

NEVERTHELESS

Newsletter of the Church of St. James the Less, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
125 Beverly Road, Ashland, VA 23005 (804) 798-6336; Internet: www.stjamestheless.com

May 2009

*Alleluia, Christ is risen!
The Lord has risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Those joyful words still resonate from our Easter service and the celebration continues in this Eastertide of Christ being raised from the dead, sin and death being trampled upon and our lives and that of all creation redeemed. Now these several weeks after Easter the bunny baskets are empty, the white lilies have served their purpose and, in many ways or in all ways, life has returned to the normal cyclic journey from day to day. Has anything really changed?

In the third act of the classic Thornton Wilder play *Our Town*, Emily Webb, after her death, returns to revisit the day of her 12th birthday. As she relives the scene she becomes overwhelmed absorbing all that is happening. Turning to the stage manager character in the play she says, I can't go on. It goes to fast..."I didn't realize. So all that was going on and we never noticed. Take me back up the hill to my grave. But, first wait, one more look. Goodbye, world. Goodbye Grovers Corners, Mama and Papa. Goodbye to the clocks ticking, Mama's sunflowers, food and coffee, and new ironed dresses, and hot baths, and sleeping and waking up. Oh earth you are too wonderful for anybody to realize you." Then looking toward the stage manager she asks..."Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it, every minute?"¹

Easter affords each of us the opportunity to realize all over again the incredible gift of resurrection. In our world today we can text "lol" across the planet or across the street. With the click of a computer mouse we are able explore pictures of a galaxy far, far away. In these and what we now deem to be the most ordinary moments of life sometimes we can become numb and fail to appreciate the glorious gift of life that God surrounds us with.

Unlike Emily Webb of *Our Town*, perhaps most of us do not even own a ticking clock to appreciate anymore. What all of us do have though, is an opportunity to pause for but a moment each day to realize just one simple thing we take for granted. Just think for a moment of the gift it is to be able to read, listen or speak the words on this page. Do an exercise like that enough times and one begins to understand how Easter *has* changed everything including us. *"I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD' (Exodus 33).* Every day is a new day of resurrection and gift. Every day is a new Easter. And with it, everything changes!

*Alleluia, Christ is risen!
And we too with him!
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

A Joyful Eastertide,

Ed

¹ From William Sloane Coffin's sermon "Breakfast with Jesus". *The Collected Sermons of William Sloane Coffin The Riverside Years, Volume 1.* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) p.196.

Senior High Youth Group
All students in 9th thru 12th grade
Sundays from 6:00-7:30pm

We've had quite a wide variety of activities this past month in senior high youth group. For example, on March 22, we had a 'Congolese' experience with the Streshleys. They provided a fantastic dinner of food from the Congo and then shared lots of information about life and mission efforts there. Our Shrine Mont retreat was April 3-5. Everyone got to know Bishop Johnston better, as he spent Friday and all day Saturday with the youth. We are now preparing for the **Senior High Youth Service** (mark your calendars for May 3!) as well as coordinating some fund raising activities for the Iowa Flood Relief trip (mark your calendars for a movie night on May 31—we'll be watching Field of Dreams!).

If you are in high school and have not attended in a while, please feel free to come back anytime—we miss you!

--Aleta Meyer (380-7832 or meyera2@nida.nih.gov)



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

We had another great time at our Shrine Mont weekend. The weather wasn't wonderful to us, but it didn't keep us from doing any of our planned activities. The only issue we had was that another church had already moved into the houses we had been booked to use. This was resolved and we were able to give up one of the houses and kept the larger one. It was great to have everyone together. It was cool enough that we were able to use the fireplace and everyone enjoyed making s'mores. There is a great poster by the bulletin board that PK put together. The kids all made numerous trips to the little store for goodies. Before leaving on Sunday, we presented a donation check from our pancake supper profits to Kirk Gibson who is the Director of Development at Shrine Mont. **Interesting fact, Kirk used to be a youth advisor at SJTL.**

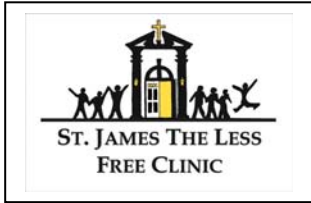
We have had a couple of weeks off because of Spring Break, but are gearing up for a great rest of the year.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the group please feel free to contact any of the advisors.

--PK Kinser, Vicki Morison, Tish Sanders

In Our Parish Family...

Transferred In: The Stockbridge family, Dawn, Danielle and Jake;
The Burgoyne family, Bill, Amy, John, Anna and William.



St James the Less Free Clinic

In conjunction with SJTL Free Clinic, the Ashland Christian Church has opened a free mental health clinic called The Free Mental Health Clinic at Ashland Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. Its coordinators are Jennifer Sydnor and Marcie Moyer.

Here are some comments from both Jennifer and Marcie:

My name is Jennifer Sydnor. A few of you may know me from my experience volunteering with you at your church's free clinic as a screener. First I'd like to thank you all for the wonderful service you provide to our community; more importantly, I'd like to thank you all and ask for your prayers and further support as we open The Free Mental Health Clinic at Ashland Christian Church. We are very excited to have this opportunity to serve our neighbors. I hope as time passes that the mental health clinic at Ashland Christian Church will touch as many hearts and change as many lives as St. James the Less Free Clinic.

From Marcie Moyer: The Free Mental Health Clinic at Ashland Christian Church, Disciples of Christ officially opened its doors on March 19th, 2009. Although, it will take time for the clinic to grow, we were well staffed by an enthusiastic group of volunteers from ACC(DOC). We look forward to serving the Hanover community and are grateful to St. James the Less Free Clinic for their assistance and allowing us to be part of their program.

Congratulations to Ashland Christian Church for successfully opening the mental health clinic. This will help us to more effectively do our work at SJTL Free Clinic. Our clinic is set up to treat the basic medical and dental needs of individuals in our community; hence we were often concerned about cases that truly required more care than we could appropriately provide. Now we have the opportunity to give patients in Hanover County more of the specialized care they need.

--Julie Ericksen

If you are interested in volunteering, making an ongoing pledge to the clinic or have any questions about making a donation, you can call our Board president, Lee Chambers at 798-6647 or send us a note with your intention. Checks can be placed in the collection plate payable to "Saint James the Less Free Clinic" or mailed to us at "Saint James the Less Free Clinic, PO Box 117, Ashland, VA 23005". Thank you.

If you would like to call the clinic for an appointment, a question, or to determine eligibility for services, please call 798-8890 to leave a message and we will call you back.



CARITAS comes to Ashland.....

...and once again we'll be co-hosting with St. Ann's. The guests will be staying at St. Ann's, but we're responsible for the week of June 6-12. Several other Episcopal churches in Region XI are sharing the week's needs, but just to warn you, we'll be seeking help from St. James the Less as well. There will be several areas of help we'll need—bag lunch preparation, dinner preparation, breakfast preparation, plus a few folks willing to stay overnight at St. Ann's one night during that week. We also provide the transportation for the showers and laundry during their stay in Ashland. If you'd be willing to assist in any of these areas, please give either Ricki Carson or Sandi Shirey a call.

We'd love to hear from you, and if we don't, we'll be calling you!

CARITAS help...

We are going to need several sorts of help here. We shall need at least two folks who are able to spend the night at St. Ann's on the nights of June 8 (Monday) and June 9 (Tuesday). That's one person per night.

We shall also need lunch packers for about 40 bag lunches to be ready the evening of June 8 for the guests to take with them the morning of June 9. Also, breakfast-makers on the morning of June 9 are needed.

We'll be making our gourmet tuna salad for supper on "our" night--June 9, and help with that on the afternoon of the 9th would be greatly appreciated, too.

If any of this looks like something you'd be willing to do, Ricki Carson (798-1782) or Sandi Shirey (798-6926) would be thrilled to know about it!

Thanks.

--Ricki Carson 798-1782

--Sandi Shirey 798-6926

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HEAVENLY CREATIONS 2008 ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW RESULTS

THANK YOU St. James the Less volunteers for supporting the 2008 Show. On December 30, 2008 we transferred \$2,128.91 to our Church operating budget and \$4,257.90 to Our Chenery Fund. Your homemade donated food and crafts in our bazaar brought in \$1,900.00 of the \$6,386.81 grand total. GREAT JOB!

THANK YOU St. James the Less Senior High Youth Group for your work every year setting up the Show and taking down and cleaning up after the Show. It is a difficult job but you make it seem easy and fun.

We are already looking forward to our 2009 Show. We are open to your suggestions and would welcome new members on our Committee. Please call Marcia Hill at 798-4615 or email at mfhill@hotmail.com with any questions about the Show.

We appreciate, more than we can express, the talents and generosity of St. James the Less Church.

The Heavenly Creations Committee



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE.....OR IS IT?

Ahh, summer! Hot, dry, wilting summer in Ashland! And just what do we do about that?

First, do you have a rain barrel? If not, get one! Get two! Sometimes, provided your a/c condensation pipe is situated ok, you can arrange it so that water goes into the barrel. The water you collect in your barrel can make a huge difference in the amount you consume. And if it starts to smell a bit funky, ¼ cup of bleach takes care of that. Did you realize that an average rain on an average-sized house roof will produce 550 gallons of water??

Keep a bucket in your shower to collect the water while you're waiting for the shower to heat up. If your shower is a long way from your water heater, consider investing in a circulator pump to save lots of otherwise wasted water. A bucket in the kitchen sink also is a saver feature. Into it go tired ice cubes, hand-rinse water, lettuce washings, and such semi-clean water. And a little soap won't hurt a thing.

--Sandi Shirey

HOLY BAPTISM: If you or a family member wish to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism, the next available is Pentecost Sunday, May 31. Please contact the office at 798-6336.

U.T.O. Coordinator: The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a program of The Episcopal Church, founded by and administered by women since 1889, for the mission of the whole Church. We need an individual to coordinate the UTO offering for SJTL for 2009. For details you may consult the website www.episcopalchurch.org/uto.htm. An ingathering of donations is to take place on Sunday, May 24, 2009. Please contact the church office at 798-6336.

An Ashland Farm to Family Coop is forming with the Hanover Arts and Activities building as the drop off location. Fresh food from local famers puts your money to work at the grass roots of our local and state economy where it does the most economic good for the most people. 25 farmers from the area are already providing products and Hanover farmers are encouraged to become producers. You can get information, pricing and sign up at www.farm2udirect.com or call Ron Petitt at 804-852-2320.

ShrineMont Retreat:

It's time to start thinking about September's ShrineMont Parish Retreat! The date is September 25-26-27. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway soon.

If anyone would like to be on the Committee for planning and carrying out this event, please call Ron Petitt at 852-2320 or George Field at 752-6384.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta: A fundraiser for the Sr. High Youth Group trip to Iowa for flood relief will be held at Bobbi Street's home on May 4, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. To get your written invitation and drawing entry card, please contact Doris Hassell at 798-0529 no later than May 1. Nursery will be provided. (Mexican clothing and dancing shoes optional.)



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cathy Bach-McElroy, Melissa Roberts
- 2 Laura Tarbox
- 3 Bob McDougall
- 5 Jessica Hill, Melissa Hill, Riley Massey
- 6 Vandí Hodges, Rob Suydam
- 7 Christin May
- 8 Charlie Rosser
- 13 Elizabeth Cox, Katie Sprinkel
- 14 Bryan Cline
- 15 Debra Grosse
- 16 Wilbur Lawrence
- 17 Gwynyth Hooley, Laurie Rodman
- 18 Jessica Sanders
- 20 Dick Harman
- 22 Chris Cauthorne, Haden Hopkins
- 23 Tammie May
- 24 Robert May Jr., Rachel Grosse, Alex Pickett
- 25 Anil Purmasir
- 26 Will Rosser
- 27 Ed Tracy, Tom Hubbard, Corinna Cline
- 28 McKenzie Pickett
- 29 Janet Rosser, Greg Ericksen
- 31 Lorri Epperson

Our Prayers Are Invited...

For healing: **BUDDY** Kelley, **RANDY** Munford, **CHARLOTTE** Reynolds, **BEKAH** Taylor and **EMILY** Starrett;

For the homebound: **JOYCE** Jeffers and **NANCY** Bugge;

For those serving in the military: **ADAM** Baker, **PATRICK** Raney, **TRENT** Chelette, **CHRIS** Abaire, **SCOTT** Feeley and **C. DALE** Reed;

Relatives & Friends: **KENNETH** Niblock (brother of Sarah Sanders), **BERNARD** Hawk (friend of the Howards), **SUSAN & BOB** Paul (sister & brother-in-law) & **TODD** Rudolph (nephew) of Jan FitzHugh, **ETHAN** Rekant (friend of Bob & Mary Lou Brown), the **LESKO** family & **TIM** O'Connell (friends of Doris Hassell), **WHIT** Licata (nephew of Cami Stiles), **PEGGY** Kern (friend of Lyde Longaker & Katherine Tinker), **JOHN** Kennahan (friend of Jim & Betty Moore), **BILL** Lohr (friend of the Hooleys), **MAURA** Schofield (sister of Pat Jordan), **TRISH** Riley (family of Bob & Janice Jones), **PEGGY** Raper (friend of Tom & Bobbi Street), **THOMAS** Sheffield (father of Maggie), **LAURIE** Meschke & **ELIZABETH** Robertson (friends of Aleta Meyer), **CHARLES** Pleasants (father of Brayden & Parke), **WEB** Buchanan (friend of the parish), **MARILYN** Buchet (sister-in-law) & **MACK** Castle (son-in-law) of Sally Walton, **RICK** Seabolt (friend of Vicki Morison), **CONNIE** Hoar (sister of John), **NANCY** Ketner (friend of Lula Hopkins), **BARRY** Bittner (father of Julie Ericksen), **FEILD** Baskerville (friend of Ron & Condé Hopkins), **ED** Cox, **FRED** Abrahamsen, **ROBIN** Smith & **SANDIE** Litsinger (former parishioners), **LOGAN** Monk (grandson), **SCOTT** Ruff (son-in-law) & **RANDY** Rosinsky (friend) (of Rebecca Cauthorne), the **JAN** Meacham family, **JENNIFER & DEREK** Burton (Lee Ann & Ed's family), **JUDY** Thomas (friend of the Flanagans).