

On this trip to New Orleans, LA youth in grades 8–12 will work with the office of Disaster Relief in rebuilding New Orleans. Applications can be found online at www.youth@dioswva.org. Deadline to apply is April 3rd.

God’s Peace,
—Brenda and Jim

Fellowship

Rebecca Mays, Chairperson

Thanks to the good record keeping of Michael Cross at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, we know we had more people join us—with a total of 111 people of all ages.

Thanks to Blu Ayers for preparing the stewed apples and to John Sites for fixing the sausage. Both jobs are new to the committee this year and proved to be a good experience with compliments all around.

Many thanks to the men who made the pancakes and to all those who served the tables, and cleaned up the dishes and kitchen.

This was a wonderful fund raiser for Fellowship Committee which will allow us to support other committees with food and to make some purchases for the kitchen.

We had a large congregation on March 22, 2009 for the visit of Bishop and Mrs. Powell. The two teams of Murphy/Rowe and Mays prepared a special reception including smoked salmon, fresh fruit, cheeses, sandwiches, and treats to welcome the newly received members Laura Mason and Renee Vest.

Altar Guild

Jenny Green, Chairperson

Easter Flowers

If you would like to give Easter Sunday Flowers in memory or honor of loved ones, or in celebration of some event in your life, please fill in one of the cards found on the table in the back of the church. Attach your check for \$8.00 and put it in the collection plate or send it to the church office by Sunday, April 5th. We will be using lilies as well as other spring blooming potted plants, and the Grounds Committee would be happy for you to leave your plant for beautifying the landscape around the church.

Palm Cross Help Needed

On Saturday, April 4th, the altar guild will need some volunteers to help make palm

crosses for the Palm Sunday service on the 5th. Plan to come at 9:30. It won't take long, and it won't matter if you've never made them before—we'll teach you how!

Holy Saturday Opportunity

We will be making the church ready for Easter Sunday on Saturday, the 11th of April at 9:30 in the morning. In addition to the April altar guild members, we need some additional folks to help. Call the church office or Jenny Green to volunteer.

St. John's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	<i>BD: Pat Rieley</i>	<i>BD: Quincy Plattus</i>
<p><i>Palm Sunday</i> 5</p> <p>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, Liturgy of the Palms</i>, Children's Chapel 11:30 am Morning Social Hour 12:00 pm EYA meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Last day to order Easter flowers!</i> <i>BD: Will Gardner</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>6:00–8:30 pm EfM 7:00 pm HE/Healing Service</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BD: Jim Church</i> <i>Anv: Ted & Jenny Green</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>12:15 pm <i>Holy Eucharist</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BD: Michael Cross</i></p>
<p><i>Easter Sunday</i> 12</p> <p>8:00 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite I</i> 9:30 am Choir Practice/Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite II, Flowering of the Cross</i> 11:30 am Morning Social Hour</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Anv: Jim & Renee Vest</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Office closed)</p> <p>6:00–8:30 pm EfM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>
<p><i>Second Sunday in Easter</i> 19</p> <p>8:00 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite I</i> Youth Sunday 9:30 am Breakfast 9:30 am Choir Practice/Christian Formation Classes 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite II</i> 11:30 am Morning Social Hour 12:00 pm EYA meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BD: Ralph Sites</i> <i>BD: Cauthorn Walker</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>6:00–8:30 pm EfM</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BD: Tony Crock</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>7:00 pm Cub Scouts</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Anv: Bill & Rebecca Mays</i></p>
<p><i>Third Sunday in Easter</i> 26</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>6:00–8:30 pm EfM</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BD: Jenny Green</i> <i>BD: Joyce Moorman</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>7:00 pm Cub Scouts</p>

April 2009

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																											
<p><i>12:15 pm</i> 1 <i>HE/Healing Service</i></p> <p>1:00 pm DOK Book Study</p> <p>6:00–7:30 pm Lenten Potluck & Program</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 am DOK meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Anv: Mike & Brenda Arbogast</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>BD: Kara Wagner Brown</i></p>																																																																																											
<p><i>12:15 pm</i> 8 <i>Holy Eucharist</i></p>	<p><i>Maundy Thursday</i> 9</p> <p>2:30p Parkinson's Support Group–BMH Conference Room</p> <p>6:30p Solemn Foot Washing</p> <p>7:00p Maundy Thursday Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>BD: Charles (Bo) Green IV</i></p>	<p><i>Good Friday</i> 10</p> <p>12:00p Ecumenical Good Friday Service (<i>Bedford Presbyterian Church</i>)</p> <p>7:00p Good Friday Service and Stations of the Cross</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The church will be open all day for private prayer</i></p>	<p><i>Holy Saturday</i> 11</p> <p>9:30 am Decorating the Church</p> <p>7:00 pm–midnight <i>Easter Prayer Vigil</i></p>																																																																																											
<p><i>12:15 pm</i> 15 <i>HE/Healing Service</i></p> <p>6:00 pm Vestry Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>BD: James Rucker</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mass on the Mountain</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>BD: Charles Rodes</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mass on the Mountain</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>BD: Lucy Garrett</i></p>																																																																																											
<p><i>12:15 pm</i> 22 <i>Holy Eucharist</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>BD: Peyton Brown</i> <i>BD: Tom Montgomery</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christmas in Action Work Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>BD: Daniel Eubank</i></p>																																																																																											
<p><i>12:15 pm</i> 29 <i>Holy Eucharist</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PEO Yard Sale</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>BD: Mike Arbogast</i> <i>BD: Abigail Johnson</i> <i>BD: Rosalie Nichols</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MARCH 2009</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </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	31					<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 2009</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </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	31						
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Outreach

Christmas in Action

Christmas in Action workday is on April 25th, this year. We will be working on 18 houses in Bedford City and County. These homes are owned by people who can not afford to maintain them for various reasons. We work on safety and weatherization first, and we add handicap access ramps plus we do a lot of cleanup and painting. These are neighbors in need, and we don't have to travel hundreds of miles on a mission trip to love our neighbor. Most of the people are elderly living on little income. They need our help!

Christmas in Action is a volunteer ministry, and we depend on Bedford area churches for support. St. John's has always had a team of workers and donated money to the organization. If you can be available to work, help with deliveries or prepare food for our workers, please contact Judy Whitehead. I know last year our work and

Judy Whitehead, Chairperson

financial support was greatly appreciated. The work crew finished our job by early afternoon.

Christian Ministries and Bedford Ride

Thank you for your tremendous support of "bring a can of food each Sunday in Lent." We are proud that so many members have added to the food donated to these two organizations. Boxes are inside of the Parish Hall door. Please place your food there.

The Christmas Station Easter Boxes

Nancy Strachan is collecting money donations for the Easter boxes that are provided to Bedford County Social Services clients. With so many people out of work, we know that their list is longer than usual. Please give your check or cash to Nancy, payable to St. John's, before April 5th, so she can buy for these families in need.

Rwanda Update

Many people have so generously offered me clothing, jewelry, linens, antiques and even small items of furniture to sell to support mission work in Rwanda. I am limited to those few items that I can fit into my luggage in future trips to Rwanda since the two groups who generously allowed me to "tag along" many boxes in their containers are no longer shipping containers to

Nancy Strachan

Rwanda. However, I will continue accepting donations of women's and children's clothing (clean and in good condition), jewelry, antiques, linens, etc to support this mission work and donate what I cannot use or sell to the Bedford Christian Ministries. Some of you may know that a Thrift Shop for women's and children's apparel recently opened in a section of the

Rwanda Update (cont.)

top floor of the Gilded Era Antique Mall on Bridge Street in Bedford. Fay Harris, the owner of The Gilded Era has generously provided me with a separate space in the front corner of the top floor for a Rwandan Benefit Thrift Shop. I invite members of St. John's (and your friends and family, near and far) to join me in this venture. Those who wish may participate in a number of ways:

- 1) A mother's exchange for children's clothes....we will bring clothes on a specific day several times a year to exchange and/or donate (I don't anticipate that there will be a 100% even exchange, but my goal is to allow us to help each other out in these challenging times and use the leftovers for Rwanda)
- 2) After the first exchange a Yard Sale would follow at a later date in the Parish Hall.

This would raise awareness, generate more funds, and it would allow much of it to be sold so I might avoid as much of the labor intensive work and some expense before it goes into the Gilded Era for commission sales

- 3) Ongoing Thrift Store Sales (I need help cleaning, tagging, sorting clothes) and publicity. Volunteers will be needed to assist with the yard sale when the time comes to have that later this year....possibly in early summer as I will need some time to organize all of this and I am away quite a bit in April and May.

Please call me if you have any interest in assisting with this. I appreciate your continued support and prayers.

God Bless You, In Christ, for Rwanda,
—Nancy Strachan

Daughters of the King

Helen Ann Spessard, Secretary

As our Chapter of The Daughters of the King has done in the past, we will sponsor an Easter Prayer Vigil on Easter Eve, April 11th. This is a spiritual experience for anyone who wants to sit silently, alone or as a couple, and reflect or pray during a 30 or 60 minute period of time in the Church. We remember those who guarded Christ's Tomb and kept a watchful eye, as their Savior lay there in a borrowed grave following his Crucifixion. There will be a

sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for anyone who would like to participate. This solemn, reflective time makes Easter Morning that much more meaningful.

April 1st will be the final meeting of our Book Study. *Celebration of Discipline*, continues to probe our minds and hearts and invites us into worthwhile discussions wherein we are learning about ourselves as we answer the questions posed in the Study Guide.

Parish Concerns

Katy and I would like to extend a big thanks to Rev. Brown and Betty Hueber for meeting with us on March 10th to review our job description and set forth goals for the upcoming year. Please notify Rev. Brown (or the church office) when there is a death, illness or birth in our congregation.

The committee is in need of people that would be willing to help put together meals for these occasions. If you would like to help with this ministry please let us know. We also need volunteers to deliver meals to those who are ill for extended periods of time. The meals are provided by the Fellowship Committee and are kept in the big freezer. This ministry would include picking up a meal, delivering it to the person and visiting for a short time. If you would like more information or can help us with this outreach please contact

Katy Craig & Laura Mason

Laura Mason or Katy Craig. We would like to thank Rebecca Mays for her help in delivering meals this past month.

We would also like to extend a big thanks to Kathie Childers for her years of e-mailing services. This duty has now been taken over by the Communication Committee. Betty Hueber has graciously agreed to continue the phone tree going. Anyone interested in being on the phone tree or helping call others please contact her.

Once again we would like to thank everyone for their help as we transition to being the co-chairs of Parish Concerns. As outgoing chair, Betty Hueber has been a tremendous help as she walks us through each event as it arises.

—submitted by Laura Mason

Grounds Committee

Several members of the Grounds Committee marked the first day of spring by planting eight whiteout rose bushes in the Columbarium bed. A second workday on March 28 is planned. Committee members are also encouraged to stop by and work when they have the time. A clipboard with the Rob Jarvis planting plan and notes to/from grounds workers is in the Parish Hall.

Mike Rieley, Chairperson

Easter Flowers

After the Easter Sunday service, please consider leaving your potted plant behind for the Grounds Committee to use in beautifying our grounds. The Easter lilies will actually bloom around June of next year, and next spring the churchyard would look lovely with hyacinths and tulips showing their colors.

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 Pam and the Parish Nurse Ministry; and for the Mother Teresa Orphanage and the Mustard Seed Project in Rwanda.

Episcopal Church of Sudan: Pray for the relations of the Episcopal Church of Sudan with all levels of government.

Diocese of Southwestern Virginia: Pray for all who work with the youth, college students, and young adults of our diocese.

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

Pray for all those who are sick, especially for Mike, Phoebe, Mr. Smith, Anne, Dick, Beverly, Arline, Louise, Kelvin, Edith, Frances, Joe, Joyce, Harold, and Marge that they may have improved health.

For all those who are shut-in or who have suffered a loss, especially Lucille, Jane, Polly, Delphine, Gloria, Nenie, Marion, Gladys, Bill, Laura, Mary, Doris, 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 Philip, John, Daniel, Tom, Matthew, Nathaniel, Chris, Robert, Madeline, Adam, Ben and Rob.

Readings for the Month April 2009

Sunday, April 5, 2009

Isaiah 50:4–9a
Psalm 31:9–16
Philippians 2:5–11
Mark 14:1–15, 47

Friday, April 10, 2009

Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16–25
John 18:1–19, 42

Sunday, April 12, 2009

Acts 10:34–43
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
1 Corinthians 15:1–11
John 20:1–18

Sunday, April 19, 2009

Acts 4:32–35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1–2:2
John 20:19–31

Sunday, April 26, 2009

Acts 3:12–19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1–7
Luke 24:36b–48



In the Spotlight

April

Happy Birthday Wishes

- April
- 04 Kara Brown
 - 05 Will Gardner
 - 06 Jim Church
 - 07 Michael Cross
 - 09 Charles (Bo) Green IV
 - 15 James Rucker
 - 17 Charles Rodes
 - 18 Lucy Garrett
 - 19 Ralph Sites
Cauthorn Walker
 - 20 Tony Crock
 - 24 Peyton Brown
Tom Montgomery
 - 25 Daniel Eubank
 - 27 Jenny Green
Joyce Moorman
 - 30 Mike Arbogast
Abigail Johnson
Rosalie Nichols

Happy Anniversary!

- Mike & Brenda Arbogast (4/3)
- Ted & Jenny Green (4/6)
- Jim & Renee Vest (4/12)
- Bill & Rebecca Mays (4/21)



We are trying hard to get all the birthdays and anniversaries right but we are human. Please forgive us if we miss you or your loved ones or get something wrong and please let us know if we do or we'll do it wrong again next year. Thanks

Around St. John's

Michael Cross & Rebecca Mays

Lots of news from the Nowlin family. **Mel & Martha** were deep in conversation with The Rev. Bob Copenhaver following service on March 15. How many knew that Bob had married them at St. Paul's, Salem, in 1982?

Eldest daughter, **Sara**, graduates in Biology from Christopher Newport University in May and plans a Masters in Teaching at either Hollins or Randolph. Our good wishes, Sara.

Youngest daughter, **Kim**, has the distinction of graduating with an Associates in "Early College" from CVCC, and two weeks later will graduate from Liberty High School. Kim will join older sister, **Theresa**, at Roanoke College in Salem. Theresa will be a Junior. Lots of good wishes, Kim.

It was a real pleasure to see **Mike & Joyce Moorman** back in church after her long illness. We wish Joyce a rapid recovery and return to full strength.

Lou Toms' daughter, **Anne**, graduates in May from James Madison University with honors and distinction in History.

Anne will present a paper on Abigail Adams for the Peaks of Otter's chapter of the DAR later in May. Her dearest hope is to train horses in Virginia.

Dr. Louise Robertson is recuperating at Oakwood Manor following shoulder replacement surgery. We understand the

surgery in Lynchburg on March 17th went well and we wish her a speedy recovery.

The artwork of **Larry Schmehl** has been included in a new book, "*Found Object Art II*" by Tina Skinner. The book features artists who use found and recycled objects in their work. One of Larry's pieces shown in the book is on display at the Artisan Cafe on Depot Street.

Meg & Greg Baltad's son, Gregory was married to his sweetheart, Haley Rodio, on February 1, 2009 at a small chapel in the San Diego area, with family and close friends in attendance. A charming garden reception followed the ceremony at the home of Gregory's uncle. The reception couldn't have been lovelier, with perfect weather and an occasion for family and friends to come together in celebration. Congratulations to the couple and to the parents of the groom!

"Otteridge Up In Lights," the pony of **Eileen Beckman**, was among the 2008 Virginia Pony Breeders Association winners, in the two year old colts/geldings category. A picture of this handsome animal was included in a recent issue of the Virginia Horse Journal. Congratulations Eileen!

On April 17-18, **Tom Mustard**, along with Dr. Peter Crow will "weave us into the biblical story" at a conference at The Phoebe Needles Center. In "Telling Our Story" these two exceptional storytellers

Around St. John's (cont.)

will recount stories of the Bible in ways that allow us to see ourselves as a continuation of that story.

There are two options for attending the conference.

Option #1 begins on Friday evening at 6:00 pm with dinner, and ends Saturday afternoon at 3:45 pm.

The cost is \$100 per person.

Option #2 begins Saturday morning at 9:00 am and ends Saturday at 3:45 pm.

The cost is \$60 per person.

For more information contact the center at www.PhoebeNeedles.com or by calling 540-483-1518.

The Inn at Trivium will present Emile Pandolfi, internationally known pianist, in concert on April 24-25. The shows begin at 7:30 each night and tickets can be purchased by calling the Inn at 586-8113.

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 May newsletter is Friday, April 17.

Wines & Words (Strictly for bibliophiles and oenophiles)

Two of the major pleasures of life are reading good books and drinking fine wines. Actually, I use the word “reading” loosely, since I can’t read for more than about 20 minutes before my eyes hurt. Our local library now has a fine selection of audio-books. These are cassette tapes or compact discs on which unabridged versions of a wide range of books are read by excellent professionals. Food Lion is not a very good source of wine but Kroger now stocks some very reasonably-priced decent wines, and there are specialty wine stores in Forest and Daleville.

First... Words

Alexander McCall Smith is a prolific author who is concurrently writing four series of novels. Inevitably, with such a prodigious output, the level is uneven, but when he is good he is very, very good. *The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency* is sheer delight. It deals with the indomitable spirit of its heroine, Mma Precious Ramotswe, and the fortunes of the detective agency that she sets up in Gabarone, the capital of her native Botswana. The descriptions of her relationships with her friends, relations and clients are hilarious, and her love for her magnificent country is extraordinarily moving. This is a novel of such delicacy and wit that, once started, it is almost impossible to put down.

Wines

A wine with freshness, warmth and vitality is needed to complement the reading of this novel. I strongly recommend a Sauvignon Blanc from the Marlborough region of New Zealand. Wines from the South Island of New Zealand have developed tremendously over the past few years, and those from the Marlborough region especially. The bouquet is sharp, though not as astringent as that of a Chardonnay, but the taste is warm and earthy. Vinos del Zorro (on South Street in Bedford) stocks one such wine, though Kroger has a wider selection. Don’t be deterred by the fact that even fine wines from the antipodes now come in screw-capped bottles.

Good reading and drinking—
the latter in moderation, of course!

—Michael Cross