

The Bellringer



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

A Letter from a Sinner in Lent

Dear Lord,

First let me begin with thanks. Thank you, for out of your imaginative creative power you made me. Formed from the dust of the earth, you breathed life into humankind, you breathed life into me. I know you hate nothing you have created. Thank you for the waters of baptism through which I was cleansed of sin and born anew. Thank you for the spiritual gifts you have blessed with me. The moments when I am using those gifts in the service of your kingdom are the moments I feel your presence so near, so dear, so clear. Often I am overwhelmed by your blessings that abound in my life each and every day. Because of all this goodness you have directed toward me, it makes the rest of this letter so hard to write.

I am so far from the person you intend me to be. I am so far from the kind of discipleship you call me to. I find my prayer is self-centered. I dominate our conversation with my needs and my troubles, never waiting to listen for your answer. I spend my time in prayer asking you to shape the world into how I would like it to be, never remembering that "your ways are not my ways" and "your time frame is not my time

frame". Lord, help me be still and trust that you are God. I confess my sin of selfishness.

I am ashamed of my lack of stewardship of the time, talent, and treasure you have given me. I spend so little of my time seeking a deeper knowledge of you and relationship with you. I waste my talents by either not using them or not using them in your service. I begrudgingly cling onto money not giving freely as your Son and the first disciples taught us to give. There are so many times that money actually becomes more important in my life than you and your Kingdom. I confess my sin of being a bad steward.

I fear. So much of my life is motivated by fear and not motivated by love. Because of fear I accumulate stuff, because of fear I think of me first, because of fear I worry and stress. I fear that I am not worthy of yours or anyone's love. This fear undermines all the relationships of my life preventing me from seeing your love in others and others seeing your love through me. Why do I doubt? Why do I not trust in you and your ways? Instead of living sacred I live scared. I confess my lack of trust in you.

I have left so much undone that

I ought to have done. Lord, when have you tried to be active in the world through me but my sloth and inaction has been an obstacle to someone knowing your loving presence? Was it the homeless or hungry I passed on the street? Is it the starving, sick, and persecuted around the world that I have given a deaf ear? Is it the lack of charity and forgiveness in my own family that diminishes your loving presence? I confess I have left so much undone.

You loved me so much that your Son, Jesus Christ suffered and died on a cross for me that I might know your love and grace. Yet my recognition, thanks, and response for that gift is pathetic. It is Ash Wednesday. This day I will wear the mark of my confession, my shame. I will look in the mirror and see myself as you see me and not the face I present to the world. I will look in the mirror and see the ashen cross on my forehead and remember how far I have fallen and that you are creator and I am but dust. I will look in the mirror and see a reminder of your never failing love through the cross and be filled with hope once again, the hope that you have not given up on me.

Sincerely,

Your Beloved Child

PARISH NEWS

Reception for Bishop Mar. 16

There will be a special reception for the Bishop following the 10:15 AM Service. The Fellowship Committee would like donations of finger food for the reception. A sign-up sheet is located on the Vestibule table.

Adult Baptism, Confirmation, or Reception

On March 16, 2014, we will have our annual visit from the bishop. The bishop's visit is an appropriate time for adults to be baptized, to be confirmed, or to be received. Baptism is for those who have never been baptized in any church. Confirmation is for people who were baptized as children but never confirmed the baptismal vows made on their behalf. Reception is for those who were baptized/confirmed in another denomination but would like to be received into the Episcopal Church. Please



Bishop Gulick

let Reverend Shepherd or Reverend Scherer know if you are interested in being baptized, confirmed, or received during the bishop's visit.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series Kicks Off with Meal Mar. 12

You are invited to come and be an "armchair pilgrim" to the Holy Land every Wednesday starting on March 12 – April 9. Our seminarian, Justin Ivatts, will take us on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We will experience the religious sites where Jesus actually walked or in some cases where tradition says he did. We will read scripture together, pray together, learn about history and archeology and discuss the current political situation in the Holy Land.

We will begin with a Palestinian Meal on Wednesday March 12th. There will be a small charge of \$20 per head (\$35 per couple). The proceeds will go to support the work of the Anglican Church in the Holy Land. Please sign up for the dinner on the sign-up sheet in the narthex by Sunday March 7th so we will know numbers. Dinner is at 6:45 PM and the Program will start at 7:30 PM. All other sessions are free and no sign-up required.

We will finish on Wednesday April 9th with The Way of the Cross, which is based on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem.

Bookworms to Meet Sat., Mar. 15

We will meet at 10 AM in the church conference room. Our Lenten book is *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. C.S. Lewis gives us the correspondence of the worldly-wise old devil to his nephew Wormwood, a novice demon in charge of securing the damnation of an ordinary young man.

Lunch Bunch: Wed., Mar. 19

We are delighted to be invited to Vinson Hall for our March Lunch Bunch. As always, our car pool leaves the church at 11:45 AM. All are welcome! For more, call Helen Vogel at (703) 534-4877.

St. Dunstan's Trip to Tanzania

St. Dunstan's and St. Mary's, Arlington, are planning a joint, 10-day trip to Tanzania this August to establish a relationship with people in our village, Wilunze. If you are interested in going or learning more about this trip please contact either Rev. Stephen or Rev. Anna. ■

SHARE & Alternative House Needs

Currently, SHARE is OUT of the following items: coffee (ground), black teabags, white rice, white sugar, white flour, vegetable oil, mayonnaise, ketchup, 100% Juice, canned fruit. ALSO, SHARE is out of items which cannot be purchased with food stamps, such as paper towels, feminine products, diapers (especially sizes 5 & 6), baby wipes, toilet paper, laundry detergent.

Food and supplies donations can be delivered to the baskets in the church vestibule, gift cards may be placed in the offering plate (use envelopes marked SHARE) or you can make these deliveries to SHARE directly at McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road (follow the walk next to the playground), Weds. and Sat., 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. There is also a bin for after hours drop-off.

Alternative House, www.thealternativehouse.org, located in Vienna, also needs your support as it provides a safe, nurturing haven for young people. There is a basket in the vestibule where we are collecting small toiletries and travel sized items for their use.

Your help is always appreciated and makes a difference. Thank You! ■

WOMEN OF ST. DUNSTAN'S

News from the Women of St. Dunstan's

Sixteen women assembled in The Common Room at 4:00 p.m., on January 25th, to hear a presentation about the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center.

After an opening prayer, Elizabeth introduced Ms. Kathy Banks, the Director of the Center, who spoke to us for about 45 minutes, and then invited us to comment or ask any questions we might have. The conversation was engaging.

Our support for the Children's Center is unique to the Women of St. Dunstan's, and has in the past consisted mainly of funding, twice a year, their list of needed supplies for lunch and snacks for the children. In response to a specific question, Kathy made it quite clear that our purchasing and having these supplies delivered through "PeaPod" is not only quite acceptable, but is particularly helpful to their routine. She also said that the quality of what they receive this way is always excellent. Historically, the proceeds from our annual Christmas Craft Fair supports the Falls Church McLean Children's Center and pays for these supplies and snacks. This year, the Women of St. Dunstan's raised \$814.50. Our thanks to all who contributed so generously during the Christmas Craft Fair!

Since, at one of our previous meetings, there had been expressions that operating in this manner seemed

somewhat impersonal, we asked whether there are any other ways in which we might be of help, and perhaps interact with the children in a more supportive manner. Considerable enthusiastic discussion ensued, and Kathy eagerly let us know that many such opportunities exist, including:

- Coming in to read to some of the children;
- Donating some books for the children and their families to take home;
- Supplying hats, gloves, warm jackets (new or "gently used");
- Helping children learn to garden & tend plantings at the Center's front & back entry-ways; and
- Perhaps inviting some of our Sunday School children to be "pen pals" with a class at the Center.

There are many ways our Women's group could support the Center, but we specifically discussed pursuing the above ministries. We will each prayerfully consider to which ministry we feel called and share our preferences with the group by replying all. We will discuss planning for each of these activities at our March meeting.

The next Women of St. Dunstan's meeting will be 15 March 2014 from 4:00 to 6:00 in the Common Room. Please come! ■

Who Set Up for the Last Supper?

The Altar Guild evolved within the Episcopal Church to support the clergy and enable them to preach and lead services without also having to set them up. The duty of the Altar Guild is to prepare all things necessary for the services of the church, especially the celebration of the Eucharist.

The preparations are done in a manner so that any service may be conducted in decency, order, and beauty for the worship of God.

St. Dunstan's Altar Guild needs more people! We have four teams so each of us works one weekend out of every four. The time commitment is about an hour on a Saturday morning and thirty to forty-five minutes on a Sunday morning. Some members have a hard time



Is it your turn to set the table?

with Saturday mornings and come in Thursday or Friday instead. Members also switch weekends if there are conflicts with other parts of our lives.

We are a smaller group, including both men and women, within the congregation, so if you are looking for a group to join please consider joining us! We have no official training

times; you start right in with a team and work with experienced people to learn what needs to be done. There is also a written manual of procedures.

If you are interested or have questions, please call Caroline Brethauer, current Altar Guild President, at 703-356-3816, or any member that you know, or the church office. We look forward to hearing from you soon! ■

2014 VESTRY

New Vestry Empaneled

Saint Dunstan's vestry for 2014 met in February and assigned duties for the new year. Perry Williams indicated a willingness to continue as Senior Warden, and current Junior Warden Jim Buttz will now share duties with new arrival Leonard Ward.

As it did in 2013, the vestry has broken itself in to sub-groups that will share sets of vestry responsibilities. Group A (Finance, Stewardship, Communications) will be made up of Cheryl Mazzier and Peter Scanlon. Group B (Youth, Christian Education, Adult Formation, Outreach) will include Eileen McCormick Place, Jane Frierson, and Rosalie Learned.

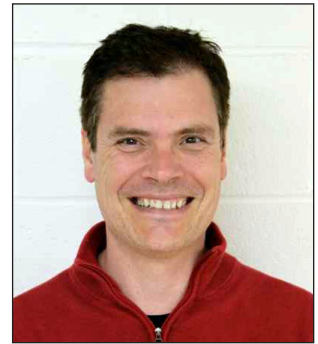
Group C (Fellowship, Worship, Newcomers) will be served by Lori Murphy, Alison Keck, and Nancy Rider.

Perry reviewed the meeting structure and asked that before the next meeting each group meet and agree on two or three things that they would like to accomplish during the year. This will become the blueprint for the Vestry actions over the next year.

Parishioners with suggestions or other information for the vestry are encouraged to share their thoughts with Perry Williams or any other vestry member. ■



Perry Williams



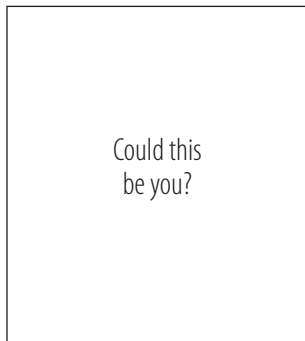
Jim Buttz



Cheryl Mazzier



Eileen Place



Twelfth vestry member needed!



Rosalie Learned



Alison Keck



Leonard Ward



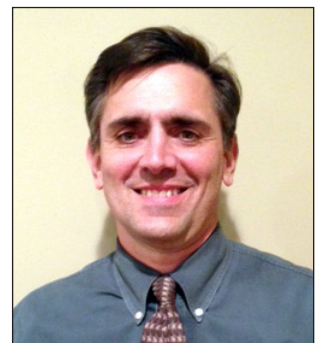
Jane Frierson



Lori Murphy



Nancy Rider



Peter Scanlon

CORNELIUS PROJECT

Thirteen Parties Sign Up For Cornelius Cash

Four thousand dollars was divided thirteen ways in the Parish Hall March 9 as individuals, couples, and entire families signed up for the St. Dunstan's installment of The Cornelius Project. Named for a generous gentile and centurion who is credited in the Book of Acts with convincing the apostle Peter that the Gospel was intended for all peoples rather than just Jews, The Cornelius Project is a participatory initiative to discover how the Holy Spirit might lead the investment of time and treasure.

Rounded down to \$300 per recipient, the funds come with two restrictions: Participants are asked to use their \$300 to meet some need in the community—not to merely write a check to an organization but to be physically involved with however they feel called to use the funds. Also, if a participant feels called to help an existing organization, it cannot be one currently supported by St. Dunstan's. ■

At upper right, Claire Lee pauses to consider how she might seek to build the Kingdom with \$300. At right, Judge Chalk entertains dreams of blowing it all at the Lego Store. Below, Treasurer-for-Life Dave Graling recalculates how \$4,000 is divisible by 13.



March Birthdays

4	Jim Buttz	19	Liam Savage
5	Russell Keck	20	Elizabeth Dunn
6	Sam Johnston	21	Turner Rose
9	Lilian Lindquist	22	Desmond Curran
14	Julia Williams	22	Louisa Dietrich
15	Tony Griffin	22	Zachariah Raehn
15	Jon Spear	25	Lisa Irons
16	Jane Langmaid	25	Janet Malcolm
16	Sadie Postelle	28	Justin Upp
17	Judy Schaub	31	Shannon Postelle
17	Suzan Yungner		

TWENTY QUESTIONS: KERI WEPPLER

That fly-eating, bull-riding Montana girl

What is your full name? Keri Lynn Wepppler.

How long have you been an Episcopalian? Since 1999.

How long have you been a member at Saint Dunstan's? Since 1999.

Where were you born? Great Falls, Montana.

Where did you grow up? South Central Part of Montana in an area called the Big Coulee.

What is the most unusual thing about your family background? It's pretty boring, and no, I am not Native American. I am mostly German with a bit of English and Irish tossed in. My great-grandfather homesteaded in Montana before it was a state, and it is rumored that one of his uncles was a stagecoach driver from Virginia City, MT to Utah. Maybe more unusual is the school where I went to grade school. It was a K-12, and there were seven kids in my class—pretty unusual for our area. By graduation day, I had moved to another school, and another student had moved away also, so there were five. It is the school where my maternal grandmother, mother, brother and sister all graduated from. We had an all-school reunion in 2012, and it was fun to see that all the class pictures are still up on the wall—even my grandmothers class. She graduated in 1927!

Where have you gone to school? I started out of high school in Powell, Wyoming, at North West College and graduated from George Mason.

What do you do from nine to five during the week? I just took a new position, so my new title is Associate Director of Pork Business with Zoetis. [From Wikipedia: "the world's largest producer of medi-

cine and vaccinations for pets and livestock." —Ed.] I have been with Zoetis for 14 years, working with small-animal veterinarians mostly in the Northern Virginia area. As of January 1, though, I now work with pig producers all over the country.

What do you like most about what you do? There's never a dull moment, and it is a very interesting business—and all about keeping animals healthy. Companion animals make awesome companions, so we want them to live long and healthy lives. Pigs, cattle, sheep, etc. are our food source, so it's very important to keep them healthy, too.

What do you like least about what you do? Well, right now I live during the week in New Jersey—in a very beautiful area—but I sure don't like not being at home with my family each night.

What's the best job you ever had, and why? I would have to say the one I have—it has been a wonderful career. I have held four different positions, so I've been able to grow as a professional while doing what I love to do.

What is the worst job you ever had, and why? When I was in high school I had a part-time job putting the inserts into the daily newspaper. It was awful: very dirty, with paper cuts and late night hours. I wouldn't wish that on anyone. And I don't look at the inserts quite the same anymore!

It's often said that all lives see their share of joy and sorrow. Looking back, what would you say would be greatest of each for you? Joy: I have been very fortunate to have a lot of joy in my life—in God, my husband Mark, my sons Ian and Grant, my brothers, sisters and parents and the rest

of my extended family. I grew up in a wonderful part of the country and live a life that not many get to experience. Sorrow would have to be the losses of family members; I miss them dearly.

Where have you lived? Well, Montana, of course—Rapelje, Shepherd, and Billings. Then Mark and I moved to Chicago, and from there to Savage, Maryland and then to McLean.

Of the places you've lived, which did you like best and why? All of them—they all provided unique experiences that we wouldn't have had if we didn't live there. We met friends in each place that we're still friends with today, and they've all led us to where we are right now.

How many U.S. states have you visited (not including airport stopovers)? 47 states, only missing Maine, Hawaii, and Alaska.

How many countries have you visited? Only Mexico, Canada, and France.

What would be your ideal trip? Anyplace, really—I love to travel with Mark and the boys.

If you could re-visit any restaurant that you've ever been to, which one would it be? Lebanese Taverna—love that place!

Who has the best hamburgers in Northern Virginia or DC? Don't narrow it down so much: The best are at Gusick's in Billings, Montana.

What are your guilty pleasures? A nap!

If you won a month, all expenses paid, to do whatever you wanted, what would you do? Travel through Europe with Mark and the boys.

What is the grossest thing

Continued on next page



Keri with sons Ian and Grant and husband Mark Thompson at Ian's commissioning and graduation in December

Continued from previous page

you've ever eaten (and why did you have to eat it)? A fly—I was tricked by my brother and sisters. (I am the youngest.)

What was your most memorable encounter with law enforcement? I was pulled over and ticketed for not having a valid registration when I was 16. My dad had told me not to put the sticker on until it warmed up or it would break, but I had it with me and showed the officer. The whole thing scared me as a 16-year-old!

If you could choose one outfit to wear through eternity, what would it be? Jeans and a sweatshirt (but then again, what is the weather like?)

If you could wave a magic wand and immediately be masterful at an instrument, which would it be? Piano

And at a hobby or pastime? Painting.

Do you have any favorite quotations or mottos? "I can do no great things, only small things with great love." —Mother Theresa.

When you find yourself worrying, what worries you the most? My kids...

Looking back, what would you do over if you could? Nothing!

What is the most dangerous thing you've ever done? Dangerous or stupidest? I rode a bull in a rodeo—but I did make eight seconds and came in second place! (And I didn't get hurt, thank goodness!

What are your hobbies? Reading, taking walks with my pups and hubby, and riding bikes.

If we asked your family what your most irritating trait is, what would they say? I can't hear very well, so I am always asking them to repeat what they said or I don't hear them.

What is your favorite color? Purple.

If we turned on the TV after

you were watching, on what channel would it be? The recorded section; I like only a few shows but always have to DVR them and watch them on the weekend.

What is your main web browser's home page? Zoetis.com.

What do you like best about Saint Dunstan's? The people and the church itself, what a beautiful place!

If you could change something about Saint Dunstan's, what would it be? I would like to see it grow faster.

Complete this sentence: Yeah, I would be a better Christian if I... kept God top of mind.

If your house were on fire and you could grab three things to take with you as you fled outside, what would they be? My family, and then, I think, the computer (because that is where most all of our pictures are), and I have a box with special stuff in it in the basement. ■

PATHS TO GOD: TOMMYLEE WHITLOCK

The Long and Very Winding Road

I was born in upstate South Carolina, the younger of two sons born into a family of Southern Baptists. My parents were basically of one mind about religious matters, and they taught my brother and me to pray before going to sleep and to say grace at meals, which we did at dinner pretty much every night when I was a boy.

During my elementary and junior high school years, we went to church on Sunday to both morning and evening services and also to the Wednesday evening prayer-meeting service. I was in Sunday school every Sunday morning, and later I was active in the Baptist youth group for boys, the Royal Ambassadors. In those days, pretty much everyone attended church, and for years of my childhood, I thought our whole town was Baptist like us. Certainly most of our neighbors were.

In Baptist churches, there is no infant baptism or catechism (or at least there wasn't in our church), but at some point in one's life—after years of singing “Just As I Am”—you become aware of the need to go up for the altar call and accept Jesus. This happens at all ages, but for me, it was during Vacation Bible School, about the time I turned twelve. I went up to the front of the church, confessed to Preacher Stewart my acceptance of Christ as my savior, and was baptized a couple of months later. That was probably when I started becoming aware of my own independent religious identity.

Preacher Stewart was the second pastor I remember in our local church. He was a childhood

friend of my father's, and for that reason our family had close ties with him. He was a true man of God and had a profound influence on my religious views. To this day, I remember him fondly. In retrospect, I am amazed at his calm wisdom and deep spirituality when he spoke with me. Especially for the time and place, I consider him



Air Force days

to have been an enlightened influence in my life and religious thought.

About a year or so after I was baptized, Preacher Stewart was asked to seek another church, purely for political reasons. (Mom always said that the key criticism was that he concentrated on the youth ministry, and some of the older members didn't feel like he paid enough attention to them.) I was very sad when he left, and I think our whole family felt betrayed.

Shortly thereafter, our sense of belonging was further tested by racial politics, as desegregation began in the south. I remember clearly when the Southern Baptist Convention decided (among other things) to change some of the Sunday school books, including one of my earliest Sunday schools lessons, centered on the song “Jesus Loves the Little Children.” The song was illustrated by a drawing which depicted a multi-racial group of children holding hands in a circle. The SBC decided to remove it.

My religious identity was beginning to assert itself, mainly because I didn't think the pictures should have been removed. There were other events happening in the SBC that I thought were at odds to what I had been taught at a younger age and that I also thought were con-

trary to the teachings of Jesus. So, that was when I broke ranks with the Baptist church. Our attendance as a family tapered off at that time, due also in part to my mother's beginning struggle with health issues and also because we didn't care for the new pastor's style. Before long we just weren't going to church any more.

Nevertheless, I still had a strong belief in God—but my view of the religious landscape began getting larger. I discovered that we had a couple of Presbyterians in the family, and I learned a bit about the Methodist Church and visited a few times, too. In high school, I had a couple of friends who were Catholic (!) and became acquainted with some Jewish neighbors who ran one of the town haberdasheries and were very nice people. I attended a couple of synagogue services and later investigated the Baha'i faith for a while. (There was much about the Baha'i faith that attracted me, including their emphasis on the brotherhood of all humanity, equality of races, and equality of the sexes.)

Soon I was off to college, where I majored in foreign languages and had an opportunity to study Modern Spoken Hebrew. The class was taught by a Rabbi of one of the synagogues in Columbia, SC, Rabbi Aaron Kriegel—a wonderful person. I learned as much about Judaism from him as I did Hebrew, and it was all good. I attended services at his synagogue a few times, and he inspired me any many ways by his actions—even enough to make me consider converting to Judaism at one point.

After two years of college, I joined the Air Force. During this time, my

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

interest in religion and spirituality was at its lowest ebb. (It wasn't completely dead, but at that time in my life, I just didn't have much use for religion.) During my last year in the Air Force, while I was stationed in Greece, I heard about a really affordable trip to Israel, and a friend convinced me to sign up for it—which took some doing on his part, especially after he told me that it was a Catholic pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It turned out to be an amazing trip in many, many ways, not least because of the trip's leader, a very energetic Jesuit priest named Father Paul. During the week-long tour, I had many lively and frank discussions with him (usually over wine) about Christianity and the Roman Catholic Church, and these talks with Father Paul had more to do with eventually bringing me back to church than probably anything else.

After four years in the Air Force, I returned home, and shortly thereafter, my father passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. I went back to school and finished my BA at Clemson, followed by graduate study at Duke, where I got an exchange scholarship to Berlin. In Berlin, I met a young American student who invited me to attend a Methodist church. She returned to the U.S. after only one semester, but I continued to attend on my own, having made several friendships among the congregation. It was there that I had my first real experience with anything resembling liturgical worship.

After I returned from Germany, I started attending Sunday chapel services regularly on campus at Duke and also joined the Methodist student group, only to switch to a non-denominational charismatic church after an invitation from yet another young woman. I have to say that I had many unusual and amazing experiences

while attending that charismatic church, and being part of an entire congregation that was “singing in the Spirit”—with the whole group concluding in a magnificent major chord at the same time—stands out among them.

Before long, I moved to Washington, D.C., where I first stuck with the charismatics, attending an Assemblies of God church in northern Virginia but at one point finding it difficult to get to. Closer by was a Missouri Synod Lutheran church in south Arlington, and I discovered that I liked it enough to start their catechism class. In the very first catechism class, however, my Baptist upbringing reared its head and since I couldn't reconcile “grace and grace alone” with my belief in the requirement for free will to accept salvation or not, I never went back to the class.

Eventually, I met and dated the woman I was to marry. Through her family, I was introduced to Anglican worship habits, from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, since my father-in-law and mother-in-law were founding members of a non-Episcopalian Anglican church, St. Paul's ACC, in Lexington, Virginia. On our visits to her family, we would attend services there with my in-laws. During our Christmas visits, we attended the Christmas midnight service at R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal church, as well.

I started attending St. Dunstan's a little over ten years ago—I liked the liturgical worship and the music. A good friend, Sharon Henderson, who is a long time member kept inviting me; I was unchurched but feeling God's tug, and circumstances worked out. When I started attending, I appreciated the warm welcome I received. I appreciate the respect for tradition at St. Dunstan's—traditional worship

and the continuity of the Episcopal Church with the Anglo-Catholic Church of England. I also appreciate the open-mindedness of the Episcopal Church, and this been important for making me a regular attendee.

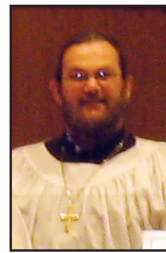
Among my other favorite features of Anglican practice is the celebration of Holy Eucharist every Sunday and the observation of the liturgical seasons each year. (This is something that I didn't have much experience with growing up: The Baptist church observes specif-

ic holidays but not the seasons and not with the liturgical colors.) But I especially love the beauty of the language of the Book of Common Prayer and its long tradition. I was/am a student of language and as such, I really appreciate and enjoy the language of Rite I very much and am very moved whenever we use it in

services. I grew up with the King James version of the Bible, so the language of Rite I (or the BCP of 1928) is very familiar to me. However, I am also particularly fond of the Rite II Eucharistic Prayer C: “At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. By your will they were created and have their being. From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill.”

As for figures I most admire, St. Peter is certainly among my favorite characters in the New Testament. I have to say, though, that through our Education for Ministry class, I've acquired an appreciation for St. Paul that I never had before. Unfortunately, Paul's words are probably the most misquoted, misinterpreted and misrepresented in the entire Bible. Still, picking a favorite Biblical passage is easy:

Continued on next page



Choir, 2008

YOU GOTTA LAUGH

"As church secretary, I prepare the bulletin for each week's services. One Sunday morning, I heard snickering from the pews. Quickly grabbing the bulletin, I found the cause. The sermon title for that day was: 'What Makes God Sick: Pastor Joe Smith.'"

* * *

The topic for my ninth-grade class was palindromes, words or sentences that are the same read forward and backward. I asked the question "What is the first thing Adam said to Eve?"

I was expecting the answer "Madam, I'm Adam," but one student had a better reply: "Wow."

* * *

When our minister and his wife visited our neighbor, her four-year-old daughter answered the door. "Mom!" she yelled toward the living room. "God's here, and he brought his girlfriend."

* * *

En route to church to make his first confession, my nervous seven-year-old grandson asked me what he could expect. "Confession is where you tell all the bad things you've done to the priest," I told him.

He looked relieved. "Good. I haven't done anything bad to the priest."

* * *

A man comes forward at a revival meeting, seeking help. "I need you to pray for my hearing," he tells the preacher.

The preacher puts his fingers on the man's ears and prays loudly, encouraging all in attendance to join in. When he's done, he asks, "How's your hearing now?"

"I don't know," says the man. "I don't go to court til next Tuesday."

* * *

When I asked my friend if she was planning to attend church, she just shook her head. "I haven't gone in a long time," she said. "Besides, it's too late for me. I've probably already broken all seven commandments."

* * *

Martin was shipwrecked and lived alone on a desert island for years until he was finally rescued. Before leaving the island, he gave the rescue party a tour. "I built myself a house. That's it there. Here's the barn, and over here is the church I worshipped in."

"What's that building over there?" one of the rescuers asked.

Martin sneered. "That's the church I used to belong to."

* * *

With Bible in hand, I read to my high school religion class, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife."

"Okay," I said, "from this passage of scripture, what do we learn is important in marriage?"

A student blurted out, "Cleavage." ■

Continued from previous page

Corinthians I, Chapter 13. This is St. Paul at his finest and, in my humble opinion, his truest.

Beyond the Bible, there is a series of fantasy books written by Katherine Kurz called the "Deryni Series" that I would call a favorite. It's a fantasy series, set in a land where magic is possible, and it is one of the very few series of fantasy books that blends Christianity as an important element into the story.

As for favorite hymns, I have to say that there is so much wonderful hymnody in the Anglican tradition that it's really hard to choose. If I

had to nail one down, though, I am particularly fond of the harmonies in the hymns of Welsh origin, and among them "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (hymn tune "Cwm Rhondda") is probably my favorite.

With all this wonderful tradition combined with a very open minded attitude and emphasis on person searching, it is sad and even curious that the Episcopal Church isn't growing by leaps and bounds. The decline in church attendance, though, is a complex problem and is not unique to the Episcopal Church. There are so many events and activities that demand people's time these days that there seems to be little left

for church. Personally, I'd like to see a stronger emphasis on music—perhaps a recital and concert series or something else to open the church up more to the surrounding community. Sung Evensong services at regular intervals would be good, too. Maybe having an open Taizé service one evening a month, advertised to the community—and a recital or concert series, would be good. I believe that a vibrant and varied music program reflects the soul of the church and aids us in our approach to God. I think that a vibrant and varied music program would go a long way to attracting more people to the church. ■

MARCH 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9 AM-Noon McLean Youth Orchestra
2 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 9:15 AM Bible Study 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10 AM Confirmation Class 11:45 AM Lay Committee, Conference Room	3 7 PM Boy Scouts, Parish Hall	4 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel	5 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Room	6 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir/UC	7	8 9 AM-Noon McLean Youth Orchestra
9 8:15 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II Senior High/Chesterbrook Senior Living Spirit Choir	10 7 PM Boy Scouts, Parish Hall	11 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel	12 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Room 6:45 Lenten Meal 7:30 Lenten Program EFM/Common Room	13 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir/UC	14	15 9 AM-Noon McLean Youth Orchestra 10 AM Bookworms, conference room 4-6 PM, Women of St. Dunstan's
16 (Bishop Gulick visits) 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II & Healing 10 AM Confirmation Class	17 7 PM Boy Scouts, Parish Hall	18 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel	19 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Room Noon, Lunch Bunch at Vinson Hall 6:45 Potluck Meal 7 PM Vestery Meeting 7:30 Lenten Program EFM/Common Room	20 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir/UC	21	22 9 AM-Noon McLean Youth Orchestra
23 8:15 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II 10 AM Senior High/UC Spirit Choir	24 7 PM Boy Scouts, Parish Hall	25 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel	26 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Room 6:45 Potluck Meal 7:30 Lenten Program EFM/Common Room	27 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir/UC	28	COMING SOON: • April 13: Palm Sunday • April 17: Maundy Thurs. • April 18: Good Friday • April 20: Easter

Please feel free to contact us

ST. DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1830 Kirby Road, McLean, VA 22101 • 703-356-7533

The Very Rev. Stephen G. Shepherd, Rector

Email: rector@stdunstans.net

The Rev. Anna M. Scherer, Asst. Rector

Email: ascherer@stdunstans.net

Visit us online at: www.stdunstans.net



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
1830 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101