



The Pitch from Fork January/February 2009

Dear friends,

Beginning and endings: this time of year is full of startings and stoppings. 2008 has come to a close, and we look with anticipation and perhaps some anxiety to 2009. What will it hold? What blessings and challenges will the coming months bring to us, our friends, our families, our community, our church? I don't know the answer to that question, of course, but God does. And I am grateful to God for giving us this particular community of faith in which to live out that question and its answers.

As you read through the following pages, you'll see that there's a lot happening at Fork Church in the coming months. I hope you will take part in our life and ministry here in as many ways as you are able. From participating in our Annual Parish Meeting on January 11, to talking with friends new and old at a Coffee and Conversation gathering, to joining in Ash Wednesday's litany of repentance on February 25—your voice matters. We are a better community for your presence in our midst. As St. Paul pointed out, the body of Christ has many members, and each of us has something valuable and unique to contribute to our life together. Pray your way through these pages and listen for God's call to you. Fork Church needs you. More importantly, *God* needs you.

Speaking of beginnings and endings, I am deeply grateful for the ministry, wisdom, and leadership of Debbie Murphy, Tim Kestner, and David Aderhold, our three retiring vestry members; and also of Carl Tennille and Mary Anne Griffin, our wardens in 2008. I give thanks for Howard Anderson, Austin Joy, Cari Overby, and Beth Schubert and for their willingness to serve as vestry members.

One other important beginning: The twelfth day of Christmas is January 5, and then we enter Epiphany, the season during which we celebrate the many ways Christ is made manifest to us. We remember the visit of the Magi; the baptism of Jesus; and Jesus' first miracle, the changing of water into wine. Each of those events is celebrated as a manifestation of the incarnate Lord. Epiphany is a season of light. Light in the dark, cold month of January—what a great way to begin a new year! I recently came across a prayer by Jan Berry which seems especially appropriate as our parish family begins 2009 together—grateful for the blessings in our midst and mindful of the challenges faced by so many in this tough economic climate:

*God of gold, we seek your glory:
the richness that transforms our drabness into color,
and brightens our dullness with vibrant light;
your wonder and joy at the heart of all life.*

*God of incense, we offer you our prayer:
our spoken and unspeakable longings, our questioning of truth,
our search for your mystery deep within.*

*God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering:
the pain of all our rejections and bereavements,
our baffled despair at undeserved suffering,
our rage at continuing injustice;*

*and we embrace you, God-with-us,
in our wealth, in our yearning, in our anger and loss.*

Blessings to each of you, in all of your beginnings and endings,
Anne †

From the Junior Warden

Last year went by so quickly—I can't believe it is already 2009.

In November the vestry along with Anne met twice with Lindsay Ryland, a consultant in congregational development, to work on our Mutual Ministry Review. Each area of ministry was evaluated by its accomplishments and opportunities for improvements. These are the questions Lindsay asked us to review:

1. When in the last year was The Fork Church at its best?
2. What factors contributed to this?
3. Were there any specific people whose efforts contributed to this?

This workshop was a success but we always need your suggestions.



What a great Bishop's visit! The vestry and our new members had a very informative gathering with Bishop Jones before the service of Confirmation. Many thanks to all the people who contributed their time and talents.

Carl, Anne and I are off to the Diocesan Council in Northern Virginia Jan. 23-24. Fork Church has one voting delegate and one alternate. We will report back to the congregation the happenings of Council along with its new budget. Read the newspapers for daily updates.

I am looking forward to an exciting new year ahead. **THE BEST EVER!** Get involved! Invite your friends to worship with us. May God bless us all.

Mary Anne Griffin
Junior Warden

WHEAT Opportunities and Inspiration

In 15 Days You Can Change Your Life

In 15 days you can find hope in the midst of despair. In 15 days you can find faith in the midst of loss. In 15 days you will see the impact of little acts of kindness. In 15 days you can gain perspective and realize that your stress and your worries, although real and yours, pale in comparison to those of others less fortunate. In 15 days you will know what it feels like to give someone the ability to take a deep breath. In 15 days you can start walking the talk. In 15 days you can show your children how to be a Christian and a caring human being. In 15 days you can restore your faith in the goodness and generosity of people. In 15 days you will gain strength. In 15 days you will become more compassionate. In 15 days you will become more patient and tolerant. In 15 days you will cry. In 15 days you will feel helpless. In 15 days you will experience great joy. In 15 days you will be blessed. Become a WHEAT phone volunteer for 15 days and change your life and the life of others. – Lisa Licata

Read on to learn more about WHEAT.

Opportunities for Fork with WHEAT



LOCAL MISSIONS

On Dec. 1, Elizabeth Gordon and I began our service as phone volunteers for WHEAT. For those of you who don't know, WHEAT, or Western Hanover Emergency Action Team, provides help to western Hanover residents who are in a dire situation.

WHEAT's financial assistance is limited to one time per calendar year per household.

Most of the requests we've received to date are for help to avoid electricity shut-off or for wood or food. From time to time there are requests for clothes or appliances (refrigerators, washer, dryers etc).

When these special needs arise we'd like to email you to ask if you have anything that could help. It is a privilege to be able to ask for your help and we do not want to contact you for this purpose without your permission. If you'd like to be part of the "Fork Church First Responders," please email me at lisa@licata.org and I will gladly add you to the list. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the Fork Church First Responders! It is amazing what a little kindness and effort does to change a family's situation.

If you are interested in helping as a phone volunteer for WHEAT but have questions please call either of us (Elizabeth, 422-6007; Lisa, 227-3268 or 370-6549). We'd be happy to talk to you about your involvement. If you'd like to donate to WHEAT, just make a check out to WHEAT and mail it to WHEAT, P.O. Box 171, Beaverdam, VA 23015.

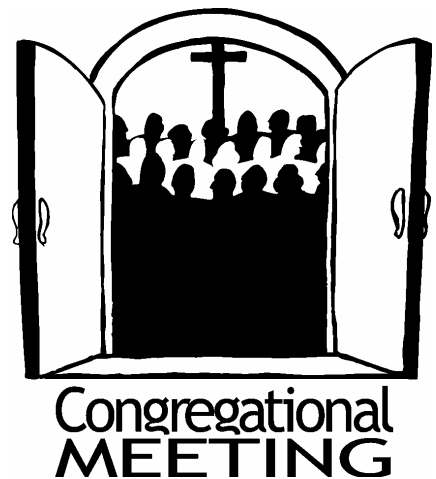
Thank you for your help.

Lisa Licata

What's Happening at Fork This Winter and Spring?

Fork Church Annual Parish Meeting

Mark your calendars now and plan to be present for the Fork Church Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 11, immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. The annual meeting is a very important event in our corporate life. We will elect new vestry members, discuss our 2009 budget, review accomplishments of the past year, and plan ahead for the coming months. Your input is important—and needed. Set aside the time to come to the meeting and contribute to our work together on that day. Any Fork Church member who is 18 or older is eligible to vote in the vestry election, and *all* who consider themselves part of the Fork Church community—whether they are officially members or not—should plan to be present to participate. Questions? Speak with any vestry member.



Coffee and Conversation Begins Again

During January and February, parishioners are invited to come to Anne's house for *Coffee and Conversation*, informal gatherings of Fork parishioners. There is no agenda for these gatherings; the purpose is simply to provide an opportunity for members of the Fork community to get to know each other and Anne a little better. Lisa Licata has kindly volunteered to make the necessary phone calls to organize the *Coffee and Conversation* events. (Thank you, Lisa!!) Children of all ages are welcome, as are all spouses and significant others even if they don't attend Fork Church. Questions? Contact Lisa Licata at 227-3268 or lisa@licata.org. And don't worry—you'll be hearing from her soon!

Holy Eucharist and Healing Liturgy

Healing services are held the second 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. The next two services will be Jan. 14 and Feb. 11.

Vestry Retreat and Installation

The 2009 Vestry will gather for a day of prayer and planning at Anne's house on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The vestry retreat is an important time for the leaders of the parish to come together as a team and to lay out our goals and agenda for the coming year. Please keep the vestry in your prayers throughout the year but especially on Feb 7. The 2009 vestry will be officially installed during the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Feb 8. Plan to be there to support and thank your vestry leaders.



Lent Begins

The holy and penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25. 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 Potluck Series

6-8 p.m. Wednesday Nights March 4 through April 1

Our Lenten Potluck Series for 2009 will focus on the meaning and traditions of particular holy days and practices throughout the season of Lent. On successive Wednesdays, we will take a close look at Ash Wednesday; the Seder meal; Maundy Thursday; Good Friday; and the Easter Vigil. The time we spend together in the weeks before Holy Week will undoubtedly deepen and enrich our journey through the week itself. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this important series.



Acolytes for Holy Week, April 5 through 12

There is no holier time in the Christian year than the week that runs from Palm Sunday through Easter Day, and we are blessed to have in our prayer book a number of beautiful liturgies that carry us from the joy of Palm Sunday to the despair of Good Friday and finally to the glory of Easter. Acolytes are needed for four of our special services: 10 a.m. on Palm Sunday, April 5; 7 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, April 9; 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, for the Easter Vigil; and 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 12. For each service, there will be at least one **required** acolyte practice prior to the day of the service. **PLEASE NOTE: To serve as an acolyte for any of these services, a youth must: a) sign up; b) come to any scheduled rehearsal; and c) obtain a parent's signature confirming that the acolyte will be present for rehearsals and the service.** Boo Smythe will take care of the sign-up process. Questions? Contact Anne Kirchmier.

The People of Fork Church



Thanks to the Many Faithful

- Many thanks to Bev Smith and Alice Noland for beginning the daunting task of sorting through and organizing files in the parish office.
- Our deep thanks to Trish Heaton for her faithful and creative co-leadership of the Flower Guild and our blessings to her as she retires from the position. Thanks to Barbara Woods for her ongoing leadership in this area; and thanks to Emily Warekois for stepping up to co-chair the guild with Barbara in 2009.
- Thanks to Mark Licata and Jesse Gordon for helping Anne upgrade her office computer.
- Thanks to McKenzie Licata for her thorough cleaning of the hall closet—and her eagerness to clean out all of the other parish closets!
- Thanks to Greg Muniec and Tim Kestner for removing unneeded wood from the church grounds.
- Heartfelt thanks to Elizabeth Gordon and Lisa Licata for taking on WHEAT phone duty in December on behalf of Fork Church.
- Thanks to Scott Macdonald for his faithful and encouraging leadership of the Stewardship Committee during our pledge campaign.
- Thank you to all who pledged!
- Thank you to Lisa Licata and Elizabeth Gordon for their leadership of the Heavenly Bake and Stew Sale, which raised more than \$1,400 for Fork Church!

- Thanks to all who participated in the Fork Church Angel Tree program to provide gifts for the children of incarcerated parents.
- Thanks to Mary Anne Griffin for representing Fork at the recent diocesan leadership meeting at St. Stephen's, Richmond.
- Many thanks to all who provided food and a helping hand at the outreach dinners Fork co-sponsored with St. James the Less on Oct. 26 and Dec. 28
- Thanks to Lou Ann Cave, Debbie Murphy, Ida Price, and Jeannette Harrison, the faithful and efficient *Pitch from Fork* team.

A Note from Bishop Jones

Thank you for the warm welcome that you and the good people of the Fork Church extended to me on the occasion of my visit yesterday afternoon.

The reception was delightful and I am grateful for the time I had to speak with your people.

David Colin Jones

Nov. 24, 2008

Gratitude from the Flower Guild



Many thanks to all who helped make and set up Christmas decorations for our church. And special kudos for all who helped in the clean up! Barbara Woods and I hope to organize a Flower Arranging Day and “join up” for the Flower Guild soon. Please call either of us with any suggestions and interests.

Thank you.
Trish Heaton (883-7190)
Barbara Woods (798-7594)

Congratulations

- Congratulations to Mary Chandler Pendleton Carter and Edwin White Obrecht, III, married at Fork on Dec. 20, 2008.
- Congratulations to all who sang in the wonderful Masterworks Chorale Concert on Dec.7.

Be sure to let Lou Ann Cave know of others who need to be thanked or congratulated. Call 227-3649 or write thecaves5@embarqmail.com.

News in the Life of Fork Church

Christmas Tree Fundraiser Benefits Fork

Thanks to all who went Mt. Olympus Berry Farm to buy their Christmas trees—and showed their Fork Church bulletins; portions of the proceeds from these sales went to Fork Church. Many thanks to Mary West for this very generous donation.



Pampered Chef Supports Fork

Thanks to Karen Blackwell for donating 20 percent of Christmas sales of Pampered Chef kitchen products to Fork Church—and to all who supported this effort by purchasing products.

Any parties booked from Fork Church between January and May 2009 will have 10 percent of sales donated to Fork Church, and the hostess will receive free Pampered Chef products and a 10 percent discount for one year after the show.

Contact Karen at 227-9923 or CarrenBlackwell@yahoo.com.

Brunswick Stew Fundraiser Successful

Thanks to Lisa Licata and her crew, including chefs Carter Flippo, Ted Schubert, Rob Stiles and Ray Hicks for a great Heavenly Stew sale at Fork Church Dec. 13. Sales of Brunswick stew and home baked items went to Fork Church.

Church Mice Evicted

After trapping two mice in the church before Christmas (with apologies to the acolyte and priest who were also snared) Greg Muniec found their nest. The mice had been living “cozily inside a small manger with Jesus, Mary, Joseph and assorted wise men and animals,” said Greg, chairman of Building and Grounds. With a bit of guilt, Greg evicted them “from their humble abode.” “There was no room for them in the inn,” said Greg. “But, hey, they are rodents.”



Adult Christian Formation—Planning Help Needed

In addition to the excellent Sunday morning Adult Forum led by Don Schubert, Fork Church typically offers several evening series of Christian formation throughout the year. In the past the offerings have included Bible studies, book studies, small group curriculums, and the *Questions of Faith* video series. Anne is looking for help and ideas in planning summer and fall series for 2009. Interested in helping? Let Anne know.

Busy Year for Parish Life

The Fork Church is a very special place with some very special people. When I agreed to take on Parish Life chair, I did so because I wanted to make sure we keep and build upon that “something special” that my family found at Fork Church. We knew we wanted to be part of a church that was alive with faith, joy and giving. We wanted to be part of a place where children (and big children like us) feel loved and safe, a place where children learn to appreciate what they have and learn that through their actions and kindness they can make someone else's life better. We wanted a place where families have wonderful experiences and warm memories of laughing, serving, and singing, and, if so moved, dancing, along with their friends and fellow parishioners. We found those things at Fork. Rather than hope all of the things we wanted from a church were *really* here and remained here I decided to get active and help make sure those characteristics are part of Fork Church life.

I am a big believer in fun with a purpose. Our First Annual Heavenly Stew and Bake Sale is a perfect example of this. We had a wonderful time and together we made over \$1,400 for Fork Church! Thank you to our chefs Carter Flippo, Ted Schubert, Rob Stiles and Ray Hicks, to Ukrops for donating some of the materials, and to all who helped make it such a success.

Planning has begun for the 2009 Parish Life schedule, and to date the following activities are scheduled:



- **Coffee Hour:** The second Sunday of each month following the service. Sign-up sheets are in the church foyer.
- **Coffee and Conversation at Anne's:** I will be calling to invite you to one of the following times: Jan. 6, 15, and 27 and Feb. 5 and 10 from 7-9 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 15, from 3-5 p.m.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper,** Feb. 24 (time to be determined); sign-up sheet in church foyer.
- Shrove Tuesday, February 24).
- **Church and Ground Clean-up Days** in March and April, coordinated with Building and Grounds.
- **Second Annual Fork Church Heavenly Stew and Bake Sale** in December.

Parish Life Committee members Ann Comfort, Ruth Syman-May, Elizabeth Gordon and I will be planning other “fun-with-a-purpose” activities. If you'd like to join us, let me know.

It is an exciting time to be at Fork Church! I look forward to working and playing with you throughout the year.

Lisa Licata
Chairman, Parish Life

Parish History Notes #21: The Rectory

The earliest rectors of St. Paul's and St. Martin's Parishes were paid in pounds of tobacco “in lieu of Glebe.” By the time of construction of Fork Church, however, a house on 350 acres near Oakland was identified as the Parish Glebe. The Rev. Robert Barret, who served as rector from 1738 to 1786, lived there and farmed the land. The Rev. Peter Nelson, who was rector in 1789 and served until about 1808, also lived at the Glebe. We might assume that this property was sold soon after 1808, before the end of the “lean years” of the Episcopal Church. There is no further mention of the Glebe in church records. The Rev. John Cooke lived at Airwell, the home of his bride Elizabeth Edmonia Berkeley, until completion of Dewberry, to which they moved in 1833.

The Rev. William V. Bowers became rector in 1834 and lived at Edgewood, then owned by Dr. Carter Berkeley. On June 2, 1840, the vestry authorized the purchase of 101 acres of farmland adjacent to Fork Church from Clement Harris for \$6.00 per acre. A Parsonage was authorized later that year, and James Hanes and Thomas T. Duke were to build it. On July 1, 1842, the building was completed on that property at a cost of \$776.40. In 1906 two rooms and two porches were added after a fund drive raised \$340.00 for the project.

The initial occupants of the rectory were the Rev. Bowers and his family. In October 1842 his daughter Frances was the first child born at the Rectory. Frances Bowers became the wife of the first Bishop of South Florida and the mother of a future Bishop of Indiana.

Next: Dr. Carter Berkeley

Alastair Macdonald

Diocesan and Community Opportunities

The Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia

Just as Fork Church has an annual parish meeting at which our members conduct important business, so too the Diocese of Virginia has an annual council meeting. All clergy and at least one delegate from every parish attend, as well as numerous vendors, visitors, friends, and members of the Diocese. Annual Council is an impressive event, with usually about 1,000 people in attendance. This year's Annual Council will be held January 23 and 24 at the Hyatt in Reston, Va. Carl Tennille and Mary Anne Griffin are serving as Fork Church's elected delegates and will join Anne at Council this year. On Saturday, Jan. 17, from 9:30 to 12:30 at All Saints', Richmond, there will be a Pre-Council meeting for delegates and other interested folks. All are welcome. To learn more about Council, check out the Diocesan website at www.thediocese.net and follow the links for Annual Council. Many thanks to Carl and Mary Anne for representing Fork.

Next WHEAT Meeting

The next meeting of the Western Hanover Emergency Action Team (WHEAT) will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. Fork Church members support WHEAT in many ways. Interested in learning more about what WHEAT is doing and how you can help the growing number of needy people in our community? Come to the meeting on January 8 and find out.

Fight Hunger with 'Empty Bowls'

An "Empty Bowls" dinner will be held Saturday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m. at the Montpelier Center, hosted by Patrick Henry High School Fine Arts Club. You can choose a hand-made bowl to fill with soup, and keep the bowl as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world. Sponsored by Homemades by Suzanne, the Montpelier Center and Iron Horse restaurant, proceeds will benefit WHEAT. Tickets are \$10 each and sold in advance by sponsors and Fine Arts club members.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 8: *WHEAT meeting*, 7:30 p.m., Mt. Olivet
Jan. 11: *Fork Church Annual Meeting & Vestry Elections* following 10 a.m. service
Jan. 14: *Healing Service*, noon
Jan. 18: *Training session for new vestry members* following 10 a.m. service
Jan. 20: *Vestry meeting*, 7 p.m.
Jan. 23 and 24: *Diocese of Virginia Annual Council*
Jan. 24: *Empty Bowls dinner*, 6 p.m., Montpelier Center
Feb. 7: *Vestry retreat*, 9-5 at Anne's house
Feb. 8: *2009 Vestry installed* during 10 a.m. service
Feb. 11: *Healing Service*, noon
Feb. 22: *Fork/St. James the Less outreach dinner*
Feb. 24: *Shrove Tuesday*
Feb. 25: *Ash Wednesday* Holy Eucharist noon and 7p.m.
March 4: *Lenten Potluck Series*, 6-8 p.m.
March 11: *Lenten Potluck Series*, 6-8 p.m.
March 18: *Lenten Potluck Series*, 6-8 p.m.
March 25: *Lenten Potluck Series*, 6-8 p.m.
April 1: *Lenten Potluck Series*, 6-8 p.m.
April 5: *Palm Sunday*, 10 a.m. special service
April 9: *Maundy Thursday*, 7 p.m. special service
April 11: *Easter Vigil*, 8 p.m.
April 12: *Easter Sunday*, 10 a.m. special service

The next *Pitch from Fork* will be a March/April/May 2009 (three month) edition. Articles and announcements should be submitted to Lou Ann Cave by Feb. 10. Send to thecaves5@embarqmail.com.

