Saint Dunstan's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE BELLRINGER

April 2012

STEPS OF FAITH

We are all familiar with the miracle from the Book of Exodus of God parting the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape the pursuing Egyptians. I've heard it suggested recently that the real miracle of the Red Sea story wasn't that the waters were pushed back to create a watery wall to the left and to the right, but the real miracle was that someone was willing to take the first step into that breach created by God. Great journeys and life transforming moments usually begin by taking steps of faith, moving forward even when we don't know what is around the corner. God presents us with an abundance of opportunities to take steps of faith. In the next few months, St. Dunstan's will have one of these opportunities.

On May 14th, I will begin a four month sabbatical. The sabbatical will begin with a week long clergy-wellness conference called CREDO. In late June, I will travel to Dodoma, Tanzania to work in that Anglican Diocese for a month. While in Tanzania, I'll not only be helping out in the cathedral but I'll be working with an organization called The Carpenter's Kids that helps feed and educate children orphaned by the AIDS crisis. I have felt God calling me to experience Christianity in Africa, to experience the Christian faith as an outsider in the culture. This is certainly an opportunity for me to step out in faith with an open heart, mind and spirit to see how God might draw me closer in faith.

I have been your rector and pastor for that last seven years and have been changed in unexpected wonderful ways. It will feel very strange to step away from the day to day operations and life of St. Dunstan's. However, where I am stepping out there is opportunity for others to step in. The Reverend Anna Scherer will faithfully step into the clerical leadership role. This will be a new experience for her and she will face situations she hasn't seen before and will need the full support of the congregation. My time away will allow the laity (you) to take on more leadership roles and ownership of our church community. I encourage everyone to share their gifts and find places to be involved at St. Dunstan's. Take some chances. Step out in faith.

After the first person stepped into the muddy corridor cut through the Red Sea by God, it made it that much easier for those how followed to trust and believe. The hope for my sabbatical is that by me stepping out of my comfort zone I might be able to find places of relationship and international partnership for all generations at St. Dunstan's to step into. These relationships would enrich the lives and faith of all involved. As we dare to move out of out comfort zones into the desperately needy parts of our world, we empower others to do the same and we all move a little closer to the Promised Land.

This Holy Week and Easter we will hear Mark's version of the Passion and Resurrection. We will hear of a very human Jesus who in faith stepped into Jerusalem and towards the cross. We are able to step out in faith because of Christ who first took the great faithful steps for us. Fill us with the gift of faith Lord that we might ever walk with thee.

Stephen +

CRUCIFIX

By The Rev. Anna M. Scherer

A couple months ago, I was touring St. Louis Cathedral (Roman Catholic) in New Orleans and I came across a huge crucifix. This crucifix was quite striking in its details. The sculpture of Jesus on the cross was well detailed and he was also painted very life-like. Or death-like I should say. You could see the wounds and blood very vividly. It was a very moving piece of sacred art.

I've been a Protestant my whole life, though I did spend my first two years of high school at a Roman Catholic school. So the vast majority of the cross images that I have seen during my life have been empty crosses. There are several reasons why Protestants elected to go with a cross rather than a crucifix - to differentiate themselves from Roman Catholics, to remove anything that they considered to resemble idolatry (some Protestants even rejected the plain cross and other religious images altogether), to focus on the resurrection (a more modern argument). I generally prefer crosses to crucifixes because I was raised with them and I see the empty cross as a double reminder - a reminder of both the crucifixion and the resurrection (both of which are necessary and dependent upon each other).

However, seeing that crucifix reminded me of how powerful an image the crucifix is and that we are missing something in churches when we only use empty crosses. It is especially appropriate during Lent and Holy Week to use a crucifix because it keeps us centered upon Jesus' death. A detailed crucifixion image demands our attention and reminds us of just how horrible Jesus' torture and death was. A crucifix does not let us skip from Palm Sunday directly to Easter without Good Friday in-between. A crucifix does not allow us to celebrate the resurrection without considering the enormous sacrifice that Jesus made for us and the whole world.

I recommend spending some time before Easter looking at a crucifix and not just looking but actually seeing and feeling it in an attempt to bring oneself closer to the crucified Christ.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT ST DUNSTAN'S

Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 1
8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing
10:00 AM Sun. School
10:15 AM HE Rite II & Healing
Joy and Praise Choirs

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 5
6:00 PM Seder Supper/PH
7:00 PM Service/Sanctuary

Good Friday
Friday, April 6
Noon-Service and Stations of the Cross at 1:00 PM

4:00 PM—Children's Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM Service/Chapel

Easter Day
Sunday, April 8
8:15 AM HE Rite I
10:15 AM HE Rite II
Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

John Donohue 4/3
Ellen Keck 4/5
Jeila Irdmusa 4/9
Kevin Place 4/10
Alex Place 4/10
Nancy Pierpont 4/10
Richard Irons 4/11
Sarah Colatriano 4/20
Noah Murphy 4/20
Marjorie Cole 4/21
Margaret Brown 4/22
Lucy Griffin 4/23
Barbara Kenniston 4/26
Tommy Williams 4/27
Rosalie Learned 4/28

Christian Formation

By Gray Snead, DCE

Mission in Dungannon, VA

Are there any youth out there that enjoy working with their hands? Using a hammer? Enjoy learning how to fix things? Enjoying fixing things for others that improves their daily life? If so, then you should join with other youth from Region V Episcopal Parishes for a trip to Dungannon, VA, and put your talent and skills to good use. Every summer, Parish youth join together on a service mission outreach experience that puts our Christian ideal of helping others into action. Rising Freshman, and older, work together to perform home repairs for those that do not have the financial or physical ability to perform or complete themselves. A worthwhile endeavor for all youth interested! For more details email, call, or see Gray.

Youth Group Meetings

The **YAC** group will "Eat, Pray, Love: sharing time together in fellowship, meal, and "Eucharist," on April 15th in the Fellowship Hall from 6-8 pm;**J2A** will be meeting on April 22nd, delving into "Chapter 4"; **Rite-13** will meet as scheduled on April 15th. Rite-13 again will host a Movie Night, for all interested, on April 21st from 6-8 pm. Last month we enjoyed "A Smile as Big as the Moon." Hardly a dry eye in the place. What a sight we must have made, happy tears and green food! It was an inspiring movie about dedication, perseverance, and the realization that if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish most anything. Join us for another fun night of fellowship together. Special *Thanks* goes out to Richard, Jessica, Elizabeth, and Nancy for all of the yummy (and green) treats.

Easter Vigil at the Cathedral

Join me for this year's Easter Vigil Service at the National Cathedral. I was very moved the first time I attend the service at the Cathedral, and am again looking forward to this year. Come join with me in the celebration-all are welcome.

Easter Egg Hunt!

Remember, following the 10:15 Easter service will be the St. Dunstan's Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your favorite basket to collect eggs.

Calling all Green Thumbs!

Lastly, I'd like to inspire all green thumbs and wannabes to join with me and others in the Parish, as we work together to form a partnership with SHARE gardens tending plots, gleaning farms, and growing vegetables for our community members in need and who would benefit from our gifts.

I'm so fortunate and happy to share this Easter season with all of you. Please contact me for any questions, or just to say hello, dce@stdunstans.net.

Peace, my friends.

Parish Annual Spring Work Day

SATURDAY, MAY 5th FROM 9am to 1pm

The Parish Spring Work Day is Saturday, May 5th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Because many hands make light work, **please** include this as part of your busy schedules. Even if you can come for just an hour, your participation will be a huge contribution to our church's upkeep.

This year an excavation of the garden area in front of the St Dunstan stained glass window will be a primary focus. Please bring extra shovels (marked with your name), and you see anyone giving away free fill dirt, please bring a bucket or bag of it—it will be used.

Other outdoor projects include sawing up branches, weeding, spreading mulch, raking leaves, pruning, and removing vines that are trying to strangle our trees. Indoors we can take on the scraping and re-sealing of cinder block walls in the stairwells.

Come for some or all of the day, and feel free to bring your favorite tools and gloves. If you have no tools, we'll have a variety on site that you can use. Water, beverages, and light snacks are provided. No special skills are required - just show up with your enthusiasm and a smile, we'll put you to work. Look for the sign-in table near the front door of the church.

DUNSTAN, THE FINAL YEARS (978-988)

By George Burghardt

Dunstan's retirement at Canterbury consisted of long hours, both day and night, spent in private prayer, as well as his regular attendance at Mass. He worked to improve the spiritual and temporal well-being of his people, to build and restore churches, to establish schools, to defend widows and orphans, to promote peace and to enforce respect for purity.

On the vigil (a watch formerly kept on the night before a religious feast with prayer and other devotions) of Ascension Day 988, it is recorded that a vision of angels warned Dunstan he would die in three days. On the feast day itself, Dunstan said Mass and preached three times to the people: at the gospel, at the benediction and after the Agnus Dei (a liturgical prayer addressed to Christ the Savior). In his last address, he announced his impending death and wished his congregation well. That afternoon, he choose the spot for his tomb, then went to bed. His strength failed rapidly, and on Saturday morning, May 19, 988, he called the clergy to assemble. Mass was celebrated in his presence where he received Extreme Unction (a sacrament in which a priest anoints and prays for the recovery and salvation of a critically ill or injured person) and the Viaticum (The Eucharist given to a person in danger of death), and then he died. Dunstan's final words are reported to have been, "he hath made a remembrance of his wonderful works, being a merciful and gracious Lord: He hath given food to them that fear Him."

The English people accepted him as a saint shortly after his death and he was formally canonized in 1029. That year at the Synod on Winchester, St. Dunstan's feast was ordered to be kept solemnly throughout England. The Eastern Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion mark his feast day on May 19.

English literature contains many references to him. For example in "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, and in this folk rhyme:

St. Dunstan, as the story goes
Once pull'd the devil by the nose
With red-hot tongs, which made him roar, That he was heard tree miles or more.

From this the tongs have become a symbol of St. Dunstan.

Another story relates how Dunstan nailed a horseshoe to the Devil's hoof when he was asked to re-shoe the Devil's horse. This caused the Devil great pain and Dunstan only agreed to remove the shoe and release the Devil after he promised never to enter a place where a horseshoe is over the door. This is claimed as the origin of the lucky horseshoe.

Dunstan Shoeing The Devil's Hoof

As illustrated by George Cruikshank

SHARE OUTREACH

A reminder that SHARE is in greater need than ever of your donations as its clientele list grows larger and larger. A take-home list of needed items is available to you in the vestibule, as are baskets for your donations of food and supplies, OR you may choose to donate a gift card to a local store where groceries and supplies are available. Envelopes for your gift cards or cash donations and checks are also available in the vestibule. You may either put them in the offering plate or deliver them to the Church Office. Checks should be made out to SHARE, INC.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 2012 MEETING

St. Dunstan's Polling Place

Report on use of St. Dunstan's first use as a Polling place. All was positive in terms of set up, take down, etc and had 200 people use the site. As hoped, some voters were checking out the church. The true test will be in November's election. Vestry will pursue options to ensure visitors know the church is open for viewing and pamphlets are available.

Brooksfield Proposals

Brooksfield made proposals both for space to park a small school bus and for permission to have a trailer on the Tayman property to house a toddler and additional preschool program. The Vestry declined to allow the use of the Tayman property but is willing to learn about Brooksfield's ideas on this point. The Vestry agreed to allow the school to park the bus in the lot near the dumpsters with a cost to be determined in the future.

Haiti Follow-up

The purpose of the March 4th post-service meeting on Haiti was to begin the talk of broadening the scope of our mission to include a project in Haiti. The views of the members of the congregation reflected the views of members of the Vestry. A group from St. George's is going to Haiti in April and October 2012, which might present good opportunities to send a team from St. Dunstan's. The next step is to develop a core of people interested in Haiti and determine whether we have interested parties to travel to Haiti in October.

Jr Wardens' Report

The gutters are cleaned out, but standing water was found on the nursery roof and on the inside of the front window. The front window might be addressed during the Spring work day. The nursery roof will need an estimate. Parking lot light bulbs are quite expensive. There is a need to repair, replace, and paint exterior surfaces and replace doors on the Parish Hall. Redesign of the Common Room was discussed. The water heater was replaced last month. Next parish work day is May 5th.

Strategic Plan

The Communication Subcommittee: reported on the website upgrade. They have explored several options. A discussion regarding content and website audience ensued. The group hopes to have a finalized proposal for the April 14th Vestry Retreat. Arrangements have been made at St. John's Episcopal Church, McLean to use their conference room for the vestry retreat on April 14th.

Full copies of the Vestry Meeting minutes are posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board.
The next Vestry Meeting will be Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at St. John's Episcopal Church, McLean.

2012 VESTRY

Sr Warden – Nancy Searby
Jr Wardens – Linda Young, Philip Chalk
Treasurer – David Graling
Register– Tami Lindquist
Finance Shepherd – Jon Ambrosius
Stewardship Shepherd – Nancy Pierpont
Christian Ed Shepherd – Cheryl Mazzier
Fellowship Shepherds – Brian Russo,
Mike Verderame, Lee Keshishian
Outreach & Mission Shepherd – Mike Verderame
Worship Shepherd – Tommy Lee Whitlock
Communications Shepherd – Perry Williams
Newcomers Shepherd – Brian Russo
Discipleship Shepherd – Nancy Searby

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

MAUNDY THURSDAY
Thursday, April 5
Seder Supper and Service

Join us for Seder Supper at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall. For planning purposes, please sign up in the vestibule or call the office. Following the Supper, the service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Noon Service/Sanctuary
1:00 pm Stations of the Cross
4:00 PM—Children's Stations of the Cross/Sanctuary
7:00 PM Service/Chapel

EASTER VIGIL
At the National Cathedral
Saturday, April 7

Join Gray, and other members of St. Dunstan's for this year's Easter Vigil Service at the National Cathedral. All youth, parent volunteers, and others are welcome. If you're interested, contact Gray.

EASTER SERVICES

8:15 AM HE Rite I
10:15 AM HE Rite II

St. Dunstan's Easter Egg Hunt!
Following the 10:15 am Service
Bring your favorite Easter Basket!

LUNCH BUNCH
Wed., April 11
Noon at Capri

Capri is the Italian Restaurant located in the McLean Giant Shopping Center upstairs over Joseph A. Banks. All are welcome-bring a friend. The carpool leaves the church parking lot at 11:40 am. Contact Helen Vogel (703) 534-4877.

BOOKWORMS
Sat., April 21
10:00 AM at the Hopkins'

As we mentioned last month our book will be Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson. As it is a rather long book, we decided to discuss it over two months. The first half of the book (chapters one-twentuy-three) will be reviewed in April. The rest of the book (chapters twenty-four-forty-two) will be discussed in May. Steve Jobs story is not just about Apple! His tale is instructive and cautionary, filled with lessons about innovation, character, leadership, and values.

WOMEN OF ST DUNSTAN'S

"Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
Be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace"

These wonderful words, from Hymn 347, will "set the tone" for **our Spring Gathering of THE WOMEN OF ST. DUNSTAN's on Saturday, April 21st, at 4:00 p.m., in the Undercroft.** *Please put the date on your calendar NOW, and COME!* It is NOT necessary to join anything---if you are a woman, and attend St. Dunstan's, you are automatically a member. There is NOTHING you have to do or bring--- no assignments, committees, or reports. Child care will be provided (please let us know if this would make it possible for you to attend). We'll have a short inspirational program, some light refreshments, and an opportunity to just "catch up" with each other a bit.

Elizabeth Lee – (703) 860-5060
Ellen Keck – (703) 356-2147

MOVIE NIGHT
Saturday, April 21
6-8 PM

Rite 13 will host a Movie Night, for all interested, on April 21st from 6-8 pm in the Common Rm.

FOURTH FRIDAY MEAL
HIGHLIGHTS OF SHRINEMONT
Friday, April 27
6:30 – 8:30 PM at St. Dunstan's

Please join us at a special 4th Friday event this April 27th as we bring highlights of our Shrinemont experience to St. Dunstan's. Come and enjoy:

⇒ **Squaredancing**, with our very own Hedy as the caller

⇒ **Singing** children's all-time favorite, *Horse and Rider*

⇒ **Vintage Shrinemont Photos**

⇒ **S'mores,** and good ol'fashioned St. Dunstan's fellowship!

A-H Main Dish
I-P Dessert &
P-Z Salad
BYO Beverages
See you there!

PARISH WORK DAY
Mark your Calendars!!!!
Saturday, May 5
9:00 am—1:00 pm

The Parish Spring Work Day is Saturday, May 5th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Because many hands make light work, **please** include this as part of your busy schedules. Even if you can come for just an hour, your participation will be a huge contribution to our church's upkeep.

APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **Palm Sunday** 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II & Healing **Joy and Praise Choirs** Egg Stuffers/PH After Service	2	3 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel	4 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conf. Rm.	5 **Maundy Thursday** **Seder Supper 6 PM/PH** **Service 7 PM Sanctuary** 	6 **Good Friday** **Noon**-Service & **1 PM** Stations of the Cross **4 PM** Children's Stations of the Cross **7 PM** Service/Ch.	7 **Easter Vigil/** National Cathedral 9:00– Noon MYO
8 **Easter Day** 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:15 AM HE Rite II **Easter Egg Hunt** 	9 7:00 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall	10 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel 6:30 PM Outreach/Common Room	11 10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. Noon Lunch Bunch 1:30 PM Quilters/Common Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	12 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Praise Choir/PH	13 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	14 9:00– MYO/PH 9:00—3:00 PM Vestry Retreat at St. John's Episcopal
15 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II & Healing Adult Formation after services 6:00 PM—8:00 PM YAC/PH	16 7:00 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall	17 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	18 10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. 1:30 PM Quilters/Common Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	19 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC	20 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	21 9:00-Noon-MYO 10:00 Bookworms/ Hopkins' Home 4:00 Women of St. Dunstan's/UC 6:00 Movie Night // Common Room
22 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10:00 AM Sun. School 10:15 HE Rite II & Healing Adult Formation after services	23 7:00 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall	24 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel	25 10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. 1:30 PM Quilters/Common Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	26 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC	27 6:30 PM Fourth Friday Meal 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	28 9:00– Noon MYO/ PH
29 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II Adult Formation after services YAC Meets after the 10:15	30 7:00 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall					

CONTACT US

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