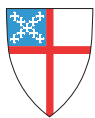




The Gleanings of *St. John's*



February 2010

*Dear friends in
Christ,*

Joy and gratitude are the serious business of the people of God. Consider the ancient opening words of our "Great Thanksgiving", the prayer of consecration at our Communion services: "It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."

At the Last Supper, as recounted in the 15th chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus instructs the disciples to "abide in my love" and to keep my commandments. Then he says, "I have said these things so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete." (15:11)

I was recently taking down our Christmas tree and thinking about the coming season of Lent. (That is both a comment on how far behind I am and how early Lent is.) The occasion of thinking about Lent was that I had just caught myself in my own ungratitude.

I had been feeling sad and complaining to myself about how busy we had been through the season. It was then that I caught myself imagining that we had hardly

gotten a chance to enjoy the tree. It had been a wonderful tree but Christmas had gone by so fast and we had been so busy. I wished that there had been more time to

Then it hit me that it has been a great Christmas celebration and we spent a lot of time in front of the tree. At the end of many busy days we sat and read by that tree. There were family gatherings and games by the tree. We exchanged presents with each other and with my in-laws by the tree.

Too often we focus on what didn't go well, on what we don't have, on what we wished would be. Usually we can tell the story another way, focusing on what is right, good, and joyful.

Joy and gratitude give us strength to better serve God. Joy in God's forgiveness and in God's gift of life give us hope. That hope powers our longing to be better people and to make the world a better place.

When we consider all that Jesus has done for us and all that we have our gratitude overflows. We realize that we are rich. This is even true in very sad circumstances. We often find that even at funerals there will

Message from the Rector (cont.)

be joy and laughter as we tell stories of life and resurrection.

As we realize how rich we are we are empowered to be generous. “All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.” When we hear of the need of others our grateful hearts naturally long to share the bounty we have been given.

The season of Lent is a time of repentance, of “turning around” from our sins and choosing God’s way. Through self examination, prayer, fasting, and self-denial we prepare to greet the risen Jesus at Easter.

We tend to think of these Lenten disciplines as sad, heavy duties. They are not. They are our spiritual “spring cleaning”. In fact, this year let’s focus on developing our joy and our gratitude focusing on all of the good things God has done for us. Then let us respond with love to the needs of the world around us.

*Your brother in Christ,
—Wilson+*

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:

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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.
Next Deadline: Monday, February 15

Upcoming Events & Parish News

Confirmation Class: Informational Meeting, Sunday February 7th

There will be a short informational meeting in the rector's office after 10:30 services on February 7th. for those interested in Confirmation. At this meeting we will set a regular time for the class to meet that will best accommodate participants schedules.

Episcopalians make their mature affirmation of faith by means of confirmation. Most of us were baptized as small children. Our sponsors promised that they would see that we were "brought up in the Christian faith and life". At some point we need to take on our baptismal vows for ourselves.

Confirmation is the time when we take our place in the Church as adults with the privileges and responsibilities of being grown up Christians.

The confirmation class is designed for adults, mature people dedicated to deeply learning and living their faith. The minimum age for enrollment in the class is 12. Some are ready at this tender age to take responsibility for their life in Christ. Many have found it better to wait until they are ready to take on the full commitment of the Confirmation vows.

The class works well with a mix of teens and adults. Do not be shy to join if you are an adult who has not been confirmed. We repeat emphatically that Confirmation is an adult's ritual of affirmation of faith.

Parents and sponsors are welcome and encouraged to attend with candidates.

The course will review the depth of our faith: the Bible and its story, Church History, Anglicanism, the Episcopal Church, prayer & sacraments, theology & doctrine, ethics & life choices, stewardship of time & talent & treasure. There is homework and preparation required for each class. Missed classes will require make up work. Candidates will be challenged to develop a prayer discipline, to discern their ministry in the parish and in the world, and to make a personal commitment to support the church financially in the form of a pledge.

Even if you are already confirmed, this course may be beneficial. If you want to go deep in your understanding of our faith, this course endeavors to give you the tools. It is permissible to "audit" the class. At the conclusion of the class, those already confirmed may choose to participate in the Renewal of Baptismal Vows when the others are confirmed.

Bishop Powell is scheduled to visit St. John's on June 6th. At that time he will be confirming members of the class.

Rwandan Pastor Visiting St. John's

On Sunday, February 7th Pastor Deo Gashagaza will be our very special guest at St. John's. He will speak at the Adult Forum and be introduced during the 10:30

Upcoming Events & Parish News (cont.)

service. Pastor Deo is Director of Prison Fellowship Rwanda and his mission also serves HIV/AIDS women, street orphans, and two reconciliation villages. Nancy Strachan has worked with him for two years at his mission in Kigali and MBYO, one of the reconciliation villages.

Ash Wednesday

We begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist services will be held at 12:15 pm and 7:00 pm.

Wednesday Noon Lenten Series and Lunch @ Main Street Methodist Church

The Bedford Ministerial Association sponsors this annual event. The series begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Lunch begins at noon. At 12:30 there is a devotional and reflection which concludes in time for folks to leave at 1:00 pm. This year's theme is "*Journey towards the Cross — Where are we headed today?*"

Adult Forum: A Turkish Odyssey

On February 21st at 9:30 am Louise and Alan Pipkin will begin a two part series on their trip to Turkey for members of the Adult Forum (held in the front of the church). They will introduce and answer questions about a home video they made. The video includes scenes of early Christian sites and is accompanied by Turkish and Byzantine music. The Forum will continue with Part II of the video on Sunday February 28th at 9:30 am.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 16, 2010
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm



\$6.00/adults \$2.00/children
(free for children under 5)

sausage, apples, & all-you-can-eat pancakes

Eucharistic Ministers' (Chalice Bearers) Meeting, Sunday, February 21st

Wilson would like to meet with all Eucharistic Ministers to go over a brief set of guidelines for this ministry and discuss suggestions or concerns. The meeting will begin about 20 minutes after the 10:30 service (giving time to get a cup of coffee and find out who gets the "Treat of the Week") and will be brief.

Wednesday Night Potluck and Lenten Series Begins February 24th

The topic for our Lenten Meal and Study Series is intended to complement the Forgiveness Seminar generously being offered by the Daughters of the King. For the next six weeks, through Holy Wednesday, March 31st, we will explore what it is to be a people of peace in our homes, in our church, and in the community. How do we best communicate? How do we handle conflict? What do we do when we are hurt or have hurt someone?

Upcoming Events & Parish News (cont.)

The evenings will begin with a potluck supper at 6:00 pm. The program will begin at 6:45. The program will include instruction, Q&A, and group discussion. The evening will conclude at 7:30 with a brief service of Compline, the traditional service at the end of the day.

Acolyte's Meeting, Sunday, February 28th

We will be having two meetings before Easter in order to be at peak performance for our Easter Services. This first meeting is intended to brush up on our current skills and to begin training acolytes to move to the next rank.

The second meeting is tentatively planned for Palm Sunday, March 28th. In that meeting we will be learning new skills for the Easter season including Gospel processions, additional banners, and flying the Pentecost dove.

on a couple's assessment results, a trained facilitator provides 4-8 feedback sessions in which the facilitator helps the couple discuss and understand their results as they are taught proven relationship skills.

What are the major goals of the Prepare/Enrich Program?

There are several goals of the *Prepare/Enrich* Program. In order to achieve these goals there are exercises designed to help couples improve their relationship skills. The program helps couples:

- Explore strength and growth areas
- Strengthen communication skills
- Identify and manage major stressors
- Resolve conflict using the 10 Step Model
- Develop a more balanced relationship
- Explore family of origin issues
- Discuss financial planning & budgeting
- Establish personal, couple & family goals
- Understand and appreciate personality differences

For more information please do not hesitate to speak to Wilson or to visit the website at www.prepare-enrich.com.

Adding To Our Offering: Food Baskets

This is a reminder that St. John's collects canned and non-perishable food items to share with the community. A basket is in the narthex to receive food donations as you enter the church. At the Offertory we bring our food offerings to the altar along with our financial offerings and our offering of the bread and the wine.



Prepare/Enrich Relationship Development Services Available through the Rector

Wilson is a trained Prepare/Enrich facilitator. He is ready and eager to offer this service to members of the congregation who might be interested in strengthening their marriages or dating relationships. Here is some information on the program taken from the website.

What is Prepare/Enrich?

Prepare/Enrich is a customized couple assessment completed online that identifies a couple's strength and growth areas. Based

The Vestry Report

Jenny Shutt, recording secretary

The Vestry Meeting and Retreat was held on January 9, 2010 at Hurricane Hill. Wilson opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed the gathering, especially the newest vestry members. With the exception of February 18 and March 18, the 2010 Vestry meetings will be conducted on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. There will be no Vestry meeting in July.

Each vestry member was provided an organized folder which contained the day's agenda along with materials for the day. Each of provided materials was discussed, and Wilson advised that he looks to the Vestry to keep him informed, to be leaders/ministers, and set the tone for the church. We discussed and boarded the "norms" and what we expect of each other as Vestry members. Wilson encouraged good communication.

Wilson conducted the Vestry Oath of Office to the Vestry members and discussed efficient meeting procedures and how to effectively use The Roberts' Rules of Order.

Officers for 2010 were elected. Rob Jarvis was elected as Senior Warden, John Waff was elected as Junior Warden, it was moved that Pat Rieley remain as Clerk, Mary Page Gwaltney as Treasurer, and Pete Thomas as Assistant-Treasurer and the Motion carried. Wilson covered the duties of Vestry Officers.

Vestry Person of the Month and committee liaisons were assigned as well as a brief overview of all committees at St. John's.

In 2010 Wilson announced that he would like to use 20 minutes in each Vestry meeting for prayer, bonding, and reflection.

Wilson emphasized and encouraged the use of opening and closing prayers for all committee meetings and Sunday School.

Wilson shared the thank-you letter from Bishop Neff Powell for St. John's pledge to the diocese.

Financials: Mary Page reported we are waiting on the report of earnings from our endowments; thus the financial reports are incomplete. The Financial Reports were tabled until February.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pat Rieley, Clerk of the Vestry*

Next meeting:
Thursday, February 18, 6:00 pm

The Vestry

Rob Jarvis Senior Warden
John Waff Junior Warden
Pat Rieley Clerk of the Vestry
Mary Page Gwaltney Treasurer

Members:

Blu Ayers	Winston Burks
Jim Church	Tom Montgomery
Joyce Moorman	Martha Nowlin
Chandra Schmehl	Pete Thomas
Tyler Watkins,	<i>Youth Representative</i>

Vestry Person of the Month for February:
Pat Rieley

Christian Formation

Kara Brown & Heather Garrett

Christmas was celebrated with several joyful Christian Education events. We started off the celebration with a visit from St. Nicholas. Thanks to Greg Baltad for helping him find his way into the church. We were finally able to enjoy our snowed-out Christmas Pageant at the Epiphany Celebration in January. The actors were great, considering that we hadn't rehearsed in several weeks. Thank you to Isabel Sensenig for playing the role of baby Jesus. Our party continued with a fabulous potluck dinner and the crowning of Nic Brown as King of the Party. (He was the lucky boy to find the hidden ring in his piece of cake!) We concluded with a terrific rendition of 'The 12 Days of Christmas' by our Godly Play class.

January brought us back to our regular Sunday Morning Education classes for all ages. 'Godly Play' for our elementary-aged kids, 'Journey to Adulthood' for our teens, and the Adult Forum are going strong each Sunday morning at 9:30. Please feel free to join any of our classes at any time! The weekend of January 30th found many of our teachers and teens and a few of our kids attending events at our Diocesan Council in Roanoke. These are fabulous learning and bonding events. If you've never attended, think about it for next year!

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 7

- 9:30 Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 Worship Service/Children's Chapel
leaders: Ann Linkous & Chandra Schmehl
- 12:00 Confirmation Class Meeting

Sunday, February 14

- 9:30 Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 Worship Service/Children's Chapel
leaders: TBA

Sunday, February 21 (Youth Sunday)

- 9:00 Breakfast
- 9:30 Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 Youth Sunday Worship Service
(No Children's Chapel)

Sunday, February 28

- 9:30 Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 Worship Service/Children's Chapel
leaders: Kara Brown & Kate Brown
- 12:00 Acolytes Meeting

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

Fellowship

Blu Ayers & Julia Baker

Please mark your calendar for February 16th for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5:00–7:00 pm. Sausage, apples and “all you can eat” pancakes will be served for a bargain price: \$6.00/adults, \$2.00/children & no charge for those under 5 yrs old.

Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Tuesday, as it is customary to eat pancakes on this day. Pancakes and doughnuts are associated with the day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up rich foodstuffs such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. The liturgical fasting emphasized eating plainer food and refraining from food that would give pleasure: In many cultures, this means no meat, dairy, or eggs.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrove_Tuesday

Please volunteer to do one or more tasks to help with the supper:

- set up Parish Hall
- cook sausage & apples early afternoon Tuesday, February 16
- make pancakes beginning at 4:00 pm
- serve meals
- help wash dishes
- clean up the Parish Hall

New coffee team schedules and team information has gone out. Captains, if you need to switch dates check with the teams before or after you on the schedule and be sure and let Jenny Shutt know of any changes. Thank you so much for serving St John's in this capacity. Our Coffee Hour has become an integral part of the church fellowship. Whether it's peanuts and cookies or a fabulous homemade coffee cake, it has become a time to connect, congregate and commune. We can't imagine not sharing the time with our church family. Thank you for making it possible.

Newcomers Committee

Philip Baker

The Newcomers Committee met in January to plan for the 2010 church year. We are working with the Rector to help define what makes one a “member” at St John's, and how to know when you ARE a member. (Eg, can you truly not achieve membership status until you've won Michael's treat of the week?!)

We are planning future gatherings for our new friends and their families for the coming year. All are welcome to join the Committee who have an interest in St Johns growth. Contact Joyce Moorman–Vestry Liaison, Philip Baker or Wilson Brown with your questions, thoughts and comments for our coming year.

Parish Concerns

Katy Craig

The parish concerns committee would like to thank everyone who has donated candy, cookies and their energy to our Valentine's day boxes. This year it was again a real success and our college students greatly enjoy them!

We continue to ask for prayers for those recovering from surgeries.

This committee is always looking for volunteers to deliver meals to those in need. Please continue to contact the church office with any needs you may have.

Community Outreach

Michael Cross

The Outreach Committee appreciates the kind hospitality of Marilyn and Don Rowe for hosting the January meeting.

The Committee has already allocated 10% of its annual budget to Episcopal Relief and Development to help with immediate needs in Haiti, and the Bishop has already sent \$1,000 from Diocesan funds.

Please consider making a special donation for the work of the Episcopal Relief and Development in Haiti. Just write a check payable to St. John's Church, and put "ERD-Haiti" on the memo line. The Diocese of Haiti is part of the Episcopal Church of the USA — indeed it is the largest diocese in our church.

This is part of a message which Bishop Powell received from Haiti soon after January 11th:

"Bishop Duracin is alive. Madame Duracin, his wife, injured her foot but she is otherwise OK. The sisters at the convent are alive. However, the rest of the news is devastating: The damage in Port-au-Prince and areas

around it is terrible. There is no Cathedral. The entire Holy Trinity complex is gone. The convent for the Sisters of St. Margaret is gone. The Bishop's House is gone. College St. Pierre is gone. The apartment for college St. Pierre is still standing. Bishop no longer has a house in which to live."


It was announced at church on January 24th that over \$2650 was raised for ERD for Haiti the week prior.

The Committee pledged to work the Shepherd's Table on the following four Mondays which represent the 5th Monday: March 29, May 31, August 30, and November 29. Volunteers will be needed to prepare and serve lunch.

Watch for announcements of other opportunities to serve as volunteers in the Bedford community.

Betty and Jim Hueber graciously offered to host the March meeting of the Outreach Committee at their home 1280 Pedestal Lane, off Patterson Mill Road. Watch for the date, time and directions in February.

St. John's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	1	2
	6:00 pm EfM Classes	7:00 pm Cub Scouts <i>BD: Kay Waff</i>
<i>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</i> 7	8	9
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 Confirmation Class Informational Meeting noon EYA	6:00 pm EfM Classes	 <i>BD: Maria Bass BD: Louise Pipkin Anv: Rick & Gail Guerin</i>
<i>Last Sunday after Epiphany</i> 14	15	<i>Shrove Tuesday</i> 16
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 Valentine's Day <i>BD: Jim Henry</i>	6:00 pm EfM Classes	 Pancake Supper 5:00-7:00 pm <i>BD: Claire Chastain BD: John H. Waff, Jr. BD: Sarah West</i>
<i>First Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Youth Sunday</i> 21	22	23
8:00 am <i>Holy Eucharist Rite I</i> 8:45 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/Eucharistic Minister Mtg noon EYA <i>BD: Mike Forster, Jim Harvey</i>	6:00 pm EfM Classes <i>BD: Roger Henderson BD: Peter Thomas</i>	
<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> 28		
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 Acolyte's Meeting		

February 2010

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																																																					
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<p>12:15 pm 10 <i>Holy Eucharist</i></p> <p>3:15 EYA Ski Trip to Wintergreen</p> <p><i>BD: Meg Baltad</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>2:30 pm Parkinson's Support Group–BMH Conference Room</p> <p>9:30–12:30 PEO</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>																																																																																																																																					
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<p>12:15 pm 24 <i>Holy Eucharist</i></p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Potluck and Program</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>BD: Glenn Ayers BD: Alan Pipkin</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>																																																																																																																																					
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Youth Group

If you want to see God laugh tell him your plans! Youth activities for the Christmas season had a different taste this year. Because of cold, wind and snow we were not able to have our usually Parade Bake Sale and our evening of Christmas Caroling. We finally had our Christmas feast at El Cazador's on Sunday, January 10th eating lunch we enjoyed the movie, *Cloudy With Chance of Meatballs*, at Cinemark Theater. Everyone was quite hungry afterwards, lots of food!

There is excitement in the air as I'm writing this, for plans are being made for Youth @ Council. This year's theme is "Signed, Sealed, Delivered, We're Yours!" Scripture theme is taken from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. "Hear O Israel: the Lord our God, The Lord is one! Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength. These commandments I give you are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road. When you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on you forehead. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." The musician for this spectacular weekend is Fran McKendree. He truly is a gifted, spiritual and talented musician. We will be telling all about the community and fellowship we find in the next newsletter.

Jim & Brenda Church, Leaders

Wintergreen Hear we come!! Yes it is that time again! Youth and those interested will be going to Wintergreen for a night of winter play on Wednesday, February 10th. We will be meeting at the church at 3:15 and leaving at 3:30 pm. This year we have been offered a free ski lesson that starts at 5:30 pm. Anyone interested please see Brenda, Jim, Ethan or Randi.

Youth will be hosting "Youth Appreciation Sunday" on February 14th. This is when the youth honor the support that St. John's so wonderfully gives towards youth ministry. They will also share stories, and photos of the last year's activities as well as feast on some special treats!

In other youth news, the annual Workshop for Adults who work with youth will be held at Phoebe Needles on February 19-21st. Musician Fran McKendree will lead us in a weekend of spiritual reflection on our work in youth ministry. Registration forms are online at the youth website. <http://youth.dioswva.org> or contact Aimee Bostwick at 540-342-6797.

On Sunday evening, February 21st, at 5:00 pm our youth will once again join St. Stephen's youth for a evening dinner and a worship service. There should be good eats, fun fellowship, and spiritual worship as we begin the Lenten Season.

Youth ministry is ALIVE at St. John's
Thank you for your support!

God's Peace, —Brenda & Jim

Rwandan Ministry

by Nancy Strachan

Respected Rwandan Leader to visit Bedford in February

On Sunday, February 7 and Monday February 8 several Bedford communities will host a well known and highly respected Rwandan reconciliation leader, Pastor Deo Gashagaza of Kigali, Rwanda. Bedford will be the last stop of his multi-city tour of the USA which includes Northern VA, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Portland, and Greensboro. The Bedford area is very fortunate that Pastor Deo will appear at several churches and kickoff a special month long "Inspired by Africa" series of events at the Bower Center. He was invited to Bedford by Nancy Strachan, Founder of Rwandan HUGS a Bedford based ministry partnering with Pastor Deo and many groups and individuals in Rwanda.

Pastor Deo is Executive Director of Prison Fellowship Rwanda based in Kigali, the capitol of Rwanda. Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) is a faith-based non-profit organization that seeks to be a national movement of reconciliation, restoration, and rehabilitation for all those involved in and affected by crime. PFR works to promote restorative justice in the criminal justice system and in surrounding communities, and especially among those affected by the 1994 Rwandan genocide. PFR also assists the most vulnerable in society by seeking ways to provide for basic needs of individuals through local develop-

ment initiatives and to further prevent criminalization in at-risk communities. PFR is a member of Prison Fellowship International.

Other projects that Pastor Deo directs in Kigali are ministries serving HIV/AIDS women and street orphans. Nancy Strachan is well acquainted with these two ministries and the reconciliation villages as she has worked side by side with Pastor Deo and his staff assisting with various jewelry, sewing, clothing, and feeding projects. During her partnership with Pastor Deo she has seen first hand what a remarkable man he is and is inspired by his compassion, faith, and tireless devotion to serving those who have suffered unfathomable loss. During the 1994 Rwandan genocide it is estimated that more than 1,117,000 people died in a period of 3 months.

In addition to the afternoon programs at the Bower Center, Pastor Deo will be at St. John's Episcopal Church, Bedford on Sunday morning, February 7 for Adult forum, morning worship, and fellowship hour. Later that afternoon he will be the special guest at the Bower Center. At 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8 he will speak at Bethany UMC and at 6 p.m. he will visit Otterville UMC where several local churches are sponsoring his visit. For more information on his forthcoming visit contact Nancy Strachan, phone: or e-mail: RwandanHUGS@aol.com.

Celebrating the Good News— Rwandan HUGS Update

Good news! I am honored to report significant progress recently with projects developed or supported by Rwandan HUGS and its friends in the USA and partners in Rwanda. Highlights include:

- Sewing projects: 18 sewing machines were distributed to projects in 7 communities where many women attend sewing classes. 41 women in Musanze sewed 600 children's outfits and 7 women in Butare sewed 300 school uniforms which were distributed at Christmas along with 300 pairs of shoes.
- Goat Distribution Projects: 20 goats were given to elderly women in Musanze who received their training from Turwubake Assn. 30 goats were given to HIV/AIDS victims in Butare who trained with Pastor Emmanuel.
- School fees, sponsorships and scholarships: School and medical card fees (\$35) have been paid for 70 children (mostly orphans). Seven orphans/boarding students at Sonrise School have new sponsors (\$300-\$400 per year) and 20+ sponsors continue to support Sonrise Students. College expenses and tuition is paid in full for a student in northern Rwanda. Two college students received additional help.
- Jewelry projects: Women who learned to make jewelry in 2008 continued to make and sell jewelry and filled new orders

from the USA. In 2009 a pastor's wife was taught jewelry making skills and sent 2 orders to the USA where \$500+ of her jewelry has sold. She will teach others when new supplies arrive.

- Other distributions/projects: Dozens of packs of watermelon seeds were distributed. Medical supplies, blankets, children's clothes and colorful wall hangings were given to Shyira Hospital. At Pastor Deo's mission in Kigali 88 street orphans were hugged, photographed (for possible sponsors) and given a feast and 45 HIV/AIDS women received fabric for dresses. Visits were made to 3 schools, 4 churches, one hospital, 2 orphanages, and several private homes during Nancy's 3 week trip. Food, clothing, Bibles, books, school supplies, and toys were distributed to hundreds of children.
- Bigogwe Village: A tour of the Turwubake construction projects was given where profits from the 2008 prayer doll project assisted several new businesses: a small restaurant, grocery store, barber shop, sewing business, fabric shop and office. Funds for a maize grinder are have been sent.
- Immeasurable but VERY important: hugs, prayers, tears, songs, dances, meals, smiles, gifts, sacrifices, hospitality, friendships, demonstrations of faith in Christ, forgiveness, reconciliation and love that continue to inspire Rwandan HUGS. Thank you for your enduring support and prayers for this shared ministry.

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 assist and advise Bishop David in his ministry.

Episcopal Church of Sudan: Pray for all health and sanitation throughout Sudan, for all medical aid, clinics, and all health care workers and trainees.

Diocese of Southwestern Virginia: Give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Powell and Dorothy.

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

Pray for all those who are sick, especially for Richmond, Barbara, Linwood, Fern, Nancy, Ed, Florence, Elizabeth, Anne, Beverly, Louise, Mike, Ted, Phyllis, Julia, Shannon, Helen, Diane, Larry, Virginia, Norah, Arline, Cornelia, Flo, and Jan that they may have improved health.

For all those who are shut-in or who have suffered a loss, especially Harry, Jane, Polly, Delphine, Nenie, Marion, Gladys, Bill, 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 Gordon, James, Marc, Katie, Travis, Chris, Rob, Adam, Rob and Joe.

Readings for the Month February 2010 (Year C)

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 103
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 21, 2010

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

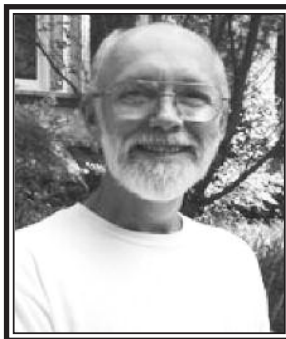
Sunday, February 28, 2010

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

EXPLORING THE STEPS TO FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

PRESENTED BY:



Dr. Everett L. Worthington
Professor of Psychology, VCU Richmond

To be held at:
St. John's Episcopal Church
314 N. Bridge St, Bedford

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Lunch will be served
Seating is limited

Please RSVP to:
St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Office
540-586-9582

Sponsored by: The Mary-Martha Chapter of the Daughters of the King

Around St. John's

Michael Cross & Rebecca Mays

We know our youth group has helped in past years to pack food for *Stop Hunger Now* for Hurricane Katrina and other projects. Now **Nancy Strachan** and **Rebecca Mays** have experienced it too. On Monday, January 18th at Jefferson Forest High School, they were thrilled to see so many people helping and even more thrilled that the goal of 100,000 rice dinners was more than doubled with a total of 210,000 meals. Four 26-foot trucks were loaded and the food was shipped to Norfolk and from there on to Haiti. The United Methodist Churches in the Lynchburg district did an impressive job of organizing this project.

There is still time to donate to the relief efforts in Haiti through Episcopal Relief and Development. If you would like to help, make your check payable to St. John's and note "ERD-Haiti" in the memo. ✝

Our dear **Dr. Louise** will be moving to Richmond so that she can be closer to family. Although we wish her all the best, she will be missed. We hope she will visit often. ✝

On Sunday, January 17th those in attendance at the 10:30 service welcomed **Isabel Grace Sensenig** to Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic church through the sacrament of baptism. In addition to parents **Kara & Dave**, and brothers **Jacob & Josh**, she was surrounded by both sets of grandparents, her godparents Keith & Deborah Ramsey (brother and sister-in-law of Kara), and other assorted aunts, uncles and cousins. ✝

All of St. John's community extend our sincere sympathy to **Margaret Noell** on the loss of her husband, **Jack Noell**, and to their daughter **Peggy Jeffries. Wilson Brown** did a graveside service on December 31, 2009 which was attended by several members from St. John's. ✝

We are praying for **Barbara Murphy** who is having hip replacement surgery on February 2nd in Franklin, TN where she will recuperate with family. ✝

Our thanks to **Tom Sendall** for again donating one of his prize music boxes to the Treat of the Week in December. **Josh Sensenig** was the lucky winner of the musical carousel. Lucky you! ✝

We rejoice with **Winston Kendrick** on the completion of his radiation therapy on his nose. ✝

We certainly hope that **Sis & Amp Amparan** are enjoying good weather and fun outings as they winter on South Padre Island, Texas. ✝

Around St. John's (cont.)

Jim & Mary Harvey enjoyed a visit with family in Pasadena, California, seeing son Dale & family. ✝

Thanks to **Julia Baker** for producing the new coffee team schedule and team listings. We welcome **Rhetta Watkins, Maya Schmehl, Mary Harvey,** and **Cathey Burks** to the hardworking Fellowship teams. ✝

The end of December brought us a feature article on **Eileen Beckman** entitled “*Colorful memories: Bedford County woman reflects on overseas service in Red Cross.*” Hope you all saw it in the *Lynchburg News Advance* with the nice picture of Eileen. ✝

Frank West did his level best to sell winning tickets for the “Pot of Gold” fundraiser for the Y, and, he succeeded with at least one member of the church family! **Meg & Greg Baltad** won a smaller prize which they are using to celebrate their 35th anniversary. Congratulations & many more. We were pleased to see **Teri Okuley** helping with the catering. Teri owns and operates the Ivy Bridge restaurant on Bridge St. (formerly the Gingerbread Café). ✝

Speaking of the Okuley's, we notice a new tree house going up in their backyard on Longwood thanks to **Mike** (father) and two sons **Noah** (age 10) and **Isaiah** (age 8). Be sure to ask their neighbor, **Lynn Scott**, about the tree house. ✝

A huge thank you to **Jenny Shutt** for her expertise on designing the flyer for the DOK program on March 7. ✝

Sue & Tom Montgomery have returned from a trip to see son David in Atlanta. ✝

We look forward to seeing **Revelle Hamilton's** cover illustration on the book *Beyond Woofs & Whinnies* by pet communicator Karen Wrigley. ✝

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

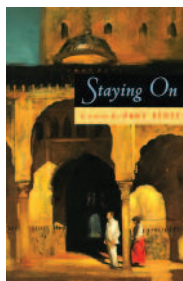
Deadline for March Newsletter

The deadline for the March newsletter is February 15th.

Wines & Words

by Michael Cross

After living in the Himalayas for three years, I left India in 1977. My departure was not voluntary. Mrs. Indira Gandhi had decided that the time had come for India to break itself free from the last vestiges of the British Raj. I was the last British Headmaster in India, and I left on the same flight as the last British Tea Planter. Consequently, when I



first read Paul Scott's *Staying On* in 1978 I did not know whether to laugh or cry. There are moments in the book which are tremendously funny but they are punctuated by episodes of heart-rending

pathos. Some Brits had had spectacular careers in India—think of Lord Clive or the last Viceroy, Earl Mountbatten—but many of the Brits who administered the railways, the schools and the hospitals with such impeccable efficiency were relatively mediocre people. They were able to enjoy a life-style which would have been quite impossible in England. All that ended with the granting of independence to India, and most expatriates returned to their home country. A few, however, stayed on. This is their story, and a truly pathetic one it is. Tusker Smalley is unlovable and his wife, Lucy, is a wasted creature yet Paul Scott succeeds in making us care for them: even grieve for their lot. Lucy's struggle to maintain some sort of dignity with little money in a hostile environment is both wonderful and doomed. Tusker's total withdrawal is

cowardly yet somehow understandable. Sadly, I knew three families very well who could easily have been the models for Paul Scott's protagonists. (Gwen, our Vicar's wife, used to lock up her tea to prevent her maid from stealing it. Tea!! Darjeeling is one of the world's greatest producers of tea, and it was almost free in the market.) The book is a marvel. It is almost without equal as a record of the end of an era. You will laugh out loud but, ultimately, you will need a decent supply of Kleenex tissues.

There was a time when almost all bubbly white wine was called champagne. Now, only wine produced in a very special way (the *méthode champenoise*) in a small area of France may bear that name. (Don't ask me how some American companies manage to avoid compliance.) That does not mean, however, that there are not perfectly good sparkling white wines available on the market. Some time ago, I recommended the Italian Prosecco. Recently, I discovered a sparkling white wine made in Spain on the shelves of the Bedford Food Lion. It is called *Freixenet*, and it is made by the traditional *méthode chanpenoise*. It is a crisp, dry wine, with a pleasantly fruity taste. Not knowing how little you have paid for it, your friends will be terribly impressed. More importantly, it will be a fine accompaniment to the more witty passages in *Staying On*.

✦ Contact or email Chandra Schmehl to enter your name in a drawing to win a copy of *Staying On* ✦