

# ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

P.O. BOX 609

HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22473

804-580-4555 www.ststephensva.org

Church e-mail: ssa@nnwifi.com

*ALIVE IN CHRIST* 1881 - 2012

SEPTEMBER 2012



## *In this issue:*

Jeffrey's Journal;  
Page 2

Bio of Samuel NeSmith  
Children's Bible Story Time  
Page 3

Senior Warden Report;  
Spiritual Friends  
Page 4

Statements of Thankfulness  
Page 5

Women of St. Stephen's  
Page 6

Pictures from Women's Retreat  
Page 7

The Fulani  
Page 8

In the Lord's Service  
Page 9

Thank Your for Our Flags  
Page 10



The Rev. NeSmith standing next to Lyn Conley.

## *Table Talk*

*Friday, Sept.21  
6:30 p.m.*

*This season's Table Talk will begin with a dynamic speaker, retired Methodist Minister, the Rev. Sam NeSmith from Richmond, who has led more than 29 missions to Russia over the years. He is a gifted and qualified speaker who will entertain as well as teach. Lyn and Jim Conley, of our congregation, know him well and have been on mission trips with him. You can find a detailed biographical sketch on Mr. NeSmith elsewhere in this Newsletter.*

*As always, the hosts for this Table Talk series are the Levites...those dedicated members of St. Stephen's Anglican Church who love to cook and love to serve the Lord. Led by Ben Ward, they will have a typical Russian meal for our enjoyment.*

*This first of a three-part Table Talk series will be held at First Baptist Church in O. A Brinkley Hall. We expect several from the congregation of First Baptist Church to join us.*

*Please sign up on the sheet in OA Brinkley Hall or call in your reservation to Leslie Jeffress at 804-580-4555.*

*Ward & Judy LeHardy*

## JEFFREY'S JOURNAL



Last month I wrote about the pilgrimage of the Christian life. The last stage I mentioned was sanctification, the transformation of the Christian into a holy person. Of course, this doesn't happen just at the end. It is part of a process that begins when we first respond to Jesus. We evangelical Christians are very much rooted in the fact that we are saved by God's grace through faith, and nothing we do adds to the work of Jesus in saving us. "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith; and this... is God's gift to you... so that none may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) And so we are tempted to ask, "Why, then must we be holy?" The very fact that we ask the question proves that God still has work to do on us, for God's work is not about us, it is about God. He doesn't save us just for our sake, but because saving each person is a step in His plan to restore the entire creation to the perfection for which He made it. Let me list some reasons why the Christian must be holy.

1. **God's will** First Peter says, "But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do." (1 Peter 1:16, quoting Leviticus 11:44-45) It is God's will that we be holy, set apart for Him, separated from sin and impurity. For the person who belongs to God, God's will is supreme. The fact that we know He commands that, and that we ask why we should do it, shows that sin still clings to us.
2. **Our destiny** "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27) Obviously, because of the Fall, we do not look much like the image of God. But through His transformative power, we are being restored to His image. To be like the holy God is our destiny. We should work with God all along the way in our pilgrimage to fulfill our destiny.
3. **God's glory** "In [Christ], we were chosen, in order that we might be for the praise of His glory." (Ephesians 1:11-12) We whom God has chosen and saved have a purpose in life, and that

is to live for the praise of God's glory. When people look at us, they ought to be able to get a glimpse of the glory of God. God's glory is His excellence, His wisdom, His perfection, His goodness, His power and His love. He desires that we reflect that for His sake.

4. **Our individual call** "You shall be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8) Jesus appointed each one of us whom He saved to be His witnesses, to spread His Good News, to tell the world about His grace and love. How credible is our witness going to be if we are living a dissolute life? If we are known to be liars or thieves or adulterers, who is going to believe us when we talk about the good things of God? "You were taught...to put off your old self, which is to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:22-24)
5. **Our community call** And finally, Jesus looked out at the crowd of disciples and said that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. (Matthew 5:13-16) He had a job for the people of God as a community. When we take His message to the world, we do so not only in what we say, but in the image we present as a body of believers. We are effective in our mission only to the extent that we are an attractive community that makes people want to be with us. The Bible calls us to "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 4:32-5:2) The people around us should see us and say, "I want to know the God they know."

Yours in Christ,  
Jeffrey Cerar, Rector

*Copies of the discipleship survey can now be downloaded from the church website.*

Todd Lewis

## *Samuel Evans NeSmith, Sr.* *Our September Table Talk Speaker*

Sam is a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and attended Claflin College, Orangeburg, South Carolina for his undergraduate education. He obtained his Masters of Divinity Degree from Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia. A clergyman in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, Sam served forty-four years in the active ministry before retiring in 1999.

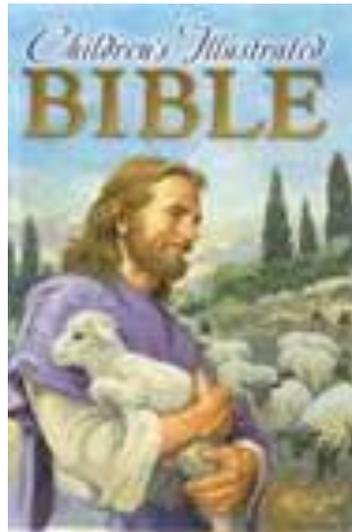
Sam served in the following pastoral appointments: Roberts Memorial UMC, Alexandria; St. Stephen's UMC, Burke; and River Road UMC, Richmond. He served as District Superintendent of the Harrisonburg District UMC (1978-84) and the Charlottesville District UMC (1989-1995.) Since retirement, Sam has served three interim pastoral appointments and is serving in such a capacity now.

Sam has been actively involved in mission outreach throughout his ministerial career. A veteran leader of United Methodist Volunteer in Mission Teams (UMVIM), Sam has been involved in 91 mission teams in service around the world. Sam has led mission teams to Russia (29) and Haiti (9) and to disaster areas in the United States. He has also led mission teams to Africa (22), Argentina and El Salvador. Sam served as the Chair of the Virginia Conference Russia Initiative for 10 years. Since Haiti's devastating earthquake in January 2010, Sam has focused primarily on Haiti as his mission priority. He was one of the Study Leaders for the Mission Study on Haiti at the 2011 Virginia Conference School of Christian Mission.

Sam's hobbies include woodcarving, gardening, photography, harmonica playing and cooking.

Sam resides in Richmond, Virginia. He is married to Brenda NeSmith, currently President of the Richmond District United Methodist Women. They are the parents of two adult sons.

## *Children's Bible Story Time* *Mission Project!*

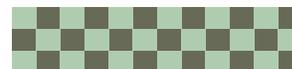


The Monday morning Bible Story Time children, and their families, have been invited to participate in the second annual Mission Caridad 5K and Kid's Fun Run to be held at Belle Isle on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. This is to support the mission work being done in Honduras by Jenny Stallings Flores and her husband Andres Flores, aunt

and uncle to three of our Monday morning children. The Bible Story Time will be an official sponsor of the event and the children will be asked to collect small amounts of money toward that sponsorship. What makes this mission so special to our group, besides the family connection, is that the purpose of the Honduras mission is to provide day care with a Christian message to the children of working mothers in this impoverished country. We feel a special bond to this mission because we too provide a Christian message to children each week through our Bible stories, songs, prayers, and play. Additionally, we strive to teach our children to be missionaries to their friends and families as well as people far away through prayer and by sharing the Bible stories they learn.

If anyone from the congregation wishes to join us for this October event - to run or walk - please contact Constance McDearmon or Margaret Radcliffe. We would also welcome any small (think change, not bills) financial contributions and will set out a jar, similar to the ones the children will make, to receive them in the living room of our temporary home at First Baptist Church.

Margaret Radcliffe





## Senior Warden Report

The Building Committee has been busy

collecting functional requirements data, and interviewing construction companies, architects, engineers and other folks that build churches. We have met many professional people who are interested in helping us build a new church for the Lord.

The Lord did answer our prayers for a professional engineer to serve on the Building Committee by sending to us. Evelyn has a degree in civil engineering, a masters in environmental engineering, and years of hands-on experience in the construction world.

The Northumberland County Board of Supervisors did approve the zoning change needed to permit us to build the church. Rezoning was one of those major steps in the process that leads to digging dirt and putting up walls.

The Building Committee has a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for architectural and engineering services for the design phase of the project. When the RFP is finalized, we will send it to several firms that specialize in this work and solicit their bids. The bids will be closely evaluated and one firm will be selected to do the work including: site and space master plan, site development plan, soil testing and other work required by state and local authorities.

While the ground is being tested and prepared, we will select several possible building designs for vestry and congregational review. For each design, we will have estimate costs to help us

make valid decisions concerning God's new church.

We have discussed the church building process and effort with other Christians and they state that prayers by the entire congregation are absolutely necessary. I ask each of you to include the Building Committee, vestry and the entire church in your daily prayers. Ask for teamwork in the decision-making process and solidarity behind the decision. We know God will listen. He always does!

In Christ,  
George

### *Spiritual Friends Terrific Fall Series*

**In GOD'S Care**

**Rebuilding A Life Filled With Contentment**

**Friday, September 28 - Marion Mitchell**

**Friday, October 26**

**Friday, November 30**

**Speakers will be followed with  
meaningful conversation**

**Noon in the "Living Room" at church**

**Bag lunch will be provided**

### *Stay in Touch*

**Sue and Allan Joslyn**

(Temporary Address)

6040 Red Cedar Dr., Apt. 3D, High Point, NC 27265

Sue's cell #: 804-445-6975

**Val Hutchison**

4583 El Rose, St. George, UT 84790

Cell #: 804-313-0701

**Janet Steelman**

Temporarily in Frederick, MD at:

9990 Waterford Dr., Frederick, MD 21702

301-663-9500

## *Statements of Thankfulness from two of our young adults: Patrick and Blake Smith*

### **Patrick:**

God has given me the gift of speech. I am able to talk to large crowds about my faith and spread God's word without being nervous or intimidated. I am blessed with creativity and am hoping to use that in writing. I hope to honor God in all that I do through my gifts that He has given me. I am blessed with a tenacious spirit which has allowed me to overcome many obstacles and accomplish many endeavors.

I am thankful for the many provisions God has given me this year: my new job, my spiritual growth and maturity that has come from a deeper relationship with the Lord, for the great relationships I have with my friends and family and for the time I have to spend with them, for the new adventures and friendships I have experienced in Williamsburg, for being able to spend time with the Fuller Center Bicycle Adventurers again this summer and help raise money for such a wonderful Christ-centered cause, for finding a young adult ministry in Williamsburg to continue to grow and build relationships. I am also very grateful for all the wonderful support and prayers of my church family that I have been blessed with all my life.

And I am grateful for the opportunity to see how God works in this new chapter of my life.

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:19

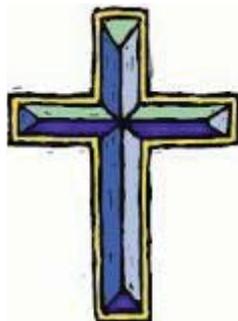
"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:8

### **Blake:**

One gift that God has given me is the gift of perseverance! He refines my life by challenges with my Crohn's disease, but I become a better Christian for it. And I know that through my faith and obedience I am an example to others to be strong, "because when I am weak, through Christ I am strong."

I am thankful for all that God has allowed me to do, and has given to me in my life. I am thankful for the strength to ride again this summer with the Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure, and being able to help others while living by Jesus' teachings. I am thankful for my health; good health because it allows me to enjoy God's creation, and bad health because it focuses my life and allows me to appreciate all that is around me as I am refined! I am thankful for new friendships and the start of another year at college, and the opportunity to be a Support Leader for Missions at my church in Radford. I am very thankful for my congregation here at St. Stephen's, my true home and where my heart is.

I am waiting on the Lord to renew my strength, and I know that He will mount me up with wings like an eagle; I shall run, and not be weary; walk and not be faint! Amen.





## Women of St. Stephen's

Dear Ladies,

On Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> thirty-one of our women gathered at the lovely Retreat Center of Wellspring in Fleeton, owned by the Lewis family. We began with a continental breakfast and moved into the program for the day of "Discovering the Wellspring of Your Heart." Jeanne Hickey led us in the opening worship time and taught us about the priority of personal delight in the Glory of the Lord. We read many scriptures in which we were exhorted to lift up our praise with singing, instruments and dancing. After a time of personal meditation and reflection, Gayle Marston encouraged us in stepping out in faith to experience God in a deeper way. Each lady stepped forward and was measured for her garment of praise, coming before the Lord and feeling His presence filling up her life. It was a very moving time as each woman was prayed over and symbolically given ribbons to represent her new garments of praise. I am sure that each of us experienced in that precious and personal prayer time the springs of living water rising up in our hearts. One woman commented that she has never felt so loved in her life!

After a wonderful lunch prepared by Ben and Sandy Ward, we resumed the program by considering things that clog up our wells and prevent the flow of life to emanate from us. Mary Swann, Lynne Cerar and I each gave examples of this, and then we dismissed into quiet times for each woman to consider what has hindered her from experiencing the flow of God's love into her heart.

Our last session was led by Lou David on prayer and healing. She passed out a small rock to everyone and asked each lady to receive it as a symbol of what clogs her well. A small group session followed and we concluded our time together by coming to the Lord's Table to celebrate communion led by Mary Swann. Each woman laid her stone at the foot of the cross before partaking of the bread and wine, as an expression of unclogging her wellspring. I believe we came to understand in a deeper sense during our time together Jesus' words to the woman at the well: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." As we departed, I hope each heart was filled to overflowing just as Jesus said in John 7:18, "If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from that person's heart."

So many took part in this event, and I want to heartily thank the planning team of Lou David, Jeanne Hickey, Gayle Marston and Mary Swann who faithfully attended meetings of preparation and led the program for the day. We were honored to have Lynne Cerar join us and I thank her for her very insightful talk about how she had dealt with a clogged well in her life experience. Special thanks go to Charlene Andrulot for organizing the continental breakfast, to Ben and Sandy Ward for providing such a delectable lunch, and to Suzy Norman for helping me with every last detail. Needless to say, we are deeply grateful to the Lewis family for providing a perfect setting which greatly enhanced our rich fellowship.

Special thanks also go to Marie Cartensen and her Hospitality Team 1 for the lovely reception they provided at the Sherman's home after the memorial service for Dale. I know their gifts of hospitality were greatly appreciated by Patty.

I pray that you have had a great summer, enjoying special travel times and precious moments with family and friends. As August draws to a close, I am looking forward to our regular monthly meetings resuming, the first to be held on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in O. J. Brinkley Hall, following the Healing Service with the Rector at 10:00 a.m. downstairs. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the program, followed by lunch. All are welcome!

Blessings and love,

Donna Soule



## **Women of St. Stephen's**

### *Pictures of the Women's Retreat*



## *Fulani / Origins and Location*

Experts believe the history of the Fulani, our unreached people group, began with the Berber people of North Africa around the 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century AD. As the Berbers migrated down from North Africa and mixed with the peoples in the Senegal region of West Africa the Fulani people came into existence. The Fulani people call themselves Fulbe (Peul in French). They were originally nomadic herders, traders and farming people living throughout West Africa.

Over a thousand year period from AD 900 - 1900, due to their nomadic lives, they spread out over most of West Africa and even into some areas of Central Africa. Some groups of Fulani have been found as far as the western borders of Ethiopia. As they migrated eastward they came into contact with different African tribes. As they encountered these other peoples, they conquered the less powerful tribes. Along the way many Fulani completely or partially abandoned their traditional nomadic life in favor of a sedentary existence in towns or on farms among the conquered peoples. Today the majority of Fulani people live in urban centers.

Currently, The Fulani range covers an area larger than continental United States and western Europe. African countries where they are present include Mauritania, Ghana, Senegal, Guinea, The Gambia, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Chad, Togo, the Central African Republic, Liberia, and as far as Sudan in the East and Egypt in the North. Fula people form a minority in every country they inhabit, but in Guinea they represent a plurality of the population (40%). If you take a look at this area of land inhabited by the Fulani, you will notice that it almost cuts Africa into two equal halves, one half to the north and one half to the south. Could our decision to pray for the Fulani have been influenced by God? For when Christianity starts to spread in this people group, it can

simply fan out to the north and to the south and then the entire continent of Africa will have heard of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as called for in the Great Commission.



### **What are Unreached People Groups?**

An Unreached People Group is an identifiable group of people distinguished by a distinct culture, language, or social class who lack a community of Christians able to evangelize them without outside help. Their only opportunity to hear about salvation is through an “external witness.”

*<sup>3</sup> Then He told them many things in parables, saying: <sup>4</sup> “A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>5</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>7</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>8</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>9</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>10</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear.” Matthew 13:3-9 (NIV)*

**Prayer point:** Please take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit to grant wisdom and favor to the two missions agencies that are targeting the Fulani, and to allow the seeds they are planting to mightily grow.

Melinda K. Floom

## IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

### Ushers

Sept 2	Colston Newton & Stan Rasberry
Sept 9	Steve Proctor & Ed Ulfing
Sept 16	Barbara & Dick Seed
Sept 23	John Powers & Bobby Edmonds
Sept 30	Susan Thomas & Constance McDearmon
Oct. 7	Marie Carstensen & Bob David

### Acolytes

Sept 2	Marley Kimmitt
Sept 9	Emma Saunders
Sept 16	Caitlyn Cralle
Sept 23	Jennifer Radcliffe
Sept 30	Sarah Saunders
Oct. 7	Chris Cralle

### Lesson Readers

Sept 2	Frank McCarthy (L) Katrina Mochamps (P)
Sept 9	Julie Pritchard (L) Elaine Price (P)
Sept 16	Susan Read (L) Brooke Read (P)
Sept 23	Barbara Seed (L) Dick Seed (P)
Sept 30	Phyllis TeStrake (L) Margaret Radcliffe (P)
Oct. 7	Bill Bloom (L) Bill Tracey (P)

### Eucharistic Ministers

Sept 2	Ward LeHardy
Sept 9	Frank McCarthy
Sept 16	Constance McDearmon
Sept 23	Elaine Price
Sept 30	Phyllis TeStrake
Oct. 7	Priscilla Williams

### Altar Guild

September	Eleanor Semerjian & Miriam Sussman
October	Lynne Cerar & Gayle Marston

### Greeters

September	Lou & Bob David
October	John and Bill Powers

## Coffee Hour

Sept 2	Bobbie Townshend & Nina Martin
Sept 9	Bev Hart & Marie Carstensen
Sept 16	Donna Soule & Barbara Seed
Sept 23	
Sept 30	
Oct. 7	(Parish Weekend)

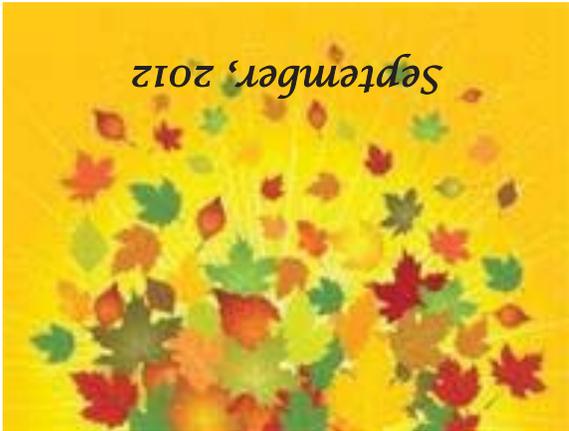


Sept. 1	Lucille Logan
Sept. 2	Charlaine Andrulot
Sept. 5	Katrina Mochamps
Sept.10	April Kranda
Sept.13	Sandra Baranski
Sept.15	Pam Smith
Sept.16	Colston Newton
Sept.19	Timothy Lewis
Sept.20	Alison Kimmitt
Sept.23	Dick Seed, Langley Lewis, Lewis E. (Smitty) Smith
Sept.24	Tad de Bordenave
Sept.26	Corinne Anthony
Sept.29	Laura Carson, Peter Joslyn, Thelma Pearl, Dan Hickey



Sept. 2	Sharon Baldacci and Randy Smith
Sept. 7	Beverly and Brian Hart
Sept. 8	Jane and Charles Wrightson
Sept. 15	Irene and Allen Haley
Sept. 29	Jan and George Beckett

*O God, grant that the wills of this man and this woman may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. Amen.*



ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS  
ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 609  
HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22473  
Suzy Norman, Editor  
suzy@stnwhi.com



*Thanks, Guys!*  
*Our thanks to*  
*Tony Blackstone, Bobby Edmonds*  
*and Charlie Franck for their*  
*gift of the American flag and the*  
*Anglican flag for our*  
*worship space.*