

ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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***ALIVE IN CHRIST* 1881 - 2013**

JULY 2014



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BLESS GOD



AMERICA

It's a St. Stephen's Tradition....



...fireworks at the Townshend's! Come, help us celebrate the 200th anniversary of the battle of Fort Mchenry. You won't be disappointed! All members of St. Stephen's Anglican Church are invited to Laddie and Virginia's home Friday, July 4th around 8:00 p.m. Fireworks begin at 9:15. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on and a flashlight to find your way after dark. Rain date will be July 5th.

Directions from Rt. 360 in Heathsville:

Go east on Rt. 360 to Walnut Point Road and turn left. Go 2 miles and take a right on Clarketown Road. Go two miles. The road will turn to gravel. Continue to 1909 Clarketown Road.



Jeffrey's Journal

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism

A “catechism” is a text used for the instruction of Christian disciples. Such texts have been around since the earliest days of the Church, when first-century converts, “catechumens,” were instructed in preparation for their baptism. Typically, this preparation time stretched over two or three years. This kind of rigorous instruction fell out of use in the middle ages, but experienced a renewal with the Protestant Reformation. In the 16th Century, the question-and-answer format was introduced, and remains in widespread use in Christian catechisms today.

Just this Spring, the Anglican Church in North America released *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism*. This excellent resource represents a departure from the brief format that has become popular principally for the preparation of adolescents for Confirmation. The aim of this Anglican Catechism is to be a “more comprehensive tool for all adult (or near-adult) inquirers, and for all Christians seeking a deeper grounding in the full reality of Christian life and faith.” [from the Introduction, p. 6]

ACNA’s task force has produced an easy-to-use text, organized in an ingenious way to touch all aspects of the faith. It is divided into four main Parts, titled “Beginning with Christ, Believing in Christ, Being Christ’s, and Behaving Christianly.” These four “B’s” are patterned after the Baptismal liturgy’s examination of the candidates. Within those four parts, the catechism addresses the meaning of three pillars of Christian doctrine: the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. As it takes the reader through those, it asks and answers 345 questions regarding a wide range of subjects, such as: the Gospel, salvation, Holy Scripture, the identity of God, the Sacraments, prayer, and liturgy. It tells us about Satan and evil. It explains what sin is, and judgment and grace and redemption and sanctification. It tells us how the Church came about, and what its mission is. And it leads the student toward a meaningful “rule of life.” Each answer ends

with a reference to one or more passages of Scripture, to identify the authority for why we should believe what it asserts.

Some examples of questions and answers:

1. **What is the Gospel?** The Gospel is the good news of God loving and saving lost mankind through the ministry in word and deed of his Son, Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 5:15; John 1:12; 1 John 5:11-12)
2. **What is the human condition?** The universal human condition is that, though made for fellowship with our Creator, we have been cut off from him by self-centered rebellion against him, leading to guilt, shame, and fear of death and judgment. This is the state of sin. (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23)
5. **Can you mend your broken relationship with God?** No. I have no power to save myself, for sin has corrupted my conscience and captured my will. Only God can save me. (Ephesians 2:1-9; John 14:6; Titus 3:3-7)
8. **How does God save you?** God saves me by grace, which is his undeserved love given to me in and through Jesus. “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
18. **How does God transform you?** He will transform me over time through corporate and private worship, prayer, and Bible reading; fellowship with God’s people; pursuit of holiness of life; witness toward those who do not know Christ; and acts of love toward all. The first Christians set this pattern as they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25)

I hope we will use this excellent discipleship resource in our teaching and our individual study. We will have copies available in the parish library. You can order your own on-line from Amazon.

Yours in Christ,
Jeffrey O. Cerar, Pastor

News Flash !

--Parish Weekend 2014--

Dates: September 26-27

Where: Brinkley Hall

Theme: "Come Out of the Wilderness"

Speaker: The Rev. David Harper

David is very enthusiastic about being with us for our **Parish Weekend at Home**. Details will be announced soon.

Meanwhile, mark your calendar and think about a contribution to the Talent(?) Show.

Scheduling problems keep us at home this year, but we are booked to return to the 4-H Center in Wakefield for 2015. Please do your advanced planning now. Dates: 2-4 October 2015.



Hello to all—

I want to tell everybody how thankful I am to have received so many calls and cards from my friends at St. Stephen's. The wishes and prayers for me to have a speedy recovery from my double whammy are paying off. I am getting much better as a result now.

*Blessings to all,
Jane Peterson*

Recycle for the Building Fund



Ed Ulfig is recycling aluminum cans for cash and is giving the proceeds to the building fund. If you would like to help him in this project, please bring your aluminum cans to the church parking lot on Sundays and put them in his truck. He has a sign on the truck so you will know which truck is his. (Or take your cans directly to the recycling plant at 608 Northumberland Highway (Rt. 360) in Heathsville.) Thank you!

 **If you have a fund raising project for the building fund, let me know about it and I will be happy to advertise it in the St. Stephen's Witness. Every little bit helps!**

Suzy Norman



Senior Warden Report

This has been the most exciting month that we have experienced in quite some time concerning God's New Home! We have entered into an agreement with Evans Construction Company of Sandston, Va. to

build our new church. The building committee believes that God has sent us the right Christian firm to build our new church. We started negotiations with them earlier this past month and they have started to put together a plan for us that is within our budget. They are working closely with our architect, David Norden to design and engineer the perfect structure for us. See George Beckett's report in this newsletter for more details. It has taught me a great lesson in patience and scripture is full of admonitions to us to be patient and wait on the Lord. We have seen our patience tested, but I believe that God is ready for us to move on in His promises. Psalm 37 says it clearly in verses 7 and 9—Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him....those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. There were days when we certainly were not still but we never gave up knowing that the Lord would answer our prayers in His time.

The vestry has approved a new lease for the Big Blue Building (the Thrift Shop). The lease will run from April 2014 to the end of 2015. The lease calls for an increase in rent and the hopes are that the Women of St. Stephen's can meet this new challenge and keep the Thrift Shop operating so that they may continue their all important work of outreach in our community and afar. This shop is a vital part of the mission of St. Stephen's as a whole and I believe that the Lord will bless their efforts to serve Him. In all of our endeavors, we lean on the Lord for provision to carry out the Great Commission in a number of areas. I feel that he will show us the way as we move forward serving Him. He is always there to protect, provide and guide us. I liken us to the osprey family living in my pine tree on the point of our property. I feel so blessed that Mr. and Mrs. Osprey have chosen our pine tree in which to make their home. They have been there for 5 years now. I look forward every spring to their return to set up housekeeping again. I feel that they are "MY" ospreys and watch their comings and goings every day. The nest is complete, Mrs. has laid her eggs (don't know how many yet) and Mr. is providing the food. He carries the fish to the nest first then

goes out on the branch of another pine tree close by to eat his daily ration. The other day I observed a crow trying to take the food from him—on the fly—mind you—what a fuss! And needless to say Daddy Osprey won the battle. It reminds me so much of our provision from the Lord. He is the protector, provider and guide of all who turn to him. He has set the world we live in right if we just turn to him for all we need. Later this summer the osprey parents will prepare their young to go off in the world. They will teach them to fly and catch their food so that they may be able to survive this world they live in. How much like our heavenly Father who prepares us to go out into the world to carry on the work he has given us to do—fully prepared, protected and guided by a loving Father.

Prepare: Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us

Protect: Psalm 91: 4

He will protect you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart

Guide: John 16:13

When he, the spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.

Our God is the ultimate father of all time. Praise God!

In His Service,

Elaine

GOD is
SO GOOD!



Women of St. Stephen's

Women's Ministry Report

Dear Ladies,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that your summer is off to a good start and that you are finding relaxing quiet moments to be still and harken to God's voice. I wish for you safe travel and wonderful visits with family and friends as the summer months progress.

I want to report to you that the showing of The Jesus Film on Friday, May 30th was a great success and was sponsored by the women. We had 56 in attendance and it was wonderful that of this number 29 were guests. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and I pray that hearts were opened and touched by this beautiful film depicting the life of our Lord. Hopefully, seeds were planted that will bear fruit for God's kingdom in the future. My thanks go out to Marie Carstensen who helped to plan this event and put together an information table with various materials for people to pick up and to Jim Conley for monitoring the film for the audience. My thanks also to Bertie Strange, Joan Blackstone, Judy Rasberry, Lucy Logan, and Suzy Norman who baked goodies and helped to host this event, not to mention set up and cleanup.



In June we as the Women of St. Stephen's, presented Jennifer Radcliffe with a \$1,000.00 check for a scholarship as she graduated from Northumberland High School with honors and

plans to matriculate at the University of Virginia in the fall. Jennifer is a bright and lovely young lady and life long member of the church. She will be greatly missed as she heads off to college. We have watched her grow up in our family of God, and she has been active in all aspects of our life together.

There was no June picnic this year, as the church picnic was held in the middle of the month during Stephen Kaziimba's visit. The women were responsible for praying on the land the week of June 22nd, and a group of us met at the property to pray corporately on Wednesday, June 25th.



There will be no meeting in July, but mark your calendars for Saturday, **August 16th** when we are planning a one day **retreat for the women** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event will be held somewhere locally in the Northern Neck. Lissa Eggleston will be our speaker and she will be leading us in a teaching on God's glory. Lissa is Director of Children's and Adult Education at Crestwood Presbyterian Church in Richmond. You will be receiving more information, including a registration form in the near future

I close with the lovely words from Zephaniah 3:17 which I pray for each of you: "The Lord your God is with you...He will take delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." May you feel the extravagant love the Father has for you and take in the blessing and assurance that He is with you in every moment of every day!

Love,

Donna





Praise Report from The Thrift Shop

Our God is an awesome God! From the very first day we moved into our new thrift shop building, things started to come together quickly. **Corinne Anthony** found us the building, and when we moved in, a whole team of St. Stephen’s men and women moved clothing, cleaned, painted, repaired, built racks and turned that old big, blue building into a show place. Praise the Lord!

Since our move, our sales have increased and we have been able to continue our outreach to the community. Even with our raised rent, we are hopeful this will continue. We have very loyal and generous customers and without their support we wouldn’t be able to accomplish our outreach. Praise the Lord!

Last year a man came into the store and we started talking. He told us how much he admired the stand we had taken for the Bible and when we handed him his change, he said, “Keep it. In fact, you should have a donation jar up here at the register.” Well, **Melinda Floom** heard this and immediately came up with a very large plastic jar, put a slit in the top and a picture of our proposed new church on it, and our customers have been using it! A few weeks ago the same man who suggested the donation jar came back to the store. This time he left us over \$130 in the donation jar. To date, our donation jar has generated over \$300.00 for the building fund. Praise the Lord!

We have such dedicated volunteers who always rise to the occasion even when we need extra people in the shop. They not only work at the

register, but also behind the scenes sorting new donations, putting away out of season clothing, ironing, pricing and whatever else needs to be done. Praise the Lord!

Special and heartfelt thanks go to **Joe Hudnall of Noblett Appliance and Propane** for a donation of a second-hand clothes dryer. So often when donations come into the shop they are placed in plastic bags. Even though they are clean, they are wrinkled and don’t show well. We do iron when we have time, but it is so much easier to place the clothes in the dryer with a wet wash cloth, tumble for a few minutes, and presto, wrinkle-free clothes! Praise the Lord!

The Prayer Room and Prayer Requests Box are being used regularly. We keep copies of the current *Our Daily Bread*, as well as other pamphlets, in the foyer by the prayer box and also in the prayer room. They are being picked up and are appreciated by our customers. Praise the Lord!

Special thanks also to our two wonderful managers, **Linda Krisman** and **Leslie Jeffress** who keep our shop humming along without a hitch. They have such a devotion to the shop and are never too busy to help a customer. Great job ladies! Praise the Lord!

Bake Sale for the Building Fund

Several people have suggested having a bake sale at the thrift shop on Saturday, July 5th with the proceeds going to the building fund. If you would like to bake something—cookies, cakes, pies, bread, etc. please bring it to the prayer room on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. We’re still working out the fine details regarding costs, etc. but they will be worked out by July 5th. Thank you and bless you!

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers

July 6	Doug Smoot and Stan Rasberry
July 13	Charlaine and Bill Andrulot
July 20	Bill Tracey and Ed Ulfig
July 27	Bobby Edmonds and Irene Haley
Aug. 3	Langley and Todd Lewis

Acolytes

July 6	Jennifer Radcliffe
July 13	Sarah Saunders
July 20	Chris Cralle
July 27	Emma Saunders
Aug. 3	Hannah Hamlett

Lesson Readers

July 6	Margaret Radcliffe (L) Constance McDearmon (P)
July 13	Dick Seed (L) Barbara Seed (P)
July 20	Phyllis TeStrake (L) Susan Thomas (P)
July 27	Howard York (L) Priscilla Williams (P)
Aug. 3	Joan Blackstone (L) Tony Blackstone (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

July 6	Constance McDearmon, Tony Blackstone
July 13	Bill Bloom, Irene Haley
July 20	Ward LeHardy, Lucy Logan
July 27	Frank McCarthy, Suzy Norman
Aug. 3	Phyllis TeStrake, Harrison Williams

Altar Guild

July	Julie Pritchard, Ruth Franck Susan Thomas
Aug.	Pauline and Bobby Edmonds, Margaret Radcliffe

Nursery

July 6	Betty Cralle
July 13	Constance McDearmon
July 20	Margaret Radcliffe
July 27	Jeanette Cralle
Aug. 3	Saunee Hamlett

Coffee Hour

July 6	Charlaine and Bill Andrulot
July 13	Judy and Stan Rasberry
July 20	Susan and Brooke Read
July 27	Donna Soule, Jane Wrightson
Aug. 3	Laura and Fred Woodard



July 1	Howard York
July 3	James Joslyn
July 8	Phyllis Tracey
July 11	Phyllis TeStrake
July 15	Al Carstensen
July 16	Leslie Jeffress
July 19	George Kranda, Donna Soule
July 23	Stan Rasberry, Jim Conley
July 25	Patty Sherman
July 27	Connie de Bordenave
July 28	Constance McDearmon
July 30	Elizabeth Jane Peterson



July 10	Lucy and Jim Logan
July 11	Doris and Al Myers
July 13	Pauline and Bobby Edmonds
July 17	Lyn and Jim Conley
July 20	Joy and David Gwaltney
July 21	Jeanne and Dan Hickey
July 30	Morris and Betty Dillingham

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.

2014



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CLASSIFIED

For Sale: One unimproved lot in the Bay Quarters Shore (BQS) Community. Last year the Building Fund was presented a gift of a BQS lot. As our church moves closer to starting construction we want to sell the lot. Owner's benefits include: use of swimming pool, picnic area, dock fishing, Cod Creek boat access boat ramp (almost Potomac River), boat and RV storage and club house use. All reasonable offers will considered. Please call George Beckett (804-580-5179).