

NEVERTHELESS- November-December 2011

St. James the Less, Episcopal Church
125 Beverly Road, Ashland, VA 23005 (804) 798-6336
www.stjamestheless.com



Calendar of Events

Nov. 6, All Saints' Sunday:
Daylight Saving Time ends.

Nov. 8, 7pm:
Vestry meeting

Nov. 11, Veterans' Day:
Church office will be closed.

Nov. 13, Stewardship Sunday:
Pot Luck luncheon follows the
10am service.

Nov. 18-20:
Heavenly Creations Art Show

Nov. 20, 10am:
Middle School Youth Service

Nov. 23-25, Thanksgiving
Church office will be closed.

Nov. 27, First Advent:
10am: Holy Baptism

Dec. 18:
Greening of the church
follows the 10am service.
5:30pm: Outreach Dinner

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve:
5pm: Festival Eucharist with
the Children's Choirs
10:30pm: Festival Eucharist
with the Adult Choir

Dec.23-Jan. 2:
Church office will be closed.

Jan. 1:
10am: A Service of Lessons
and Carols

A Letter from the Rev. Charles Joy

My Dear Friends,

When I go out to the end of the driveway to get the paper these mornings, I realize how much the days have shortened since the height of summer. Early one Wednesday recently, I became a little frustrated trying to back out of the driveway in the dark. Not very far into my drive to Ashland for the 7:30 Mass, I noticed a bright security light shining on the roadway on Route 54. The contrast to what I had just experienced was striking, and I began thinking of the pleasures of streetlights as I have known them for most of my life. Their light makes negotiation around the inside of a house at night, or outside, in a driveway or elsewhere, easy to do.

Yet for all that, I wouldn't trade the sweet-smelling darkness of home, ripe and pungent with the fragrance of decaying leaves and cut grass, for brightly lit streets. As I continued driving toward Ashland into darkness and dawn, I began to think about darkness which is becoming more evident with these passing autumn days. There came into my mind a verse from the prophet Isaiah: "I will give you the treasures of darkness, and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name." (Isaiah 45.3).

When I was a little boy I was afraid of the dark, of what might lurk under the bed, and went to sleep every night with the hall light on. Yet the darkness has treasures, as the prophet tells us, and hoards of treasure in its secret places. Whenever we close our eyes we are in darkness. That's why Jesus says "the light of the body is the eye." Think about sleep. I meet a lot of people who have sleep issues, who would love the darkness that comes from deep sleep and profound rest. Or prayer. When we close our eyes in our prayers we confront God and try to allow God to confront us, in the darkness behind our eyelids.

As a perennial child of the 1960s, I continue to love the haunting lyrics of Simon and Garfunkel's "Sounds of Silence." "Hello darkness, my old friend, I've come to talk with you again, because a vision softly creeping, left its seeds while I was sleeping. . . . My eyes were stabbed by a neon light that split the night . . . and the people bowed and prayed to the neon god they'd made. . . . The words of the prophets are whispered in the sounds of silence." The darkness is the place of our inner life, what one writer calls "the dark night of the soul." It's the place where our dreams are born; where our subconscious mind is honest; where we are bare and exposed to God, and to ourselves.

Sleep and prayer are closely joined. While Jesus prayed, his disciples slept. Jesus lay down in darkness, and in the shadows came to

new life in resurrection. On the cross he had said “It is finished;” but it wasn’t finished at all – not by a long shot. “When you were baptized into Christ Jesus you were baptized into his death.” You were baptized into the place where God’s mystery is most profound and yet closest to us; the place where we are most afraid and where God always waits for us in safety. Who knew that out of darkness was coming a new beginning?

To embrace the darkness is to reach out for God and to grope for the finger of his creation. “Never fear to precede the dawn to praise, and bless, and sing: Christ your Lord.”

JOYfully yours,
Charles



A Letter from the Senior Warden

In an earlier NevertheLess this year, Charles Joy spoke to us about signs. In brief, he said that if we were quiet enough and observant, we could witness many small acts of kindness, faith or other marvels that surround us every day.

I appreciate Charles’ reminding me of the importance of looking for the “signs”. To reflect if you will on the “signs” and what the signs are telling us. As I go about my responsibilities as Senior Warden here at St. James the Less, I’m often struck with the beehive of activities that surround me. Gifts of time, talent and treasure that enrich our own lives and those of others every day. People giving the gifts of their talent, time and treasure to support the mission and life of St. James the Less our church, our faith and our community. Mission that includes Youth, the Clinic, Parish Life, Worship, Education and Property, to name a few, requires us to consider the needs of others as we enjoy the gifts we have been given.

While I could point to the example of stewardship from any of the missions mentioned above, I want to take this opportunity to share good news and a heartfelt thank you from the Property Commission to the congregation.

In October, while working with the Diocesan Insurance Program to review our insurance coverage, we had a visit from an insurance representative. Following an evaluation of our property and grounds, this representative congratulated us on how well our property is kept and maintained. I pass along this congratulations because it takes stewardship (time, talent and treasure) to keep the church property in good condition.

I will close with the teachings of Charles Joy.

Life is short,
and we have not much time to gladden the hearts
of those who travel with us, so
be swift to love
and make haste to be kind;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
dwell with you today and
remain with you forever. AMEN

Give as you can.

Shortly you will hear from Bob May, Jenny Bruce and Tim Holt, our stewardship chairpersons, asking for your pledge of support.

In faith your servant
Dale Hill, Senior Warden

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Well the 2011/2012 has begun. It has been a busy one so far. We started off with our annual cook-out on September 11th.

PK and Aleta chaperoned 3 of our 8th graders to the Diocese PYM Shrine Mont retreat a couple of weeks ago. They had a great time until the return trip when they had van issues.

Thanks to Bill Sanders for going to their rescue in Staunton. Check out the pictures on the church facebook page.

We spent time with the high school group and created a drumming circle. It was a gorgeous night to be out. Everyone made great music.



The group is starting to put their heads together for the youth service which will be on **November 20th**. We have a great group of enthusiastic youth tossing out creative ideas for this. As usual, it will make for a service not to be missed.

PK and Vicki will be taking our 6th and 7th graders to the upcoming Diocese PYM Shrine Mont retreat the weekend of November 11th.

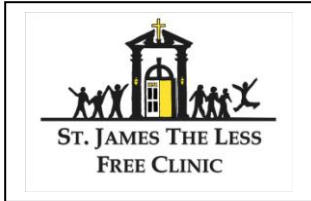
If you know of a middle school youth that would like to join us each Sunday, please feel free to have them come. We are always open to new members. If you have any questions, feel free to contact: PK Kinser, Vicki Morison, Tish Sanders or Bryan Cline.



**Shrine Mont 2011
A great time was had by all!**

Many in our parish spent the last full weekend of September at Shrine Mont for our family retreat. The theme was "Find the peace that lies within you; in memory of Mary Field." It was a wonderful time for parishioners of all ages to enjoy hiking, porch sitting, star gazing, reading, quilt making, eating wonderful food, laughing and worshipping together.

The senior high youth group traveled there together and were joined by several middle school teens too. Thanks to Aleta Meyer who offered a mask making activity for everyone at the retreat. Special thanks to the Shrine Mont committee, in particular Ron and Dani Pettit and to Rev. Charles Joy who led our worship. Don't miss this weekend next year!



Saint James the Less Free Clinic - November/December 2011

Happy Birthday to you Saint James the Less Free Clinic! I can't believe you are five years old. How you've grown. One little clinic became five clinics, now known collectively as Hanover Interfaith Free Clinics.

The five clinics under our umbrella are:

Saint James the Less Free Clinic,
founded October 25, 2006.

Shiloh Eye Care Clinic at Shiloh Baptist Church, Ashland, VA,
founded January 19, 2008.

Ashland Christian – Disciples of Christ Free Clinic at Ashland Christian Disciples of Christ Church,
founded March 12, 2009.

Mechanicsville Christian Dental Clinic at Mechanicsville Christian Church,
founded October 2009.

Cheryl H. Watson Memorial Clinic at Shady Grove United Methodist Church, Mechanicsville, VA,
founded February 16, 2010.

Here's some information from our 2010 Annual Report that Susan Chambers lovingly compiled. In all of the five clinics together, 24 physicians, 45 nurses, 18 dentists, 7 dental hygienists and 329 others, all volunteered their time and expertise as they treated and helped 906 patients during 2,674 visits providing over \$692,000 worth of services, medications, eyeglasses and dentures and nearly 16,000 hours of volunteer time – and that was just 2010! More importantly, I can attest to the fact that we are providing these services with compassion, dignity and respect – and much laughter and love too!

Julie Ericksen



Don't forget our annual fundraiser - SJTL 2011 **HEAVENLY CREATIONS ARTS and CRAFTS SHOW** November 18th, 19th and 20th!

This Year we have 15 new artists (including 2 junior artists) and 28 returning artists. Please donate your handmade craft items and your jams, jellies, pickles, etc. and your baked goods for the Church Bazaar section of the Heavenly Creations Show. You can leave these items in the church kitchen. They are 100% profit for SJTL and are an important draw for the Show. Call Jenny Bruce at 798-0922 for more information.

Included in this newsletter is an invitation to the Show.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. We still have spaces open. Sign up on the Church Volunteer bulletin board or contact Dani and Ron Petitt at 798-6548, rpetitt@localnet.com. Join us - We have fun!

Please bring saved PAPER GROCERY BAGS for our wrappers and STURDY BOXES for our Holding Room to the church kitchen by November 13th.

The Heavenly Creations Committee is excited about this year's Show and, with your help, we look forward to another successful Show.

Call me or email me with any questions.

Marcia Hill, 798-4615 or mfhill@hotmail.com



BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

- 1 Mary Lynn, Sally Ellithorpe
- 3 Truman Parmele, John Hoar, Tanya Reagan
- 4 Susan Hubbard, Sylvia Spagna
- 7 Thomas Leachman, Joseph Boyle
- 12 Rick Roberts, Tracy Hughes
- 13 Carol McGrew, Stuart May
- 15 Emily Roemer, Kate Helsley
- 16 Naomi Pace
- 17 Bebe Luck, Russ Boyle, Ian Hughes
- 20 Rosemary Jones
- 23 Susan Chambers
- 25 Richard Taylor, Jane Jones
- 26 Christen Meacham
- 28 Sara Reece, Coby FitzHugh



DECEMBER

- 1 Alex Meade
- 2 Jack Kay
- 5 Paul Tarbox, Christine Sayed, Brody Wehman
- 6 Jane Howard
- 7 Rebecca Cline
- 8 Faith Boyle, Abigail Glidden
- 10 Bob Hopkins, Kris Holt
- 11 Erik Rison, Billy Rison, Anna Burgoyne, Will Burgoyne
- 13 Cara Wehman, Maddie Miles
- 14 Hilda Kelly
- 15 Deklan Cauthorne
- 20 Carl Harris
- 22 Tom Fritter, Laura Baker
- 24 Teva Rittenhouse, P.K. Kinser
- 25 Abby Friedman
- 26 Megan Rodman, Madlen Lesesne, Tess Lesesne
- 27 Lelia Wehman
- 28 Ron Petitt
- 29 Morse Olin, Renee Conley
- 30 Sam Rosser, Harrison Baker
- 31 Hannah Moberg

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 2 Jeff & Julie Ericksen | 6 Steve & Cheryl Thomas | 25! |
| 6 Brett & Ana Bajcsi | 16 Don & Jenny Bruce | 10! |
| 7 Jim & Cecile Cox | 18 Forrest & Stephanie Lewis | |
| 25 Walton & Helen Vaughan | Townes & Holly Rison | |
| 26 Bob & Lula Hopkins | 19 Jim & Cheryl Sanders | |
| 27 Wilbur & Ann Lawrence | 27 Ron & Dani Petitt | |
| 28 Steve & Alice Lewis | 28 Al & Marilyn Garlick | |
| | | 35! |
| | | 30! |



A Note from Pat Jordan

Dear St. James the Less Family,

I want to thank all of you so very much for your prayers, your cards, phone calls, food and emotional support to and for me and my family during my husband Bob's illness and recent death. You really ARE the most wonderful Church family. We all felt much loved and cared for, and still do. And special thanks to Parish Life for organizing the Reception after the service where my children and grandchildren and I could hug you all and say THANK YOU.

With love to my Church Family,
Pat Jordan

Stewardship Sunday: Nov. 13. Please place your pledges on the altar during Communion at both services. You are invited to bring a dish to share for a "Pot Luck" lunch following the 10am service. ***If you have been attending services regularly and don't have a pledge card and/or name tag, you need to register as a member. Please complete a yellow "Household Information Form", located with the guestbook by the main entrance (or from the office) and return it to the church office. Thank you.***

POP TOP COLLECTION: By popular demand, the 3rd - 5th Grade Sunday School Class, aluminum can pop tops are being collected again this school year. These come from soup cans as well as drink cans.

Last school year, 9 lbs of pop tops (1/2 paper grocery bag) were given to the local Ronald McDonald House on Monument Avenue. The 9 lbs provide enough revenue for one family to stay one night there free of charge. They are very grateful for our donations and welcome you to stop by! Please continue to support this easy and worthwhile charity. There is a jar in the windowsill outside Brydon Hall for collection, or feel free to leave your pop tops in the 3rd - 5th Grade Sunday School room downstairs. Thank you!

Episcopal Church Women: The ECW of Central Hanover will meet at St. Paul's, Hanover, on Monday, Nov. 7 at 11am. Bring a sandwich.

Christmas Service Schedule

December 24: 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist
Our Children's Choir will sing.

December 24: 10:30 pm Holy Eucharist
Our Choir will present musical offering at 10:00 pm.

December 25: 10:00 am. Holy Eucharist
A quiet and intimate service with no music.

January 1, 2012: 10:00 am. A Service of Lessons and Carols