

# ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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*ALIVE IN CHRIST* 1881 - 2012

AUGUST 2012



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All Women of St. Stephen's

are invited to a

One Day Retreat at

"Wellspring"

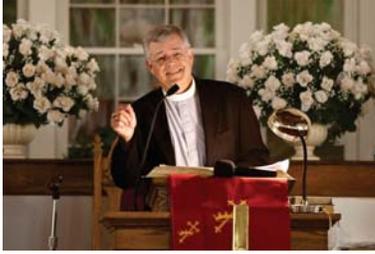
Saturday, August 18

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

See details on Page 10

*Directions to Wellspring: Take 360 from Burgess to Reedville. Bear left at the fork by the old BP station onto Fleeton Rd. Continue out Fleeton Rd. and pass the Cockrell's Creek Deli sign on the right. Immediately after passing the sign on the right for Omega Protein, look for 2 small brick pillars on the left that mark our driveway. Turn left into the driveway, pass through the pines and look for the farmhouse on the right. Please do not use Hopedale Farm Road for access even though our address is listed as being on Hopedale Farm Road. This is now a private road.*

## JEFFREY'S JOURNAL



### *Our Walk With Christ*

The Christian life often is described in literature as a pilgrimage. It is a long walk, during which much happens, and much is accomplished. Though the pilgrimage aims at a goal, it is on the journey that God accomplishes much with the pilgrim. I have been thinking about the walk with Jesus, and the things along the way that Jesus does with us. Our walk begins at different times in our lives, depending on when that first step occurs. But whether it is a long lifetime with Him, or a brief one, Jesus has a development plan for the pilgrim.

**Revelation:** The Christian walk begins when the Holy Spirit awakens us and opens our eyes to God. "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me, I was found by those who did not seek me." (Isaiah 65:1) "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him, but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit." (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

**Salvation:** The next step is our response. If we believe what the Holy Spirit has revealed to us, if we repent and put our trust and faith in Jesus, He will forgive our sins and give us the gift of salvation. "...because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved." (Ephesians 2:4-5)

**Healing:** Now that we are saved, God goes further and begins a process of healing us. That is what Jesus was saying about Himself at the synagogue in Nazareth, when He said that He had come to preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoner and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18-21) Salvation is only the beginning of our freedom and our healing. Jesus works on us for our whole pilgrimage to set us free to be what He created us to be.

**Comfort:** Along the way, things befall us that break our hearts and assail our spirits. With God's help, we overcome these storms and

challenges. As we deal with them, God gives us His comfort. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) Like His forgiveness, His comfort sets us free to live in His abundance of life.

**Call:** God intends for us to pass along His blessing. And that is the next aspect of our journey: God's call. Having been saved, healed and comforted, we are so aware of God's grace that we must share that gift with the world. "You shall be my witnesses," Jesus said. (Acts 1:8) "Love your neighbor," Jesus said. (Luke 10:27) "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation," Jesus said. (Mark 16:15)

**Discipline:** Of course, in our walk, it isn't always straightforward. We struggle with sin, we wander from the path, we make excuses for our inaction. Hebrews 12:7-13 tells us that just as all good parents discipline their children, God disciplines us. This, too, is part of our walk with Christ, as God stays with us and disciplines us for our good, and for the good of His glorious purpose.

**Sanctification:** And still, He is not finished with us. For God intends to make us holy. He pours out His grace on us to "sanctify" us, to make us into the image of Jesus, so that the Body of Christ will be a fit bride for Him on the last day. We are "being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." (Ephesians 2:22) God created us in His image, and we have fallen away from that great honor. But by His work, in His way and in His time, God is remaking us, restoring us, and redeeming us. We shall once again shine like the brightness of the sun.

Each of us embarks on this walk in our own time, as the Holy Spirit sees fit, and as we respond in faith. All these steps along the way are God's work, and He does them in the order that He pleases. Together, we walk the pilgrim way as one, sharing the blessing of God's unconquerable love.

Yours in Christ,  
Jeffrey O. Cerar, Pastor



**Dear St. Stephens  
Family of God,**

Marie and I  
can't begin to  
express our love  
and thanks for the  
outpouring of  
prayers, love and  
concern in the  
recent surgery I

had for 2 knee replacements. Little did we know that other health issues would befall me during my recovery time in the hospital. The first week was up and down and I wound up in the intensive care unit for about 5 days. Marie was a trooper throughout the ordeals and stayed by my side until she felt confident to leave me under the care of the doctors and nurses and still coming and going to see me and taking care of things at the house and our pups.

While we were overwhelmed and concerned about these setbacks, we knew that none of these episodes were a surprise to God. He had all things under His sovereign control. He had me in the right place at the right time with the right doctors and nurses. Under the loving, healing hand of our Lord and your fervent, continual prayers, I stabilized and ultimately was moved to rehab for physical therapy. I was in the hospital from June 4th and released on June 16th.

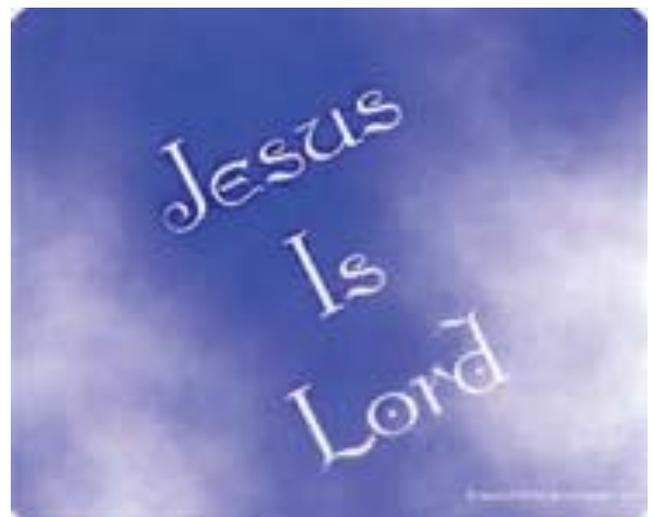
Because of your concern and prayers, I want to update you on my progress. My last appointment with the orthopedic doctor went very well. He says I am doing great and wants to see me in 3 months. I will be looking at some outpatient rehab, however. The cardiologist says that the issue regarding my heart and clots in the lungs have somewhat stabilized and as of right now does not feel any pacemaker is needed but will continue to monitor me and I will go back to him in 3 months as well. Regarding the small pancreatic mass, the gastrointestinal doctor took another CATscan/ Ultrasound test targeting the pancreatic area. As yet we have not heard back on the results of those tests. So I continue to covet your prayers that everything on the pancreas will either disappear or be benign. Whatever the results, we are trusting the Lord for His faithfulness and merciful healing. Never did Marie or I feel dismayed or overwrought during this

time. In fact, your prayers sustained us beyond what we expected. Through your intercession we were lifted up and we truly felt the Lord's presence and peace throughout and even to this day. God has strengthened us in our faith to depend solely upon Him in all things ("...for all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purposes."), and to love Him with our whole heart...

We praise and thank our Lord for each of you and thank you for the visits to the hospital and then at home, your phone calls and your cards. Wow! What an encouragement this has been for me and Marie. Marie and I regularly share how privileged and blessed we are to be a part of this family of God here at St. Stephen's Anglican. This is a church of strong believers, lovers of the Lord and His word. We pray that we can be as faithful to each of you now and in your hour of need. Special "thanks" to Donna Soule and Bev Hart for keeping you all informed as to my progress. They helped to alleviate the angst that Marie was experiencing trying to stay on top of my health issues.

We pray God's richest blessings for each and every one of you and to continue to bless SSA, especially in these days of future plans for deeper commitment to each other and for the new church building.

**In Christian love,  
Al and Marie**





## Senior Warden Report

I have been told by so many Christians, "Fear not (or Worry not) the Lord will provide all you need." This guidance has always been true and the Lord continues to provide our church with blessings.

Jan and I traveled to Maryland yesterday to meet Mr. Morgan Kelly and his lovely wife, Patricia, the owners of the land located on Route 360 that we have offered to buy. The vestry approved the purchase Thursday afternoon and the Kellys agreed to the price and terms. It was a pleasure to meet these Christians, share a meal, and conduct business. Mr. Kelly was raised just outside of Heathsville and attended First Baptist Church until he moved to Maryland.

We have 90 days to conduct the tests and obtain the necessary permits before we can obtain title to the land. Those requirements start July 16 with the zoning change application and will continue until all authorities have approved our intent to build a church.

The Building Committee is working on the development of functional requirements that will be used by the architects and engineers to define the technical requirements for the new church. Starting the week of July 16, the committee will interview design firms, construction companies, and other organizations to determine the best approach to the project. The committee will brief the vestry and the congregation. Committee meetings are open to the congregation.

The Fund Raising Committee, led by Ward and Judy LeHardy, held their organizational meeting recently and will start their work in September. Ward reminded me that the fund is established and ready to receive donations, should anyone want to make a donation at this time.

We continue to receive constructive information and ideas from church members and friends. Please share your thoughts with us.

"The God of Heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding..." Nehemiah 3:20.

George Beckett



Wanted: prayer shawls, knitters and people in need of comfort

As you know, many of our congregation have been blessed by receiving a Prayer Shawl that was knitted (or crocheted). These shawls are made by a person who wants to reach out to those experiencing a difficult time. The shawls are made with soft colorful yarn and adhere to a pattern provided. We have money donated to pay for this yarn.

When we learn of a friend or relative, who would be comforted, we contact Mary Swann who will determine if this is an appropriate action and by whom it should be delivered. The shawl will be blessed and include a prayer card with a prayer from St. Stephen's Anglican Church. Please help us continue this caring action both by knitting or by giving a shawl to a friend or relative in need. Questions?: Contact Lynn York

Dear brothers and sisters at St. Stephens,

We are immensely grateful for your prayers on our behalf during our mission trip abroad in June. We were safe and protected the entire time and had a very rewarding experience. Thank you so much! We'd like to share with you, briefly, some of the events we experienced.

During June 1-10 we were blessed to participate in a CBN World Impact Tour in Central America, our first time. CBN, The Christian Broadcasting Network, based in Virginia Beach, broadcasts the daily one hour program called The 700 Club. This ministry recently celebrated 50 years of reaching the unsaved through TV evangelization and physically ministering to the needy in the U.S. and many countries of the world through two very special outreach programs, "Operation Blessing" and "Orphans Promise." About 60 of us from all over the country visited Guatemala and Costa Rica. We all converged on June 1 in Guatemala City. Our home for 4 nights was in Antigua, a very old and quaint town with cobble stone streets.

The next day we visited the orphanage Agua Viva (Living Water) which is the home for over 100 children ranging from ages 1 to 18. CBN partners with this ministry in providing supplies and improvements for the children who live there. We interacted with the children in several ways as we were divided into several groups, conducting fun activities with them. Some painted faces, others played games, others held and hugged the children who soaked up all the love and attention. We helped at the mobile dental clinic handing out dental hygiene supplies as the children completed their checkups.

Another day we worked in a small village in Escuintla, erecting and finishing 6-7 sturdy wood homes, furnished them with mattresses and presented them to needy families. There was also a medical campaign which included distribution of anti-parasite pills, and a counseling and prayer center. It was rewarding for me to communicate with everyone easily in my native Spanish and to help others when translating was needed. Guatemala is located just south of Mexico. Except for the coastal areas, it is mostly mountainous and there are many volcanos, as a result, their soil is very rich and it rains generously, creating a great environment for agriculture. They utilize every inch of ground to grow crops all year around in spite of the hilly terrain. About 98% of the population who live outside the cities are direct Maya descendants.

On June 5 we traveled south by plane to San Jose, Costa Rica. The next day we visited the Rahab Center, which is the home and refuge for women who were formerly trapped in prostitution. The girls and women are first introduced to our Lord's salvation, spiritual counseling and psychological care. They are offered a restoration program through which they can receive literacy training, elementary school education, Bible studies and recreational activities. Job training opportunities include: sewing, baking, bread-making, hair styling, computer and crafts. On the day of our visit, the center had a graduation ceremony for a group of women who had completed training courses in baking and bread-making and others in hair styling. Before leaving the center we interacted with the women and had the opportunity to pray together for their individual needs and their future.

Another day, we travelled to the Christian community of La Carpio founded by Christ for the Cities Ministry and witnessed the good work being done there. There is a Christian school for children of all ages and several other kinds of ministry for the young people who live just outside this highly secured center. We interacted with the young students and gifts for the school and students were presented to the leaders. In all the places we visited much prayer went forth for individuals and also for groups.

Continued on next page

Sussman Mission Trip Continued from Page 6

The ministry part of this trip was unforgettable but there were also touring and sightseeing in between. In Guatemala we visited Lake Atitlan which is surrounded by volcanoes, an impressive sight. We travelled there by bus and then took a boat across the lake to a village where the main income is the sale of crafts to visitors. Very colorful and interesting. Costa Rica is smaller geographically and the climate felt hotter, being closer to the Equator. Before leaving San Jose we took a fun tour of the Britt Coffee plantation. On June 8 we travelled northwest by bus to Westin Playa Conchal in Liberia, a resort on the Pacific coast where we enjoyed R & R. The resort was beautiful and had a lot to offer. It left us all wishing for more time to enjoy it. We returned to our home, quite exhausted, during the early hours of June 11. We are left with lovely memories of this experience and treasure the fellowship we enjoyed with our fellow travellers from around the country, all united by the love of our Lord. Thank you again for your prayer support.

Love,  
Bill & Miriam Sussman



## Full Circle

Having just returned from the joint celebration of First Church's 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I have become very reflective upon how Jesus changes lives and even churches. I am 72 years old now so as a young man, I experienced the Civil Rights Movement but didn't participate in it other than to place myself firmly on the wrong side of the issue. Our nation was still experiencing the consequences that the Forefathers knew would happen when they struggled with and chose a political instead of moral solution to the question of slavery in the new nation. I missed my chance in the 60s to make a difference. I can't say exactly when my heart started to change but can recall some self-recognition of it during the Rodney King incident when I offered to march with a black co-worker in downtown DC. I had befriended a black co-worker years before at IBM when they hired the first black man I had ever worked with so this King incident was not necessarily the first time I showed a change of heart. It was just the most moving one which left me very introspective and even joyful at the transition. I was given a second chance.

When First Church had its beginnings in 1866, its members came from Coan Baptist Church. With the recent war over, all men were now free but some were freer than others. If you can imagine the time period, the most devastating war ever waged by this nation at that time and even by today's standards had just concluded and blacks were now officially recognized as free (but not until later by the Fourteenth Amendment as full citizens). They needed their own place of worship. I was curious about Coan Baptist Church so at lunch I asked a couple of the ladies at our table about it. Coan Baptist was not an all black church but was apparently similar to most churches of the day where blacks and whites worshipped together. That terrible war must have created quite some angst in the congregation. In a way, we have all come full circle together. Jesus truly changes hearts.

Mo Dillingham

## Fund Raising for God's New Church

Several have asked, "When can we start donating to the new church building?" And the simple answer is: "Anytime!" Specify on your donation: Building Fund. There have been several donations already and the Thrift Shop is donating 10% of their profits. At the moment more than \$216,000 is in the Building Fund.

But remember, our "Official" Fund Raising Campaign will begin later in the Fall when we know that the property meets all of our requirements and we have an estimate of all building costs and a sketch of what the new church might look like.

The Fund Raising Team is working now on a brochure which will contain our "Case Statement" describing how we believe God is telling us to proceed. Photos and sketches will be included as they become available. We'll have periodic updates on this in future Newsletters.

Exciting times ahead!!

Fund Raising Team: Ward LeHardy (Chairman); Tad de Bordenave; Charlie Franck; David Gwaltney; Judy LeHardy; Susan Thomas; Priscilla Williams; and Howard York.



**Table Talk dinners will resume Friday, September 21st** at 6:00 p.m. This year's subject is Russia. The next one will be Friday, November 2nd. The third session will be in January, time and date to be announced.

# *The Fulani*

Since about 2005 St. Stephen's Anglican Church has been praying for the Fulani, "We pray for the Fulani people and those who take the Gospel to them." This is an example of one of the prayers that was added to our petitions because Tad de Bordenave had made a trip to Nigeria and became aware of this unreached people group. As the second coming of Jesus Christ will not occur until all the peoples of the world have at least heard the name Jesus Christ, St. Stephen's essentially adopted and began praying for the Fulani as our unreached people group.

If you are like me, you may have asked yourself, "Who are the Fulani, anyway"? The Fulani of West Africa are the largest nomadic group in the world, consisting of about 27 million people, and most of them have never heard of Jesus Christ. They were the first group of people in West Africa to convert to Islam through jihads, or holy wars. This enabled them to take over large portions of West Africa and establish themselves not only as a religious group, but also as a political and economic force. In the coming months we will continue to explore and learn about the Fulani to enable us to concentrate our prayers for these people which, hopefully, will result in their turning to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Holding the Fulani in our prayers helps to fulfill the mission statement of St. Stephen's Anglican Church, "To know Christ and to make Him known to others." Also, keeping them in our prayers will enable each and everyone of us to help fulfill Christ's last personal directive to his disciples, The Great Commission :

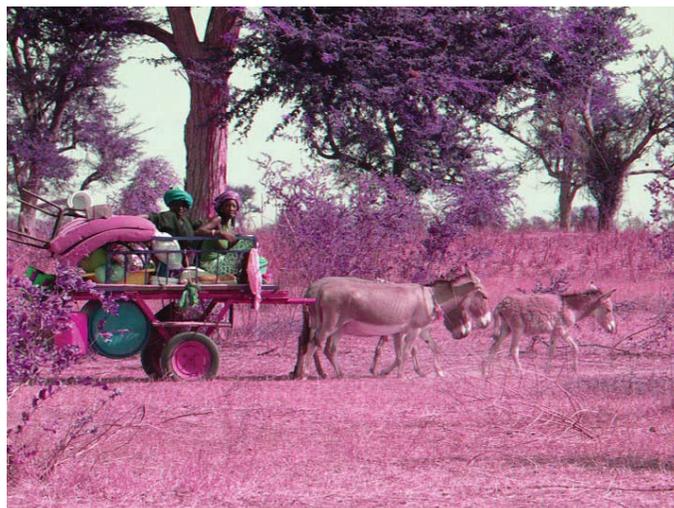
## **Matthew 28:18-20**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the , and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Prayer point: Please take a moment to pray for the Fulani that they may have open minds, eyes, and hearts to any missionaries that may come their way teaching them about Jesus Christ.

A special thank you to Patrick Smith for his permission to use his written report from his Perspectives Class on the Fulani. His paper along with other references will be used to help us all learn about this unreached people group.

Melinda K. Floom





**The Rt. Rev.  
David Bena  
presents  
“Hey Moses,  
when are we ever  
going to get out of this wilderness?”**

## **St. Stephen’s Anglican Church Parish Weekend**

### ***Miracle for Jen***

by Linda Barrick

A college friend from North Carolina sent me a book last week. Over the years, she has sent several books - all outstanding - but this is the first Christian book she has sent. So, during Saturday’s afternoon thunderstorm, I pulled it out, full of anticipation, yet with a touch of doubt. Surely the plot of this book was predictable: real-life girl in car accident is healed of her injuries, the end. What I found instead was less the story of the girl, and more the story of faith - the girl’s incredible faith as well as that of her family and Christian community, and, even better, God’s unfailing faithfulness to them. The book is, I found to my delight, a real life, inspiring testimony to the truth of Romans 8:28, Jeremiah 29:11, and 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Miracle for Jen, published in February 2012, takes place in Virginia and the girl, Jen Barrick, is now twenty years old and a student at Liberty University in Lynchburg. The book, written by her mother, chronicles the aftermath of a terrible automobile accident the family suffers in the fall of 2006. More than that, it relates the miracles God wrought in the life of a fifteen year old girl as He unfolded His unexpected, perfect plan for her life.

I recommend Miracle for Jen to you and I offer it to you via the downstairs living room of St. Stephen’s. The book will be there, along with a sign out sheet, for anyone who wants to read it. I loved it and think you will too.

Margaret Radcliffe



## Women of St. Stephen's

Dear Ladies of St. Stephen's Church,

As many of you know, the Leadership Team for the Women decided last March not to plan an overnight retreat at Stratford Hall this summer. We had a lot to accomplish with moving the Thrift Shop as well as the church and the adjustment to our new surrounds. To take on a major retreat with an outside speaker was more than we believed we should plan. It did seem like we needed to get together, however, and so we have scheduled a one day retreat at Wellspring in Fleeton on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 5:00 p.m. The cost for this event is \$25.00 which includes a continental breakfast, lunch and rental of the facility. Please make checks out to the Women of St. Stephen's Anglican Church and write retreat on the memo line. You may give them to me on Sunday at church or mail them to me at P.O. Box 2, Merry Point, VA 22513.

Plans for the Retreat at Wellspring have been underway for about six weeks, and several people are in prayer and meetings to plan for our day together. We are so blessed to have the lovely space of Wellspring in which to meet, and we are grateful to the Lewis family for opening it up to us. Since we were meeting at Wellspring, it seemed only appropriate that "Discovering the Wellspring of Your Heart" be our theme.

There is a wonderful scripture in Proverbs 4:23 that says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." I looked up the meaning of wellspring and found many: fountain, beginning, fountain head, origin, root, source, birthplace, fount, a source for a stream or spring. So, come and join us for a time of refreshment and fellowship so that we can rejoice together with the Psalmist who said, "For with you, O Lord, is the fountain of life; in your light, we see light." Psalm 36:9

Blessings and love,  
Donna

## *Spiritual Friends* *A Christian Fellowship for Single Adults*

On a hot day in June, at a cookout at Mallard Bay clubhouse, St. Stephen's launched a new fellowship for singles. Calling itself "Spiritual Friends," the group came together to decide that its mission would be: "To provide a supportive community for single adults, enabling them to strengthen their faith, enjoy social events, and engage in meaningful conversation."

Spiritual Friends will meet for a pot-luck lunch on the second Friday of each month at Val Hutchison's house. The first gathering will be on July 23 at noon. At these regular meetings there will be a topical discussion. The discussion on July 13 will be, *What does the Bible have to say about the life of a single Christian?*

The August event will be a Rappahannock River cruise from Tappahannock to the Ingleside Vineyard, where the group will enjoy a tour and wine-tasting. The men and women of Spiritual Friends look forward to many enjoyable events in the future, and hope to offer support and encouragement to each other in their spiritual life and with practical matters as well.

If you would like to learn more about this, you may call Gail Gillan at 804-0113.

John Powers is the publicity chairman of the group.



## *Spiritual Friends* *Rappahannock River Cruise* *Friday, August 24*

*Leaves 10:00 a.m. - Returns at 4:30 p.m.*  
*Lunch at the Vineyard or Bring a Picnic*  
*Come, join the fun!*

## IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

### Ushers

Aug 5	Gayle and Sam Marston
Aug 12	Bev and Brian Hart
Aug 19	Marie Carstensen and Bill Tracey
Aug 26	Langley, Todd and Tim Lewis
Sept. 2	Colston Newton and Steve Proctor

### Acolytes

Aug 5	Caitlyn Cralle
Aug 12	Jennifer Radcliffe
Aug 19	Sarah Saunders
Aug 26	Chris Cralle
Sept. 2	Marley Kimmitt

### Lesson Readers

Aug 5	Jim Conley (L) Lyn Conley (P)
Aug 12	Ruth Franck (L) Jeanne Hickey (P)
Aug 19	Judy LeHardy (L) Ward LeHardy (P)
Aug 26	Todd Lewis (L) Langley Lewis (P)
Sept. 2	Frank McCarthy (L) Katrina Mochamps (P)

### Eucharistic Ministers

Aug 5	Charlie Franck
Aug 12	Ward LeHardy
Aug 19	Frank McCarthy
Aug 26	Constance McDearmon
Sept. 2	Elaine Price

### Altar Guild

August	Pauline and Bobby Edmonds and Margaret Radcliffe
September	Eleanor Semerjian and Miriam Sussman

### Greeters

August	Susan Thomas and ?
September	Lou and Bob David

## Coffee Hour

Aug 5  
Aug 12  
Aug 19  
Aug 26  
Sept. 2



Aug. 5	Walter Eichacker
Aug. 10	Jane Kimball, Jim Logan
Aug. 11	Bill Henson, Laura Woodard
Aug. 15	Janet Steelman, Aislinn Lewis
Aug. 16	Steve Radcliffe
Aug. 18	Dixie Goertemiller, Bertie Strange, and Dana Bloom
Aug. 20	Jane Wrightson, Tony Blackstone, and Barbara Townshend
Aug. 24	Charlotte Hundley
Aug. 29	Jeanette Cralle
Aug. 31	Anna Brennan, Charles Franck



Aug. 20	Dana and Bill Bloom
Aug. 23	Sue and Allen Joslyn
Aug. 24	Connie and Tad de Bordenave

*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.*



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### *A Chance to Tour Israel*

While at the ACNA Assembly in North Carolina, I met Dr. Theresa Newell, USA Board Chairman for CMJ (The Church's Ministry among Jewish People), with headquarters in Sewickley, Pa.

Besides reaching out to Jewish believers in the USA, Theresa conducts "Study Tours" to Israel, and the next one will be November 4-15, 2012. I told her that I would make it known to our congregation that it is not too late to sign up. You can learn more at her website, [theresa@cmj-usa.org](mailto:theresa@cmj-usa.org), or pick up one of her newsletters, *Heart's Cry*, at the church.

Judy LeHardy