

ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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ALIVE IN CHRIST 1881 - 2013

AUGUST 2014



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The Women of St. Stephen's

invite you to a

Women's Retreat

Saturday, August 16

at

The Kilmarnock Inn

Kilmarnock, Virginia

Details on page 5



Jeffrey's Journal

Got joy? You should.

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.
Joy is a hallmark of the

Christian life. Jesus said, "I have come that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete." The Epistles tell us to rejoice always. And why wouldn't the Christian be joyful? We have been saved from eternal death by the blood of Jesus. He has promised us eternal life with Him. He has promised to hear our prayers. He has promised to be with us always. He has promised to send the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth. We, of all people, are positioned to understand the world, and to live in non-anxious expectation of the future, because of all God's promises, and because God never fails to deliver on a promise.

Many Christians nevertheless lack joy in their lives. What are the things that steal our joy? What are enemies of joy to which we surrender?

- Fear, anxiety and worry steal our joy. We obsess about how things are going to turn out; and because we don't know, we imagine the worst. The Bible has an answer for that: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) We have God's Word to lean on for strength. It tells us, "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32)
- Anger steals our joy. Anger is an emotion, and it comes unbidden to all of us. When we harbor it and let it fester, when we plan revenge, when we demonize those with whom we are angry, we cannot be joyful. The Bible tells us not to let the sun go down while we are still angry, and not to give the devil a foothold. (Ephesians 4:26) We can control our anger, and we should cut it off before it devours our joy.
- Hatred steals our joy. Like anger, hatred eats away at us. That is why Jesus told us to love our enemies. (Matthew 5:43-44) That is why He

commanded us to forgive. (Matthew 18:21-22) That is why He told us to turn the other cheek. (Matthew 5:38-39) To Jesus, and therefore to us, hatred is as evil as murder. (Matthew 5:21-22)

- Envy steals our joy. That is why God commands us not to covet. (Exodus 20:17)
- Grief steals our joy. Grief is part of every person's life in this fallen world, including every Christian. But our grief gives way to joy when we contemplate that death does not have the last word. Jesus has won the battle, and death has lost its sting, for "death has been swallowed up in victory." (I Corinthians 15:54-55)
- Sin steals our joy, because it puts a wedge between us and God. Sin scrambles the lines of communication with God; sin makes us not want to look Him in the face. But thanks be to God, "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
- Self-pity steals our joy. But we can come out of those doldrums quickly when we accept the gift of God's grace. For our treasure is not in this world. Jesus told us to store up for ourselves treasure in heaven where it cannot be stolen or destroyed. (Matthew 6:19-21) The love of God is our greatest treasure, and nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)

Being a joyful Christian is not just a reward for righteousness. It is a necessity. Without joy, we lose our credibility as witnesses to the love and grace of God. We lose the ability to encourage people whose lives are in desperate straits without Jesus. And to lack joy is to lose perspective on what it means to be a child of God. There is no other response but joy when you recognize that God is on His throne; He is in control; He has a plan; His plan is perfect; His plan is working; you are on the right side of His plan; and He loves you.

Yours in Christ,
Jeffrey O. Cerar, Rector



To All My Friends at St. Stephen's:

I want to thank Pastor Jeff for his visits while I was in the hospital. I truly enjoyed sharing our talks and prayers together.

I also want to thank all of you for your PRAYERS, cards, visits and phone calls during my recent illness.

I THANK GOD FOR HIS HEALING LOVE each and every day, and HE IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SALVATION!!!

It has been almost three months since my back surgery, which caused a large blood clot to form in my left leg shortly thereafter. Unfortunately, it may take up to a year for this to dissolve, so I will have to be patient.

GOD IS SO GOOD!!! He is letting me do a little more each day, and is giving me the strength and energy to do more things on my own.

Thank you again for your many prayers, and know all of you are in my daily prayers too.

*God's Blessings Always,
Your Sister in Christ Jesus,
Sandy Baranski*



Dear St. Stephen's Family:

My heartfelt thanks go to John Powers for giving up a day of his time on the spur of the moment to pick me up at the Dulles Airport in the middle of rush hour traffic! John gives often and willingly of himself to help others in need. We are truly blessed to have so many faithful servants of Christ in our congregation.

Thank you John for your kindness in helping me during a most stressful time.

*In Christ's service,
Mary Swann*

Parish Weekend 2014

27 - 28 September

Come Out of the Wilderness

led by

The Reverend David Harper

Local event – Free of charge – This Year Only!

Scheduling conflicts are keeping us “home” this year, so we will have Parish Weekend at Brinkley Hall. We are planning a full day of teaching and fun for Saturday, and Rev. Harper will be with us for worship time on Sunday. Work will be underway for the new building and it will be an exciting time to think about our arrival in the “Long-promised Land.”

Registration will begin in early August. Since the event is free, no money is required. However, we really need your help with early registration to plan for lunch and a catered dinner on Saturday. There will be little free time for skit and talent preparation à la Wakefield, so early preparation will also be needed for that event! Or should we say EVENT?



Senior Warden Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The month of July has been a very busy one to say the least. The work achieved this month has all been positive. The

most important news, I think, is that we finally have a start date to build God's house. September 1st will be a happy day in our lives. Evans Construction Company has moved forward at a pace that is hard to keep up with at times, and David Norden's fingers must be very tired with all the work he has done on our drawings. This has all resulted in a very real picture of what we will have as our new home and how we will go about it.

The building committee has put in endless hours for meetings and dissecting the plans and making decisions on numerous details that must be worked out. In the end, we are going to have a beautiful place to worship and, more importantly, a facility in which we can carry out our mission and vision to the community and the world. I feel strongly that the Lord has such wonderful plans for us to touch people and educate people to carry out his great commission. We will have a lot of work ahead of us as we try to seek his will and do the jobs he wishes us to perform. What a happy, blessed time it is going to be! He has led us down this path, held our hands and pointed us in the direction he wants us to go. Our response can be nothing less than that found in Isaiah 6:8- "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I, Send me!" We stand ready for the Lord to send us and do his mighty work.

As George Beckett reported this past Sunday, we are working on gathering information pertinent to seeking a settlement concerning the lien that has been placed on us. We have a lawyer working with us and we are praying for a resolution to that through a mediator and resolution process rather

than being forced to go to court. Please be praying for this in order that we can be relieved of this problem and move forward with our plans.

Prayer on the land continues with our various groups and I encourage you to pray about our land even if you cannot make it out to walk the property. God is hearing our prayers and is showing his mercy to us daily.

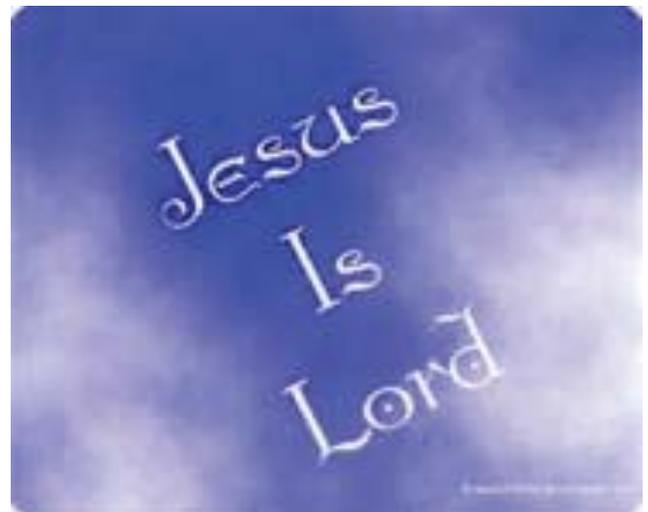
I am happy to report that we have a signed lease with the owner of the Thrift Shop building, David Paul. The lease was satisfactory to both parties and now we can move forward with our business in the BBB (Big Blue Building) to raise money for God's work and have a place to proclaim the good news of Christ throughout our community and the world.

I am looking forward to the Women's Retreat Day in August and the Parish retreat in September when we can come together as a family and the children of God and reflect the joy that God so graciously offers us. The joy of belonging to Christ brings joy to his people and is expressed in the scriptures:

Deuteronomy 16:15 - For the joy of the Lord your God will bless you in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.

Romans 16:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.

Joyfully In His Service,
Elaine Price





Women of St. Stephen's

My Dear Ladies,

It has been so long since our last meeting and I have missed our regular gathering times. In fact, the last time we were together was when we had the luncheon with Meg Guernsey in early May. With this in mind, I want to encourage you to attend the women's one day retreat to be held on Saturday, August 16th at the Kilmarnock Inn. By now you all should have received the invitation, and I hope you have already filled out the registration form and submitted it with your check to the retreat box in Brinkley Hall. I think we all will be blessed by our speaker, Lissa Eggleston, who has a passion for Bible teaching, especially for women and children. I had the opportunity to hear Lissa speak to the last Perspectives class a couple of years ago, and I have never forgotten her wonderful talk on God's glory and His Hallowed Name.

Hearty thanks go out to Suzy Norman and all of you who donated baked goods to the sale over the July 4th weekend. It was a huge success and raised \$341.00 for the Building Fund. The wide variety of goodies donated was quite impressive, and obviously very well received by our customers that Saturday. Thank you, ladies, for a job well done!

In addition, I am very happy to report that when Stephen Kaziimba was here, the women were able to send a check for \$400.00 to Margaret for her ministry and the Mother's Union. A couple of personal checks were added to it, so in all we were able to give \$600.00. St. Stephen's is the only church that supports the women's ministries of Mityana.

The Thrift Shop has been doing a bang up business in recent weeks. In a letter to the volunteers in July Dixie wrote the following: "Recently we've had some hot days weather-wise – and also some hot days sales-

wise at the Thrift Shop! Customers are BUYING , NOT JUST LOOKING. Summer residents and visitors have found us, say they're glad we're there, and are coming back with their friends, neighbors, and their company. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" So, in spite of the raise in rent, it looks very likely that we will be able to meet all of our financial commitments for this year.

In addition to the increased sales after a very slow winter season, prayer requests keep coming in and people are attracted to the prayer room. I worked there a couple of times in July and not only did I greatly enjoy the experience, but I also was impressed by the number of people who are regulars who just stop by to say hi and see what is new. The incoming donations continue to flow in, and as Dixie said, we are very blessed to be in the Big Blue Building in Lottsburg.

I will look forward to seeing you at the retreat, and in the meantime I send you my greetings and blessings in this last month of summer. "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (II Corinthians 4:6)

Blessings and love,

Donna



Thrift Shop News

Ladies, please save this date: Monday, August 25th. This is the date the thrift shop changes over from Summer to Fall/Winter clothes. We need as many people as possible to make this an easy job. We will be cleaning, dusting and vacuuming after all the summer clothes are removed. After everything is clean, we will bring out the Fall/Winter clothes. Those angels who show up will be treated to a pizza lunch.

The half-price sale will begin August 19th and the bag sale will begin August 22nd.





Building Committee Report

The Evans Construction Corporation agreed to a firm start date of September 1, 2014. The committee is very pleased to have a firm date. In the meanwhile, we still have much work to do as does Evans. The Vestry issued Evans a Letter of Intent and Evans accepted the terms. The contract will be completed prior to September 1st.

The committee, David Norden, and Chase and Stuart Evans met on July 15 to finalize the construction plans. After lengthy discussions, the committee instructed David to finish the plans and drawings. We are operating under two financial constraints: (1) Building size must not exceed 12,000 square feet ceiling or we would be required under the Virginia Building Code to install an expensive fire suppression system. (2) The vestry requires that building costs not exceed \$2 million.

Last week, VDOT forwarded documented requirements to Evans Construction. Evans has the experience to meet the requirements before the start of construction, so this issue is on the way to a satisfactory end.

The committee will continue to work on the church furnishings, including flooring, wall coloring, and the like to ensure the building will have the right ambiance.

We have selected an attorney to handle the legal requirements of the Eagle River Construction Mechanic Lien action. We are searching our records to provide the information required by the attorney.

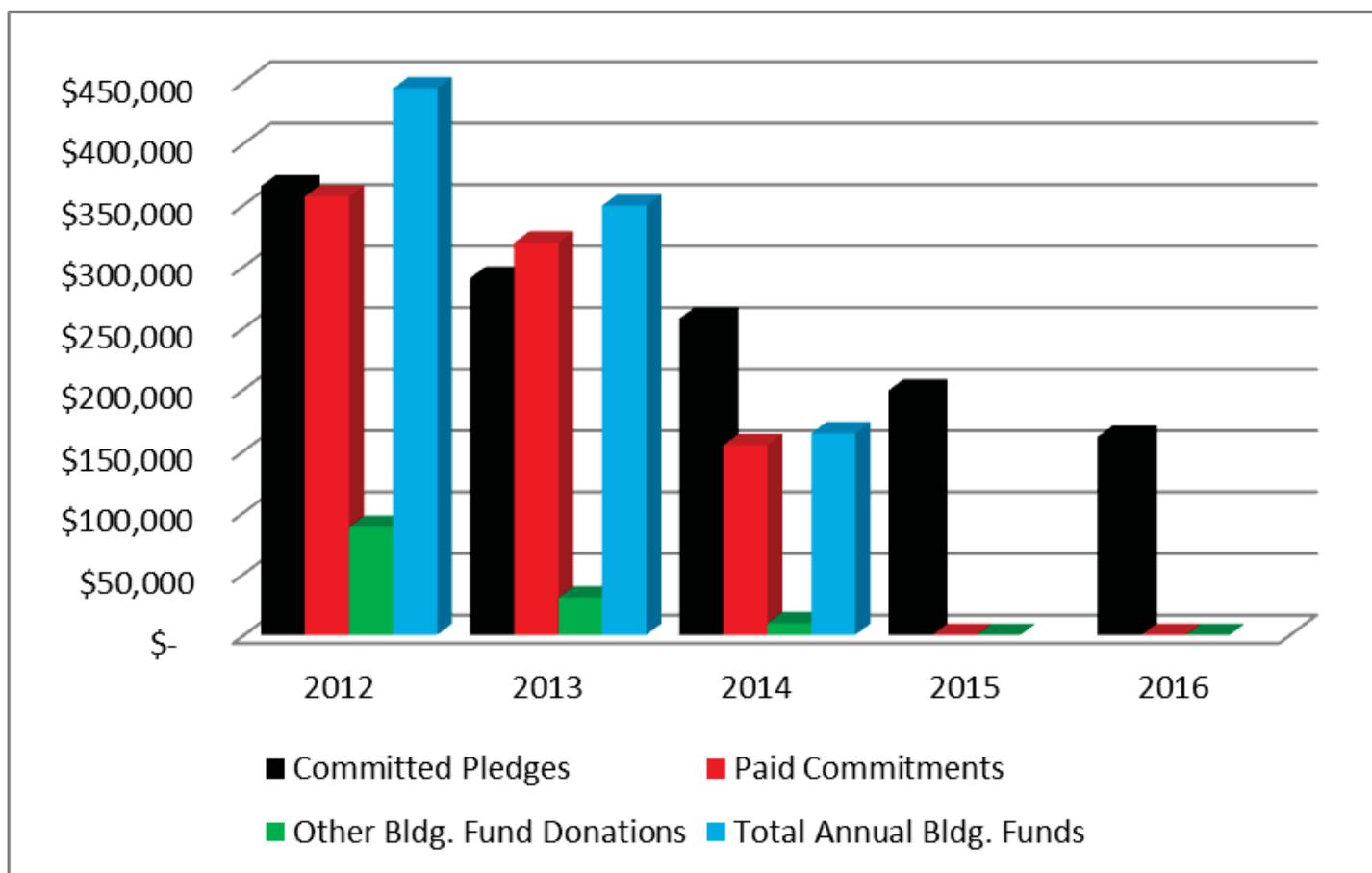
The Building Committee continues to ask for your prayers as we move forward into the early construction phase of the project.

Sincerely,
George Beckett



Building Fund Status

(as of the end of the Second Quarter, 2014)



	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Committed Pledges	\$364,943	\$290,15	\$257,146	\$198,731	\$161,068
Paid Commitments	\$356,613	\$318,910	\$154,278	\$-	\$-
Other Bldg. Fund Donations	\$87,779	\$30,257	\$9,632	\$-	\$-
Total Annual Bldg. Fund	\$444,392	\$349,167	\$163,910		

This chart reflects the status as of June 30, 2014 of the Building Fund commitments. You recently received a personal note showing the status of your personal commitment as of that date. As we move on to actually build our church (expecting a start date in early September, 2014), you are all encouraged to dig as deep as you can to add to your commitment or, if you haven't yet committed funds for our new church, to join in this exciting challenge. God is surely watching over this entire process, and we remain confident that He will provide so that we can build a church that will be a beacon to all.

Blessings,
 Ward LeHardy (Chairman, Campaign Fund)

Recycle for the Building Fund

Trash for Cash ?

Submitted by Melinda Floom

By now you have probably seen Ed Ulfig's pick-up truck in the church parking lot on Sunday morning with the back open ready to accept your metal and soda cans.

He is accepting **all** of your valuable trash so that he can take it to Riteway Recycling and turn it in for money so that we can build our new church. Ed has also volunteered to come to your home, place of business, or wherever you have these items to pick them up. Below is a list of items that will be accepted, so take a stroll around your property, think of what needs to be recycled and bring it to Ed on Sunday morning, or if you need help with the item(s), give Ed a call. **(267) 893-0344.**

Items for recycle

Cars, trucks, lawn mowers, brass, copper, electric motors, car motors, radiators aluminum, stainless steel, transmissions, starters, alternators, A/C Compressors, batteries (car & truck), air conditioners, wood stoves, boat motors, tractors, wheels, exercise equipment, bicycles, metal barrels, refrigerators, washers, dryers, freezers, cook stoves, heat pumps, plows, other farm equipment, lead, file cabinets, electric wire, cooking grills, pumps, dishwashers, metal sinks.

If you have something that is not on the list, give Ed a call to see if it will be accepted.

Library Additions

Please note: If anyone knows of a good book that explains or assists us in our Christian faith, whether it be fiction or non-fiction, a commentary, history, biography, reference, young adult, children's book, DVD, or audio-book, please let me know. My goal is to build our library collection, even as we wait to build our building. In the meantime, our library is up and running in the basement of First Baptist Church, in the room next to Jeff's office. Come check it out!

New additions to our library this month include

1. *Reason and Belief: A Scientist Looks at Mark's Gospel* by Stan Rasberry 2014. (Yes, that's our own Stan Rasberry, and the book was published by our own Jan and George Beckett, a.k.a Northumberland Historical Press!)
2. *To Be a Christian - An Anglican Catechism* 2013.
3. *Taking God at His Word: Why the Bible is Knowable, Necessary, and Enough, and What That Means for You and Me* by Kevin DeYoung. 2014. (I read about this book in the July 12, 2014 edition of World Magazine, also available at St. Stephen's.)
4. *Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will* by Kevin DeYoung 2014
5. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God* by Tim Keller with Kathy Keller (his wife) 2011.
6. *A Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis 2009 edition of the book originally published in 1961.
7. *Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem* by Kevin DeYoung 2013.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers

Aug. 3	Langley and Todd Lewis
Aug. 10	Lynn & Howard York
Aug. 17	Marie Carstensen, Chris Cralle
Aug. 24	Lyn Neira, John Powers
Aug. 31	George Beckett, Ben Ward
Sept. 7	Pam & Herb Smith

Acolytes

Aug. 3	Hannah Hamlett
Aug. 10	Marley Kimmitt
Aug. 17	Jennifer Radcliffe
Aug. 24	Sarah Saunders
Aug. 31	Chris Cralle
Sept. 7	Emma Saunders

Lesson Readers

Aug. 3	Joan Blackstone (L) Tony Blackstone (P)
Aug. 10	Bill Bloom (L) Charlaine Andrulot (P)
Aug. 17	Jim Conley (L) Marie Carstensen (P)
Aug. 24	Betty Dillingham (L) Lyn Conley (P)
Aug. 31	Ruth Franck (L) Irene Haley (P)
Sept. 7	Ward LeHardy (L) Judy LeHardy (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

Aug. 3	Harrison Williams, C. McDearmon
Aug. 10	Priscilla Williams, Fred Woodard
Aug. 17	Tony Blackstone, Irene Haley
Aug. 24	Bill Bloom, Lucy Logan
Aug. 31	Ward LeHardy, Constance McD.
Sept. 7	Frank McCarthy, Suzy Norman

Altar Guild

Aug.	Pauline & Bobby Edmonds, and Margaret Radcliffe
Sept.	Eleanor Semerjian, Judy LeHardy

Nursery

Aug. 3	Betty Cralle
Aug. 10	Julie Pritchard
Aug. 17	Margaret Radcliffe
Aug. 24	Jeanette Cralle
Aug. 31	Saunee Hamlett
Sept. 7	Betty Cralle

Coffee Hour

Aug. 3	Laura & Fred Woodard
Aug. 10	Phyllis & Bill Tracey
Aug. 17	Anna & Pat Brennan
Aug. 24	Lyn & Jim Conley
Aug. 31	Joan & Tony Blackstone
Sept. 7	Langley & Todd Lewis



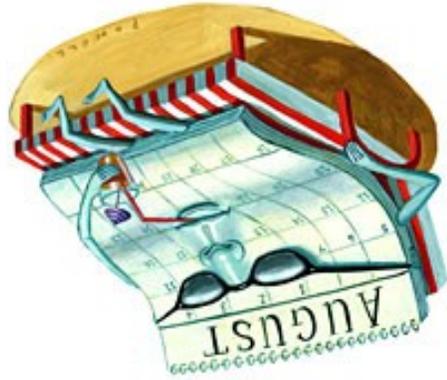
Aug. 5	Walter Eichacker
Aug. 10	Jim Logan
Aug. 11	Bill Henson, Laura Woodard
Aug. 15	Janet Steelman, Aislinn Lewis
Aug. 18	Dixie Goertemiller, Bertie Strange, Dana Bloom
Aug. 20	Jane Wrightson, Tony Blackstone, Barbara Townshend
Aug. 24	Charlotte Hundley
Aug. 29	Jeanette Cralle
Aug. 31	Anna Brennan,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



Aug. 20	Dana and Bill Bloom
Aug. 24	Connie and Tad de Bordenave
Aug. 27	Lyn & Art Neira

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).