

# ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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*ALIVE IN CHRIST* 1881 - 2012

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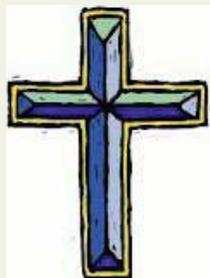
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**December 2 is Commitment Sunday** for God's Great Project. Bring in your commitment forms for the offering. If you can't be there that Sunday, please send them by mail during the week.

**December 9 is our Annual Meeting.**

We will hold the vestry election. Please have all nominations in no later than December 2. Nomination forms are on the table in O.A. Brinkley Hall.

**December 9 is also First Fruits Sunday**, when we will bring in our 2012 offerings for God's Great Project.

Our preacher that day will be the Rt. Rev. Julian Dobbs, bishop of CANA.

## JEFFREY'S JOURNAL



### Why Do We Have Communion Every Sunday?

Holy Communion, or the “Eucharist,” is the central act of our worship. We celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday. Why is that? The short answer is that we believe that God gives us so much grace in communion, grace that we desperately need, that we do it every chance we get. Anglicans do not regard Holy Communion as a mere remembrance of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, and we don’t celebrate communion just because He told us to. We regard it as a special gift from Jesus, in which His power is manifest in our lives. There are four things the Bible tells us about the body and blood of Christ and its power in our lives.

1. In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus gives us life and nourishes our spirit. In John 6:35 Jesus tells us, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”
2. In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus assures us of eternal life. In John 6:51 He tells us, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”
3. In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus brings us into communion with Him. He tells us in John 6:56, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.”
4. In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus assures us that our sins are forgiven. He said when He instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:28

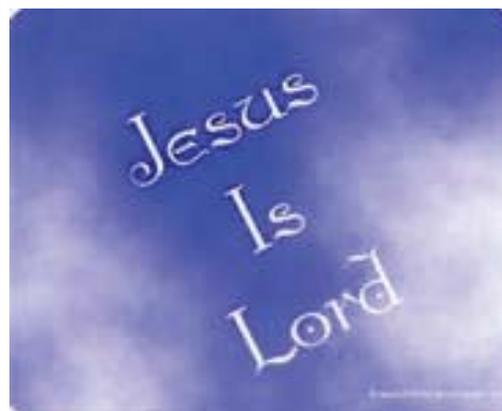
It is correct to say that through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus accomplished the forgiveness of the sins of all believers, and the assurance of their eternal life. And yet, we are

sinful human beings, living in the shadow of the cross and in anticipation of the Day of the Lord, when all things will be brought to perfection. We struggle from day to day to know Jesus. We struggle to believe. We struggle with temptation. We run dry. We hunger and thirst for Jesus. We wonder sometimes where He is. And we bump up against our doubts. Am I really saved? Is there a heaven? Will God be true to His promises? Will I enjoy eternal life?

Jesus knew it was going to be like this for us. He spoke to us again and again about the trials we would face. And that is why, on the night before He died, He gathered His disciples around Him and He took the cup of blessing from the Passover meal. He blessed it, and gave it to them saying, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” (Luke 22:17) And then He broke bread with them; He blessed it and gave it to them and said, “This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)

Jesus had the foresight to make it possible for us to enjoy His presence and His power in our lives for as long as we are on this earth. It is our precious gift to be able to come to His table again and again, being refreshed, renewed, reassured and redeemed. Real presence. Real power. Real love. We will take as much of that as Jesus will give us.

Yours in Christ,  
Jeffrey O. Cerar, Rector





## Senior Warden Report

November is the time for budgets, annual reports, new vestry nominations, the Bishop's visit, Advent preparations, outreach donations, Parish Weekend Review, Building Committee updates, Veterans Day Program, and Thanksgiving events. Needless to say, this is a busy time for our church.

We were blessed this month to have a visit from Bishop Guernsey. He spent a couple of hours with the vestry before the congregational meeting to review the new church building plans, including the master site plan; then he sampled those wonderful homemade desserts. Bishop John is a profound leader who has walked the walk of church leadership. He knows the challenges that face pastors and vestries because he has served in those positions. His calming effect helps to bring problems into the arena of understanding that leads to workable and reasonable solutions. It is a pleasure to work with him. He was favorably impressed with our church plans and blessed the work. His handsome donation to the building fund was much appreciated and demonstrated his support.

As planned, we have reached a pause point in the church construction schedule while we await the results of our capital program. Once we know the level of financial support God has given us, we can refine our building plans and start moving forward again with a higher degree of precision. I encourage you to be in prayer about your pledges.

We have reached final settlement on all issues with the Diocese of Virginia concerning the separation of the churches. The settlement took a long time but we got through them with prayer

and hard work. Thank you, Jane Wrightson and Hunter Manson for your hard work and effectiveness.

Gayle Marston continues to do an excellent job with our outreach program, permitting us to help those in need. As we look beyond the front door, we find there is so much need, both locally and to the ends of the earth.

Jane Wrightson and Tad de Bordenave complete their vestry terms in December and we express our sincere thanks both of them for their strong leadership and love of the church. If God is calling you to run for the vestry, please toss your name into the ring to become part of the leadership team during these exciting times.

A huge congratulations and thank you to Howard and Lynn York for a super Veterans Day ceremony, feast, program and celebration. You made it truly enjoyable for everyone.

May each of you have a Happy Thanksgiving and please thank our dear Lord for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us.

In Christ,  
George



## Traveling Dessert Can Update

The dessert can has started its journey making stops at St .Stephen's Anglican families along the way. Don't miss out on this tasty way to help build our new church. If you haven't signed up yet, it is certainly not too late. Just email Melinda Floom at [mkf2110@verizon.net](mailto:mkf2110@verizon.net) or call her at 804-529-5753.



## Women of St. Stephen's

When I think back over the month of November, I am truly amazed by all that the women accomplished. We are blessed to have so many willing servants who come forth to support all of our ministry efforts. Early in the month a group of us including some men met on Monday, November 5 to peel and cut up apples, and then on Tuesday seven women came out to roll out the pie dough, fill the crusts with apples and package 43 pies for freezing. On Apple Pie Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, we sold every single pie at \$12.00 each, and after expenses cleared around \$400.00. This proved to be a very successful undertaking and our hats go off to Corinne Anthony for coming up with this idea and organizing it so beautifully.

Marie Carstensen has been busy promoting our cookbooks and we anticipate sales picking up during the holiday season. They are now placed in several shops around the Northern Neck as well as being promoted at various Festivals and Farmer's Markets this fall. Cookbooks with or without oyster shells are always available for sale on Sunday mornings and they make great hostess and Christmas gifts.

Hospitality Team 3 under the leadership of Sally Custer provided a beautiful coffee and dessert for the Bishop's visit with us early in the month, and Hospitality Team 2 under the leadership of Charlaine Andrulot did a fantastic job with the help of First Baptist in serving a delicious luncheon on Veteran's Day.

The women filled twelve shoe boxes for children for Christmas to support the Franklin Graham Ministry of Samaritan's Purse, and it is good to know that this year some shoe boxes will be sent to victims of Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut along with the usual international outreach. Thank you, Julie Pritchard, for collecting and delivering these boxes to the Church of the Nazarene.

The regular women's monthly meeting was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> and the 2013 proposed budget was unanimously passed. In the Leadership Team Meeting earlier that morning, Treasurer, Eleanor Semerjian reported that we had a balance of \$10,113.24, and it seems clear that once we get the fourth quarter Thrift Shop earnings in January, we will be able to meet the end of the year distributions for our 2012 budget. Jeffrey was our speaker for this meeting, and he gave us a wonderful understanding of the purpose of discipleship for St. Stephen's Anglican Church. He led us through a thorough study of what it means to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to follow and obey Him and to serve Him in ministry. He shared with us an excellent diagram of how we become mature Christians and attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ, making God's grace visible to the world. Thank you, Jeff, for spending this time with the women, and hearty thanks to Marie Cartensen and to Sally Custer for providing a wonderful lunch.

In spite of the move of the Thrift Shop and spending more because of rent, our total sales through October were \$62,259.77— in comparison to all of 2011 sales of \$64,285.56—and we still have two months to go! Words can never adequately express our gratitude to Linda and Leslie for all they do to create a shop that has such appeal to the public – they are truly gifted in all that they do to keep the shop running in a remarkable way. Proceeds from the Thrift Shop comprise our major source of income to support our outreach program, and so I thank all of the loyal volunteers who are serving the cause and pray that more of you will be led to participate in this exciting endeavor.

This month Bob Norman made a beautiful prayer box which will be introduced into the Thrift Shop, giving customers the opportunity to submit prayer requests for which our Thursday prayer team will pray for a week. Thank you, Bob, for a job well done!

Continued on page 5

# Women of St. Stephen's

continued from page 4...

On Saturday, November 24th, the prayer room in the Thrift Shop opened with volunteer intercessors on hand, and we sold six loaves of bread made by John Powers. In starting up this ministry to the public, we plan to have volunteers available for prayer for a couple hours one or two days a week plus Saturday mornings when we will also sell bread. We are hoping this will catch on and people will be drawn into this place for prayer, rest and quiet reflection. This is all about reaching out to the community with Christian love and support. If this first day is any example, we are in store for exciting times. The people, who were led to come in and sit awhile on opening day, engaged us in some very interesting conversations.

On Friday, November 30, Marie Carstensen will lead a team of women to provide dinner for the staff of twenty on duty at the Free Health Clinic in Kilmarnock. These meals provided by churches, organizations, businesses and individuals save the clinic over \$8,000.00 in annual expenses, providing much-needed additional funds for patient care.

As you read this letter, we will have entered the Advent Season, and I pray that you and your families will be blessed as you prepare your hearts and spirits for the coming of the Christ child.

Lovingly,  
Donna Soule



## God's Great Project... status of the Campaign:

By the time you read this you probably will have submitted your commitment in support of this exciting challenge God has given us. Our treasurer will soon report on the level of the total commitment and will make periodic updates as needed.

I have been asked some very positive and enthusiastic questions about the Campaign and I'd like to give my reply here for your information:

- Q:** What should I do if I really have no funds to provide?  
**A:** This is God's project so commit of your time and your talent as God leads you.
- Q:** I think I'll come into some funds in a year or two, how should I offer that?  
**A:** Commit whatever portion of those funds that God leads you to do for the year they are anticipated; and if they don't come about, simply reduce your commitment.
- Q:** My grown children want to contribute to God's Great Project; how can I advise them to make that happen?  
**A:** Send them a copy of Jeff's letter to "Friends" with the pamphlet, the commitment note and envelope (available in the Coffee Hour notice area), adding your own note to personalize it.
- Q:** We have a friend who has been following St. Stephen's situation with great interest from afar; how can we let them know what our congregation has been doing?  
**A:** Send them a copy of Jeff's letter to "Friends" with the pamphlet and your personal note. If they want to contribute funds, they can always go to our website for details of how to do that.

For any specific questions please don't hesitate to ask...the Vestry, Campaign Team and Clergy are all available to help resolve your specific concerns.

Blessings;  
Ward LeHardy  
Chairman, Campaign Team





*To The Women of St. Stephen's  
Anglican Church*

*You are cordially invited  
to*

*Our Annual Christmas Luncheon*

*at*

*The Kilmarnock Inn  
Church Street*

*Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>*

*at*

*12:00 Noon*

*Cost is \$20*

*(this includes lunch and gratuity)*

*Please R.S.V.P. to Donna Soule*

*804 462-5333*

*By December 12<sup>th</sup>*

# IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

## Ushers

Dec. 2	Pam Smith and Stan Rasberry
Dec. 9	Laura and Fred Woodard
Dec. 16	George Beckett and Ben Ward
Dec. 23	John Powers and _____
Dec. 24	The Lewis Family (7:00 PM)
Dec. 30	Steve Proctor and Colston Newton
Jan. 6	Bobby Edmonds and Marie Carstensen

## Acolytes

Dec. 2	Emma Saunders
Dec. 9	Caitlyn Cralle
Dec. 16	Jennifer Radcliffe
Dec. 23	Sarah Saunders
Dec. 24	Chris Cralle (7:00 PM)
Dec. 30	Marley Kimmitt
Jan. 6	Emma Saunders

## Lesson Readers

Dec. 2	Elaine Price (L) Julie Pritchard (P)
Dec. 9	Brooke Read (L) Susan Read (P)
Dec. 16	Margaret Radcliffe (L) Priscilla Williams (P)
Dec. 23	Bill Tracey (L) Charlaine Andrulot (P)
Dec. 24	Howard York (L) (7:00 PM) Marie Carstensen (P)
Dec. 30	Priscilla Williams (L) Bill Bloom (P)
Jan. 6	Betty Dillingham (L) Jeanne Hickey (P)

## Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 2	Elaine Price and Priscilla Williams
Dec. 9	Priscilla Williams and Tony Blackstone
Dec. 16	Tony Blackstone and Bill Bloom
Dec. 23	Bill Bloom and Ward LeHardy
Dec. 24	Ward LeHardy and Frank McCarthy
Dec. 30	Frank McCarthy and Constance McDearmon
Jan. 6	Constance McDearmon and Phyllis TeStrake

## Greeters

December	Julie Pritchard and _____
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## Altar Guild

1st week	Judy LeHardy and Lucy Logan
2nd week	April Kranda and Susan Thomas
3rd week	Sally Custer and Ruth Franck
4th week	Susan Thomas, Virginia and Laddie Townshend
5th week	Priscilla Williams

## Coffee Hour

Dec. 2	
Dec. 9	Hospitality Team
Dec. 16	
Dec. 23	
Dec. 30	
Jan. 6	



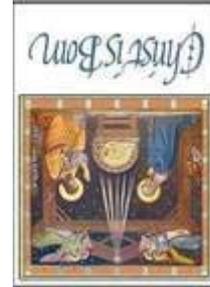
Dec. 1	John Radcliffe
Dec. 2	Bob Norman, Fred Woodard
Dec. 5	Neil Avent
Dec. 8	Nan Hundley
Dec. 10	Jim Logan
Dec. 12	Patrick Brennan, Hunter Manson
Dec. 13	Laddie Townshend
Dec. 17	Daniel Mochamps
Dec. 23	Veronica Brennan
Dec. 27	Jan Beckett, Ward LeHardy and Rick Saunders
Dec. 28	Marion Mitchell
Dec. 31	Virginia Townshend



Dec. 6	Betty and Roy Hillman and Susan and Rick Saunders
Dec. 13	Constance McDearmon and Doug Smoot
Dec. 18	Janet and Walter Eichacker
Dec. 28	Joan and Tony Blackstone

*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.*

*December 2012  
Christmas Worship on  
Monday December 24  
at 7:00 PM*



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*The "Christmas Cookie Walk"  
is Sunday, December 16th*

Love cookies at Christmas time? Need to take Christmas cookies to a family event or a party? Come to the "Christmas Cookie Walk" after worship on Sunday, Dec. 16th. We've got you covered! Here's how our "Christmas Cookie Walk" will work:

Set along one side of the church that Sunday will be several long tables. Each will be laden with delicious and decorative Christmas cookies, all made with love by our accomplished church cookie makers. You'll pick up a box and select the cookies you want as you walk by. At the end, we'll weigh your cookies and you pay by the pound. Then we'll seal your box and wrap a ribbon around it. Voila! You have cookies ready for giving to friends and family. (Or just eat them yourself. We won't tell!) Proceeds from this fund-raiser to benefit the Women's Ministry and the Building Fund.