



# The Bellringer

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

## Reflections on Ethics Day

In May, a representative from Langley High School called and invited me to participate in their annual Ethics Day for the graduating seniors. I was not aware that both Langley and Mclean High Schools had such offerings for their seniors. I agreed to volunteer and was filled with curiosity about what happens on Ethics Day. My role would be to facilitate conversation between 8 of about 500 students who were participating. The students were loaded onto buses and taken to the Gannett Publishing Building in Tyson's Corner. Their day was broken into four modules which the groups rotated through. In three of the modules, the students were presented with ethical dilemmas and they were invited to talk about their decisions and their reasoning. The fourth module presented five methods (Utilitarian, Rights, Justice, Common Good, Virtue) of making ethical decisions as published by Santa Clara University. The day was well run and engaged many of the students in thinking about ethics.

While having lunch with some of the other volunteers, I was interested to hear the thoughts of the parents of the participants who had also volunteered. They were very excited that

their children were being exposed to ethics so they would be able to make wise decisions as they ventured off to college or some other life beyond Langley High School. My unspoken thought was, "This is a good event but one day isn't going to make a difference regarding the decisions your children will make in the future." The construction of a solid ethical foundation for decision-making is a life long venture not accomplished in one day. Ideally that foundation should be built with a Christian understanding of the ethical life, reinforced at home, and lived in the "real" world. Ethics, although based on individual actions, and is intended to shape a community.

The well-known Anglican theologian N. T. Wright described Christian ethics this way, "Christian ethics is not a matter of discovering what's going on in the world and getting in tune with it. It isn't a matter of doing things to earn God's favor. It is not about trying to obey dusty rulebooks from long ago or far away. It is about practicing, in the present, the tunes we shall sing in God's new world." What I like about this statement is that, we are encouraged to conduct our lives in a way that will shape the world to come as opposed to man-

aging the world as it is. What is the Christian vision for the future Kingdom of God on earth? It is a world where we love God and we love our neighbors as ourselves. It is a world where there is true justice. What does that world look like and are our actions transforming our world towards that image. Wright's ethical image puts the focus on consequences for community and not self. We are not here to earn heaven points but to spread God's Kingdom on earth.

We may not think reflection of Christian ethics is particularly important but it is. When it comes to the myriad of social problems our country and the world are facing, the Christian voice seems to be waning if it hasn't already gone silent. As technology and science continue to rush forward, who will provide the ethics for their application? How will Christ inform those decisions? Our culture continues to stress individual rights and experiences. If we are conscious about ethics, we can shift that focus on the community building and transformation. That is our mission to share the Gospel, the Good News, of a world shaped by God's love and mercy.

—Stephen +

## PARISH NEWS

## Spots Open for Adult Ed this Fall!

Do you want to learn more about the Bible? Do you want to learn how to think more theologically about the things that happen in your life? Do you want to become better educated and equipped to do ministry in the world?

If the answer is “yes,” then consider Education for Ministry. Ministry is what all Christians are called to do, both ordained and non-ordained. EfM is an intensive program developed for lay-people in order to educate and empower their ministry. It is NOT for people seeking ordination.

During our meetings we share a meal, fellowship, discussion of the curriculum, theological reflection, and worship. We meet once a week on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:00 from Sept-May (we take summers off). The commitment is for only one 9-month session at a time. For more information please contact Rev. Anna Scherer at ascherer@stdunstans.net or Nancy Searby.

## St. Dunstan's Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont: Sept. 19-21

Have you ever wondered what it means to be Anglican? Didn't we become independent from Britain in 1776? What is the difference between Episcopalian and Anglican? Come and find out the answers to all these questions and more on our parish Shrine Mont

Weekend. Led by our seminarian, Justin Ivatts, we will explore together what it means to be Anglican. How are we similar to other Anglicans around the world? How are we different? Please join us for a fun filled weekend as we study our Anglican identity.

Mark your calendars! September 19-21, 2014. IT WILL BE HERE BEFORE WE KNOW IT!!

Look for more details soon!

## Bookworms Meeting Sept. 27

We moved the date of our Bookworms to September 27 to resolve the conflict with the Shrine Mont Weekend. At our September meeting, we thought it would be fun if everyone presented their own summer reading book. We begin our Fall meeting back at Barbara Hopkins' home at 1504 Wasp Pl. McLean, VA 22101. Have a great end of summer! –Helen Vogel (703)534-4877.

## SHARE: Many, Many Thanks

A big ‘thank you’ to everyone who contributed to making our Thanksgiving in July a success! For the first time, we had all three Episcopal Churches in McLean working together—St. Dunstan's, St. John's and St. Thomas. We are grateful for all the non-perishable food items, toiletries, food cards, and cash that were donated by parishioners and members of the community. ■

## Catherine Beauchamp in the Headlines

Catherine Beauchamp celebrated her 39th birthday—or something like that—with a surprise of cake and candles at an Education for Ministry meeting in February. More recently, Catherine



was honored by the (National) Cathedral Choral Society in their newsletter under a headline that read “Special Recognition: Catherine Beauchamp, Chorus Administrator.” The article included these words: “Today we celebrate and thank Catherine Beauchamp as she retires. She has been a singing member of the Cathedral Choral Society since 1952 and has served for 22 years as Chorus Administrator. Singers have depended upon her organizational skills and her amazing knowledge and memory....She can recall who sang in what season, even WAY back. Her knowledge, memory, and record-keeping have all been vital to the Cathedral Choral Society...In 1992, the Cathedral Choral Society honored her with its Anniversary Award (now The Tidball Award), and in 2007, she was awarded the Society's Order of Merit, its highest distinction.” ■



## PARISH NEWS

## Ashby Run Marks Debut of 'Tayman Music Program'



Parishioners, friends, and neighbors—including Assistant Rector Anna Scherer in hat at left—broke out the folding chairs and wide brims to hear Virginia bluegrass veterans **Ashby Run** on Sunday, July 13 on the Tayman lawn at St. Dunstan's. The concert featured generous helpings of free music, food, and sunshine, and a good time was had by all. ■



The parish's current crew of hardworking acolytes was honored at the 10:15 service on June 1, including: (top, from left) Sam Taishoff and Matthew Lee; (center row) Cecilia Curran, Mary Margaret Chalk, and Kelly Oler; and (bottom row) Maggie Taishoff and Claire Lee, flanking acolyte-herder Catherine Beauchamp



A contingent of Nats fans from St. Dunstan's took in a baseball game on May 17: (clockwise from top left) Beth Tinning, Will Vogel, Gray Snead, Judge Chalk, Chris Tinning, and Max Tinning. Behind the camera: Philip Chalk. Alas, the Nats dropped one to the Mets, 5-2.



## PARISH NEWS

## ‘Dance Fitness’ comes to St. Dunstan’s

Ladies: Renew the mind, body, and soul—make new friends, with Dance fitness—right here in your own neighborhood on Monday evenings this fall from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Sessions are led by Dr. Sherry B. Scott, a health and wellness consultant for the spirit, body, mind, and soul. As an associate professor at Howard University in Washington, DC, she taught health, wellness, and communication. Her innate passion is to empower others to live their life to the fullest and experience victorious Spirit-led living. She is an author, teacher, facilitator, psalmist, songwriter, and musician. God

graciously blessed her with a sweet melodic anointing that soothes the souls of His people as she ministers in song and dance across the nation. Dr. Scott desires for all to experience Spontaneous Praise through healthy living in the Body of Christ

All skill levels are welcome! Just put on your comfortable clothes, bring a bottle (or two) of water, and get ready for a new you.

Only \$5.00 per session; contact Linda at 703-915-1887 with any questions. All net proceeds will be donated to St. Dunstan’s Outreach Programs. ■



*St. Dunstan’s bade farewell to longtime Music Director Hedy Rothfuss, pictured at right, at a reception July 6. Sadly for us, Hedy is taking her talents westward and leaving the east coast. (Photo by Rosalie Learned)*



*Rector Stephen Shepherd and parishioner Claire Lee flashed church signs for a selfie to be Instagrammed (or possibly tweeted) as part of the Episcopal Church’s June 29 Social Media Day—which reached 1 million+ on Twitter alone and millions more on Facebook, coordinators said.*

## PARISH NEWS

## Women of St. Dunstan's Announce Two Projects

### A "Win-Win" August Effort

This could be the perfect time for YOU to look through the books you have accumulated in recent months and to bring your extras to the "Book Basket" in our vestibule during August. The Women of St. Dunstan's are sponsoring a book drive in support of the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center, to foster that important love of reading in our community's children and their families. Please consider donating gently-used (or even some new) books for all age groups. You can reclaim some space on your bookshelves at home while the Center encourages both the children and their families to learn by **READING**.

On Saturday August 16, the Books-A-Million store in McLean will donate a percentage of their revenue earned between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. to the Literacy Council of Northern VA. The mission of the Literacy Council of Northern VA is to teach adults to read, write, speak and understand English. Please consider buying some books at Books-A-Million on Saturday, August 16, between 1:00 and 4:00 to donate to the Women of St. Dunstan's Book Collection to benefit the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. Two worthwhile groups could benefit from your visit to Books-A-Million in McLean this Saturday afternoon!



### Falls Church - McLean Children's Center

Providing a high-quality, early childhood education for all children, regardless of their family's resources.

### A Tree Grows in...McLean???

Yes! A very special tree will begin to grow in our Vestibule in September! Its limbs are to bear a very unique type of fruit: mittens, stocking caps, and scarves for the boys and girls of the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center to wear on those chilly winter mornings we all remember. (Children who attend the Center are between the ages of two and five, and some of them do not have adequate outerwear to keep them warm while they wait for the bus.)

Please consider helping us to "decorate" this "MIT-TEN TREE" by contributing some of the needed items. The Women of St. Dunstan's will see that they are delivered to the Children's Center in early November.

Questions? Please get in touch with Elizabeth Lee or Ellen Keck. ■

### August Birthdays

1 Philip Chalk	11 Mike Verderame
1 Bob Cunion	12 Hugh Curran
4 Joan Loizeaux	12 Mark Thompson
4 Jo Lombard	13 Tamara Lindquist
5 Sam Taishoff	15 John Keshishian
6 Vincent Colatriano	16 Barbara Hopkins
6 Amy Verderame	19 Megan Irons
8 David Graling	20 Thomas Shue
8 Marion Stevens	24 Laura Savage
9 Hannah Aronson	25 Caroline
9 Martha Drain	Brethauer
10 Kevin Dougherty	25 Glen Seely
10 Bill Jenkins	28 Benjamin Shue
11 Luther Barden	29 David Brown

### There's a Room for You!



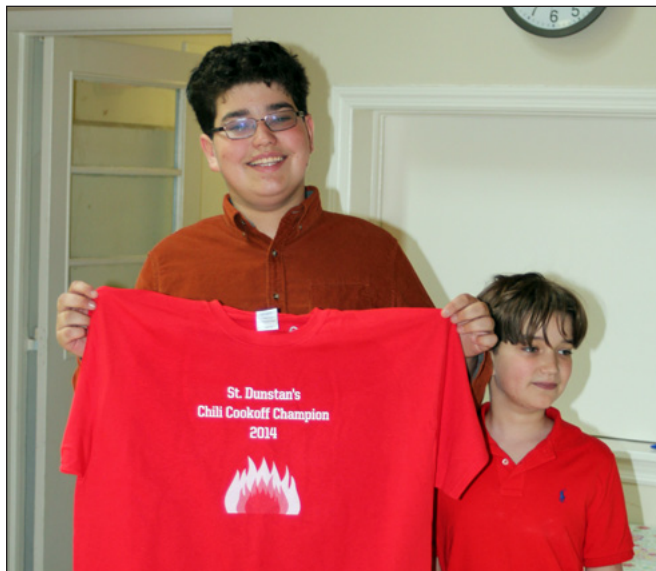
*As Sunday School for 2013-14 came to a close, several of St. Dunstan's six-year-olds, above, each built a room, all of which were then joined together as a reminder that we each have a home in God's house.*



## PHOTO FEATURE: 2014 CHILI COOK-OFF

## Taishoff Chili Wins Again

The top prize in the 2014 edition of Saint Dunstan's annual Pentecost "Tongues of Fire" Chili Cook-Off was taken home by none other than 2013 winners Sam and C.J. Taishoff, below (and this year they did it without the help of grandmother Nancy Lee Keshishian). At right, rector Stephen Shepherd announces their victory.



### The 2014 Winning Chili Recipe

#### Ingredients:

1 turkey Kielbasa	Garlic salt to taste
1 pork kielbasa	Onion powder to taste
3 pounds of ground beef	Chili kit (only the chili packet)
8 Angus beef hot dogs	Olive oil
2 onions	Old Bay Seasoning to taste
Crushed red pepper to taste	Wondra Instant Gravy Powder

#### Preparation:

Brown the ground beef and season it while browning with onion powder, garlic salt, and crushed red pepper. Chop the kielbasa and hotdogs into small peices and cook them together. Put olive oil and then chopped onions in pan.

When everything is cooked, pour it into a big pot and add water and Wondra to desired quantity and texture. Lastly, add old bay, olive oil, and just the chili packet alone from the chili kit.

Optional: Pour from pot into a crokpot and let cook overnight.

—Sam Taishoff



Above, Anna Sherer, Lena Vogel, Alison Keck, and Nancy Searby check out the entries. Below from left: former winners Haley Hourican, Brad Taishoff, Richard Lee, Sharon Henderson, Jim Hourican, Sandy Butcher, Jamie and Janet Adams, Kevin Place, and Sam and C.J. Taisoff.





## PARISH NEWS

## Cornelius Effort Funds Children's Area at Hospice

*Parisioners Anne Spear and Joan Morton combined their Cornelius Project funds to create a space for children in the visitors' area of the Halquist Hospice in Arlington. The donation included a toy-storage unit that was badly needed, along with toys and coloring books. Donations of crayons, books, and toys are welcome! From left: Morton, Halquist Social Worker Katie Aliberti, Volunteer Services Coordinator Beth Kinsella, and Spear.*



*Participants in St. Dunstan's 2013-14 Education for Ministry (EfM) class gathered in May to note the graduation of five of their number. From top left: Nancy Searby, with graduates Caroline Brethauer, Marilyn Hourican, Maureen Jenkins, Tommy Lee Whitlock, and Catherine Beauchamp. In front, from left, are students Cathy Hayworth, Joan Loizeaux, and Cheryl Mazzier, with Assistant Rector Anna Scherer. Graduates from EfM complete four years of study—one each in Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theology.*

## TWENTY QUESTIONS: JOHN M. KESHISHIAN

# Following Medicine All Over the World

**What is your full name?** John Mark Keshishian

**How long have you been an Episcopalian?** At least since my confirmation on March 18, 1834—whoops, I mean 1934—at St. Thomas in Washington, D.C.

**How long have you been a member at St. Dunstan's?**

Fourteen years.

**Where were you born?**

Corfu, Greece. My parents were Armenians from a village called Hadjin in what is now Turkey, and they were refugees after WWI during the terrible Armenian genocide, which obliterated, among much else, Hadjin.

**Where did you grow up?**

Corfu, London, Belgium, and Washington, DC.

**Where have you gone to school?** Bucknell, Cornell, GWU.

**What do you do from nine to five during the week?** I read, write, garden, watch sports and FoxNews, and terrorize squirrels and deer—as well as my wife, Nancy Lee. In another life, I was Clinical Professor of Surgery (now emeritus) and chief of the surgical staff at the Washington Hospital Center.

**What do you like most about what you do?** Independence. And time for reading and travel.

**What's the best job you ever had, and why?** You can't beat being a doctor for varied, meaningful, and interesting work, and for a pulmonary-thoracic surgeon as I was, it's life-or-death work on a regular basis. Plus, it led me to all kinds of unforgettable adventures, from going to Saigon in the late 1950s with CARE (and getting recruited to accompany a CIA mission into Communist China that meant making our way out on foot) to being sent to Libya to examine Muammar Gaddafi, of all people. Unexpectedly, my medical training allowed me to shoot photographs in some of the world's most interest-

ing places for *National Geographic*, fly airplanes with a CIA airline in Africa, test-drive racecars on the Indy 500 track, consult with surgical pioneers in Russia during the Cold War, offer medical explanations on network TV coverage

(including when Ronald Reagan was shot), testify as a courtroom expert in Australia, and join archeological expeditions from Central America to the Nile River. A close second would be the honor of serving as a naval officer in WWII on a combat vessel in the South Pacific, which introduced me to lots of wonderful Australians and Filipinos, among others.

**What is the worst job you ever had, and why?** As a student,

I worked the night shift as a security guard at a commercial laundry owned by my family (on the site of what is now the Nationals' ballpark in Southeast). It was very boring. A close second would be work detail in the Navy at Camp Plattsburgh in New York. Ugh.

**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?** Highlights: graduating from medical school, the births of my four children, and meeting my wife Nancy Lee. The greatest sorrow: the loss of my son Billy to cancer a few years ago.

**Of the places you've lived, which did you like best and why?**

You know, I like it right here in Mclean, where I can grow my prize-winning azaleas.

**How many countries have you visited?** Honestly cannot count—from Burma to Labrador, Samarkand to Baluchistan, Kabul to Muong Sing in Laos. Hollandia to Kagoshima....I've been around.

**What would be your ideal trip?**

A train trip across America with Nancy Lee.

**If you could eat any single meal, what would it be?** Lamb chops.



Top: At lower left with family in London, 1920s. Center: surveying street snacks in Saigon, 1959. Bottom: posing with Egyptian policemen, '60s.



**If you could re-visit any restaurant that you've ever been to, which one would it be?** Bianchi's in Lugano, Switzerland.

**Who has the best hamburgers in Northern Virginia or DC?** Hardee's.

**What are your guilty pleasures?** Oysters.

**If you won a month, all expenses paid, to do whatever you wanted, what would you do?** Hmm. Dunno, let it happen then I'll tell you.

**What was your most memorable encounter with law enforcement?** Never had one. Unless you count the time I got two Egyptian policemen to pose with me in a photo as I held one of their weapons (which later got them fired).

**If you could choose one outfit to wear through eternity, what would it be?** Safari jacket, shirt, chinos, ankle high rough-outs. I'm expecting rough terrain.

**If you could choose one playlist to listen to, what would be on it?** Playlist? What's a playlist? Is that like a dance card?

**If you could wave a magic wand and immediately be masterful at a sport, which one would it be?** It would have been football. It got me a full scholarship to Bucknell (much to the amazement of a high school advisor, who condescendingly told me that I wasn't college material), but I only got to play for one season before being sent into the Navy and shipped off to war in the Pacific in 1942.

**If you could wave a magic wand and immediately be masterful at an instrument, which would it be?** The piano.

**And at a hobby or pastime?** Growing plants—especially azaleas.

**Do you have any favorite quotations or mottos?** "Forsan et haec olim meminisse juvabit," from *The Aeneid*: "Perhaps this, too, will be a pleasure to look back on one day." It's bittersweet, like so much of life.

**Do you have any favorite books or movies?** "Dirty Harry," and the James Bond series. And *Flashman* books.

**Looking back, what would you do over if you could?** Nothing. Not a single thing.

**What is the most dangerous thing you've ever done?** Crash-landed in a helicopter in the Guatemalan

jungle. Fortunately, I came away with barely a scratch.

**Who would be any famous—or infamous—persons you've met?** The great photographer Yusuf Karsh, Egyptian Gamal Abdel Nasser, President George H. W. Bush, and others.

**What are your hobbies?** Photography, horticulture.

**If we asked your family what your most irritating trait is, what would they say?** Now and then I may very well be just a tad bit bossy.

**What is your favorite color?** Yellow.

**What is your shoe size?** 14.

**No kidding?** Nope. A few years ago, I got my DNA broken down so I could see what kind of mutt I am, and while I apparently do have a little Neanderthal and Denisovan ancestry, I was surprised that there are neither Yeti nor kangaroos in my family tree.

**If we turned on the TV after you were watching, what channel would it be on?** FoxNews.

**What do you like best about Saint Dunstan's?** It has potential.

**If you could change something about Saint Dunstan's, what would it be?** I'd renovate and rebuild some—starting with a new Parish Hall.

**If your house were on fire and you could grab three things to take with you as you fled outside, what would they be?** A few precious photos.

**What's your favorite joke?** The other day my wife and I went into town and went into a shop. We were only in there for about five minutes. When we came out, there was a cop writing out a parking ticket. We went up to him and said,

"Come on man, how about giving a senior citizen a break?"

He ignored us and continued writing the ticket. I called him a Nazi jerk. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tires.

So my wife called him a brainless idiot. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket. This went on for about 20 minutes: The more we abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Personally, we didn't care. We came into town by bus, and the car had a political bumper sticker we didn't like.

We try to have a little fun each day now that we're retired. It's important at our age. ■



Top: Trying to use duct tape to fix a helicopter blade that was damaged in a crash in Guatemala, 1970s. Bottom, Nancy Lee and John, 2014.



## PHOTOS: SPRING WORKDAY 2014

*A delayed spring workday gave parish volunteers more to trim and pull—plus lots of blooms to admire. Clockwise from top right: Jane Langmaid tends to azaleas by the sanctuary; Tami Shepherd clears vines in the St. Francis chapel, Leonard Ward clears mulch beds in back, Helen and Lena Vogel weed above the Memorial Garden, and Junior Warden Jim Buttz plays with the new leaf blower.*





# AUGUST 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> 8:30 PM AA, Common Room	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Sunday Schl. 10:15 AM HE Rite II	<b>4</b> 7-8 PM, Dance Fitness, Undercroft	<b>5</b> 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study/ Seely	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:30 PM AA, Common Room	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:15 AM HE Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Sunday Schl. 10:15 AM HE Rite II, & Healing	<b>11</b> 7-8 PM, Dance Fitness, Undercroft	<b>12</b> 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel 7 PM, Vestry meeting	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study/ Seely	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:30 PM AA, Common Room	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Sunday Schl. 10:15 AM HE Rite II	<b>18</b> 7-8 PM, Dance Fitness, Undercroft	<b>19</b> 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel	<b>20</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study/ Seely	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8:30 PM AA, Common Room	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:15 AM HE Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Sun. School 10:15 AM HE Rite II	<b>25</b> 7-8 PM, Dance Fitness, Undercroft	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM, Outreach Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:30 PM AA, Common Room	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:15 AM HE Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Sun. School 10:15 AM HE Rite II						

**Please feel free to contact us**

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