



The Pitch from Fork

February-March 2011

Dear friends,

One of my favorite descriptions of the church is that it is the only institution that exists for the benefit of those who are *not* its members. I rejoice in the ways that we at Fork live into that description—and throughout this edition of *The Pitch*, you'll find examples of Fork ministries that benefit those who are not our members: WHEAT clients; West Hanover Wood Ministry delivery recipients; the elderly sisters who live just around the corner from Fork.

I've been thinking a lot in recent weeks about what it means to be Church—and especially about what it means for us at Fork to be Church together. As you may have noticed, my reflections on this topic have been showing up recently in sermons—and probably will continue to do so for awhile as I keep grappling with the questions I feel bubbling up inside myself on this topic. (Apparently I was in a reflective mood over New Year's!!) In my supervisory sessions with our seminarian Herbert Jones, he and I have also been talking about the nature of Church.

I invite you to join us in that conversation. What is *your* understanding of Church? How is Church similar to and different from other organizations/institutions to which you belong? One definition of Church is that it is the Body of Christ in the world. What does that mean to you? What does it mean for us at Fork? Are there ways we could live into that definition more fully—either as individuals or as a church community?

One of the gems of *The Book of Common Prayer* is the Catechism, a section of questions and answers about basics of the faith. It begins on page 844 and ends on page 862. If you have never read through it, I'd encourage you to do so. You may be surprised at what you find! The Catechism has a whole section on what it means to be Church.

I am glad to be Church with you—and I look forward to continuing to work out together, with God's help, what exactly that means for us in this place, at this time.

Blessings. —Anne †

Your new vestry members elected Jan. 16, 2011

Debbie Murphy (a.k.a. Valveeta)

My husband, Glenn, our two sons, Ian and Evan, and I have lived in Doswell since 1978. In 2003 we purchased and restored the Fork Church Rectory, where our son Evan was married December 23 to Francis Bailey. I have worked for the Farm Bureau in Ashland since 1989. I am an insurance agent, currently a Master Agent with an LUTCF designation.

I have attended Fork since 1980 and have been in the choir for as long as I can remember, now serving as a co-choir director. I am also on the Altar Guild. I have served as accounts payable treasurer, a member of the audit and stewardship committees, designer of the newsletter and also its editor. I helped design the Fork Church website, performed in the Fork Operas, and most recently served on the steering committee for the 275th anniversary of Fork Church. I have also served on the vestry and as senior warden.

It's an honor to serve again on the vestry and to be able to give back to this church that has given so much to me and my family. Fork continues to be an extended family, and Anne's pastoral care has been a blessing to us. One of the charms of Fork is the closeness of our congregation, even as we have grown over the past few years. It is also so exciting each Sunday to see all the children run in before communion; it warms your heart to see their happy faces and know that our future is in good hands!

As a return member to the vestry, I think my strengths are compassion and that I am a team player, diplomat and good listener. I want to see Fork continue to grow. It's been heartwarming to see so many involved in so many ways at Fork. My wish is that the vestry will continue to provide ways for everyone to serve and that Fork will be a positive influence spiritually and personally in all our lives.

Alice C. Noland

Thirty-four years ago, I moved from Ellicott City, Maryland, to Airwell Farm in Beaverdam, Virginia. Churchill Cooke Noland, Jr. and I were married at Fork Church by the Rev. Charles Joy in 1976, and I changed church membership from Catonsville Presbyterian to Fork.

Since Airwell was a dairy farm until the fall of 2008, our life has revolved around farming. Churchill and I have two children, Jann and Nathan. Jann is married to Jason Maze and they live in Troutville, Va., with their two daughters, Madison, 4, and Lexi, 1. Nathan is living in Richmond.

Through the persuasion of my mother-in-law, Myrtle Noland, and friend Tebe Beazley I joined the Altar Guild, which at that time included arranging flowers on the altar. Upon the death of Alyse Cage, I took over as treasurer of the Altar Guild.

Besides the Altar Guild, I have been in the choir off and on since 1976. Other past duties have involved nursery and Sunday School, especially when my children were young. I have also helped with luncheons, suppers, parties, and other events held in the parish hall.

Since this is my first time on the vestry, I will have a lot to learn but am looking forward to contributing in any helpful way and presenting new insights. I have always loved history and since the Noland family has such long, strong ties to Fork Church, I find it all very interesting and enjoy the upkeep and preservation of our beautiful church.

My hope for Fork Church is to see it continue to grow, attract new or former members, and be a welcoming place to all.

Your new vestry members elected Jan. 16, 2011 --- continued...

Courtland Lee Warfield, Jr.

I have six grandchildren, two kids, one wife, 18 brood cows, six bulls, four yearling heifers, and 13 new calves.

I have been connected to Fork Church for approximately 15 years. During that time I have been involved in the life and ministry of Fork, including various outreach projects such as WHEAT, CARITAS, and Sunday outreach dinners at St. James the Less. I have served on the Buildings and Grounds Committee and Fellowship projects. I am a former vestry member, assisting with worship as lay Eucharistic minister and lay reader.

Why was I interested in vestry service? It seems we had no one stepping up. Someone had to do it. In fact, one question that needs to be answered is why no one wanted the job.

My hopes for Fork Church in the future? One of Fork Church's strengths has been its outreach programs. This is one ministry that Jesus is very specific in calling us to do. This should continue to be one of our strong points. It is my hope that adult education beyond the excellent Sunday Adult Forum would become a part of life at Fork Church. Judging from past experience, more informal fellowship events will help us regain the close family atmosphere we once enjoyed. Whereas membership at Fork has remained steady, we have lost several older members. We need to understand why and hopefully have them resume their more active roles at Fork. The Diocese of Virginia has a wealth of talent to help churches with many projects and ministries. Fork Church has rarely taken advantage of this help. It is my hope that we will begin to more actively take advantage of this assistance.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FORK CHURCH?

New Orleans Ministry Presentation Coming to Fork

On Sunday, February 20, during the 9:00 Fork Church Adult Forum, David Satterfield from St. Stephens Church in Richmond will make a presentation regarding the mission work being performed in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Satterfield heads the New Orleans mission work for St. Stephen's Church and makes several mission trips a year to New Orleans. The purpose of Mr. Satterfield's presentation is to explain the enormity of the Katrina disaster, describe the recovery efforts, and discuss what needs to be done and can be done to continue the recovery efforts.

We here at Fork hope to participate in a mission trip to New Orleans in 2012. It is my hope that Mr. Satterfield's presentation will help us begin dreaming about participating in this mission work ourselves.

--Howard Anderson

Lent

Although it may not seem like it, Lent is just around the corner. Ash Wednesday falls on March 9. The season of Lent is a crucial time in the Church Year, an opportunity for us to journey deeper in our relationship with Jesus as we prepare for the joy of the Easter season. That joy has no place to go if we don't make room for it in our souls. The best way to make such room is to take Lent seriously, to engage actively in the self-examination and repentance to which the Prayer Book calls us in the Invitation to a Holy Lent.

Ash Wednesday, March 9: Services at noon and 7 p.m.

The holy and penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9. We will have two services of Holy Eucharist that day, one at noon and the other at 7 p.m. In Ash Wednesday's somber, thought-provoking liturgy, we are marked with ashes and reminded, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The path to Easter leads through Lent. Mark your calendars now and be here on Ash Wednesday so that we may begin the journey together.

Lenten Booklets

As in past years, I have again ordered copies of a devotional booklet for us to read together during Lent. This year's Lenten meditations were written by a group of Episcopal Church leaders from a variety of backgrounds and theological perspectives--kind of like us!! The booklets will be available in the church entryway in late February. Please pick one up for your family's use. If you are unable to get to church but would like to receive a booklet, please call the office and we will gladly mail one to you.

Baptism

If you are interested in being baptized or having a child baptized, please let Anne know. Baptism is the rite of initiation into the Church, the sacrament that leads us to communion. The Easter Vigil service (8 p.m. on Saturday, April 23) and Pentecost (Sunday, June 12) are the next two dates that the Church specifically sets aside for baptism, but other dates are certainly possible. Traditionally we do not perform baptisms during Lent, which this year will be March 9-April 22. Questions? Contact Anne.

NEWS IN THE LIFE OF FORK CHURCH

Hymn of the Season

Beginning in January, there will now be a special "hymn of the season" from our hymnal each week. We will sing it four Sundays in a row so that we can all learn it and then add it to our congregational repertoire. The first Sunday it will be the choir anthem; the second and third Sundays it will be the sequence hymn; and the fourth Sunday it will be the recessional. During those four weeks, the bulletin will include some information about the hymn so that we can

discover something about where and when and why it was written. I think it's easy to forget sometimes that hymns were written by real people—like us!!—with real information to communicate about who God is. My hope is that by exploring the background of hymns in some depth and then practicing them together as a congregation, we will develop a deeper appreciation and greater breadth of the music with which we worship God. I am very grateful to Lindsey Smythe, Amy Newell, Debbie Murphy, and the choir for their help with this endeavor!

Also, Lindsey and I are working together to incorporate one or two favorite hymns into each service—while still honoring the texts of the day and the reality that the only way to learn new hymns is to sing them! If there are particular hymns that you especially like, please let Lindsey or me know, and we will do our best to incorporate them into our worship in the coming weeks and months. Thanks for your help. I look forward to continuing to glorify God together through song.

Blessings. –Anne

Finance Report

The Fork Church has reduced the operations budget for 2011, based upon lower expected income. A comparison of the 2010 and 2011 budgets is presented below:

Area of Impact	Year	Year
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Buildings and Grounds	21,545	17,960
Church Administration (non-staff)	20,375	15,761
Church Administration (staff)	109,786	107,332
Parish Life	300	0
Christian Formation	1,200	1,200
Pastoral Care	0	50

Any questions please contact Andie Warfield, 804-677-4755 or atjmw@aol.com

Christmas Gifts 2010 from Fork Church to PPDC

Have you ever stopped to think why we give gifts not only at Christmas but anytime of the year? For me, there are two reasons: One is to satisfy a longing within me to share talents, time, and tithe with others; and the other is to meet an expressed need that another has voiced. Both these needs for me were met in the Christmas 2010 project that the Youth/Mission Committee selected for Fork Church to participate in.

After much research and discussion we selected the teen population at the Peter Paul Development Center (PPDC) to give gifts to this past Christmas. There are 20 teens involved in programs at PPDC. These are “high risk” youth who attend an alternative school at PPDC which is an alternative to the city alternative school. This is a “last chance” for these teens to get a high school diploma and become productive citizens of Richmond. These youth desperately need someone to care enough to make them feel wanted at the holiday season. In 2009 the youth group purchased gifts for some of these teens and the wish list ranged from a warm quilt to special shoes or jackets. We only bought gifts for about half of the teens last year. The staff can stretch our dollars further than we can because they have merchants who will give them a better

deal than we as individuals can get, and they can also insure that each teen gets something instead of only a select few. After a lengthy discussion with the staff at PPDC, the Youth/Mission committee asked the wonderful and generous people of Fork Church to contribute money so that the staff at PPDC could purchase the gifts.

Thanks to the generosity of Fork Church, \$1,105.20 was raised for the Peter Paul Development Center's Christmas gift program for their teens.

PPDC says thank you so much!

--Boo Smythe

Christmas Greetings from Mary Gill

On Christmas Eve, Fork Church received a card from Mary Gill, letting us know that she loves us and misses us. If you would like to be in touch with Mary, her address is 1057 Yeamans Hall Road, Charleston, SC, 29410.

Parish History Notes #31: The Berger Organ

Henry F. Berger was born near Toulouse, France, in 1819 and learned the skills of organ building from his father. He came to this country in 1849. He made church organs and other musical instruments in Baltimore, Md., and later in York, Pa., until fire destroyed his factory and three finished organs on March 10, 1861. In September 1855 he completed the organ that inspires us at Fork Church to this day. There is only one other Berger organ known to exist.

In the Winter 1964 issue of *The Tracker*, the publication of the Organ Historical Society, Cleveland Fisher describes our instrument and provides clues to its origin. It appears that the organ was previously owned and used by St. George's Church, Fredericksburg, and in 1874 their vestry decided to replace it. The first reference to it at Fork Church is in the diary of Ruth Page of Oakland. Her earliest recollection of the organ was 1882, when she and her parents returned from China. Repairs were needed at that time, and a fair was held at the church in 1888 to raise funds for its renovation.

A number of repair dates are noted on the organ, including 1876, 1895, 1902 and 1912. In 1963 it was reconditioned and an electric blower was added. Until then, the organ had to be pumped by hand. The most recent renovation of this historically significant asset was by the Rappahannock Pipe Organ Company in April 2003.

--Alastair Macdonald

OPPORTUNITIES AND INSPIRATION

Make a difference: join the Prayer Chain!

Fork Church has a Prayer Chain, a group of about 15 parishioners who pray for those in our midst who have asked for prayers. Prayer Chain members receive emails from Anne with prayer requests and updates and then pray regularly for those listed. There are no meetings to attend; the only requirement for being part of the prayer chain is an open heart and a willingness to engage in the ministry of prayer. If you would like to be part of this group, please email Anne directly: anneofforkchurch@embarqmail.com.

Many thanks! --Anne

Healing Service

Healing services are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at Fork Church, beginning at noon. We use litanies and prayers from an Episcopal worship book. The service includes an opportunity to come forward for prayer for healing and anointing, and it ends with our familiar Eucharist. You may come for healing prayers for yourself or on behalf of others. The service is open to all – members of Fork and your co-workers, relatives, neighbors, and friends. After the service, we usually go to lunch together. Please join us. Services coming up are Feb. 23 and March 23.

Help is needed in the Fork Church Nursery

Can you help out in the nursery on Sundays? We need you! Please sign up on the sheet at the Church entryway. For information contact our nursery coordinator, Kelly Aderhold, 883-7788 or krsderhold@embarqmail.com.

Outreach Dinner

Thanks to all who provided food and/or helping hands for the Jan. 9 outreach dinner hosted by Fork Church and St. James the Less, including Maddie, Michael and Alexia Miles, Deb Anderson, Jenny Smith, Sally Campbell, Elizabeth Gordon and Lou Ann Cave. The next outreach dinner is Sunday, Feb. 27. Please consider helping out

Hanover County Winterization Program

The Hanover County Department of Community Resources Winterization Program provides services to Hanover residents in need. Work is performed by volunteer work crews using donated materials.

For information on volunteering, donating, or making a referral, please see the posting on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

A WHEAT Story –Small Acts of Kindness and Generosity Really Can Make a Big Difference

I wasn't on duty over the holidays but my uncle gave me the name and number of a woman he hoped we could help. I didn't really want to call because I was tired and off duty, but I knew I was going to see my uncle several times over the next few days and he'd ask me about it. So, I called.

Alice did need our help. She left a successful job for a major health care system in Richmond to honor her ailing father by caring for him. Now, six years later, her savings are gone and they are trying, unsuccessfully, to live off her father's social security. Social Services got them some oil but they couldn't burn it because they couldn't afford the cost of running the furnace. Their electricity was about to be cut off. She had a car but couldn't use it because she couldn't afford the insurance. And, they were hungry.

I said four words to her: “we can help you.” She began to cry so hard I really didn’t know what to do. After several minutes (and I really mean several minutes) when she could talk again, the despair gave way to relief. She just couldn’t believe what this one phone call had brought them.

But we did so much more than that and I certainly didn’t realize at the time. It was just before New Year’s when my sister, my son and I were packing the groceries for Alice and her father. Understandably, when I spotted some black-eyed peas and stewed tomatoes I threw them in the bag. Later that night, just after my husband had delivered the wood and dropped off the groceries, I got an emotional call from Alice. Her father was standing leaning on the kitchen counter crying, something she’d only seen him do once before. He was crying, she said, because he loved black-eyed peas and stewed tomatoes. But as she talked it became clear that it was much more than that. They had been desperate and alone. And all of a sudden, through efforts that took several WHEAT and Wood Ministry volunteers a combined total of maybe an hour and half (nothing really) and \$165, they had hope. Many of you who talked to me over Christmas may have heard me say that I couldn’t find the Christmas spirit this year. Well, the Christmas spirit hit me at that moment. Her emotions overwhelmed me.

I have stayed in touch with Alice and the small efforts we made on that day have continued to bear fruit. Alice was able to get a good rate on insurance for her car because she was once again in good standing on her electric bill. Today, not even one month after our visit, Alice is talking with her father about her going back to work and problem-solving how he can maintain his independence but remain safe while she isn’t there. Less than 30 days ago, every waking minute of her time was spent on their survival. Today, she is taking positive steps to plan a future.

They still need our help. They are getting their third wood delivery as I write this; since it is their sole source of heat they go through it pretty fast. And I plan to bring them groceries this weekend. But, they now think they are going to make it and they know they aren’t alone. Black-eyed peas really do bring prosperity.

--Lisa Licata

Neighbors in Need

There is a wonderful opportunity just down the road for Fork Church to be a Christian body that reaches out to its neighbors!

Some of you were involved this past summer in getting an air conditioner installed during the hot, hot summer for two elderly sisters on Old Ridge Road. They were very grateful for this, and it introduced the WHEAT team to a need they could help with too.

Frances Gatewood and Katherine Cauthorne live in the woods across from the Caves (old Cage residence). As children they attended Fork Church Sunday School. They are now widows who returned to their home place after their husbands passed, and neither has children to care for them. Their only family are some cousins in Caroline who are also elderly. Neighbors, including the small Duke’s Chapel further down the road, help them out from time to time.

Last year Katherine broke a hip and is now on a walker, and recently Frances had to have a toe removed. While they own an old truck, right now neither can drive, and it is questionable that either will ever be able to. Their ability to get out for appointments and supplies is becoming quite limited.

Anne Kirchmier, Elizabeth Gordon and I have come to know these sweet, godly ladies and our hearts go out to them. Their faith is strong! We have discussed how Fork Church can help its neighbors on a regular basis. Here are some things we could do:

- Call at least once a week just to check on them and see what they may need from town
- Visit every few days in the winter to take wood from their porch inside (especially needed are folks with 4-wheel drive vehicles to get to their house in the snow)
- Take them to doctor's appointments –Francis has one Jan. 21 to have her toe checked
- Make repairs as needed—for example, one need they have right now is to have the latch on their storm door fixed so that it won't lock them out (they keep a sheet of newspaper over the latch)
- Furnish needed items, like the A/C this past summer – and maybe a phone for the hard-of-hearing
- Simply visit!

I am willing to be the middle person and the contact for any help Fork Church will provide. If you would be interested in doing something on a regular basis, such as calling once a week, picking up items from town, etc., please let me know.

If you are not able to be a part of a regular ministry, but you ARE willing to help as needed with repairs or driving (especially if you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle) please let me know.

I think of Matthew 25:40 when I see the people of Fork respond to needs such as this! Thanks for any help you can provide.

--Lou Ann Cave

COMMUNITY AND DIOCESE

Annual Council Report

The 216th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia took place January 20-22 in Reston, Va. Fork was ably represented by Delegate Court Warfield and Alternate Boo Smythe. Detailed information about Council business, news, and decisions as well as Bishop Johnston's pastoral address can be found on the Diocesan website at www.thediocese.net. One of the biggest pieces of news to come out of Council was Bishop David Jones' announcement that he will be retiring at the end of Council next year. Council passed a resolution calling for the election of a new suffragan bishop in April 2012. Two resolutions that will affect our Sunday worship were requests for ongoing prayer—for peace in the Sudan; and for God's guidance for the resolution of the property issues in the Diocese. We will pray for those petitions Sunday by Sunday. To learn more about Annual Council, please see the Diocesan website or talk with Court or Boo.

Shrinemont Summer Camps Update

Registration for Shrine Mont Camps is now open. New this year, parents can pay and register entirely online! Shrine Mont Camps is accepting applications for director of Art Camp and Music & Drama Camp.

Access forms and more information at <http://camps.thediocese.net>.

Marcus Borg at St George's, Fredericksburg, March 13& 14

Biblical and Jesus scholar Marcus Borg will join members of the Diocese for a series of discussions on being Christian in the 21st century. Dr. Borg, author of 19 books, is canon theologian at Trinity Cathedral, Portland, Oregon. Topics are...

- What's Christianity All About? - Sunday, March 13, 10 a.m. Free and open to the public.
- An Emerging Form of Christianity Today - Sunday, March 13, 7 p.m. \$9 advance registration, \$10 at the door.
- Telling the Story of Jesus Today- Monday, March 14, 7 p.m. \$9 advance registration, \$10 at the door.

To register visit stgeorgesevents.wordpress.com

A Letter from Bishop Johnston

January 12, 2011

One year ago, January 12, 2010, the world shook--both literally and figuratively--for the people of Haiti. In 35 seconds, nearly 300,000 lives were lost, millions were displaced and an already desperately inadequate infrastructure was largely destroyed. Since the poor always suffer the most in times of hardship, Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, is enduring a catastrophe that remains unimaginable even for those who have been there to see for themselves. The toll on human life has been devastating. In Port-au-Prince alone, a million people are still housed in tents, a great many street-side. Need, injury and illness are constant specters. Now, a cholera epidemic looms with a legacy of more death and fear.

What can we do in the face of such horrors? To be sure, the sheer scale of it all is more than daunting. I've often heard comment that whatever groups or individuals might do is so little that it seems almost useless. All too easily we can despair of being able to be of help. On the contrary, I would argue that the need is so great that we--all of us--simply must become involved in any way possible. To be unconnected to the tragedy in Haiti is not a faithful choice. Our faith in the grace and sovereignty of God through Jesus Christ leads us to take action, both for immediate relief and long-term recovery and rebuilding.

In October 2010, I led a small group drawn from three of our congregations to meet with the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, the Rt. Rev. J. Zache Duracin. Bishop Zache, along with the Rev. Kesner Ajax, his coordinator for partnerships, and Ms. Angela Galbreath, a missionary from the Episcopal Church, escorted us to see not just the destruction and the needs that exist but also the effectiveness of ongoing relief and recovery. The faithfulness, courage and dignity of the Church in Haiti are not merely impressive but absolutely indomitable. Despite the fact that the earthquake destroyed 80 percent of the diocesan infrastructure, children have been back in school since May, truly a remarkable achievement and testament to what the Church there can do even with so little. And I can tell you that our support does indeed make a difference in real day-to-day lives. It was great to be driven in two of the 13 pick-up trucks that have been provided to the Diocese of Haiti by the Diocese of Virginia, and then to see how the

others are being used so much as well. In his Christmas letter to fellow bishops, Bishop Zache said that the donations of expertise, labor, food, housing material, medicines and money have helped the people of Haiti to "rise, stand and walk."

Still, as the bishop also made clear, it will take years to rebuild their structures and heal their spirits. So, I am writing this letter to encourage the congregations and individuals of the Diocese of Virginia to become involved in the recovery or to redouble your current efforts. There will be a lot to do over a long period of time. As the people of Christ, we should do no less together with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. There is a reason that we are all "the body of Christ and individually members of it" (I Cor. 12:27).

Begin with your daily prayers. Certainly remember the needs and despair in Haiti, but do not forget prayers of gratitude for the grace and strength of the Episcopal Church's ministry there. Pray that we ourselves would be moved by such a witness.

You may wish to visit the Episcopal Church's Web site for various prayers to offer: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/haiti.php>. Other dioceses and persons have posted prayers to share with you at Haiti@episcopalchurch.org.

Consider a partnership between your congregation and one within the Diocese of Haiti. Please contact [Buck Blanchard](#) (800-DIOCESE x16), our diocesan director of Mission and Outreach, for more information about this program. Pere Ajax in Haiti will work personally and directly with you to discern the best way to create a mutually beneficial relationship. If, for one reason or another, a full congregational partnership seems like it would be too much then please contact us to discuss working through your region or with another Virginia congregation.

Money is always a primary need and is the most efficient way to get the appropriate aid to the places it is needed most. You may designate a contribution to the "Diocese of Virginia Haiti General Fund" for humanitarian efforts. Alternately, you may also designate a donation for the Diocese of Haiti's first rebuilding priority, the Cathedral complex.

Visit our Haiti table at diocesan Council. Several knowledgeable and involved persons will be staffing the table with material, information and encouragement.

Go to [the diocesan Haiti Web site](#) for updated information about the Diocese of Haiti and the ongoing ministries for recovery and rebuilding there.

Last October, Bishop Zache told me that he was "overwhelmed" by the generosity of the Diocese of Virginia. I hope and trust that we're just getting started. May we be a light to the darkness where we find it and may we be illumined by the beacon that is the Episcopal Church in Haiti.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston
Bishop

THE FORK CHURCH 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES

Fork Church held its annual meeting on Sunday, January 16, 2011, in the church at 12566 old Ridge Road, Doswell, Va.

Reverend Anne Kirchmier opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** A motion was filed to dispense the reading of the minutes, which had been distributed by e-mail earlier in the week. The minutes from the 2010 annual meeting were approved.
2. **VESTRY ELECTION:** Debbie Murphy, Alice Noland and Court Warfield were presented as nominees to serve on the vestry for three-year terms. There were no nominations from the floor. After a motion was made and seconded, the slate was approved as presented.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Andie Warfield presented the treasurer's report. Included was the budget for 2011 as approved by the vestry and a report on the final 2010 operations budget and expenditures, 2011 operations budget and an accounting of the total funds of Fork Church. Andie noted we now have a balanced budget but cuts had to be made. Also, she reminded the congregation that only the interest can be used from Fork's endowment funds, and when that fund goes down as it has during the recent economic downturn, so does the interest.
4. **LIAISON REPORTS:** Beth Schubert and Austin Joy presented the liaison reports.

Christian Formation

- More volunteers are needed in the nursery to free up people to attend church.
- Over 30 children are enrolled in Godly Play, and the number of teachers had to be increased to three.
- The youth have been divided into two groups, middle and high school, and each group has two leaders.
- A new committee has been established – Youth/Missions. Those interested in working with youth missions or church-wide missions is invited to attend Youth/Missions meetings. Contacts for Youth/Missions are Ruth Syman-May and Howard Anderson.
- Adult Forum continues with an average of ten in attendance plus the class leader, Don Schubert.

Worship

- New acolytes are being trained. They need a mentor.
- The choir needs to grow and continue to do well. Appreciation was expressed to the choir members.
- Flower and altar guilds are doing a wonderful job. They, too, are looking for new members.
- Questions should be directed to Cari Overby.

Building and Grounds

- Upgrading the HVAC hopefully will lower heating and air conditioning costs. Duct work is being done in the parish – there is a discrepancy between the two zones.
- Glenn Murphy procured and spread gravel in the driveway with the use of Howard Anderson's dump truck.
- Fork's historical hangings have been placed back in vestibule.
- Questions should be directed to Greg Muniec or Tim Kestner.

Parish Life

- A committee has been meeting to evaluate the needs of the church for a functional kitchen. Plans have reached a point where the committee will soon be able to ask for the congregation's approval.
- Heavenly Stew was once again a huge success, raising \$2,222.
- Coffee Hour and Lemonade on the Lawn continue.
- Fork's weekend at Shrine Mont was successful, with 33 people attending.
- Attempts for a yoga class at the parish hall were not successful, but hopefully one will be started in January 2011.

Mission

Youth mission:

- This past summer the middle school youth had the opportunity to take an overnight trip to visit to the Heifer Project in Maryland. It provided an example of life in a third-world country, challenging the youth in many ways, from making a fire to sharing food and shelter. The youth are looking to take another weekend trip during the summer of 2011.
- The youth provided funds as a Christmas gift to the Peter Paul Development Center. They will attend Youth Sunday church services with PPDC youth on Feb. 27. This past year the youth raised several hundred dollars to support the PPDC Robotics Team and provide a robotics kit for their competition.
- The Jeremiah Project is a program for middle school youth that has summer camps in Winchester and Goochland. The Jeremiah Project is a home-repair organization that exists to serve God's people in need and empower middle school students to become servant leaders.

Church mission:

- David Satterfield from St. Stephens, Richmond, will make a presentation on mission work in New Orleans during February or March. As a follow-up to Mr. Satterfield's presentation, there will be a presentation on St. Stephens' mission work in the Dominican Republic. These presentations will occur during the Adult Forum prior to Sunday services.

Local ministries supported by Fork:

- The Western Hanover Wood Ministry made over a hundred deliveries of firewood to needy families last year.

- Outreach dinners in partnership with St. James the Less fed 30-50 needy people every other month on the last Sunday of the month.
- Last April Fork participated in CARITAS with other Ashland churches to provide food, care and shelter for homeless and indigent people.
- WHEAT makes deliveries of food to people in need in Western Hanover.

Finance and Administration

- Fork Church guidelines and procedures have been combined into one document to provide a single go-to resource for any questions new or existing vestry members may have.
- We had a successful audit.
- Stewardship campaign was conducted this fall.
- Vestry listening hours have been scheduled in six locations around Fork Church for Jan 30.
- Questions should be directed to Lisa Licata

Pastoral care

- The Lunch Bunch continues to meet regularly.
- Notes were written to individuals who were sick. Members in need received food and encouragement.
- Help was provided to two elderly sisters who did not have air conditioning in their home this past unusually hot summer.
- The youth took cookies to the homebound.

5. Sabbatical report

Anne is taking her sabbatical May and June. Bill Wells will preach in her place. More information is coming.

6. Rector's report

Rev. Anne Kirchmier reported during 2010:

- Five baptisms
- Three marriages
- Ten members transferred to Fork; two transferred out
- Two burial services

Anne said it is a gift having Herbert with us. He is a fine preacher and very insightful. Herbert will be with us through May 8.

Anne expressed thanks to Michael Woods who serves as registry and to Andie who does hours of unseen work keeping books, etc. The vestry as a whole is a lot of time and effort.

Vestry rotating off:

Howard Anderson filled in a one-year term (for the second time) and served as mission liaison. In appreciation to Howard for keeping his vision of mission in front of us, Anne presented him a Lens Crafters kit for keeping glasses clean and vision clear.

Anne Rickman has led Pastoral Care and written many encouraging notes and e-mails, made phone calls and organized the Lunch Bunch. Appropriately, Anne Kirchmier's appreciation gift to Anne Rickman was a back scratcher and a bottle of moisturizing lotion.

Greg Muniec has served as Building and Grounds liaison. He has spent many hours dealing with burnt-out light bulbs, leaking water, contracts, mice, etc. Noting Greg's warmth and candor, Anne gave him a 2011 church calendar by Jay Sidebotham, the cartoonist who did the cartoons hanging in the men's bathroom, in appreciation to Greg for fixing the toilet and for his sense of humor.

Anne said the Junior and Senior Wardens, **Beth Schubert and Austin Joy**, will continue on the vestry. The vestry selects the Junior and Senior Wardens; regardless, Austin will not be able to serve as a warden because of his baby twins coming. Anne thanked both Austin and Beth for their service this year.

To honor Beth, who has a favorite saying for people who are reluctant to take action, "put on your big girl pants" (i.e., do what needs to be done!), Anne presented Beth with a pair of "big girl" gloves – appropriate because Beth jumps right in when needed.

Anne expressed appreciation to Austin for his wisdom, compassion and insight. He is skilled in details and influencing others. Austin claims to not be good at "touchy feely." While Anne would argue that claim, she gave him a teddy bear.

7. **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL:** Anne Kirchmier called for each church member to be mindful of the blessings of life, each other, leadership, and opportunities to serve.

Visit the Fork Church website at www.theforkchurch.org.