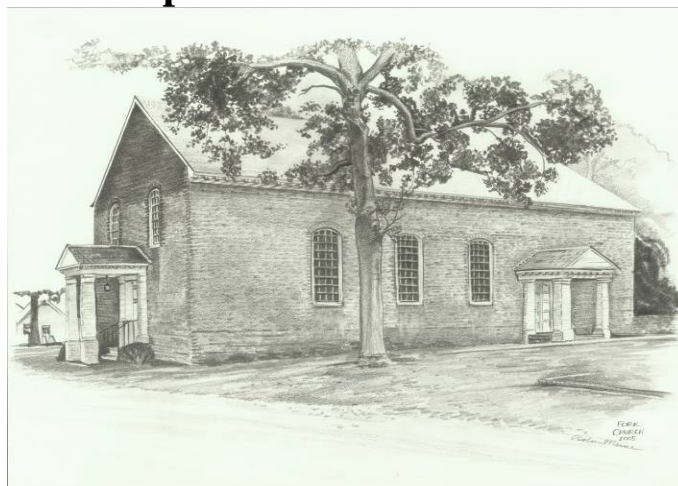


The Pitch from Fork September-October 2008



Dear Friends,

On a sunny July afternoon, I found myself sitting on a breezy porch in northwestern Massachusetts sharing stories with former colleagues from the small school where I taught for nine years. A huge Labrador pup lolled at our feet as we sipped cool drinks, laughed, and reminisced. And then out of the blue my friend Todd turned to me and asked, “How’s your spiritual life?”

I get asked that question by my spiritual director and by a few close clergy friends—but not usually by the headmaster of a decidedly secular academy in quirky, liberal western Massachusetts! Having just finished serving as the chair of his church’s search committee for a new minister, Todd talked about how helpful that experience had been for him. The committee members decided early on that if they were going to take on such a huge task, they were going to do it *right*—that is, *prayerfully*. And they did. During the course of the committee’s work, Todd was introduced to contemplative prayer, a discipline that he now practices every day. Despite the many demands on his time and talent and energy, Todd makes time each day simply to sit in silence and listen for God. So how’s Todd’s spiritual life? Quite good, I’d say! What about yours? What about mine?

One of the gifts of summertime, I think (especially if vacation is involved!) is just that: summer time. Time away, time to reflect, time for insights to develop, time to plan, time unencumbered by the routine responsibilities of our working lives. Todd’s question, and the great gift of summer time, have helped prepare me for the coming of this busy fall. How’s my spiritual life? Not as disciplined and intentional as I would like, frankly. But, with God’s help, I can change that.

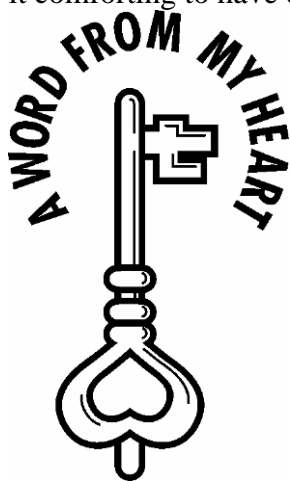
In the coming months, in addition to including some new and different spiritual practices in my morning routine, I plan to be more purposeful about making and taking opportunities to talk about the life of faith. To that end, I am greatly looking forward to the *Grappling with the Gospel* series at Fork this fall, which you will read more about in the coming pages.

What about you? How is your spiritual life, and what might you do this fall to deepen and enrich it? There is no such thing as being *perfect* or *done* in the Christian journey—our goal should be, simply, to get better and better as time passes, closer and closer to God. I pray that as you lay your plans for the coming months, you, too, will seek and find ways to strengthen your faith. Take a look at the many activities happening at Fork this autumn. Which ones speak to your soul? And how might I or any of your other fellow travelers on the Christian journey help to nurture the life of your spirit? Please let us know. Meanwhile, blessings to you—blessings of body, mind, and *spirit*.

Anne +

To Be Grateful

In the past two months I've been thinking a great deal about being grateful, thankful and appreciative of all the love and support I have received from family and friends during my anxious times. One needs to stop and think about these God-given emotions and learn to express them. Isn't it comforting to have each other's best wishes in difficult times as well as in happy times?



First, I'm grateful to have grown up with loving parents in a Christian home. I attended Fork Church Sunday School every week where I was taught about God's love which brings peace to those who seek it. This is the "peace of God that needs no understanding." I can't remember life without faith in God and His powers to heal.

Loving families are so important. Earl, John and Michelle were always there with hugs and words of encouragement. They reminded me over and over that I was loved and that I was needed. Words are very powerful.

For my family I am grateful.

Now, I can't forget my dogs that never left my side—unconditional love! For Wendy and Curly I am grateful.

Anne, my priest, was wonderful. Her smile, her soft voice, her prayers, and her kindness were always felt. As I went into surgery she made the sign of the Cross on my forehead as she said a meaningful prayer. The sweet silence of the Holy Spirit swept across the room. *There is power in prayer.*

For Anne, I am grateful.

Oh, my church family and friends—what a blessing! Your cards, calls, visits, food and flowers were so appreciated. But thank you mostly for your prayers and concerns not only for me but for all the people on our prayer list. Healing is taking place every day. Thank God.

For my Fork Church family I am grateful.

Mary Anne Griffin
Junior warden

What's Happening at Fork This Fall?

Adult Forum Resumes

Sept. 7, 9:00 a.m.

With your consent, we will begin Adult Forum by discussing and attempting to gain understanding of the Sermon on the Mount. In the preface to his book *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, by John Stott, he states, "The Sermon on the Mount has a unique fascination. It seems to present the quintessence (the pure essence) of the teaching of Jesus. It makes goodness attractive. It shames our shabby performance. It engenders dreams of a better world."

Dallas Willard, in Chapter Four of *The Divine Conspiracy*, as best I can discern, takes a tack different from Stott, but nonetheless says, "What we have come to call the Sermon on the Mount is a concise statement of Jesus' teachings on how to actually live in the reality of God's present kingdom available to us from the very space surrounding our bodies. It concludes with a statement that all who hear and do what he says will have a life that can stand up to everything—that is, a life for eternity because it is already in the eternal (Matt. 7: 24-25)."

Have we, or any of us, contrary to St. Paul's admonition, become so conformed to this world that we ignore Christ's manifesto? With what consequence?

If we get through this and where it leads, in the near future we may follow with a discussion of religion in the public sphere and any other topic of interest to participants of the forum. We will continue in a round table mode, or somewhat round circle, open discussion. All are cordially invited to attend; the coffee's fresh. Come, and shed light.

Respectfully,
Don Schubert

VBS and Godly Play

What a great Vacation Bible School we had in June. Parents, your children were terrific, as always, and we had a wonderful time with each and every one. What a blessing they are to Fork Church.

Now that VBS is over, it is time to get ready for our fall Godly Play Sunday School session. Just a reminder, we will have three groups this year:

Group I is for 3, 4, and 5 year olds

Group II is for Grades 1, 2, and 3

Group III is for Grades 4 and 5

Groups I and II will meet upstairs in the Parish Hall, and Group III will meet in the newly painted classroom to the left of the Parish Hall stage. Many thanks to all who helped with our painting workday on August 23!

The first Sunday of Sunday School will be September 7 at 10:00 a.m. Children in Groups I and II will meet in their classrooms and participate in a craft activity until time for Communion in church. Group III will go directly to church at 10:00 where Anne Kirchmier will conduct an Instructed Eucharist for the whole congregation. After church everyone is invited to come to the Parish Hall for "Sunday School Sundaes," an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social, and an opportunity to sign up to help as door keepers for Godly Play.

Some of you volunteered to help teach and we hope that your summer has been restful and that you are ready to go with lots of enthusiasm this fall.

Please communicate with Boo Smythe or Ann Neri if you have any questions or comments.

Blessings,
Boo Smythe and Ann Neri

Why do we do what we do?

Find out on Sunday, Sept 7th!

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of the things we do in church on Sunday mornings—why we kneel or stand when we do, what the different colors mean, how the service got its shape, what the special items on the altar are called? If so, make sure you're in church on Sunday, September 7, when we will have an ***Instructed Eucharist***. In lieu of a sermon, Anne will provide a running commentary explaining why we do what we do the way we do it. Prepare to have some of your questions answered—and, perhaps, some new questions unearthed within you! See you on September 7!



Come to the Fair!! What Fair?? The MINISTRY Fair!!



What is a Ministry Fair?, you may be wondering. That's a fair question. (Get it?? ☺) A Ministry Fair is a celebration of the good work a church family does in God's name *and* an opportunity to invite more people to engage in parish ministries. Here at Fork Church, our Ministry Fair—which will take place immediately following our worship service on **Sunday, September 14**—will feature table displays for each of our parish ministries, staffed by parishioners who participate in those activities. All of us will have a chance to learn more about the various ways people at Fork have chosen to serve God and to love our neighbors—through singing in the choir, serving at the altar, caring for our beautiful grounds, nurturing small children, visiting the sick, etc. Who are the ministers of this—and every—church? We all are! As it says in our Catechism (*BCP*, 855), “The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.” To what ministry is God calling *you*? Come to the Fair, and find out!

Guests from “Across the Pond”

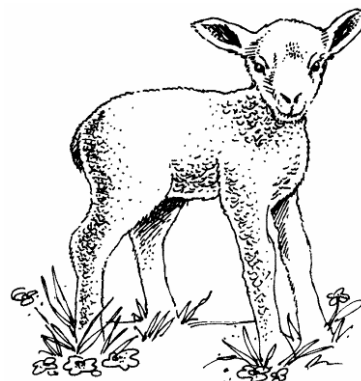
On Sunday, September 14, we will welcome to Fork Church the Rev. Chris Jones and his wife, Linda. The Joneses are residents of Liverpool, England, where Chris is a vicar (rector) of a church and Linda works fulltime for the diocese, specializing in children's ministries. The Joneses will be in the United States for a few months while Chris is on sabbatical. Chris has a special interest in the intersection of faith and politics. He has chosen to come to the United States to study what the separation of Church and State looks like here and how it affects our practice of Christianity. On the 14th, Chris will be the guest speaker at the Adult Forum, and Linda will preach the sermon for us. Plan to be here to welcome our English friends, to learn from them, and to share in worship. We are blessed to have this opportunity to worship God together with fellow members of the Anglican Communion.

Grappling with the Gospel: A Six-Week Bible Study

Are you looking for a way to delve more deeply into Scripture? Would you like an opportunity to engage with the week's Gospel lesson *before* Sunday morning arrives? If so, this six-week Bible Study is for you! In ***Grappling with the Gospel***, we will examine the portion of the Gospel of Matthew that our Sunday lectionary sets before us from mid-September to late October (Matt 20:1-Matt 22:46). ***Grappling with the Gospel*** will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall on three Thursday nights (9/18; 9/25; 10/2) and then three Wednesday nights (10/8; 10/15; 10/22). Each session will be self-contained, so participants can come to as many or as few as they'd like. Anne will facilitate this group using a method of African Bible study which invites each person's active participation. Your insights and comments will help shape everyone's understanding—and, quite possibly, the following Sunday's sermon! Mark your calendars now, and join us beginning September 18.

The Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, lover of animals, churches traditionally hold an animal blessing on or around Oct. 4, which is Francis' feast day. This year Fork's blessing of the animals will take place on **Sunday, Oct. 5 at 4 p.m.** in the church yard. Animals of all shapes and sizes and species are welcome. This is a great opportunity to give thanks to God for our animal friends—furry, fluffy, feathered, finned, or otherwise—and to ask God's blessing upon them for the coming year. Come along, and bring a friend—furry or otherwise!



The Fork Church Opera Company

Twelve years ago Fork members and guests noisily applauded when the final curtain closed on *A Night at the Opera*—a spoofy romp with solo and chorus numbers, no dark scenes, and a swashbuckling act during which the mortally wounded hero expired without taking three arias and a dozen high C's to do it. Dinner followed. We believe it's time to revive the Opera Dinner Theater tradition. Why are we doing it? It's a Parish Life event (for fellowship and to bring friends to see what we are about). Because there will be admission costs, money raised will go towards our 2009 mission trips.

Our **Dinner at the Opera** event is scheduled for October 25. Mark your calendars now, and keep an eye on the Sunday bulletin for more information.

Blessings and peace,

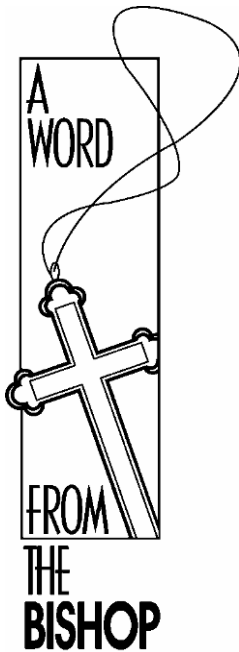
Boo and Jim Smythe

Looking for a fun and relaxing weekend away with delightful companions in a beautiful setting?



If so, mark your calendars now for Halloween weekend. Shrine Mont, our exquisite Diocesan Camp and Conference Center, will be hosting *Mystery in the Old Hotel*, a weekend of fun and intrigue for all ages from Friday, October 31, through Sunday, November 2. The weekend will include events for children and adults, so no matter what your age, there will be something for you to do (even if that something is sitting by the fireplace in a rocking chair with a good book in hand!). Shrine Mont is located in Orkney Springs, Va., about three hours from Doswell, on the West Virginia border. If you have never visited this beautiful place, you have missed out on something quite special. This *Mystery in the Old Hotel* weekend is being designed specifically with newcomers to Shrine Mont in mind, so please set aside the dates and plan to be part of the Fork Church contingent of participants. You'll be glad you did. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available. Keep an eye on our Sunday announcement insert.

Sunday, November 23: A Very Important Date in our Life Together



On Sunday, November 23, our Suffragan Bishop, the Right Rev. David Jones, will come to Fork Church for an Episcopal visit. What is an Episcopal visit? It's the visit of a bishop. *Episcopal* is a Greek word that means "bishop." To be an Episcopalian is to be a member of a Church with bishops. An important part of our tradition is the regular visit by a bishop to each parish in his or her diocese. Technically, the pastor of *every* parish in the diocese is the bishop, not the priest that serves a given church. But because bishops can't be in every church every Sunday, priests fill in. So the Sunday when a bishop *can* be present at a parish is an important Sunday, indeed.

Bishop Jones will be our preacher and celebrant at a special Eucharist at 4 p.m. on November 23. The afternoon Eucharist will be our only worship service on the 23rd. On that day, Bishop Jones will welcome new members of Fork Church through confirmation and reception. *If you have not yet joined Fork Church and would like to do so*, please contact Anne ASAP so that you can take part in the Inquirers' Class that begins on September 28.

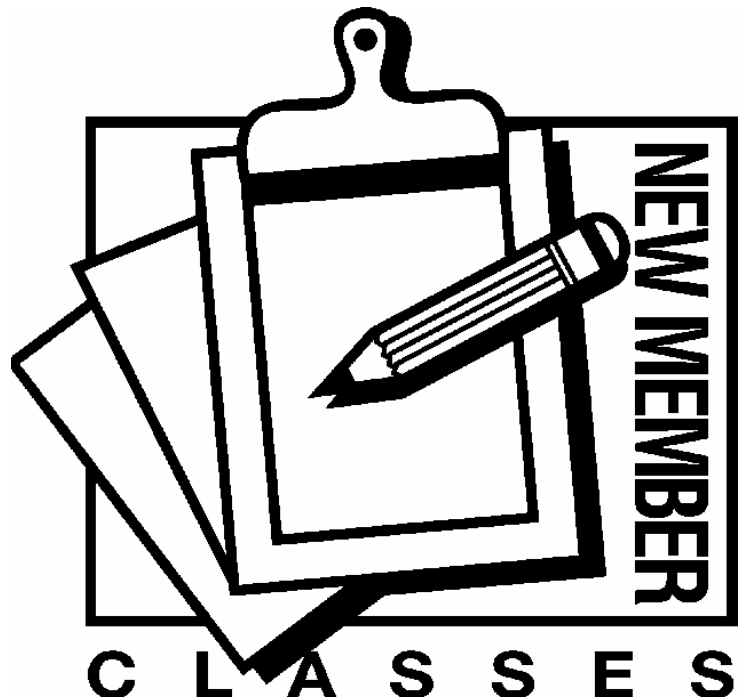
No matter what your membership status at Fork, please be sure you are here on November 23 so that together we can welcome our bishop and our newest members!

Inquirers' Class

Interested in Confirmation?
Considering joining Fork Church?
Looking for a refresher course about
what it means to be an Episcopalian?

If any of these questions applies to you, you are a good candidate for our Inquirers' Class, which will meet Sundays after church for six weeks. The class is designed to provide information about the history and theology of the Episcopal Church as well as prepare interested people for Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church. Topics covered will include Holy Scripture; Creeds; Sacraments; the Book of Common Prayer; Church History; Anglican Custom and Worship; and Ministry. If you are interested in taking part in the Inquirers' Class, please let Anne know. All are welcome. The class will meet in Anne's office immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service.

Class dates are Sept. 28 through Nov. 2 immediately following Sunday service.



Upcoming Events

- Aug. 31: **Outreach dinner** at St. James the Less
- Sept. 6: **Stewardship Conference** - "Reality Stewardship," 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Paul's Church, Ivy
- Sept. 7: **Adult Forum opening session**, 9 a.m., Parish Hall
Godly Play opening session, 9 a.m., Parish Hall
Instructed Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.
- Sept. 10: **Healing Service**, noon
- Sept. 14: Guests **Chris and Linda Jones** from Liverpool, England, teaching Adult forum and preaching
Ministry Fair following 10:00 a.m. service
- Sept 16: **Vestry meeting**, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 17: **Region 11 Council meeting** at Fork Church
- Sept. 18: **Grappling with the Gospel**, 7-8 p.m., Parish Hall
- Sept. 25: **Grappling with the Gospel**, 7-8 p.m., Parish Hall
- Sept. 28: **Inquirers' class** immediately following the service
- Oct. 2: **Grappling with the Gospel**, 7-8 p.m., Parish Hall
- Oct. 5: **Inquirers' class** immediately following the service
The Blessing of the Animals, 4 p.m., Parish grounds
- Oct. 8: **Healing Service**, noon
Grappling with the Gospel, 7-8 p.m., Parish Hall
- Oct. 9: Fork Church hosting **WHEAT meeting**, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12: **Inquirers' class** immediately following the service
- Oct 13-15: **Fall Clergy Conference**, Shrine Mont
- Oct. 15: **Grappling with the Gospel**, 7-8 p.m., Parish Hall
- Oct. 19: **Inquirers' class** immediately following the service
- Oct 21: **Vestry meeting**, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 22: **Grappling with the Gospel**, 7-8 p.m., Parish Hall
- Oct. 25: **Fork Church Opera/Dinner**
- Oct. 26: **Inquirers' class** immediately following the service
Outreach dinner at St. James the Less
- Oct. 27-30: **Anne away on Fall Retreat**
- Oct. 31-Nov. 2: **"Mystery in the Old Hotel"** Weekend at Shrine Mont
- Nov. 2: **Inquirers' class** immediately following the service
- Nov. 5: **Healing Service**, noon
- Nov 18: **Vestry meeting**
- Nov. 23: **Visit from our Suffragan** (Assisting) Bishop, the Rt. Rev. David Jones, 4 p.m.
Holy Eucharist, no morning worship
- Dec 16: **Vestry meeting**
- Dec. 28: **Outreach dinner** at St. James the Less

Our Finances

Financial update

Through July 2008, our contributions are on target with our expectations, with special contributions—money received that is not part of pledge—almost double our projections. A caveat: With utility costs rising, Fork Church may well face a budget deficit by year's end. Please remember to keep your pledge payments current. Thank you!

Income	Annual Expected	July 2008
Pledge	102,812	57,957
Plate	3,000	1,680
Special Contributions	5,000	9,440
Interest	23,855	23,855
Totals	134,667	92,932

Andie Warfield

Stewardship Conference: Reality Stewardship

On Saturday, Sept 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., there will be a Stewardship Conference at St. Paul's Church, Ivy, in Charlottesville. In addition to morning and afternoon keynote presentations, seven workshop sessions will be offered covering various aspects of stewardship fundamentals, annual pledge campaigns, personal financial management education, endowments, and environmental stewardship. Fork Church could certainly benefit from having some parishioners participate in this important educational opportunity! Interested? Contact Marjorie Claybrook at mclaybrook@thediocese.net or 804-643-8451, ext. 17 for more information.

News in the Life of Fork Church

theforkchurch.org

If you've seen the movie *The Jerk*, you're familiar with the scene where Steve Martin's character, Navin R. Johnson, yells with boyish excitement "The new phone books are here! The new phone books are here!" It's with this same enthusiasm (though somewhat more muted) that we announced the arrival of our new website. It's been a long time coming and we sprinted to the finish line this summer.



**VISIT OUR
WEB SITE**

The Sneak Peek of theforkchurch.org was held after Holy Eucharist on Sunday, August 10. Thanks to the Griffins for being flexible with changing *Lemonade on the Lawn* to *Lemonade in the Hall* for this event. With their refreshments added to the mix, the peek became a launch party and it went smashingly!! There was a lot of interest and positive feedback.

Special thanks go to Lou Ann Cave (editing), Ali Joy (content), Teresa Kestner (design), Mark Licata (website hosting), Linda MacDonald (home page), and Debbie Murphy (inspiration). Without their input, we would not have a church website.

We are all thrilled that The Fork Church is moving into the 21st century with the addition of an online ministry. So, if you see any one of the website committee members in the near future, don't be surprised if they excitedly tell you "The Fork website is here! The Fork website is here!"

Jesse Gordon

Mission

You never know what to expect when you are new to something. This past year I was honored to be nominated and elected to the Fork Church vestry and become the mission liaison. This was an area in which I was a little familiar because my daughter, Spencer, had just been involved with the mission trip to the Dominican Republic. It was an experience that was life changing for her.

Serving



OTHERS

The responsibility of mission is not restricted only to overseas projects, like the one to the Dominican Republic. It also involves a number of local outreach programs. Fork Church works in conjunction with St. James the Less in outreach programs for less fortunate people. These programs consist of an end-of-month dinner to help many of them stretch their welfare dollars so they do not go hungry. St. James also has a weekly medical assistance program where medical professionals donate their time and expertise to provide basic medical help. Fork has been asked to participate in a finger-food program for these medical professionals so they can eat while they provide this much needed care. We also participate in the regional CARITAS ministry to the homeless, which had a week-long program at St. Ann's in Ashland this past June. The recipients couldn't have been more appreciative of the assistance they received. Fork Church has also been involved with the Angel Tree program which provides Christmas gifts to needy families; another program for children who have had a

family member (mother or father) incarcerated; and the WHEAT program for Beaverdam.

I truly believe mission is one of the most underutilized areas for Fork. It is one of the few things you can do that allows you actually to see and feel the benefits of your generosity. As we move forward over the next several years, I have high hopes that we can expand on the programs that we participate in locally and that even more Fork parishioners will participate in our local outreach programs. We are always looking for anybody willing to give some of his or her time and effort to serve a better cause.

If there is anybody who has any interest or ideas they feel will benefit the purpose of our mission program, please feel free to come forward and share those ideas. Thank you for your confidence and I look forward to working with everybody over these next three years.

Brad Turner
Vestry mission liaison

An Aumbry in Action

You have probably noticed that our beautiful new aumbry—the small white “cabinet” at the front of the church that sits just below the cross—is now in use. The aumbry is used to store consecrated bread and wine, which can then be taken to those who are unable to join us for Sunday Eucharist. If you watch closely, you will see Anne putting the leftover consecrated wafers into the aumbry as she resets the table after each Holy Eucharist. We are grateful to all who have helped to make the aumbry's construction and use possible.

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 on September 10 and on October 8

Please note: Due to Anne's schedule, the November healing service will be held on the *first* Wednesday, Nov. 5.

Interested in Holy Baptism?

If you or a member of your family would like to be baptized sometime this fall, please speak to Anne ASAP. A particularly appropriate occasion for a baptism is the Bishop's visit on the afternoon of Sunday, November 23, but other Sundays can also be arranged.

Register (note-taker) needed for Vestry Meetings

Can you help? The job of register is fairly simple: it involves taking notes during vestry meetings (typically held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.) and distributing minutes to vestry members. If you would be willing to take on this important ministry, please speak to one of the wardens or to Anne. Thank you!

Farewell, Lynn; Welcome, Ida

Fork Church offers our gratitude to Lynn Sichi, who recently resigned as parish secretary in order to provide full-time care for her adorable granddaughter, Nellie. We welcome Ida Price, who began work in the parish office in July. Please drop by and introduce yourself to Ida. The parish office e-mail address remains the same: forkchurch@embarqmail.com. Thanks be to God for the ministry of our fine office staff—past and present!

Parish Directory

Do you have one? Do you need one? Has your information changed? Let us know. Please e-mail Ida at the office (forkchurch@embarqmail.com) with any updates or changes, or with requests for a directory. She can e-mail our parish directory to you.

Parish History Notes, #19: The Tidewater Migration

Markers in the Fork Church cemetery pay tribute to members of many prominent families of colonial Tidewater Virginia. Soon after the American Revolution, as soil on the original properties was becoming exhausted by the over-planting of tobacco, branches of these families looked to the Piedmont region for new land to till. What we know as Old Ridge Road joined other lanes that linked through New Kent and James City Counties from Yorktown before the end of the 17th century, defining a natural migration route.

The tidewater families most represented in the Fork Church cemetery are Nelsons and Pages, with about 33 gravestones. These two names have been closely allied for many generations. In fact, seven children of Gen. Thomas Nelson, signer of the Declaration of Independence, married members of the Page family. The Nelsons had lived at a house called "York," now known as the Nelson House, in Yorktown. Gen. Nelson moved to Hanover County and died at "Mont Air" a poor man, after exhausting his wealth for the Revolution. His body was returned to Yorktown, but his wife Lucy is buried in this cemetery. Other stones mark the graves of Capt. Thomas Nelson, nephew and son-in-law of Gen. Nelson, Capt. Nelson's wife, Judith, daughter of Gen. Nelson, and at least four of their children.

The Pages of St. Martin's Parish are descended from Governor John Page of "Rosewell," Gloucester County. Francis Page, the fifth son of Gov. Page, lived at "Rug Swamp" with his wife, Susan, fourth daughter of Gen. Nelson. Francis and Susan are buried at this cemetery, as are two daughters and a son, Maj. John Page, and his wife, Elizabeth Burwell Nelson, who is a daughter of Capt. Thomas and Judith Nelson. Rosewell Page (1858-1939) of Oakland and his wife Ruth Nelson represent the next generation, and the Oakland Pages continue from there. Another early marker defines the resting place of Judith Carter Page, youngest daughter of Gov. Page, who married Dr. Robert Nelson, youngest son of Gen. Nelson and Chancellor of William & Mary College.

Other familiar colonial names in the cemetery are Berkeley, Burwell, Churchill, Dabney, Digges, Grymes, Noland, Pendleton and Taylor, all representing early immigrations from Europe to the tidewater region. Though these are 19th and 20th century burials, they echo the colonial history of eastern Virginia.

Erratum:

To correct a sentence in Parish History Notes #18, it is not known where Elizabeth Randolph Price (1784-1873) is buried. It is a later descendent, Elizabeth Price Dabney (1854-1925), who is interred with the Dabneys. Thank you to Mrs. Nancy Houston of Charlottesville for spotting my error.

Next issue: Bread & Wine
Alastair Macdonald

The People of Fork Church

Jack Haar Returns August 9



Excerpt from Jack's blog:

The reality of having cycled all across the country has not really set in yet. There are so many images to process from the past 9 weeks of places, generous people and experiences. Nearly everyone I talked to along the way about the fund we are trying to establish [in memory of Jack's friend Jim Popp] had stories to tell about their own battle with cancer or the loss of a loved one to cancer.

It was really a privilege to have been able to do such a ride and see this grand country up close at 10 miles an hour from a bike, and to meet the common everyday people who meet for breakfast at the diner each morning and go off to do their jobs each day.

We began the ride June 9 and I reached home on August 9. In total I have ridden 3,911 miles in 56 days of actual riding, for an average of almost 70 miles a day. The journey lasted 61 days of which I took 5 rest days. Once I reach Yorktown I will have covered very close to 4,000 miles.

Welcome and Blessings

Lucille Grace Turner and Audrey France Turner were welcomed into the household of God through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on June 8. Welcome, Lucy and Audrey

Welcome back Stephanie Edwards who made a 500-mile, 5-week pilgrimage this summer in Spain to Santiago!

And welcome back Jack Haar! We give thanks that he has safely returned from his 4,000-mile bike trip across the country this past summer!

Thanks



... to Lina Raynes, who recently spent an afternoon tuning up Anne's office computer
... to Elizabeth Gordon and Jenny Smith, who scoured the nursery from top to bottom to make it more child-friendly
... to Debbie Murphy, Jesse Gordon, Mark Licata, Ali Joy, Teresa Kestner, Lina Raynes, Linda Macdonald and Lou Ann Cave who have contributed many, many hours to the creation of a Fork Church website
... to David Aderhold for reattaching the outdoor lights to our trees when they were blown out during a storm
... to Mark Licata, who has been making trash and recycle runs for the church on a regular basis
... to Scott Martin for affixing our new aumbry securely to the shelf so that it could finally be put into use
... to David Aderhold and Debbie Murphy for fixing various glitches with our telephone service
... to Les Campbell for his generosity with his delicious peaches

Dear Fork Church Family,

I thank each of you for your diligent prayers during the illness of my sister, Evelyn Throckmorton Williams. She was blessed to have lived 94 years, most of which were full of good health ... until cancer was discovered on May 22, 2008. God heard your prayers. He was merciful. She passed on July 19. Evelyn and I needed and appreciated every single moment of prayer.... May the Lord bless!

Barbara Oates

Dear Fork Church Friends,

Thank you so much for your continued support of the outreach dinners. Your offerings of food and service before, during and after each meal are greatly appreciated. Together in service,

*Linda Ray
St. James the Less*

Diocesan and Community Opportunities

Education for Ministry

Education for Ministry (EfM) meets at St. Thomas' in North Richmond on Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. beginning September 11, 2008. There are openings for the fall. For information on this program of theological education for lay persons, visit the EfM website at www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm. To inquire about the St. Thomas' group, please email Joan Beal, Mentor, at jsbeal53@aol.com.

Free Spanish Language Course at St. James's

Thursdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. October 9 - December 4
Registration deadline: October 1

St. James's, Richmond, is pleased to offer a free introductory Spanish language course, perfect for those whose Spanish skills are green, rusty or somewhere in-between. If you are interested in communicating with Latinos in the mission field, travels abroad or even in your own neighborhood, this is your chance to start. Our instructor is Argentine-born Margarita Staudt, an experienced Spanish language teacher and longtime resident of the United States. For more information and to register, contact the Rev. Whitney Zimmerman at 804-355-1779, x17, or wzimmerman@doers.org.

Providing Firewood

As utility costs soar, families struggle to heat their homes in winter. The West Hanover Men's Group provides firewood to needy families (more than 50 this past winter). Help with cutting and splitting wood is needed year-round. To help, contact Fredy Calderon at 448-0275.



Check out the new Fork Church website: www.theforkchurch.org

The next Pitch from Fork will be the November/December edition. Articles and announcements should be submitted to Lou Ann Cave by Oct. 10. Send to thecaves5@embarqmail.com.