

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 - 2013

OCTOBER 2013



In this issue:

Jeffrey's Journal;
Page 2

Senior Warden Report
DOMA Newsletter
Page 3

Women of St. Stephens
Page 4

Spotlight on Janet Eichacker
Thank You Note
Page 5

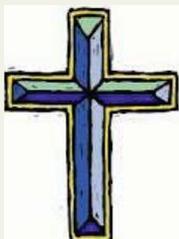
Christian Appalachian Project
Page 6

Building Fund Report
Page 7

Pictures from Haiti
Page 9

Additions to Library
Page 10

In the Lord's Service
Page 11



It's Kairos Cookie Time



On Sunday, October 6, Cookie Kits will appear in Brinkley Hall for the 43rd Kairos weekend at Buckingham. Send God's love to Prison by baking some homemade cookies! The kits include all the instructions you will need. Because of the Parish Weekend, some of you will not be able to pick up your Cookie Kits until the following week. I PRAY that you will still grab a kit and bake for the men who will attend their Kairos weekend - God's Special Time!

You are also invited to attend a "closing ceremony" on Sunday afternoon (4 pm, October 27) at Buckingham Correctional Center. If you have any desire to be a part of this exciting evening and listening to the residents give their personal witness, please contact Walt TeStrake. We will need to get information from you ahead of time for clearance into prison.

Walt TeStrake



Jeffrey's Journal

Mission to Mityana 2013

On December 3, 2013, Jim Conley, Sandi Ward and I will depart for Uganda on a two-week mission trip. We will travel to Mityana to assist Bishop Stephen Kaziimba in presenting a Youth Conference. This will be my fourth trip to Uganda, and Sandi's second. Jim has been there three times in conjunction with his ministry in Sudan. Our relationship with Bishop Kaziimba goes back to 2003, when he first came here as a missionary. Since 2003, we have had an on-going commitment to work together. When he was vicar of the cathedral in Mukono, we took a team of six in 2005 to build relationships and deepen our friendship with him and the people he served. When in 2008 he became Bishop of Mityana, seven of us traveled there to assist him in any way possible in his new, challenging ministry. Again, in 2010, we took a team of five and worked with Bishop Kaziimba to present a week of training for 500 leaders of congregations in his diocese. I also led a retreat for two men who were to be ordained to the priesthood. In addition, George Beckett has kept a steady stream of eyeglasses flowing to Uganda since our first trip there in 2005. We have helped several thousand people see again.

Our commitment with Bishop Kaziimba is reciprocal. He has visited us five times. When he was working on a Doctoral degree in Michigan, each time he came to the United States, he visited us. We have been blessed by this relationship, and by our continuing partnership with the Cathedral Church of Sts. Philip and Andrew in Mukono, where The Very Rev. Canon John Ssebudde is pastor. John, too, has visited us, and we have spent time with him on each trip to Uganda. The prayer ministries in both Mukono and Mityana pray for our congregation regularly.

Our mission in December has three aspects. The centerpiece will be the Youth Conference, which will take place December 9-13. The Bishop expects about 3,000 young people to attend. Second, I will lead a pre-ordination retreat for two men, Isaac and Godfrey, whom some of our members helped through seminary by their contributions. Third, Bishop Kaziimba always arranges for us to visit schools, where the students gather in assembly to hear our witness and encouragement. We often speak to as many as a thousand children at once. We will also undoubtedly travel to congregations in the diocese on the two Sundays we are there, where we will have the opportunity to preach and teach Sunday School. We made the commitment to the Youth Conference last year, when we set aside \$2400 to help defray the costs of that event. The vestry also recently authorized \$700 for us to help with fuel and food costs that our hosts will incur from our presence with them. As for the expenses of our three travelers, I have asked each to pay for their own airfare and other travel expenses out of their own resources and contributions from friends and family. Each of us has a prayer team, and we solicit your prayers for the success and safety of this mission, and for a blessing upon all the children to whom we will minister in our time in Uganda.

People ask why we are so interested in Africa. Part of the answer is that the majority of Anglicans in the world live in Africa. Uganda in particular is the second largest province in the Anglican Communion. Their needs are great, and they appreciate all we can do to help them propagate the Gospel. We also work with them because of what it does for us. We are blessed by experiencing the Kingdom of God at work in their faithful and challenging work. Our friends in Uganda have a faith that has been refined and tested in the fire of hardship. I have been pleased to have taken sixteen of our members to work for even a short time in their midst. Five among them were youths, and I believe their Christian walk was greatly enhanced by the experience, as mine has been.

Yours in Christ,
Jeffrey Cerar, Pastor



Senior Warden Report

During September's vestry meeting we discussed a wide range of church management subjects as we start the 2013 Fall Season.

The vestry decided to delay the discussion of whether to change the name of the church until actual construction starts and we can see how God's new building is taking shape. So please hold onto your ideas and suggestions for a while longer.

The vestry was reminded that giving to charities from retirement accounts can be a complex transaction depending on your retirement program and investments. To gain tax exceptions please discuss your donation plans with your financial advisor. No one rule applies to all investment accounts.

David Norden, our Architect, reported that the building plans are about 95% complete, and he expects the bid package to be released to construction firms by early October. The site master plans and water management plan have been forwarded to governmental agencies for approval. Please pray that all of the folks involved in the project will be professional and issue their approvals

quickly.

Deacon Mary Swann is coordinating with defibrillator manufacturers to determine the proper equipment for our church. Our Red Cross folks have agreed to conduct the required training. When we announce the training please volunteer to attend the sessions as we need 12-15 folks who know how to use the equipment.

I will attend Bishop Guernsey's Wardens Meeting to hear his reports and to discuss church issues with other wardens.

I ask you to please continue your prayers for everyone involved in our building project. It is amazing the impact one simple change or new regulation can have on the entire program. I know you are ready to move into our new church home. Be assured we are doing our best to keep things moving at a steady pace.

In Christ,
George



Diocese of the
MID-ATLANTIC
Anglican Church in North America

Did you know you can get the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic newsletter, "The Messenger" on line? The website address is www.anglicandoma.org and it has a link for signing up to receive the newsletter. Try it out!!



Women of St. Stephen's

Dear Ladies,

The Leadership Team met in early September to plan for the women's ministry until the end of the year. We were blessed to have Jeffrey Cerar join us to bring greetings to the women and to relate how pleased he is with the direction we are going in ministry and in our relationship with Jesus and with each other. He hopes that we can enjoy each other and have fun this year and not be always driven by things that we have to do. He loves us all and wants us to know that he is there for us as a resource at any time we need him. It was a great encouragement which set the tone for our meeting, and we are indeed blessed to have such a Godly pastor and friend.

The Thrift Shop continues to do extremely well and financially we are in good standing and on target with our 2013 budget. As of September 12th, we had a balance of \$8,594.55 in the women's checking account and a balance of \$13,672.91 in the Thrift Shop account.

Our first fall meeting was held on Thursday, September 19, and the topic for discussion was "What do you want from your Women's Ministry?" The Leadership Team is searching for direction as to how we should proceed into 2014, and what structure the ministry should take on. Most of the current team members will go off the board at the end of this year, and it seems like a good time to consider a new format that is more ministry based, using the gifts of our women to define ourselves into groups of service. You will remember that last September we began studying the five purposes of St. Stephen's Church – Worship, Discipleship,

Ministry, Mission and Fellowship. Perhaps we can be more effective if we organize ourselves around these purposes and have a coordinator to pull us all together four or five times a year. It might enable us to do more hands-on ministry and reach out in more personal ways to the needs of the community that surrounds us. I will report on the findings of this meeting in the next newsletter, and in the meantime, if you were unable to attend the September meeting and have ideas or suggestions, please let me know as soon as possible.

Please mark your calendars with our upcoming meeting schedule:

Thursday, October 17 at 10:30 in Brinkley Hall

Thursday, November 21 at 10:30 a.m. in Brinkley Hall

Thursday, December 14 at 11:30 a.m. for a Christmas Luncheon – Time and Place TBA

Sunday, December 15 after the Worship Service – Cookie Walk

I pray that the Lord will make our love for Him increase and overflow. In new ways, may we bring glory to His Name as the Women of St. Stephen's. May we live together in our families and in our church so that our unity will be like a sweet perfume to the Lord and to others. So, my dearest sisters in Christ, "Let us...spur one another on toward love and good deeds...let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

With love,

Donna





Do you see this smiling face? This is Janet Eichacker. Janet has worn many hats at St. Stephen's since she joined the church in 1995. She was a Junior Warden of the Vestry, she was corresponding secretary of the Women of St. Stephen's, the first chairman of the Emergency Meals Program, and Janet, along with her husband Walter, folded, stapled, stamped and mailed our newsletters for many, many years.

However, the main reason I want to put the spotlight on Janet is because of her strong commitment to our Thrift Shop. When the new parish hall was added to the old St. Stephen's, space was freed up in the old parish hall. Ideas were kicked around about how to use the space and it was finally decided to have a thrift shop. Janet, along with Marlene Alexoff, and others, were the organizers behind this project and Janet became one of its first volunteers. She was a faithful volunteer up until her 90th birthday and then went from a regular volunteer to a substitute. Two years ago she finally decided to retire. Wow! What a lady!

Thank you Janet, for the many hours you have given to St. Stephen's Church and to our Thrift Shop. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Suzy Norman



Dear God,

How can we properly say "Thank You" for the recent anonymous donation to St. Stephen's Anglican that is designated for new choir vestments? A simple "Thank You" seems so insufficient for this very generous gift.

- We know that you, dear Lord, knew the problems with the current vestments:
- Most do not fit properly.
- Many are too short.
- Several are much too small.
- One member doesn't have specific vestments, has to use whatever is left on a given Sunday.
- Only smaller sizes are available in our inventory for additional singers, whether guests or permanent choir members.
- Manufacturer is out of business, cannot get additional matching pieces.

And so once again, dear Father God, you have provided abundantly for us. You made the need known and touched the heart(s) that made possible a purchase to outfit the choir appropriately. We are very grateful.

We will continue to thank you each time we sing your praises.

Soli deo gloria! (to God alone be glory)

Dixie Goertemiller (and the choir)
Minister of Music

Christian Appalachian Project

Many of you are aware that I recently spent three weeks on a service trip to Eastern Kentucky. I worked for the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) in the Grateful Threadz Thrift Store and Grateful Bread Food Pantry. This was something that God had been putting on my heart for several years and I believed this was the time to go. I was located in Mt. Vernon, Ky. (Rockcastle County) which is on the western edge of Appalachia in the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains. It was indeed a very different culture from the Northern Neck. Evidence of poverty and a suffering economy were everywhere in Rockcastle County. The people who came to the thrift store and food pantry were definitely in need of assistance, but they needed much more than clothes and food. Loneliness was written on their faces and I know they have lived for years with adverse circumstances that I have never experienced myself. They came for the social connection to others, for the presence of Christ in the stores and the people who served there, for prayer, for laughter, and for a place to feel accepted and acknowledged. We knew them by name and listened to their stories.

CAP has three pillars that form the foundation for their work in several counties in Eastern Kentucky. The pillars are: community, service and spirituality. As for community, most of the volunteers from outside of the local community commit to a year of service and live in volunteer houses with others, sharing in the housekeeping, shopping, cooking, and nightly devotions. Short-term volunteers also live in community housing. I lived with nine others in a house that was badly in need of a fresh coat of paint, deep cleaning, and some repairs. Allergies were acting up for several of the new volunteers, so I suspect mold or other interesting things in the vents and walls. Most of my housemates were in their 20's and straight out of college. This is probably where I saw the work of the Holy Spirit the most for me. For a person who lives alone, this could have been quite a challenge for me and it wasn't. I went with no expectations and was blessed in so many ways in this house. First of all, I had a room to myself and the bathroom was right across the hall (those really small things that matter a lot). Of course, I shared the bathroom with two men- a new experience for me! I loved the individual conversations with these young adults and was particularly interested and touched by their commitment to Christian service, their individual

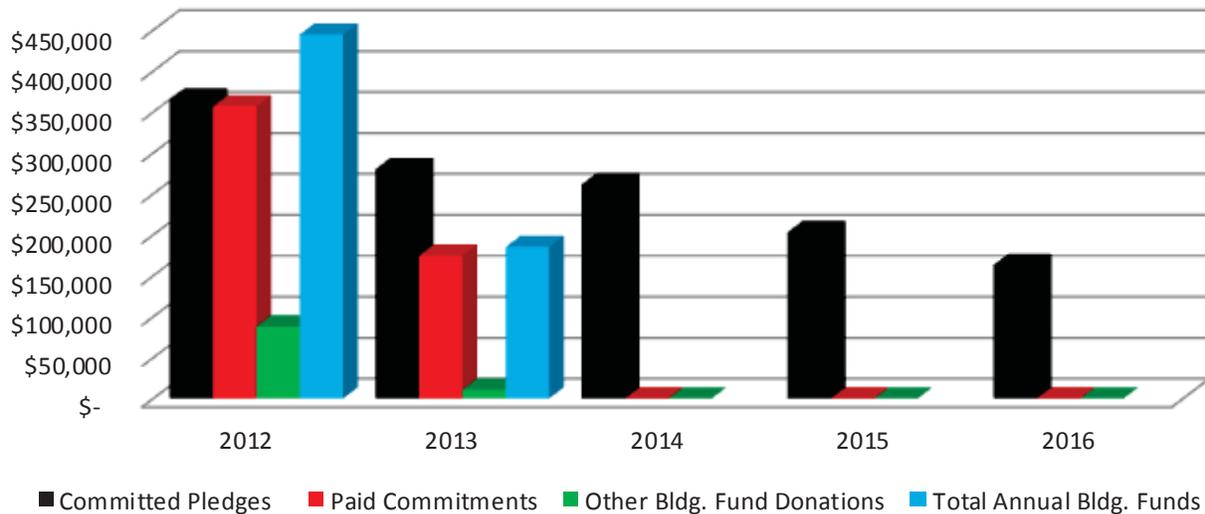
faith journeys, and their plans for the future. As a group, there was definitely a generational difference in our ability to initiate conversations and show interest outside of ourselves. We had many dinners where there was complete silence around the table, or awkward conversation at best. They talked or texted constantly on their cell phones, so there was no lack of conversing, just not with the people around them.

Service was the focus of why I was there. I was immersed in serving people who needed what we had to offer and I worked harder than I had imagined coming face to face with my physical limitations. There was a definite Christian presence in the stores and we began most days with a circle of prayer. Mostly, it was the joy, the laughter, the supportive nature of all who showed up to work, and the faith of the managers and volunteers that made this such a positive experience. Some of our volunteers were local residents who came because they wanted to help and needed to feel useful. We had jailmates help in the food pantry and we had a young woman who was paying back some government assistance she had received. There were women from the women's shelter (a CAP program) who volunteered on occasion. Generosity was everywhere and I was so moved by the donations coming from all over the country. The emphasis was on giving and we were blessed in return. I loved serving where I saw a need, without being in charge, making the decisions, or planning and organizing. For my time there, it was about serving people and working hard to make a small difference. The larger organization of CAP had many programs under their umbrella and it was wonderful to see how they all worked together to help each other wherever the need was greatest.

Spirituality is at the core of this organization's work. It is nondenominational and very Christ-centered. I fit right in with the people I worked with because we shared Christian values and beliefs. I visited three different churches and heard from my housemates about the churches they visited. There were many faith-based discussions in the house. My personal spiritual growth is just now coming to light, but I know that my life was deeply enriched by this experience.

Mary Swann

Building Fund Data by Year as of 7/1/2013



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pledges	\$364,943	\$280,151	\$261,446	\$203,031	\$162,968
Paid	\$356,613	\$174,297			
Other	\$87,879	\$10,627			
Total	\$444,492	\$184,924			

As you can see, we are very positively meeting our commitments towards building our new church.

This format will be updated at the end of each Quarter, with the next update in early October. Please remember that your commitments can go up (or down) as your situation changes and that contributions towards the Building Fund outside of your planned commitment can be made at any time: To honor of an individual, or in remembrance of a loved one, or just because you wanted to share in an unexpected financial gain. God is smiling down on us all as we head towards the start of the construction phase of this exciting adventure He has set before us.

Blessings,
Ward LeHardy

Pictures from Haïti

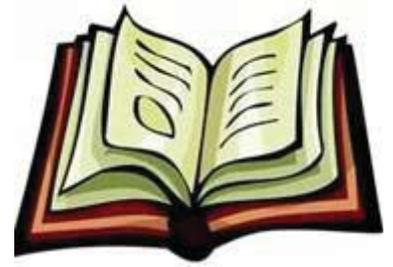


All ages carry gravel, sand, cement and blocks to the spring.



Homes where we store supplies to carry to the spring for construction in Dimini.

More Library Additions



1. ***Chicken Soup for the Christian Teenage Soul*** by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen 2003. There must be a Chicken Soup book for everyone! Still, wouldn't this make a nice gift for a teenager you know? Check it out from our library and see what you think!
2. ***The Future of the Global Church: History, Trends, and Possibilities*** by Patrick Johnstone 2011. Recommended by Tad and featured in the Perspectives class, this book is FULL of useful information for the mission-minded Great Commission Christian ... meaning all of us!
3. ***Velocity: Moving at the Speed of Life*** published by Good Catch Publishing 2007. This book offers an eye-opening look at the sordid lives other people (including children) live, often in secret, UNTIL they give their lives to God, and I've only read the first two stories. Warning: not recommended for the squeamish constitution.
4. ***Courageous*** based on the screenplay by Alex Kendrick and Stephen Kendrick 2011. If you haven't seen the movie, find it and do so! OR read this book, which contains the entire story plus still photos from the movie. It is very inspiring, particularly for the dads, but also for the young ladies who will be choosing a husband one day.
5. ***Courageous Living Bible Study*** based on the movie *Courageous* by Michael Catt, Stephen Kendrick, and Alex Kendrick 2011. After you read the book (or watch the movie), check out this companion Bible study.
6. ***Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Life Trip to Heaven and Back*** By Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent 2010. I was skeptical at first - who wouldn't be - but then I was convinced. 'Course we Christians already know Heaven is for real; *the Bible* tells us so.
7. ***Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods: Twelve Ways You Can Unlock God's Word*** By Rick Warren 1981, 2006. Who knew there were so many systematic approaches to Bible study? Check it out and see which one suits you best. A sampling includes the character quality method, the topical method, and the devotional method, all of which interest me.
8. ***Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity***. By Ronald J. Sider 2005. Another book with a connection to the Perspectives class. I was impressed enough to buy it, but confess I never read it. I skimmed enough, however, to be sold on the idea of living more simply for the sake of generosity toward others. You will be too. Warning: the book dabbles in politics and it is left-leaning.
9. ***Miracle of Miracles*** by Mina Nevisa with Jim Croft 2004. Lots of people have read this one and Jeff referred to it in a sermon recently (April 21, 2013 "Listening to the Good Shepherd" - available on our website). It's the story of an Islamic woman's conversion to Christianity and her subsequent experiences of pursuit and persecution as well as the miracles of God which pervaded them all. Riveting, Jeff called it!

Margaret Radcliffe

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers*

Oct. 6	Susan Thomas, Ed Ulfig
Oct. 13	Bev and Brian Hart
Oct. 20	Langley and Todd Lewis
Oct. 27	Gayle and Sam Marston
Nov. 3	Steve Proctor, Ben Ward

*Anyone who wishes to join St. Stephen's Usher Group—singles or couples—please contact Doug Smoot (453-3085). Proper training is provided. The pay is not very good, but there are plenty of godly benefits.

Acolytes

Oct. 6	Chris Cralle
Oct. 13	Marley Kimmitt
Oct. 20	Emma Saunders
Oct. 27	Jennifer Radcliffe
Nov. 3	Sarah Saunders

Lesson Readers

Oct. 6	Langley Lewis (L) Todd Lewis (P)
Oct. 13	Susan Thomas (L) Bill Tracey (P)
Oct. 20	Priscilla Williams (L) Howard York (P)
Oct. 27	Charlaine Andrulot (L) Marie Carstensen (P)
Nov. 3	Joan Blackstone (L) Tony Blackstone (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

Oct. 6	Constance McDearmon, Fred Woodard
Oct. 13	Tony Blackstone, Bill Bloom
Oct. 20	Elaine Price, Phyllis TeStrake
Oct. 27	Priscilla and Harrison Williams
Nov. 3	Lucy Logan, Ward LeHardy

Altar Guild

October	Lynne Cerar, Gayle Marston
November	Marie Carstensen, Bev Hart and Irene Haley

Coffee Hour

Oct. 6
Oct. 13
Oct. 20
Oct. 27
Nov. 3



Oct. 1	Eliza Lewis, Mary Swann
Oct. 4	Ben Wrightson
Oct. 8	Bill Andrulot
Oct. 10	Ben Ward
Oct. 12	Susan Thomas
Oct. 16	Blake Smith, Patrick Smith
Oct. 21	Melinda Floom
Oct. 24	Frank McCarthy
Oct. 28	Pat Dalzell
Oct. 29	Leila Oren (Jeff's granddaughter)



Oct. 9	Suzy and Bob Norman
Oct. 17	Barbara and Richard Seed
Oct. 20	Virginia and Laddie Townshend
Oct. 23	Susan and Brooke Read; Jane & Paul Kimball
Oct. 24	Agnes and David Burke

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.

2013



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P.O. BOX 609
HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22473
Suzy Norman, Editor
suzy@mnwhi.com



Bless God, America!