



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

10 Years and Counting

On August 10th I parked my car in the parking lot and walked towards the church office. I could not believe that it was ten years ago that I first took this walk from parking lot to church office. Time does go by fast. I can clearly remember sitting at my desk and receiving my first phone call as rector of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church. Unfortunately, that phone call was from a very angry ex-parishioner who wanted to know how I was going to correct a perceived injustice that had occurred years ago. After an extended tongue lashing from this man, I said, "I'll look into the matter." I hung up the phone hoping this wasn't a foreshadowing of what was to come. It wasn't. The rest of the week was filled with folks stopping in to introduce themselves and bring fresh produce from their gardens. Ten years ago the needs of the parish were very clear. The solutions weren't quite as clear but God did provide over our first couple of years together.

I am deeply grateful to St. Dunstan's for your support and patience as I learned to be a rector. You have invited me into those joyful and sorrowful moments in your life that we might see Christ's presence together. I often find myself thinking about some of the amazing Christians I have met at St. Dunstan's and the ones who are no longer with us. Some ministries have faded away while giving room for new ones to emerge. I am excited about the recommitment to outreach ministries like Share, Alternative House, and the McLean/Falls Church Children's Center. These are ministries St. Dunstan's helped to form many years ago. We have traveled to the Gulf Coast to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. We have traveled to Tanzania to support children in the Carpenter's Kids Program and we have begun building those relationships as Christ is revealed to us in new and surprising ways through a different cultural setting.

We have been blessed with great staff to support our ministries. Talented caring people like the Reverend Ann McNabb, the Reverend Anna Scherer, Rick Stockdale, Erik Sutter, Hedy Rothfuss, David Lang, Randi Hicks Rowe, Gray Snead, Ken Anderson, Lewis Duncan, and Barbara Everhart. All of these folks have contributed much to the church and who we are today and who we will become. I am excited that the Reverend Fanny Belanger will be starting as our new Assistant Rector in September. She has an array of marvelous gifts that will make a positive impact on our congregation.

Much like the way my first two years helped redefine the direction of our church in a positive direction, I believe the next two years will define the direction of St. Dunstan's for years to come. In the next couple of years, we will need to make some decisions regarding the Parish Hall. The Parish Hall building houses the church offices and most of Brookfield School, a Montessori school that leases space from us. A Capital Building project offers a church a time to seriously reflect about who God is calling us to be and how best to serve our community as a Christian presence in McLean. Any new construction needs to be motivated by a sense of purpose and mission. We might not be able to see them clearly yet but there are great opportunities that we are on the threshold of entering into.

St. Dunstan's is a living organism. Parishioners and staff will come and go, ever changing the community. The constant at St. Dunstan's are Christ and the power of the Gospel message. I look forward to continuing our journey together as we faithfully enter into the future that God is revealing before us.

—Stephen +

PARISH NEWS

Sunday School Year Kicks Off with Sept. 13 Picnic

Mark the opening of Sunday School (and welcome our new Assistant Rector, The Rev. Fanny Belanger) at the celebration picnic following the 10:15 a.m. service. Hot dogs and drinks provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

Sunday School Starts Sept. 13

Sunday School begins on September 13! The nursery opens at 10 AM., Children's Chapel also begins at 10 AM., and Sunday School classes start at 10:15 AM. Registration forms are now available in the vestibule, and classes are organized as followed: Ages 2-3; Pre K/K (Ages 4-5); Grade 1-2 (Ages 6-7); Grades 3-4 (Ages 8-9); Grades 5-6 (Ages 10-11); Rite-13 (Ages 12-13); Confirmation Group (Ages 14-15); Senior High Group (Ages 16-17); and Children's Chapel, open to all ages.

Lunch Bunch Set for Sept. 9

The Lunch Bunch is back on the road on Wednesday, September 9, meeting at Noon at the Greek Taverna in McLean.

Bookworms to Meet Sept. 19

The Bookworms will discuss *The New Neighbor* by Leah Stewart on Saturday, September 19 at 10 a.m. at Barbara Hopkin's House.

Women of St. D's Coming Sept. 19

The next Women of St Dunstan's meeting will be on Saturday, 19 September from 4-6:00 p.m. in the Common Room. It will be a great time to enjoy some light refreshments, some fellowship and to participate in planning our activities for the upcoming months. Please come and join us. Contact Elizabeth Lee or Ellen Keck with any questions or if you need childcare.

Shrine Mont: It Isn't Too Late!

Join your fellow parishioners on our annual parish retreat to the Diocese's spectacular mountain camp (and home of our actual cathedral.) Enjoy good food, fun music and activities, and the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. It's coming up soon: Sept 25-27. Look for

an application in the vestibule! (If you have questions or would like more information, call Janet Adams at 703-425-7684.)

There's also our retreat program to look forward to, an opportunity for a fun-yet-profound experience designed to illuminate your deepest sense of faith and self. In three sessions, we will engage in a process of questioning, excavating, and discovery aimed at answering the question: "How do I practice my faith in a simple and organic way?" Our facilitator will be The Rev. Lynn C. Peterman, leading us through "Wisdom, Joy and Animation: Living our Faith Organically." (For all who want to try out spiritual direction, Lynn will have a sign-up sheet available on Friday evening. And she'll also conduct a "gentle yoga class" on both Saturday and Sunday mornings—Beginners are welcome; please bring or borrow a yoga mat, water, and wear comfortable clothing.)

New Adult Education Program

St. Dunstan's brand-new Assistant Rector, The Rev. Fanny Belanger (see the introductory article nearby) is looking into a new adult education program. If you want to be part of the planning on a regular basis, or if you just would like to share occasionally some of your hopes and concerns about it, please be in touch. You can email her at: rev.fanny.belanger@outlook.com

Joy & Praise Choirs Need You!

If you like to sing and have fun, come join us on Thursday nights! First-to-3rd-graders sing in the Joy Choir from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. and 4th-to-8th-graders sing in the Praise Choir from 6:45 to 7:30. It all starts this September 17, 2015! For more information, call Janet Adams, Director, 703-425-7684.

St. Dunstan's Directory Update

Copies of the now-ancient 2013 -2014 directory are on the vestibule, waiting for YOU to initial if your information is correct or indicate necessary changes in the margins. If you are NOT listed in the directory, please fill out one of the Directory Information forms located in the back of the directory print-out in the vestibule, and we'll make sure you get in the next edition). ■

PARISH NEWS

Meet Fanny Belanger, Our New Assistant Rector

Saint Dunstan's extends a warm welcome to Fanny Belanger, arriving Sept. 13 to begin ministry as our new assistant rector.

Fanny was born in Grenoble, France, a town between Switzerland and Italy that is surrounded by the Alps. She majored in Philosophy and graduated from the University of Lyon. Back in Grenoble, she married Xavier in 2007, having met him in one of the associations with which she used to volunteer.

Raised as a Roman Catholic, Fanny nevertheless had felt called to priesthood since she was a girl. Still, she was in her early thirties before she encountered the Anglican Communion, and soon thereafter she entered the ordination process in the Episcopal Diocese of American Churches in Europe. Fanny then started studying theology with the Reformed Church in Strasbourg, France, and in 2011, her bishop sent her to complete her studies at the Virginia Theological Seminary (where Xavier was hired as an IT specialist). They weren't alone, either: Their cat Tao flew in with them!

Fanny graduated in May 2013, and was ordained to



Fanny and Xavier

priesthood in February 2014. She served at the Church of the Epiphany in Washington D.C. and then at the Church of the Resurrection in Alexandria.

Fanny enjoys reading, visiting new places, and playing board games. She is very excited to have been hired as the new Assistant Rector at St. Dunstan's and she is looking forward to getting to know us all. ■

Run With the Rector (Twice!)

This fall, there will be two opportunities to run/walk with our rector, Stephen Shepherd, to support great causes. If you register for either or both of the following events please let the office know, and we can get you a St. Dunstan's t-shirt to wear while you are running/walking:

- The Teddy Bear 5K & 1K Run/Walk on Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 4:00 PM; (Supports the McLean/Falls Church Children's Center)
- McLean 5K Run with the Warriors, Saturday, October 3, 2015 at 8:00 AM (Supports the Wounded Warrior Transitional Housing at Vinson Hall). ■

The Magnets Are Back!



That's right: This week, we should be getting another shipment of our fabulous St. Dunstan's car magnets, so be sure and get yours soon—before we run out yet again. ■

MINISTRY FOCUS: ALTERNATIVE HOUSE

Reaching Out to Teens at Alternative House

To all our St. Dunstan's community: A BIG "thank you" for participating so generously in our Outreach August Back Pack Drive for **Alternative House**. We delivered close to ten backpacks and bags FULL of school supplies to Alternative House's Gallows Road location!

Located in Dunn Loring just south of Tysons, Alternative House is a haven for youth—a community in which young people are safe, live in a nurturing environment, and are afforded the opportunity to reach their full potential. Launched in 1972 with the Rev. Grant Sherk and St. Dunstan's among the founding members, Alternative House's programs and support for young people have grown considerably in recent years.

Recently, some parishioners from St. Dunstan's joined others from the surrounding community for a "Friends on the Bus Tour", where we visited five of the local Alternative House facilities for youth: **the Emergency Shelter for Teenagers; the Culmore Family Resource Center/ Safe Youth Project; the Culmore Teen Center; the Assisting Young Mothers townhouse; and**



Faces from client stories at The Alternative House web site

Drop into Alternative House for Breakfast October 20

Join the St. Dunstan's table at a complimentary breakfast to be held Tuesday, October 20, from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m., hosted by Alternative House Shelter for teens at the Gannett Building in Tyson's Corner. Learn more about one of our most long-standing Outreach partners, hear testimonials from young people who have benefited from the support of Alternative House, and enjoy breakfast with some of your St. Dunstan's parishioners and friends in the community. A car pool from St. Dunstan's parking lot will be available with prior notice. For information, or if you are interested in attending, please contact Rosalie Learned (703-734-9159) or the Office at St. Dunstan's (703-356-7533). ■

the Homeless Youth Initiative. It is amazing to witness in how many ways youth in our surrounding neighborhoods are offered the comforts of home and the assistance and support they so desperately need.

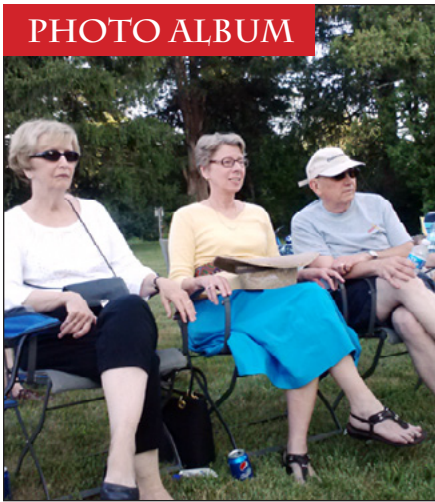
From time to time, your Outreach Group at St. Dunstan's will be highlighting some of the outreach initiatives in which we are involved as a congregation. This month, we focus on The Alternative House Homeless Youth Initiative.

The **Homeless Youth Initiative** (HYI) is celebrating the graduation of all 13 of its seniors from high school! These young people have had to pursue their education without the support of a parent or guardian. Graduates in 2015 come from three parts of the Alternative House program; group homes, host homes, and the rent voucher program. It is truly incredible to see these young people reach this important point in their lives, despite the turmoil and many transitions they have experienced. Many of these graduating seniors have elected to pursue a college education this Fall. Five students are going to 4-year universities, 3 plan to attend NOVA, and 1 student is enrolled in a full time nursing program. Others continue to explore options such as certificate programs, the military and AmeriCorps.

For ways to help, see TheAlternativeHouse.org/. ■



PHOTO ALBUM



Ashby Run headlined another St. Dunstan's Bluegrass Festival in August, enjoyed by (at far left) Rosalie Learned, Pat and Dan Moore and (center) some hungry music-lovers. At right, Elizabeth and Richard Lee two-step.



Kelly Oler (far left) helped judge St. Dunstan's annual Pentecost 'Tongues of Fire' Chili Cook-Off, along with Marjorie Cole and a vagrant youth (center). Andy Jester (in center at right) celebrates a victory with past champs Jim Hourican (2011) and Sandy Butcher (1995).



In March, Bishop Shannon Johnston posed with newly-confirmed parishioners (from left) Bennett Verderame, Suzanne Cole, Mary Margaret Chalk, Hugh Curran, Sam Taishoff, Peter Connors, and Heather McCall. At right is Jessica Thompson (whose Journey to Adulthood co-leader Justin Ivatts is not pictured).

September Birthdays

- 1 Jamie Adams
- 5 Katherine Horenstein
- 7 Jonathan Perry
- 9 Pete Scanlon
- 11 Carter Brown
- 12 Savannah Tang
- 14 Heather McCall
- 18 Colleen Postelle
- 19 Kristen Robbins
- 21 Kathi Brown
- 22 Barbara McHale
- 22 Jennifer Oler
- 23 Gabrielle Cole
- 23 Gibbs Moore
- 24 John Lindquist
- 24 Landon Tang
- 28 Helen Deardorf
- 30 Gray Snead

PHOTO ALBUM



Claire Lee, above, stands in for the Easter Bunny with two of St. Dunstan's youngest parishioners from the nursery. Below, Sunday Schoolers (from left) Christopher Derby, Maddy Wakefield, and Kier Strom punish classmate Max Tinning (in yellow) both for a fateful slip-up in a game of Zoom-Squirt and for moving back to Australia. At lower right, a few of the same class of 10-to-12-year-olds enjoyed a mid-winter trip to the indoor water park at Massanutten Resort: (clockwise from left) Max Tinning, Nathan Derby, Kaden McCall, Olivia Kehoe, Judge Chalk, Beth Tinning, and (center) Amy Verderame.



This spring, then-Assistant Rector Anna Scherer celebrated one of her 'Interruption Eucharists' (in which communicants are encouraged to stop the action and ask what is happening and why) with the 10-to-12-year-old Sunday Schoolers. Below, Anna strikes a pose for a goodbye photo as she and husband Dave head for California.



SEPTEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7 pm, Centering Prayer, Chapel	2	3	4	5
6 8:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite I & Healing 9:15 am Bible Study 10 am Nursery 10 am Children's Chapel, Parish Hall 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II & Healing	7 7 pm, Dance Fitness/UC 7 pm, Boy Scout Troop #652, Parish Hall	8 7 pm, Centering Prayer, Chapel 7 pm, Vestry Meeting, Common Room	9 Noon Lunch Bunch at the Greek Taverna, McLean 7:15 p.m, Bible Study at Fairfax Nursing Center	10	11	12
13 8:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Bible Study 10 am Nursery 10 am Children's Chapel, Parish Hall 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II Church Picnic after Service	14 7 pm, Dance Fitness/UC 7 pm, Boy Scout Troop #652, Parish Hall	15 7 pm, Centering Prayer, Chapel	16 10:30 am Bible Study/ conf. room 6:30 pm, Bible Study at the Seely's	17 Choirs/UC 6:15 pm Joy 6:45 pm Praise 7:30 PM Alleluia	18	19
20 8:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite I & Healing 9:15 am Bible Study 10 am Nursery 10 am Children's Chapel, Parish Hall 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II & Healing Adult Ed. after Service	21 7 pm, Dance Fitness/UC 7 pm, Boy Scout Troop #652, Parish Hall	22 7 pm, Centering Prayer, Chapel	23 10:30 am Bible Study/ conf. room 6:30 pm, Bible Study at the Seely's	24 Choirs/UC 6:15 pm Joy 6:45 pm Praise 7:30 PM Alleluia	25 RETREAT! Shrine Mont Weekend	26 RETREAT! Shrine Mont Weekend
27 RETREAT! Shrine Mont Weekend 8:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite I & Healing 9:15 am Bible Study 10 am Nursery 10 am Children's Chapel, Parish Hall 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II	28 7 pm, Dance Fitness/UC 7 pm, Boy Scout Troop #652, Parish Hall	29 7 pm, Centering Prayer, Chapel	30 10:30 am Bible Study/ conf. room 6:30 pm, Bible Study at the Seely's			COMING SOON: • Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 4 at 4pm

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