

NEVERTHELESS

Newsletter of the Church of St. James the Less, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
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June 2008

Over the last weeks I have marveled in the mystery of how “participation” in all manner of ministry is carried out here at St. James the Less.

In the span of two short days on a Monday and Tuesday last month, the St. Francis Guild extended care, comfort and hospitality during the funeral of one of our parishioners. The office worked up to the minute to prepare service leaflets that ushers handed out as they greeted people at the door. The altar was prepared and flowers arranged by the Altar Guild and lessons for the service placed in the pulpit. With standing room only available, extra chairs were gathered and placed in the back of the church. Parking places were reserved. Boxes of tissues were placed in front pews and the simple touch of pitchers of ice water and glasses found their way onto trays and placed in the library along with extra service leaflets for family members who gathered there before the service. After the service the church was prepared for the next day.

For on the next day, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of our parish hosted the Diocese of Virginia ECW Spring Gathering with visits by our bishops Peter Lee and David Jones along with special guest the Most Revd Daniel Deng Bul, newly elected Primate of the Anglican Church in the Sudan, along with his wife Deborah.

People in every corner of our parish helped our ECW in any way they could. Our youth group set up tables and chairs on Sunday night. On Monday evening other workers decorated the tables in the parish hall with flowers cut from various gardens. (Now you know where yours went!), while others helped set up the kitchen. Out of nowhere I was amazed to see trays of desserts being brought in by still other members of the parish to crown the catered lunch that afternoon. When the event was over and all had left, other groups of volunteers helped pack and clean up. The next day, another group of people who attended our Wednesday morning Eucharist, knowing the table and chairs from the previous day were still up, took it upon themselves to put all the tables and chairs away.

These are just a few days in the life of our parish family here at SJTL. There are so many ways others are also participating in the stewardship of ministry every day. Much of their ministry is not always seen. There are parents and youth who help in our Sunday school as teachers. There are volunteers who help in the nursery and others who bring music to all age groups of our parish. There are those who work with our youth and those who care for the Memorial Garden and help keep our property and grounds safe and beautiful. There are others who greet people at the church door on Sunday, those who keep our computers and web site running, and others who change light bulbs along with those who give of themselves to the Clinic and Outreach dinners and Caritas and so much, much more. Their participation in ministry enables God’s Holy Spirit to accomplish the work God has given us to do.

The above are only a wee glimpse of the incredible ministry of participation, which goes on here, that I am so honored to be a part of. I thank them all for their gift. For their ministry is a gift. It is a gift from grateful hearts offered to God for the innumerable blessings bestowed upon them in their lives. This is what the “stewardship in ministry” is about, the giving of time and talent in ministry to and for others. Through their participation in this ministry of stewardship we too are beneficiaries of their gifts, all of which manage to satisfy and delight us.

If you would like to have a part, small or large, in this stewardship of ministry at SJTL and are not quite sure how to go about it, just ask.

There are so many ways you can participate and you do not have to commit a lot of time, only what you can, when you can. No matter how little or how much your offering is a gift to God and God's Church and though it all of us will be richly blessed.

Thank you all for your incredible gifts of your stewardship in ministry.
Blessings ---Ed

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A Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Christian Formation Sunday, June 1st, 10 o'clock

"The gifts he gave were that some would be...teachers." Ephesians 4:11

When someone is baptized, all of us present promise that we will support them in his or her life in Christ. There are many ways to do this, of course, but none is more essential or important than serving as a teacher in the church. At the service on this Sunday we will recognize those who have taught the children, youth, and adults of St. James the Less since last September. They have done a great job and deserve the thanks of all of us.

This year's teachers will take a well-earned rest during the summer, but this is also the season when we begin to make plans for fall. Over the next few months, I encourage you to think and pray about whether God might be calling you to take some part* in the parish ministry of Christian Formation. At a large conference for Church educators many years ago The Right Reverend Richard B. Martin, Retired Suffragan Bishop of Long Island, offered the following questions as a starting point for discernment for those who teach in the Church:

1. Have you wept at anything in the past year?
2. Are you moved by the sight of young beauty in nature and human life?
3. Have you thought seriously about the fact that you are going to die?
4. Do you really listen when people are speaking instead of just waiting for your turn to speak?
5. Is there anyone you know in whose place, if one of you had to suffer great pain, you would be willing to volunteer yourself?
6. Is there anyone with whom you can share your "ludicrous dream"?
7. Is there anyone with whom you can share the worst about yourself?

(Bishop Martin attributed these questions to the Compassion test given to clown candidates by Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus. I have also found them in writings by Frederick Buechner.)

Compassion is a fundamental quality of all of us who aspire to be "fools for the sake of Christ", 1 Corinthians 4:10. If you pass the test above, you might also ask yourself:

1. Do I really like children and young people?
2. Do I try to see the image of God in everyone, even when others have given up on them?
3. Do I want to share the joy of my life in Christ with others?
4. Do I want to learn more about the Bible, our faith tradition and myself?

Teaching "Fools for Christ" this year have been: in the Nursery: Amy Rocchiccioli, Danah Massey, and all the parents and teens who help each week; in the Preschool Classroom: Tahira Abaire and Betsy Snipes; Kindergarten – Grade 2: Laura Baker, Beth Renswick, Matt and Alex Meade; Grades 3-5: Melissa Roberts; Middle School: Sylvia Spagna; High School: Sandi Shirey.
Also those who have served as substitutes in all classes.

Susan Hubbard as a ministry warden oversees and advocates for Christian Formation on the Vestry. Sally Ellithorpe has brought the gift of music to the Cherubs and Dani Pettitt has enriched each week with special music for gathering and in the classroom. It has been my special pleasure and privilege to work with those who teach on Sunday mornings.

John Hoar and the Adult Education Committee have planned Sunday offerings for the Adult class. Carol Abaire as College Ministry Leader has faithfully ministered to local college students as well as keeping in touch with those who are away. Steve Pace, P.K. Kinser, Vicki Morison, Janet Taylor, Jane and Yancey Jones and Susan and Tom Hubbard have the special ministry of working with our middle and high school youth. Ed Tracy has been an invaluable support and participant in all these ministries.

In Christ's love,
Barbara

*All of us have a part to play in the Christian Formation of others, no gift of time or talent is too small to offer.



COLLEGE MINISTRY

I have been honored and privileged to serve as your College Minister for the past 5 years. Getting to know the young adults of Randolph-Macon College and St. James the Less and working alongside them has been a great joy.

We have worked together, eaten together, prayed together, studied together, traveled together, laughed together. We have held each other up and comforted each other. We have shared our triumphs and our passions with each other. I will always treasure those times we spent together – getting to know each other over lunch, dinner, coffee, dessert, email, phone . . .

I will miss this special relationship that we have shared. But our journeys go on in new directions. There are new experiences to be had, new relationships to build, new paths to follow, both for you and for me.

I thank God for the opportunity to have shared this part of my life with you. I ask God's blessings on each of you as we continue on our separate ways.

God bless,
Carol



In Remembrance:

Cabell Luck Jr.
January 5, 1945-May 16, 2008

*Comfort us in our sorrows
at the death of our brother Cabell;
let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.*



In our Parish Family...

Married: Cathy Bach and Bill McElroy – April 26, 2008

Baptized: Thomas Fischer Suydam, Sarah Elizabeth Suydam
and Tristan Tarik Sayed – May 11, 2008

Transferred: The Schubert family, to Fork Church – May 13, 2008



SENIOR HIGH NEWS

The senior high teens were very busy in May with activities that included offering the annual the senior high service and supporting the Relay for Life. Thank you for your generosity; we raised over \$1000 for the American Cancer Society. In June the teens will volunteer one Saturday at the Special Olympics event at the University of Richmond. We will end the year with a fun get-together, sending off our wonderful graduating seniors on their next step in life.

Thirteen of us are headed for the Petersburg Work Camp from July 20nd through July 26th. PK Kinser is chaperoning the boys for the week, but we are in desperate need of an adult female chaperone. Please call if you can help.

Female Chaperone for Work Camp Needed!

Can you offer a week to insure our teens can attend Petersburg Work Camp this summer? There are thirteen teens scheduled to go to the summer work camp in Petersburg July 20th – 26th. This is a fabulous ministry that the teens have been involved with for over ten years. We MUST have one female and one male adult to chaperone for the week. PK Kinser will be our male chaperone this year (Yeah!), but we are in desperate need of a female at least 21 years old to go too. If you would consider this ministry or you know a young adult who might be interested, please call Jane Jones at 798-6919 or e-mail at janehjones@comcast.net.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH UPDATE

Our year is quickly coming to an end and we will be moving 7 of our kids up to the high school group for next year. We will be having our final meeting on Sunday, June 8th. Even though our group size was small, we have had a wonderful time this year with this group of girls. Yes I said girls. Our group was all girls this year. We know of 2 boys that will be joining next year, keep in mind our group is open to any middle school youth that would like to join.

Just a reminder to bring the newspapers for our on-going recycling project.

Thanks to all the parents for their continued support of the youth group. If anyone has questions about the group, feel free to contact any of the advisors.

PK Kinser Vicki Morison Steve Pace



St. Cecelia's Choir

"The St. Cecelia Choir is a go for revival! The St. Cecelia Choir is open to all rising 2nd through 5th graders. We will be recruiting through the spring and summer and hope to debut in the fall. For more information, please contact Dan and Danah Massey at masseycrew@comcast.net or 550-7420. Please help spread the word!"

Yeah for the newly resurrected St. Cecelia's Choir! Dan and Danah Massey, along with loving and supportive friends and family, gently guided this precious choir for their premiere on Easter Sunday. Let us celebrate and encourage their joyful noise! Thank you, Dan and Danah! We can't wait to "hear" from you again!

--Ministry Committee, Susan Hubbard, Chair (798-7927)

June 1 Picnic

It is that time already for annual June picnic. The picnic will be held June 1 out behind Brydon Hall if the weather permits and in Brydon Hall if it raining. **Please bring a covered dish to share.** Drop off your food items in the kitchen before the 10:00 am service with any instructions for serving or warming. Beverages will be provided. Also, please label your dishes—we want to make sure that your dishes are returned to you. Thank you.

-- Parish Life Committee

These Items Are Not Made For Walking!

Several clear plastic pitchers and solid serving trays have grown feet and have left the kitchen in Brydon Hall, and possibly the building. If you know where these items have wandered to, please see that they return as quickly as possible so that we can unshod their feet and put them back into use. Thank you.

--Parish Life

STROKE

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States and the number one cause of disability in adults. A stroke is a “brain attack” in that a portion of the brain ceases to receive oxygenated blood and damage occurs to that area. A stroke can occur either when a blood clot blocks a blood vessel, or when a blood vessel bursts, interrupting blood flow to the brain. When either of these things happens, brain cells begin to die and brain damage occurs. Abilities controlled by that particular area of the brain are impaired or lost entirely. These abilities include speech, movement and memory.

The amount of permanent disability sustained depends on where in the brain the stroke occurred and how much damage was done to the brain tissue. Someone who has a small stroke may experience minor problems such as leg or arm weakness or impaired memory. Someone who has a larger stroke may be paralyzed on one side of the body or lose his or her ability to speak. A very major stroke can result in death.

Fortunately, strokes can be very effectively treated if medical help is sought immediately.

Signs and symptoms of stroke include:

- Sudden weakness or numbness of face, arm or leg on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion or loss of memory.
- Trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking.
- Dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Severe headache with no known cause.

If you experience any of these symptoms, call 911 immediately. The prompt diagnosis and treatment of stroke can improve outcomes immensely and can prevent serious, permanent damage.



**NEW! Announcements and/or events concerning the parish
will be sent by e-mail.**

A.C.E.S.

Food is getting ever more costly. More people right here in our area are in need.

Remember that the first Sunday of every month is "Food Offering Sunday".

Please continue to bring canned goods to the church basket.

(Please be sure the dates on the cans are current.) God bless you.

--Lee and Susan Chambers

SUPPER CLUB:

Be sure to look on the bulletin board in the hallway for the signup sheet for next year's Supper Club. There is one big change - everyone will meet on Saturday evenings. Without the Friday/Saturday split, the scheduling will result in much more diversity - you will see more people at different homes without the duplication of recent years. This harkens back to the original formula. Go sign up!

--George Field



2008 SHRINEMONT:

September 19, 20 & 21. This year we will continue the theme of the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) with a GO GREEN Saturday and a GO HEALTHY Sunday.

Friday night will be another "camp fire" event so plan to bring a chair, a song and a story. Our campfire will be up the hill next to the building we will have for our gatherings, so we won't have to walk up and down the hill so much (not to mention the stairs in the big house). Hopefully, George Spagna will be there to tell us what we're looking at in the sky.

Musicians, bring your instruments, please.

Saturday we'll learn how to be naturalists and we just might make some costumes out of recyclables to wear to the Saturday night event where we'll sing, dance and enjoy the fellowship of SJTL. We might have Karaoke, so those of you who like to sing, practice now.

Check out the sign up sheet for more details and we'll plan to have the info on our website.

--Ron Petitt

HEAVENLY CREATIONS

Are you a person who loves to make craft projects, knit, sew, etc.? Or is baking or cooking your talent? The ***Heavenly Creations Art Show*** committee needs you! We are going to have a larger display area at the art show (Nov. 21-23) where we will sell handmade, donated craft items made by our church members. Since the show comes close to December, items suitable for Christmas giving are very popular. We will also sell homemade food items contributed by our best parish bakers and chefs. 100% of the profit from the crafts/food sale will be given to the church and used for Outreach. If you have 1 or many items that you would like to make and donate, or if you have questions about what to make, please contact me right away. Thanks in advance!

--Jenny Bruce 798-0922