

# ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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*ALIVE IN CHRIST SINCE 1881*

**JUNE 2014**



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*Sunday, June 8th is*

*Pentecost*

*Celebrating the Birthday  
of the Church*

## Jeffrey's Journal



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

[Colossians 2:6-7]

The young Church in Colossae had come under a challenge. Heresy was being taught there. Paul addressed the matter in this letter, not naming the various heresies, but talking about true faith. In these two verses, the Bible speaks volumes to us about the faith of a worshiping community, such as ours here at St. Stephen's. Five elements of faith are highlighted, and in considering them, we can see the obligation we have to one another in this community.

1. "Live your life in Christ." This means to accept the reality of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised to send us. With the Holy Spirit in us, we not only believe with our heads, but we surrender to Him our motives, our appetites, our priorities and our decisions. A faith community filled with people who simply believe that Jesus is their Savior but have not walked in the reality of the Spirit within us is soon a tepid group indistinguishable from the rest of the world.

2. Be "rooted in Christ." The root is what holds a tree in place. The root brings nourishment to the rest of the plant. Not only is each one of us called to be rooted in Christ, but He is the foundation and chief cornerstone of our congregation. (Ephesians 2:20) If not, then we soon stray from our true purpose. And like a tree with unhealthy roots, we can easily be blown over by a storm.

3. Be "built up in Christ." It is not easy being a Christian, particularly in a culture that is rapidly becoming secular, and scornful of what we believe and stand for. We need to be encouraged and affirmed in our faith. We need to learn the faith with more sophistication and conviction. We

need to be equipped for ministry. We need to be held accountable. All of that happens in a healthy Christian community. We do it for each other. We need each other.

4. Be "strengthened in the faith." Head knowledge will not change the world. To be what Jesus calls us to be requires believers who exercise their will in Jesus' name. It requires the courage to act on our belief, trusting in the promises of God. When we are strengthened in the faith, we make a decision to trust God. And when we share our testimonies about how God has kept His promises in our life, we help to strengthen one another's faith. When push comes to shove, when things become difficult, when you are called upon to sacrifice and risk and sweat and bleed for the work of the Kingdom of God, you will be ready to trust Him if you are strengthened in the faith. The calling card of any healthy congregation of Christians is their trust in God to keep His promises.

5. Be "overflowing with thankfulness." Our mission is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. If it is truly good news, we ought to be people of great joy and enthusiasm. If we truly believe all the things the Bible tells us that God has done for us, is doing for us, and is going to bring to completion, there is no other possible frame of heart than overflowing thankfulness. An attitude of gratitude is contagious and attractive. It is the natural result of true faith, and it should be easy for us to model this for one another.

This is a good way to focus our prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ as we walk together through the challenges that face us as a congregation. God will bless us and keep us.

As Paul said to the Colossians, "...the Gospel is growing and bearing fruit throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace." (Colossians 1:6)

Yours in Christ,  
Jeffrey Cerar, Pastor





## Senior Warden Report

WOW! What a weekend we had with Bishop Guernsey and his wife, the Rev. Meg Guernsey. What a blessing they are to us. We had a weekend full of the Holy Spirit. Bishop Guernsey taught us how to pray for healing, both of body and spirit. Members of our congregation were touched and healed. Miracles happened in front of our eyes. Meg taught us how to rest in the Lord—in our daily lives and in our spiritual walk. They both opened up avenues for us to be more powerful disciples of the Lord and more caring, loving members of our church family. Bishop John has such a wonderful talent for injecting humor into his delivery of life's important walk with our Lord. If you were not able to attend the weekend—in part or in whole—I urge you to visit our St. Stephen's website to hear the talks given by Bishop John and Meg and Bishop Guernsey's sermon on Sunday, May 11. We continue to give thanks for these two wonderful people.

As a result of the study on healing by Bishop Guernsey some people in the congregation are looking into offering a workshop on healing led by leaders from Northern Virginia. They would come to Heathsville and, perhaps spend a weekend helping us to learn how to best use the healing powers given to us by the Holy Spirit. If you want more information about this contact Jeffrey or Gayle Marston.

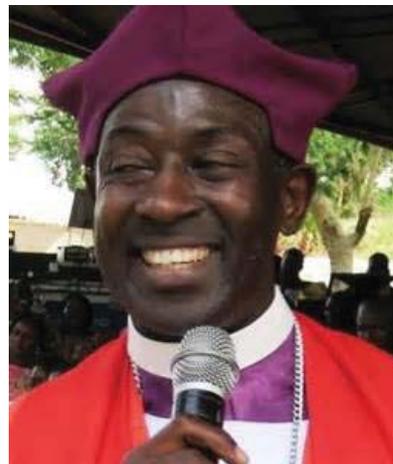
With Mother's Day one week behind us and Father's Day just around the corner my thoughts have turned to family. I am struck by the fact that our children know us so well that they know exactly how to please us. They know our favorite things and what makes us happy. I received a beautiful pair of soft leather gardening gloves and a wonderful crackled glass hummingbird feeder. My children know how much I love gardening and that hummingbirds are my favorite birds. I know that they give these kinds of gifts because they love me and want to please me. That in itself is a wonderful gift. The call we receive from our daughter every week, just to say "Hi, I love you

and am checking on you to see how you are doing" is another wonderful gift. The unsolicited love that they have for us is a blessing that I cherish. The Lord showed me that this is an example of the love he desires from us. As our heavenly father, he wants our love just as we, as earthly parents, are so happy to receive the love of our children. That is all he asks of us—to love him above everything else in our lives. I can just imagine how happy he is when his children show their love for him in their everyday lives. That is why he created us—to love him. Each time I am reminded of the love of my children it reminds me to love God more and try to show that love to others. We are his children—created by him for his pleasure. God promises to love us and gives us the privilege to be called his children and be a member of his family. What an awesome family we belong to!

"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." John 14:23

In His Service,  
Elaine Price

## Welcome Bishop Kaziimba



We are blessed by our friendship with the Rt. Rev. Stephen Kaziimba, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Mityana, Uganda. Bishop Stephen will visit us for a few days this month, and will preach at our worship on June 22. He will also be our

guest at the church picnic that afternoon. He is in the USA working with a publisher on his book on equipping the saints for ministry. Don't miss this special opportunity to enjoy God's gifts through this man of deep faith.



## "...that the Fulani may hear the Gospel."

There are now several ways you can be informed about the Fulani and join in prayer for them. Send an e-mail to fulaniprayer@gmail.com and ask to be on its mailing list. Information can also be found on Twitter at #fulaniprayer or on Facebook at fulaniprayer.

Recipe for faith:

Start with the heart of God for all peoples,  
Mix in the 10 million Fulani who have never heard of Jesus Christ,  
Look for whatever God is using to take them the  
G o s p e l ,  
Borrow all the information you can find,  
Keep it saturated and warm with prayer  
Wait (for a loong time) for lasting results.

Tad deBordenave

### *A Complete Joy*

We all have skills that can benefit others. In the winter, I received a nudge from God to do something to help raise funds for our new church building. As the weather started to change, I recorded the transition toward Spring through the medium of watercolor. (Joy #1) I found an effective reasonable way to share art in a small setting. (Joy#2) I shared a response toward the beauty in God's creation with others. (Joy#3) I appreciate the vision of the Building Committee and communicated this to the people interested in my art. (Joy#4) Finally I placed the results of this project in the collection plate this past Sunday. ( J o y # 5 )

A Recipe For Joy

1. Take 1 heart softened by the Holy Spirit
2. Mix with knowledge of God's blessings
3. Blend with others inside and outside the church
4. Give it all back to God as a personal thank you.

Connie de Bordenave

*Dear Friends at St. Stephen's:*

*I want to thank everyone in the St. Stephen's family for all the cards, emails, telephone calls and especially the prayers you made in my behalf during my recent back surgery. I was assured the surgery I was to undergo was "routine." However, my personal definition of routine back surgery is when it is being performed on someone else. I did have complete confidence in the surgeon. But knowing that his hand was being steadied by HIS hand through your collective will and prayers was comforting beyond any expectations.*

*Melinda and I are very grateful for your active participation in my recovery.*

*Fred Wimberly*



## *Building Committee Report*

Proverbs 3:6: "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

The Building Committee met on Thursday, 15 May to review where we are and where we're headed. Since last month's report several developments have happened:

- VDOT has the approved Traffic Management Plan and we are awaiting their approval for the Hwy 360 entryway to our new property. Once we have VDOT's approval we intend to have that entryway constructed as soon as practical.
- David Norden, our architect, sent us a draft of the reduced size of the church, now about 11,500 sq. ft. This was done Pro Bono...any further details will entail payment to him.
- George Beckett, our chairman, guided us through BC member's reactions to that draft.
- We agreed that we will continue to build the entire church. (not Phase 1; then Phase 2).
- We agreed that there would be one contract to include the site prep and the church building. (not two separate contracts).
- We agreed to stay within the Vestry's guidelines, keeping the contract to not more than \$2 million.
- After we had a look at the kitchen of the United Methodist Church in Heathsville, on 10 May during Bishop Guernsey's visit, we agreed that what they have is the kind of kitchen we want. They kindly offered us detailed plans of that kitchen.
- We modified the architect's sketches in several areas and all were in agreement with those modifications.
- We plan to review our concept with three builders who were not among those we had been considering. First of those meetings was held on 19 May.

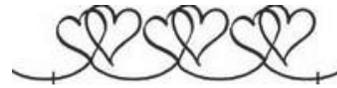
The Building Committee works closely with the

Vestry and seeks Vestry approval whenever funding is involved.

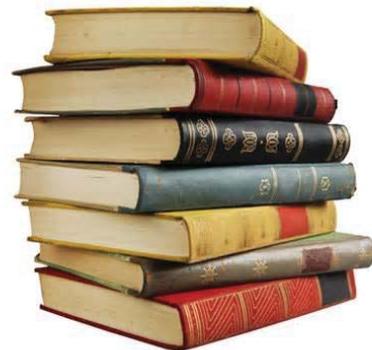
We are motivated to keep this project moving forward as rapidly as possible, and we'll continue to update you on the website, in the newsletter, and with frequent 3 minute updates at Church.

These are exciting times and we need your love, prayers and support as we move this challenge towards a successful conclusion.

Submitted on behalf of the Building Committee by George Beckett (Chairman)



## *Library Additions*



1. 2014 Mere Anglicanism Conference Charleston, SC. *Science, Faith and Apologetics: An Answer for the Hope that is Within Us*. Audio. 10 discs.
2. *The God Delusion Debate: Richard Dawkins vs. John Lennox*. DVD 2009. 112 minutes.
3. *Darwin's Doubt: The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design* by Stephen C. Meyer 2013.
4. *God and Stephen Hawking: Whose Design Is It Anyway?* by John C. Lennox 2011.
5. *Apologetics for a New Generation: A Biblical and Culturally Relevant Approach to Talking about God* edited by Sean McDowell 2009.



## Women of St. Stephen's

Dear Ladies of St. Stephen's,

May was a wonderful month as spring finally returned to the Northern Neck and we were surrounded by the beauty of the season. Jeanne Hickey reported in early May that the Teacher Appreciation gifts we worked on in April were a huge success. Jeanne had purchased a pot of marigolds to place in each shopping bag, and she engaged the school children in wrapping the pots in tissue paper and then Jeanne had them deliver a bag to each teacher. It was great news to learn that the project we began was turned into a multi-generational undertaking when the school children became involved. Thank you, Jeanne, for all you did to complete these gifts of recognition for the teachers at the elementary school.

Most decidedly the highlight of May came during the luncheon we enjoyed with Meg Guernsey on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Julie Pritchard was our hostess, and she did a lovely job in providing for our every need in setting up our lunch for our guest Meg and the thirty two-women who attended. Thank you, Julie, for a job extremely well done! And thank you to Elaine and the Vestry for providing our chicken salad sandwiches.

After lunch, Meg spoke to us on "Ministry from a Place of Rest." She had us participate in groups as we read different scriptures and discussed how God was using His Word to teach us about the importance of rest in our lives to enhance our intimacy with Him. Meg also shared from her experiences during different seasons of life, and there were many poignant moments that touched our spirits and in some cases moved us to tears. Meg told us that when we make the effort to spend time in rest by sitting at the Lord's feet in prayer and the reading of His Word, it causes us to stay in it, carrying His sweet fragrance with us wherever we go, securing us in the Lord's blessings. I believe that Meg left forever imprints on the hearts of our women.

The next day after our Sunday service, Sally

Custer and Team 3 provided a lovely coffee hour in honor of the Bishop's visit. It was a joyful time of refreshment and fellowship for one and all. Thanks go out to Sally and her team.

As I am writing this article the women are in the midst of planning for a night at the movies at St. Stephen's with a showing of the *Jesus* film. It will be held on **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** in O.A.. Brinkley Hall and Jim Conley will be joining us to moderate the film. For thirty-five years, the *Jesus* film has introduced individuals on every continent to Jesus through billions of viewings in more than 1,200 languages. I hope that I will see many of you there and that you will take this opportunity to invite your family and friends who are non-believers to view the life story of Jesus. This wonderful film is a humble rendition of the life of Jesus according to Luke and it is told in a simple, straightforward way without the Hollywood glitz.

Blessings and love in Christ,  
Donna Soule



## Church Picnic Sunday, June 22

After Worship  
at Shirley Smith's house on the Potomac in  
Bay Quarter Shores  
Bring accompaniments and desserts to go with  
hot dogs and hamburgers.  
Drinks will be provided.  
Our special guest will be  
Bishop Stephen Kaziimba

Directions to Shirley Smith's house:

East of Heathsville on US 360, between the 2 gas stations in Claraville, turn on Rt. 630 (Walnut Point Rd.) In about 1 ½ miles, turn right on 629 (Font Hill Rd.). Very soon, go left on 751 (Bay Quarter Rd.) to Bay Quarter Shores. At the entrance columns, bear right onto Presley Creek Drive until it dead-ends at Bay Quarter Drive. Go right. 5<sup>th</sup> house on the left, #56.

# *St. Stephen's Hospitality Teams*

*We welcome Wendy Smith to Team 3.*

*It's time to change team captains. Please call Suzy Norman if you can help. Thank You!*

## **Team 1**

Marie Carstensen  
Dixie Goertemiller  
Joy Gwaltney  
Jeanne Hickey  
Judy LeHardy  
Lucy Logan  
Ingrid Manson  
Gayle Marston  
Denise McCarthy  
Constance McDearmon  
Marion Mitchell  
Margaret Radcliffe  
Susan Read  
Barbara Seed  
Sandi Ward

## **Team 2**

Charlaine Andrulot  
Jan Beckett  
Joan Blackstone  
Betty Cralle  
Jeanette Cralle  
Pat Dalzell  
Betty Dillingham  
Pauline Edmonds  
Ruth Franck  
Irene Haley  
Nina Martin  
Julie Pritchard  
Susan Saunders  
Priscilla Williams  
Laura Woodard

## **Team 3**

Corinne Anthony  
Lynne Cerar  
Lyn Conley  
Sally Custer  
Melinda Floom  
Ellie Knight  
Langley Lewis  
Doris Myers  
Elaine Price  
Eleanor Semerjian  
Wendy Smith  
Donna Soule  
Phyllis TeStrake  
Virginia Townshend  
Jinky Wrightson  
Lynn York

## **Team 4**

Anna Brennan  
Agnes Burke  
Connie de Bordenave  
Gail Gillan  
Charlotte Hundley  
Alison Kimmitt  
Lyn Neira  
Suzy Norman  
Judy Raspberry  
Barbara Ressler  
Pam Smith  
Bertie Strange  
Mary Swann  
Susan Thomas

# Unexpected Miracles

Mo Dillingham

I've grown accustomed to our little Northern Neck area where small town expectations are the norm along with the friendly and open greetings when chance meeting someone. But when I return to the more densely populated areas of Virginia my old reticence at eye contact returns and I seek to just be alone in my thoughts. That was the situation when I recently drove my wife to her checkup appointment at the hospital near Mechanicsville. While waiting for the nurse to return and tell me of the conclusion of the tests, I waited in the public area. I dropped my head and closed my eyes to avoid unwanted conversation with strangers and was successful until I mistook a call for someone else as being for me. An elderly lady (around my age of course) who had seated herself next to me, while she too waited, began to advise me on how to determine if I was being called. That broke the ice and she began asking if I was there for procedures, etc. After my explanation, she was free to expound on her experiences, experiences which turned out to be quite extraordinary.

On her second bypass surgery there had been some complications and she was left in a coma for seven days. A nurse happened to notice toward the end of that period that her patient seemed to be praying and was in considerable distress, probably with some indications provided by those tubes and wires hooked up to alarms. The alert was duly acknowledged and they proceeded to check her closely and found internal bleeding which would have meant her death. My new friend said that the problem was somehow resolved in time. She then related her experience while under the coma: *"I recall that at one point the nurse was whispering something in my ear. I then heard a loud and booming voice say 'This is not your time, you must go back' and I said that I didn't want to go back. The voice reiterated its command."* My friend said that she then fully awakened and proceeded to get up to go home, feeling fully recovered. She then exclaimed that *"Before the experience I had always been afraid of my surgeries but now I am not afraid anymore."*

We then spoke of what a miracle this was and how gracious and wonderful is God. Of course, then I had to relate my miracle. I said "I have a miracle, too!" The story of my reconciliation with my son

after thirty years was what I presented as my miracle. It was then that I lost all control of my emotions with tears streaming down at the glory of our two miracles. The lady's husband then returned from his procedure and she arose to leave, but not before giving me a big hug and "God bless you."

In Him there are no strangers.

## Praying The Land Schedule

### June

1-7 Spiritual Friends  
8-14 Intercessory Prayer Group  
15-21 Vestry  
22-28 Women's Ministry  
29-July 5 Tuesday Prayer Breakfast

### July

6-12 Fishermen  
13-19 Merry Point Bible Study  
20-26 Tuesday Evening Bible Study  
27-Aug. 2 Kilmarnock Home Group

### August

3-9 Choir  
10-16 Youth/Sunday School  
17-23 Altar Guild  
24-30 Building Committee  
31-Sept. 6 Wednesday Lunch Group

### September

7-13 Sunday Morning Bible Study  
14-20 Intercessory Prayer Group  
21-27 Vestry  
28-Oct. 4 Women's Ministry

### October

5-11 Tuesday Prayer Breakfast  
12-18 Fishermen  
19-25 Merry Point bible Study  
26-Nov. 1 Tuesday Evening bible Study

### November

2-8 Kilmarnock Home Group  
9-15 Choir  
16-22 Youth/Sunday School  
23-29 Altar Guild  
30-Dec. 6 Building Committee

### December

7-13 Wednesday Lunch Group  
14-20 Sunday morning Bible Study  
21-27 Intercessory Prayer Group  
28-Jan. 3 Vestry

# IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

## Ushers

June 1	Pam and Herb Smith
June 8	Joy and David Gwaltney
June 15	George Beckett, Ben Ward
June 22	Steve proctor, Jim Logan
June 29	Barbara and Dick Seed
July 6	Doug Smoot, Constance McDearmon

## Acolytes

June 1	Jennifer Radcliffe
June 8	Sarah Saunders
June 15	Chris Cralle
June 22	Hannah Hamlett
June 29	Marley Kimmitt
July 6	Jennifer Radcliffe

## Lesson Readers

June 1	Lyn Conley (L) Betty Dillingham (P)
June 8	Ruth Franck (L) Irene Haley (P)
June 15	Jeanne Hickey (L) Judy LeHardy (P)
June 22	Ward LeHardy (L) Elaine Price (P)
June 29	Julie Pritchard (L) Frank McCarthy (P)
July 6	Margaret Radcliffe (L) Constance McDearmon (P)

## Eucharistic Ministers

June 1	Suzy Norman and Elaine Price
June 8	Phyllis TeStrake, Harrison Williams
June 15	Priscilla Williams, Fred Woodard
June 22	Irene Haley, Ward LeHardy
June 29	Lucy Logan, Frank McCarthy
July 6	Constance McDearmon, Tony Blackstone

## Altar Guild

June	Betty Cralle, Barbara Seed, Dana Bloom
July	Julie Pritchard, Ruth Franck Susan Thomas

## Nursery

June 1	Betty Cralle
June 8	Constance mcDearmon
June 15	Saunee Hamlett
June 22	Jeanette Cralle
June 29	Margaret Radcliffe
July 6	Betty Cralle

## Coffee Hour

June 1	Suzy & Bob Norman and Marie Carstensen
June 8	Lyn & Art Neira
June 15	Pauline & Bobby Edmonds
June 22	Virginia & Laddie Townshend
June 29	Marion Mitchell, Margaret Radcliffe
July 6	Charlaine & Bill Andrulot



June 1	Lynn York
June 6	Susan Read
June 10	Melissa Cerar
June 12	Bill Powers, Bob David
June 15	Sophia Hamlett
June 18	Fred Wimberly
June 20	Tommy & Timothy Kimmitt
June 21	Lyn Conley
June 22	Lisa Carson
June 23	Lynne Cerar
June 25	David Burke
June 28	Judy LeHardy, Jeanne Hickey



June 5	Katrina and Daniel Mochamps
June 7	Ellie and Max Knight
June 8	Laura and Fred Woodard
June 9	Sandra and Ben Ward
June 11	Ingrid and Hunter Manson
June 17	Gayle and Sam Marston
June 24	Tom & Elaine Price; Priscilla and Harrison Williams

*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 in all the days of their lives. Amen.*

2014

June

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*Worship Outdoors on Youth Sunday, June 1  
First Baptist Church Pavilion*

**Sunday June 1 is Youth Sunday**, and we will honor our college and high school students who graduate this Spring. We will make this a special occasion, holding our worship and coffee hour in the First Baptist Church Pavilion at 10:00. Be sure to dress appropriately. If the weather does not cooperate, we will be in Brinkley Hall.