

The Pitch from Fork
September/October 2009



Dear friends,

You may have heard about the strange case of Edward Lighthart, an amnesiac found wandering in a Seattle park in early August with \$600 stuffed in his sock. Identified only after a friend saw his picture on a news website, Lighthart had no idea who he was, where he'd come from, or how he'd gotten to that park in Seattle. Doctors say Lighthart is suffering from a rare form of dissociative amnesia. According to The Times-Dispatch, "Seattle's mystery man says putting together the pieces of his memory has been a frustrating, confusing experience... He says it's one of the most hellish experiences a person can go through."

I bet. If you don't know who you are or how you got there, how do you know where you're going? How do you chart a course for the future with no past to guide you? How do you profit from the support of other human beings if you don't even know which ones form your unique network of friends and family? My heart aches for Edward Lighthart.

Holy Scripture is full of references to God remembering us and us remembering God. In Genesis, it is when God remembers Noah that the flood subsides. The psalmists often pray to be remembered or to remember God: "Remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord" (25:6). "I remember you upon my bed and meditate on you in the night watches" writes the author of Psalm 63. And on the cross, the penitent thief says simply, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Why do we come to church? One reason, I think, is to remember who we are and who God is—and to remind ourselves that God remembers us. The world we live in can make it difficult for us to remember our identity as precious children of God. Communal worship is a reminder that God is, as we pray in the Eucharistic prayer, the source of Light and Life.

We need Christian community; we need each other. To live as though our mutual prayer and fellowship don't matter is to court disaster in our spiritual lives. Dissociative amnesia would be as dangerous for us as Christians as it is for Edward Lighthart. Who are we, how did we get here, and where are we going? We discern that together as we hear the Word of God, share our family meal of bread and wine, and work together for the good of God's people and the spread of God's kingdom. We come to church to worship God, to be present with and for one another, to be strengthened for service—for God's sake.

As the busy fall season begins, make sure your calendar contains the one sure antidote to Christian amnesia: participation in the life of the Christian community. Come to church. Remind yourselves and one another and me who we really are. Remember God. And remember that God is remembering you.

Blessings.

- Anne †

From the Junior Warden



Having been out of town most weekends this summer, it was so good to be back at Fork. It is such a privilege to serve a church I have such strong feelings about and whose congregation is comprised of such a uniquely gifted group of people both in talent and intellect.

The boundless energy and enthusiasm going into the numerous projects, outreach activities and youth activities stand as a reminder to us all how much a part Fork Church plays in our lives and how blessed we are to have the Fork family, especially in a time when most of the news we hear in the broader world is so negative. Growing up in family that is very close-knit, I thought I knew all there is to know about being part of a "family." When we had Charlie almost a year ago, I found a deeper appreciation for the word. As Ali, Charlie and I continue to deepen our involvement at Fork, I feel that sense of family deepen even more. We are truly blessed by God to be in such a unique place and have such wonderful people in the Fork Church family.

As always, if anyone has a need or wishes to discuss anything please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Vestry.

The best way to reach me is by cell: (804) 814-0630.

Best to all,
Austin Joy

Vestry Elections Coming Up (sooner than you'd think...)



As always, at our annual parish meeting in January we will be electing Vestry members to serve for the next three years. Requirements and responsibilities are listed below. This year's nominating committee consists of Howard Anderson, Mary Anne Griffin, and Carl Tennille. If you would be willing to serve or would like to make a nomination, please speak with a member of the nominating committee by November 1. Thank you!

Vestry Member Responsibilities

To be eligible, a person must:

Be a confirmed Episcopalian and a member of Fork Church
Contribute regularly to the life and ministry of Fork Church

Responsibilities from the Canons:

"Cooperate with the Rector in promoting the spiritual welfare of [the] cure and assist [him/her] in [his/her] duties."

"Support the programs of the Church through a commitment to service and biblically-based standard of proportional giving."

"Continuously encourage the members of the congregation to support the programs of the Church and to give generously toward the support of those programs"

Subscribe to (by signing) the following declaration:

I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do yield my hearty assent and approbation to the doctrines, worship and discipline of the The Episcopal Church; and I promise that I will faithfully execute the office of Vestry member of the Fork Church, in Region 11, in the County of Hanover, according to my best knowledge and skill.

Responsibilities specific to Fork Church Vestry members:

Attend regular monthly Vestry meeting (normally the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., with no meeting in one summer month) and any other specially called Vestry meeting.

Note: Three consecutive absences or a total of four absences in any calendar year constitutes a resignation from the Vestry (Fork Bylaws, I.12).

Serve as liaison to a particular area of parish ministry. This includes: filing monthly liaison reports to keep the Vestry abreast of happenings in this area; attending committee meetings; advocating for this area of parish ministry.

Prepare for Vestry meetings by reading liaison reports, The Vestry Handbook, Vestry Papers, and/or other documents as necessary.

In first year of service, attend informational meeting for new Vestry members.

Attend the annual Vestry retreat, held in February.

Attend the Diocesan Workshop on the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Attend the annual Vestry Education day provided by the Diocese.

Serve as a Vestry Greeter on assigned Sunday mornings (about once every two months).

News in the Life of Fork Church



The Bishop is Coming!!

On Sunday, November 1, 2009—All Saints' Day!!—our newest bishop, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Sherwood Johnston, will be with us for a special afternoon service. There will be no morning worship service that day. Please mark your calendars now to make sure that you are present for this exciting event in the life of Fork Church.

Commissioning of Teachers and Students

On Sunday, September 13, during the 10 a.m. service we will have a special liturgy to bless all of our teachers and students as the new school year begins. Whether you are a public or private school teacher or student, or a teacher or student partaking in Christian Formation here at Fork Church, please plan to be present for this blessing.

Thoughts on Children and Youth; Regrouping for Fall

Jim and I spent three weeks in Alaska with a grandchild this summer, and what an awesome experience it was. We were all amazed at the landscape; it truly made me appreciate this world that God created, the wildlife and the wonderful people. It reminded me of so many of our Godly Play lessons when we teach our children to look for the truth in the stories of the Old Testament, the truth that Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Moses, Miriam, etc., found when they came “so close to God and God came so close to them that they knew what God wanted them to do.” It was very easy to feel close to God in the Alaskan wilderness.

As we traveled home I wondered how we could help our children feel close to God. How can we nurture spirituality in our children and in our young people? We can do some of this through the lessons we teach each week in Sunday School, and we can all do this through our interest and active participation in the lives of these children and youth.

As we begin another school year, welcome these children and youth to church. We have four new acolytes who have begun to assist with the worship service this summer. They are Emily West, Taylor Kestner, Ted Schubert, and George Stiles.

Godly Play Sunday School begins September 13 at 10:00 a.m. We will begin with a welcome to the Godly Play classroom and the Godly Play program, and we will end with a juice and goldfish “party” before we join everyone else in church for Communion.

Journey to Adulthood will also begin September 13 with a “pond party” for the youth and their parents. The youth will swim and kayak, etc., while Boo, Jim, Ali and Austin meet with the parents. We will all enjoy a picnic/cook-out afterward.

Boo Smythe

Adult Forum Resumes

We will resume Adult Forum at 9:00 a.m., September 13, and we will discuss topics contained in Dr. Packer’s book quoted below as well as subjects contained in *Blue Like Jazz* by Donald Miller and *The Cross of Christ* by John Stott.



Should the average Christian care about theology?

A fair question! But there is, I think, a convincing answer to it. The questioner clearly assumes that a study of the nature and character of God will be unpractical and irrelevant for life. In fact, however, it is the most practical project anyone can engage in. Knowing about God is crucially important for the living of our lives.

As it would be cruel to a Hanoverian to fly him to Rome, detain him without explanation in Termini Napoli Centrale and leave him as one who knew nothing of Italian or Italy to fend for himself—so we are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it.

The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business for those who do not know about God. Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul. (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p.17 [revised, with apologies to the author])

In October, our Rector will lead a discussion centered upon the wrath of God and its significance.

Please join us, and bring light.

Respectfully,

Don Schubert

The Wrath of God

In response to numerous provocative questions and sobering reflections raised by Don Schubert during the course of the 2008-2009 adult forums, Anne will be leading a four-week exploration of the concept of “the wrath of God” during the 9 a.m. Sunday adult forums from October 4 through October 25. Interested in learning more about the wrath of God and what it means for us? So is Anne! Come and participate. As always, all are welcome.

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. Services coming up are September 9 and (due to a scheduling conflict) October 21.

Fall Vestry Retreat

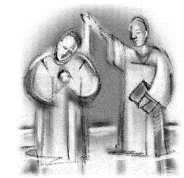
On Sunday, September 20, the Vestry will gather for an afternoon retreat to enable us to take some extra time as we reflect on our goals and priorities outside the confines of our usual meeting structure. Please keep the Vestry in your prayers as we conduct this special session.

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 actually take place on Sunday, Oct. 4, 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!



Interested in Baptism or Confirmation?



Baptized in the Name of the Lord

Hoping to join Fork Church or to reaffirm your faith? Confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation are all rites that can only be performed by a bishop, so they will take place on Sunday, Nov. 1, when our bishop Shannon Johnston is with us for a special afternoon service. November 1 is also a great day for a baptism, as it is All Saints' Day, one of four special days the Church recognizes as being especially appropriate for baptisms (although other dates for baptism can be arranged). Please let Anne know by September 15 if you are interested in confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation during Bishop Johnston's visit.

The Fork Tines

Fork Church is now producing a somewhat-weekly news email that covers the coming week's announcements, Fork Church news, information about local events and mission opportunities; and news of the diocese and national church. If you are not currently receiving *The Fork Tines* and would like to do so, please email Anne at anneofforkchurch@embarqmail.net to be added to the distribution list.

2010 Anniversary Planning

The 2010 Anniversary Celebration Committee is off and running with a whole host of ideas to commemorate the 275th anniversary of our sanctuary at St. Martin's Parish. Your project team has met several times to share a wide variety of ideas that we hope will make for an exciting celebration. Our slate of events include, but are not limited to:

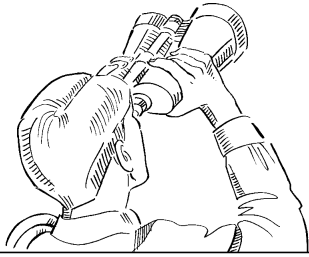
- an exhibit of an historic quilt
- a historic tour organized by the Valentine Museum
- a talk about church architecture with a display of archeological artifacts and church memorabilia
- a feast on November 12
- a finale on November 14.

Who knows, St. Martin himself may make a surprise visit to Fork during one of our events! We want everyone involved in this look back into our history. If you have ideas, please contact one of our committee members. We want our artistic folks to paint or draw a picture of the church to be included in our display and if you are willing, we will auction off paintings at one of our events. Also—great news!—a committee will explore the reprint of the popular Fork Church cookbook. At our finale on November 14, we will gather for a group picture beside the church, so please plan to be there for that important part of our history. Also, if you have any past group pictures that were taken by the church, please let us know; in fact if you have any memorabilia such as old Vestry records or anything that you feel is an important piece of our history, please let us know.

Your faithful committee,

Debbie Murphy
Alastair Macdonald
The Reverend Charles Joy

Have you checked out the Fork Church library recently?



CHECK IT OUT!

During the summer, Anne sorted, culled, reorganized, and labeled the Fork Church library, which is located in the small room between the kitchen and the main parish hall. Looking for a commentary or study guide for a particular book of the Bible? Interested in learning more about the geography of the Holy Land? Eager to read a biography of C.S. Lewis or find some spiritual reading to help you through a dry patch in your prayer life? The Fork Church library has it all! Come and see!

Weekly Cleaning Schedule and Tasks

Thanks to all the families who have been faithful to take their turn cleaning the parish and church buildings during the weeks of no professional cleaning service. Your assistance has helped tremendously to supplement our limited budget for cleaning. Here are a few reminders: Parish families are scheduled in alphabetical order. If you need to switch your week with another family, remember to let the church office know. (A copy of the master schedule is posted on the parish hall bulletin board.) You should plan to clean anytime after the Sunday worship service and before 9 p.m. on Saturday of your assigned week, although earlier in the week is preferable. Call any Vestry member or the church office for a key if you don't have one.

Below, as a further reminder, is the list of jobs and the families scheduled for September and October:

During your assigned week, your team should:

- Spot clean the bathrooms (using your own supplies or Fork supplies, located in the curtained closet beside the parish office).
- Replenish toilet paper and towels in all bathrooms (supplies located in curtained closet).
- Vacuum the church (vacuum cleaner located in the sacristy, the room with the choir stairs).
- Take all trash and recycling to the dump. (To help care for the environment, we separate out cans and paper for recycling.) Trash (T) and recycling (R) receptacles are located:
 - In the sacristy of the church—T and R
 - In Anne's office, under her desk—T and R
 - In the bathrooms—T
 - In the kitchen—T
 - In the parish hall main room—T
 - In Ida's office—T
 - In the copy room—R
 - In the nursery—diaper genie to be emptied and re-set

Sept 13	Gill and Gordon
Sept 20	Haar and Haines
Sept 27	Harrison and Kay
Oct 11	Kestner and Licata
Oct 18	Macdonald and Magnant/King
Oct 25	May and McLoughlin

Speaking of Cleaning...

Please remember to clean up after yourselves when you use the kitchen for various events. In particular, please do not to leave any leftover food on the counter or in the refrigerator. There is no one here to eat the leftovers, and we had some rather unattractive ant events this summer because of food lying around. Also, the refrigerator frequently contains unclaimed food items that have been there for months on end, so please take responsibility for any item you place there. Thanks

A Look at Fork's Finances

DOLLAR \$ & ¢ CENTS

The following represents the current actual spending against the approved 2009 budget arranged by major category of spending. The income reflects our total received giving to date.

	<u>Jan - Jul 09</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Expenses			
Buildings and Grounds	12,067.79	11,520.00	547.79
Church Administration	7,841.73	6,457.50	1,384.23
Finance and Administration	60,294.08	65,114.12	-4,820.04
Worship	<u>84.40</u>	<u>280.00</u>	<u>-195.60</u>
Total Expense	<u>80,288.00</u>	<u>83,371.62</u>	<u>-3,083.62</u>
Income	<u>Planned (annual)</u>	<u>Actual (to date)</u>	
Pledge	105,955	61,865	
Plate	3000	1882	
Special contribution	5000	15648	
Memorial	5877	5877	
Church use	1500	1551	
Reserve funds	<u>24000</u>	<u>24000</u>	
Total Income	<u>145,332</u>	<u>110,823</u>	

Church Newsletter Bloopers

These are actual clippings from church newspapers. It's amazing what a little proof-reading would have prevented:

The church is starting a New Young Mother's Group. Anyone desiring to be a new young Mother is to meet with the pastor in his office.

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at The Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

The People of Fork Church



Thanks and Congratulations Are Due

Many thanks to those who participated in the summer workday: John Rickman, Greg and Paula Muniec, Ned May, and Tim Kestner. Thanks to their diligence, many outdoor lights were restored to working order, the basement walls were sealed, and a new and improved gutter and drainage system is under construction for the parish hall. Thanks also to Anne Rickman for supplying an abundant and tasty lunch for the workers! Thanks to all adults and older children who provided such a wonderful Vacation Bible School experience for our 23 participants! Camp Jesus was a rousing success and would not have been possible without the generosity of many, many people.

Thanks to Greg Muniec and Tim Kestner, co-chairs of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, for all of their hard work and dedication helping to keep things running!

Many thanks to Brad Turner for his ministry as a Vestry member during the past two and a half years; and blessings to the Turner family as they begin their new life in Georgia.

Thanks to Lisa Licata for stepping forward to finish Brad's Vestry term; she was elected by the Vestry on Aug. 8, 2009.

Thanks to Mark Licata for doing yeoman's service repairing the office computer after it was infected by a virus.

Thanks to all those who are helping each week to keep Fork clean. Many people are going beyond the basic list of suggested tasks, and it shows!

Congratulations to Bev and Hoge Smith and to Bryan and Reisa Smith—proud grandparents and parents, respectively, of Ava Lillian Smith, born on August 20.

Do you know of someone who should be thanked or congratulated? Please pass along the news to Lou Ann Cave. We don't want to overlook anyone!

A letter of thanks from St. James the Less (for the June outreach dinner):

Dear friends at Fork Church:

Thank you so much for your continued support of the outreach dinners. Because of your gifts of food, time, and energy, 44 persons enjoyed a fiesta and fellowship.

Together in service,
Linda Ray
(Thanks especially to our youth who came up with the idea for a taco bar and helped serve!)

Golden Gift Results

We have received a check for \$148 from Ukrops for our share of the Golden Gift program this spring. Many thanks to all who participated!

CARITAS



Once again The Fork Church helped host CARITAS at Saint Anne's in Ashland in late June. Many thanks to the following people:

Joan Tennille who so graciously stepped into the fray and prepared the main course for the supper

George Little who fixed a huge salad and stayed to help serve and clean up

Emily Warekois who provided the supper bread

Barabra Woods who provided delicious and decorative cakes

Anne Kirchmier who was up to her elbows in dish water cleaning pans

The Gardners who made sure we had plenty of help

Mazie Florance who took guests to the Laundromat

The Andersons who made sure we had escorts to the showers

Jenny Smith who provided the breakfast food

Ted and Beth Schubert and sons Ben and Ted who helped serve the supper

Hugh and Sally Campbell for helping prepare and serve breakfast as well as preparing the lunches

Janet Hays who pitched in to help

Will Warekois who showed up bright and early to help also

Carl Tennille for so ably helping to organize the whole effort.

Not only did all these folks do yeoman's work but they made it fun!

Here is a letter of appreciation that expresses it well:

Dear Friends,

Your hard work for the CARITAS program last week was so very much appreciated by the guests. People just haven't come up and given the kind of thanks we got this week in the past. We all know that we are Jesus' hands and feet in the world now, and this past week, you were those hands.

Please pass on to your workers our great gratitude and just wait for next year--we'll be hollering again!

Gratefully,
Sandi Shirey
St. James the Less

Court Warfield

Parish History Notes #24: The Short Rectors

It might be considered irreverent to classify a member of the clergy in this way, but two of the most successful rectors of St. Martin's Parish were height-challenged.

Rev. William Augustus Alrich was born in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1836. After serving as a military chaplain during the Civil War he was ordained priest in 1868. He was called from Fairfax County to St. Martin's in 1869. Two years later his wife died in childbirth at the Rectory, and she is buried in the churchyard. His second wife was Mary Berkeley of White House, Old Ridge Road. Mr. Alrich was known as a very short man with a big heart, serving the parish during the difficult period of reconstruction.

Rev. John Philips was rector of St. Martin's Parish from 1815 to 1824, during the period of reawakening in the Episcopal Church. According to Bishop William Meade, "His person was the most diminutive I ever saw or heard in the pulpit, but it was remarkable for its quickness and energy of action. He required to be elevated on a high block or platform to be seen at all in the pulpit. When praying in private houses he always knelt in the chair, not by it."

In 1824 Rev. Philips was reassigned to a parish in Lunenburg County. Bishop Meade also related the circumstances of his death: "While riding in a plain conveyance with Mrs. Philips, who always drove him about, as she did many other things for him, he expired without her knowledge, until, stopping at a tavern to water the horse which carried them, it was discovered that he was sitting by her side a lifeless corpse."

A Fork Church legend describes the minister who fell off of his platform while preaching, "Soon you will not see me." This tale must refer to one of these great men.

Next Issue: Rev. Horace Stringfellow

Poems from Art and Soul Conference

-By Anne Kirchmier



In June I attended an Art and Soul Conference at Shrine Mont and took part in a poetry workshop, writing five poems altogether. The Night Watchman was inspired by a line I came across in a poem by James Wilson about a “ruptured night watchman” with no further explanation. Repenting grew from observing an inchworm dangling just above the platform at the top of the Shrine Mont cross. I wrote After Church after watching this very thing happen and remembering a comment from a seminary professor that the best sign of a healthy church is when coffee hour is full of “unlikely conversations”—interactions among people of different ages or

backgrounds or opinions. Curtains, though it tells a true story, grew from a class exercise using every third letter of the alphabet to start a line—curtains, frog, I, leaving, etc... And The Fern is the result of an assignment to try and look at something commonplace with a fresh perspective. I hope you enjoy them. —Anne

The Night Watchman

What ruptured him?
Too many nights on edge
as he peered, strained,
sorted sounds?
The day’s thrumming stoppered by the five
o’clock blast
and he alone to face the dark,
coiled and vigilant in the cavernous
emptiness—
what count of tense and sleepless nights
is one too many
for wholeness?

Or was the rupture
sudden, intimate
some rapture gone awry—
the last gasp of a wounded child—
or combat,
fresh and ricocheting still in the corners of his
mind—
or a lover’s once-forever slamming of the
door?

Repeating

not an inch, quite
and not a worm, really
she dangles on invisible thread
nearer sky than earth

the leafy shelter of the branch—
why did she leave it?
and where did she learn repentance,
the turning around,
the changing of ways?

this tiny, penitent gymnast
crunching and scrunching her patient return to
safety:
how will she survive
the coming rain?

After Church

the Magnant boys—
striped shirts, red hair, and bright smiles in
three sizes—
are windblown passengers this Sunday noon

in Jack Haar’s car

top down, the pristine antique scatters gravel

and laughter
in the churchyard.

coffeehour on wheels

Curtains

Curtains with silly bright frogs—
I made some once, as a gift for my
mother.
I pinned and cut and hemmed,
trailing measuring tape
and clingy yellow scraps.

Leaving home is hard
despite the cheery fabrics we choose
to cover up our sorrow.

“Mom,” I joked, “it’s curtains for you!”

But actually
it was curtains
for the house.

The Fern

Whose idea was it
to hang a plant?
Yanked from earth
aloft
alone
adrift
spinning in the breeze
rocked by wind
felled by storms—
is there insurance for such things?
death and dismemberment?
workplant compensation?
counseling services for traumatized ferns?

And what happens to the fabric of the garden
community—
that peaceful camaraderie of nestled stems and
leaves—
when one plant
is raised above the rest?

The color of jealousy,
after all,
is green.

Looking for reliable help with housekeeping?

Carol Hawk, who cleans Fork Church and is doing a marvelous job, is in the market for some new customers. Because of the economic downturn, some of her clientele has stopped hiring her, and she needs more work. She does a very good job; just ask Anne Kirchmier or Lisa Licata. Carol can be reached at 363-0204 (cell) or 798-1135 (home).

Opportunities and Inspiration



Feeling woody?

The West Hanover wood ministry is always in need of folks to help with cutting, splitting, stacking, and delivering wood. This is a great way to get exercise, meet some new friends, and help out struggling neighbors. If you would like to help with the wood ministry, contact Fredy Calderon at acalderon@pwcgov.org. Thanks to the hard work of a number of parishioners, Fork Church now serves as a wood depot for the Wood Ministry—so helping to get the wood here would be a natural extension of the commitment we've already made...

Welcome Baskets for Hanover Safe Place

Hanover Safe Place, our local agency providing services to victims of domestic abuse, is asking for help in creating welcome baskets. When families enter shelter, they often come without basic food preparation, laundry, and hygiene items. Welcome baskets containing these items are given to residents when they arrive in shelter and they are allowed to take the baskets with them when they leave and enter their own housing.

Hanover Safe Place would prefer that one complete basket be donated, as opposed to several incomplete ones.

Baskets can be dropped off at 629A North Washington Hwy., Ashland, VA 23005, Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Call 752-2728 for more information and related services that can be paired with this program.

Meals on Wheels

Did you know that Meals on Wheels is available in Hanover County? If you or someone you know would benefit from this wonderful service, contact Meals on Wheels, 1600 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond, VA 23230, at 804 673-5035 or www.mowdelivers.com.

A Different Spin: DE-construction for Habitat for Humanity

Hanover Habitat for Humanity has been given the opportunity to “cherry-pick” all salvageable materials from five houses located in Doswell. The work on this deconstruction project began on July 11 and is expected to continue until October. Habitat hopes to have up to 15 people per day on the worksite. Interested in helping? Contact Heather Antill at Heather.Antill@hanoverhfh.org for more information.

Hanover CASA

The Hanover County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is currently recruiting volunteers for a training program scheduled to begin on Oct. 6, 2009.

Hanover CASA advocates for the best interests of children in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court process in both Hanover and Caroline Counties. CASA recruits, trains and supervises competent volunteers dedicated to representing the needs of abused and neglected children as well as other children involved in juvenile dependency proceedings. The program promotes safe, permanent homes for all children and seeks to educate the community concerning the needs of abused and neglected children.

Potential volunteers have extensive preparation for their role through 40-hours of training and an average of five to ten hours a month working on a case. CASA is currently accepting applications until Sept. 16 for the next training program scheduled to begin on Oct. 6. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Melanie Baker at 804-365-4296 or at mdbaker@co.hanover.va.us.

Mission Opportunity

Kelly Aderold's cousin Robby Monolo is leading a mission team to Mississippi Oct. 24 - Nov. 1 for Katrina relief work, and he has some open spots if some members of Fork would like to go. The cost is \$250.00. Please call his cell 804-690-2792 for more info. Robby is a member of Beaverdam United Methodist.

Diocesan News and Opportunities



Special Eucharist at St. Paul's for Bishop Lee

On Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m., there will be a special Eucharist at St. Paul's, Richmond, to celebrate the Diocese's 25 years of ministry with Bishop Lee and also to mark his leave-taking as he steps down Oct. 1. All are welcome. (Anne will be attending; please let her know if you'd like to carpool.)

Diocesan Town Hall Meetings

This fall, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, bishop coadjutor, will host a series of Town Hall Meetings designed to allow all members of the Diocese to contribute to a vision for the priorities of our new ministry together. The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, bishop suffragan, will also be present at these meetings. Clergy, lay leaders and parishioners are all invited to take advantage of these opportunities to strengthen our relationships.

The town hall meetings nearest to Fork Church are scheduled for:
Christ Church, Glen Allen, 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24—youth only
Christ Church, Glen Allen, 7 p.m. Monday, Nov 2 (Anne will be attending; please let her know if you'd like to carpool.)

Education for Ministry Online

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year extension course of the University of the South's School of Theology in Sewanee, Tenn. The course is conducted in small groups and includes in-depth self-study of the Bible, historic church documents and a look at theologies through history. Groups meet once a week to conduct a theological reflection, an exercise in learning how to problem-solve via theological thinking. For busy folks, EfM is now offered online with parishioner/mentor Jo Freeman. There is room for new students in Jo's group, which resumes in October, and other online mentors are also seeking students. Contact Jo Freeman at 804-382-5087.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

The Diocese of Virginia is organizing a pilgrimage to Jerusalem February 24 - March 9, 2010. We will be staying at St. George's College and attending their "Palestine of Jesus" course which focuses on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Course members visit major sites connected with the Gospel accounts, such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Jordan River, and the Sea of Galilee. The course then traces the Passion Narratives through visits to Bethany, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher), and a devotional

Way of the Cross. On the final day we will celebrate the Resurrection and the challenge of discipleship with a journey to Emmaus and a festive Eucharist.

Participants will also study the urgent social and religious issues of our own time. Course members will visit the Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock, reflect on interfaith issues regarding Judaism and Islam, and hear the voices of Palestinians and Israelis as they struggle for justice and peace in their land.

There are 40 spaces available, with a maximum of six people per parish. To learn more about the project or to register for the pilgrimage, please visit the Jerusalem Mile Project online at <http://jerusalemmile.wordpress.com/> and download the registration form. Anne will be attending this pilgrimage and would love to be joined by other pilgrims from Fork.

Diocesan Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Workshops

Prevention of Child Abuse Workshop

October 3, Church of Our Saviour, Charlottesville, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

October 15, Church of Our Saviour, Charlottesville, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (abbreviated version)

September 12, St. Paul's, Richmond, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

March 27, 2010, Church of Our Saviour, Charlottesville, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

March 27, 2010, Church of Our Saviour, Charlottesville, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (abbreviated version)

Prevention of Adult Misconduct Workshops

October 3, Church of Our Saviour, Charlottesville, 1-4 p.m.

March 27, 2010, Church of Our Saviour, Charlottesville, 1-4 p.m.

To register, contact Mary Anne Bryant at mabryant@thediocese.net or 800-DIOCESE x15, or register online.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 9: Healing service, noon

Sept. 12: Stewardship workshop, 8-5, St. John's Church Hill, Richmond

Sept. 13: Godly Play and Adult Forum resume

Sept. 13: Commissioning of teachers and students, 10 a.m. service

Sept. 13: Lemonade on the Lawn following 10 a.m. service

Sept. 13: Pond party for youth and parents at Boo and Jim Smythes'

Sept. 15: Vestry meeting, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Celebration of Bishop Lee's 25 years' service, 10:30 a.m., St. Paul's Richmond

Sept. 20: Afternoon Vestry retreat

Sept. 22: Region 11 council meeting, Immanuel Old Church, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 4: Blessing of the Animals, 4 p.m., church yard

Oct. 11: Coffee hour following 10 a.m. service

Oct. 12-14: Anne at Clergy Conference

Oct. 15: WHEAT meeting, 7:30 p.m., Beaverdam UMC

Oct. 20: Vestry meeting, 7 p.m.

Oct. 21: Healing service, noon

Oct. 25: Cleanup day beginning 9 a.m., church building, church yard and parish

Oct. 25: Outreach dinner at St. James the Less, 5 p.m.

Oct. 26-29: Anne on fall retreat

Nov. 1: Bishop Johnston visiting Fork Church for special 4 p.m. service with reception following; morning service cancelled

The next Pitch from Fork will be the November/December edition. Please have all notices and articles to Lou Ann Cave (thecaves5@embarqmail.com) by Oct. 10.

Visit The Fork Church website at <http://www.theforkchurch.org/>



*Just a
Reminder...*



Pantry Needs

FOR WHEAT LOCATED IN OUR PARISH HALL! THANKS BE TO GOD!