



The Bellringer

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

Waiting on Freedom

Have you ever felt trapped or imprisoned? Perhaps it's a physical, emotional, or spiritual place where you feel trapped or stuck. Maybe it is being trapped in an airplane while it is stuck on the tarmac waiting for a gate or for takeoff. Maybe for health reasons you feel trapped in a hospital or at home. Maybe you feel trapped by emotions that are negative and self-destructive. Maybe you have actually spent time in a prison or jail. Last year I joined our then seminarian Connor Newlun and our current seminarian Justin Ivatts to lead a Bible study at the Alexandria jail. After going through several security check points, I can remember the very disconcerting experience of having a large metal door slam behind me and realizing I was totally at the mercy of someone else to release me.

We are in the season of Advent, a season of preparation and waiting. The people of Israel are waiting for the promised Messiah to arrive. The Messiah will "bring good news to the poor and release to the captives (Isaiah 61:2)." Those held captive by sin will be released by the loving

selfless sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Through his resurrection the gates of eternal life will be opened to us. Advent is about preparing for this liberation. We prepare by self-reflection and humble repentance.

It is no accident that in the Book of the Acts two important stories involve Peter and Paul being released from prison by miraculous means. Peter is visited by an angel and set free from his shackles and led out of prison saving him from a certain death. Paul and his companions are singing hymns in prison when an earthquake frees them even though they stay in the cells and end up baptizing the prison guard. Both these stories are intended to remind us of the liberating power of God to free us from any man made prison. What is the prison that holds you this day? God can free you.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is a famous German theologian. He was executed by the Nazis during WWII because he dared to give opposition voice to the atrocities that were happening in Germany. He is considered one of the modern martyrs of the Christian

Church. One of his collections of writings is called Letters from Prison. In this book he writes, "A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes... and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent." This is a very different way of viewing Advent. Advent becomes more than just a time of lighting candles on a wreath reminding us that shopping days are dwindling. Christ opens the doors of our prisons.

As we prepare together this Advent season, I pray that we may find it a time to reflect on the liberation we have known in Christ. I pray it may be a time to realize the prisons that still hold us and invite Christ to liberate us. I pray that we may be shown the way to reach and bring the Good News to those who are in prison literally or figuratively. May we all be freed to be the people God has created us to be that God's Kingdom might spread, spreading from the humble start of a babe in a manger.

—Stephen +

PARISH NEWS

Lunch Bunch at Café Tatti

For our December Lunch Bunch, we will enjoy the French European Cuisine at Café Tatti on Old Dominion Drive on Dec. 11. As always, all are welcome; bring a friend. The carpool leaves St. Dunstan's parking lot at 11:45 AM.

—Helen Vogel (703)534-4877

Connor Newlun's Ordination

God willing, The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston will ordain Connor Jackson Newlun to the Sacred Order of Priests on Saturday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Christopher's Church, Springfield. The Bishop and the Standing Committee request the honor of your presence.

Bookworms to Meet Dec. 21 at St. Dunstan's

Barbara Hopkins will not be hosting the bookclub this winter, so we will meet at St. Dunstan's in the conference room next to the office. Our book for December is *Where'd you Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple. It's a wonderfully light family comedy.

"You'll laugh your pants off, and love the takeaway—that a life gone off the rails can propel you in a bright new direction." (—*Redbook*) It was voted one of the year's best books.

Supper Club: Christmas Dinner at 2 PM Dec. 21

Dec. 21 is date for the annual Christmas Dinner at Catherine Beauchamp's house. Please RSVP to Linda Young at 703-506-4357.

Christmas Pageant

Sign up NOW for the Christmas Pageant. A sign-up sheet and scripts are located in the vestibule. Rehearsals began Dec. 1. Please indicate the character you would like to be, or if you would like to be a helper. All are welcome to participate—and all help is accepted and greatly appreciated! See Gray for more details.

Christmas Flowers

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas services. They may be given as Thank offerings or Memorials. Please contact the church office or fill out



the enclosed envelope and put it in the offering plate by December 15th. Suggested donation is \$25.

UTO Thank You Note

On 10 November 2013, St. Dunstan's held its annual Fall United Thank Offering Ingathering. We demonstrated thanks for our many blessings since the spring by gathering \$1,710.22.

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. United Thank Offering is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the UTO monies to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

Advent & Christmas Services**Dec. 15: Advent III**

Lessons & Carols

8:15 AM HE & Healing Rite I

10:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing

Dec. 22: Advent IV

8:15 AM HE Rite I

10:15 AM HE Rite II

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

5 PM, Christmas Pageant &

Holy Eucharist Rite II

10:30 PM, Christmas Carols &

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Dec. 25, Christmas Day

10 AM, Holy Eucharist Rite II

At top, previous page: Detail from nativity window by Clayton and Bell, c. 1875, St. John's, Darlinghurst, Sydney

PARISH NEWS (CONTINUED)

Prayers for Students in Wiluze

We have heard from our Carpenter's Kids school in Wilunze, Tanzania. Eleven students recently took exams to determine whether they scored high enough to get into Secondary School, somewhat like our High School. The national average in Tanzania is about 50% of the students pass. Please keep these 11 students in your prayers over the next 6 weeks as they should hear in mid-December. For those who pass, additional funds are needed as well (\$120 per student for the next four years with the first year payment in January). Please pray as a Congregation about how we might be able to support those who pass, and those who don't.

Parish Representatives Needed for Samaritan Ministry

We need 1 or 2 parishioners who are interested in becoming a partner parish representative for Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. Partner parish representatives are organizational leaders who represent both St. Dunstan's and Samaritan Ministry. There are "job descriptions" with more information in the vestibule. You can also contact Rev. Anna Scherer..

A Way to Give More to Samaritan Ministry

Usually in the fall Samaritan Ministry hosts a Mini-Walk to Help the Homeless. There is more flexibility now about when to hold this event, so we will be having it in the late spring instead. If you are interested in donating to Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington,

there now is a way to make that donation count for more: From now until Nov. 15, if you write a check out to "Help The Homeless CFNCR" and send it to Samaritan Ministry, they get 100% of your donation—plus an extra amount from Fannie Mae.



SHARE's Holiday Celebration Programs

Food for Trees—Pre-order (at www.foodfortrees.org) your Christmas tree or holiday greenery at 50% off through Sunday, 11/17/13. Pick up your order on December 7th or 8th at the Old Firehouse Teen Center and bring \$35 worth of non-perishable food items. Celebrate with family and friends, enjoy warm cider, cocoa, and holiday treats while the children decorate sugar cookies and play games in the Teen Center. Saturday, December 7th will include special appearances by Santa atop the McLean Fire Department's Antique Fire Engine from 12 noon to 2 p.m., along with performances by the McLean Youth Orchestra. Please check the website above for more details.

Baby Bags: Assemble bags for

children age 3 and under. Check for details at www.shareofmclean.org.

Collect Full-Size Toiletries and Laundry Detergent: These items are not eligible for food stamps. Check for details at www.shareofmclean.org.

Gift Cards and Cash Donations: Gift cards, checks (made out to "Share of McLean") and cash are also very much needed and can help to supply individual client needs. Use envelopes provided in the vestibule or Parish Hall and place in offering plate or deliver to Church Office.

You may check Share's website, www.shareofmclean.org for delivery dates and times for donations or leave them in the St. Dunstan's Church vestibule for pickup and delivery.

*Thank you for your help.
The need is great.*

December Birthdays

- 1 William Cunnion
- 1 Margel Prince
- 3 Adrianna Close
- 6 Paul Connors
- 8 Wilson Buttz
- 8 Marth Doerflinger
- 12 Margie Cunnion
- 12 Kevin Dougherty
- 16 Mary Margaret Chalk
- 16 Gay LaNasa
- 17 Ian Thompson
- 20 Kevin McCarthy, Jr.
- 21 Brad Taishoff
- 22 Emily Upp
- 23 Paul Loizeaux
- 24 Carolyn Dougherty
- 25 William Butcher
- 27 Jason Upp
- 31 Dan Moore
- 31 Jeffrey Young

OUTREACH

Tanzania's Environment: Diversity and Danger

Tanzania is located in central East Africa and is one of the most ecologically rich countries in Africa. Its largest and capital city is Dar es Salaam. Tanzania spans 945,000 kilometers and supports a diverse climate of arid and sem-arid. The physical topography includes dry lands, savannas, woodlands and mountainous land areas. Tanzania's coastline borders the Indian Ocean on the east. It is filled with lakes, rivers and swamps which support huge numbers of aquatic life. Forty percent of Tanzania's land area is covered by forests and woodlands which host various ecosystems.

Most of the environmental pollution in the country is a result of human activity. It follows industrialization, urbanization, use of chemicals and oil spills. Tanzania is suffering from a host of environmental problems that are urgent to the safety and health of its residents. The National Environmental Policy has identified six of the most pressing environmental issues; loss of wildlife habitats, deforestation, land degradation, deterioration of aquatic systems, lack of quality water, and environmental pollution. The best agricultural lands of Tanzania have been densely populated, resulting in land degradation and soil that is unfit for cultivation. Pastoral land has been overgrazed, while Tanzanians have practiced poor agricultural practices leading further to land degradation. Shifting cultivation, lack of proper crop rotation and a lack of technology have increased the problem. In Tanzania, fifty-five percent of the land could be used for agriculture, with fifty-one percent used for pastoral land. In actuality, only six percent of the



**Farmers near
Arusha, Tanzania**

FANNY SCHERTZER

agricultural land has been cultivated.

Water pollution is the most widespread form of pollution in Tanzania. The water is unfit for human consumption because of the discharge of untreated waste into the water. This leads to disease in humans and destroys aquatic life. In Tanzania, less than five percent of the population is connected to a sewage system. The urban areas contribute greatly to the environmental pollution with improper treatment and disposal of solid and liquid waste. Water and air become contaminated which is detrimental to the health of its residents.

Tanzania has unparalleled wildlife and abundant natural resources, and is probably the most biodiverse country in mainland Africa. With spectacular landscapes, Tanzania encompasses the continent's highest point – Mt. Kilimanjaro – and its deepest lake, Lake Tanganyika. Tanzania provides habitat for concentrations of herbivores, various carnivores, rare birds and amphibians, and unique wild orchids. The country is home to Africa's most newly discovered monkey, the kipunji.

Tanzania contains some 20 percent of the species of Africa's large mammal population, found across 14 national parks, reserves, conservation areas and marine parks. Serengeti National Park, the largest declared park area, is famous for its extensive migratory herds of wildebeests and zebras while also having the reputation as one of the great natural wonders of the world.

There are three main types of forests represented in Tanzania; lowland rain forests, transitional rain forests, and undifferentiated forests. The lush forests situated in the highlands and eastern coast are rich in endemic species. An estimated 2000 plant species occur there. Plants are very important to the Tanzanians for curing ailments. Many villagers cultivate plants domestically for the specific purposes of curing ailments. Studies have revealed that traditional doctors used 185 plants to treat 63 different diseases and conditions, such as pain, sores, parasites, coughs, eye infections, and intestinal disorders. Two common houseplant species, the African Violet and Impatiens, are unique to Tanzania.

—Rosalie Learned

TWENTY QUESTIONS: MARJORIE COLE

Our (Other) Lady of Perpetual Irony

What is your full name? Marjorie Fichter Cole

How long have you been an Episcopalian? All my life, but my early years were more of a negative example, as my mom was always telling me “this is NOT what an Episcopal church is like.” We attended Truro church in Fairfax City, and it was in the throes of the Charismatic Movement in the ’70s. My mom’s father was an Episcopal priest, so I was raised by a preacher’s kid. My brother is an Episcopal priest, too. I’m pretty irreverent and probably border on heretical, but I am actually pretty spiritual and a strong believer in my own imperfect way.

How long have you been a member at Saint Dunstan’s?

I’m not sure, I want to say seven years because that’s such a spiritual number but it’s probably more like five or six.

While I’m not a big fan of organized religion and am often frustrated by the administrative aspects, church is very important to me in terms of community. Oddly enough, I attribute that to my Baptist boyfriend in college who said something about the importance of joining a church when moving to a new town. So after I married my Catholic husband and we moved to a new town, we joined the Episcopal Church (Calvary in Summit, NJ). I’m kind of ecumenical that way.

I did seriously consider going Quaker but concluded that the Episcopal church offers me enough latitude in my beliefs, and I do love the service, so I stayed. Don’t tell my mom, it would kill her.

Where were you born? Fairfax Hospital—I’m a native.

Where have you gone to



Tom and Marjorie dress as birds for ‘Twin Night’ at a family dance camp, August 2013.

school? Virginia Tech (but I married a Wahoo) and William & Mary for law school.

What do you do from nine to five during the week, and what is your title, if you have one?

I’m a homeschooling mom, which was a completely unexpected role. I thought I would go back to work when my kids were in school. I guess I will, but school will be college.

What do you like most to do?

Wear costumes (steampunk, bird, fairy), contra dance (sort of like square dancing in that it is social and easy to do based on calls), morris dance (a British folk team

dance), and do anything with The Washington Revels (look them up, they do all kinds of intergenerational seasonal celebrations and other events throughout the year). I also adore Facebook, but I don’t take it too seriously (e.g., I named our homeschool “Our Lady of Perpetual Irony”).

What do you like least to do?

Pretend I’m conventional (even though I am, kind of).

What’s the best job you ever had, and why? I loved working at the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office in Loudoun County, where I interned during the summers I was in law school. I even got to try a few cases in Juvenile/Domestic Relations court as a third-year law student. In my heart, I’m a total Fury.

Where have you lived? Virginia (Fairfax, Blacksburg, Williamsburg, McLean) and New Jersey.

Of the places you’ve lived, which did you like best and why? Virginia, because the other place I lived was New Jersey. Wait, I also lived in Washington, D.C., for 15 months. That was fun.

What would be your ideal trip (and with whom)? I’m a Taurus, my ideal trip is always home.

Who has the best hamburgers in Northern Virginia or DC? Anyplace without peanuts. Suzanne is anaphylactic to peanuts.

What are your guilty pleasures? What guilt? Just one of benefits of being raised Episcopalian.

If you won a month, all expenses paid, to do whatever you wanted, what would you do?

You’ve just described my life. Right now, I’m saying a prayer of gratitude.

What was your most memorable encounter with law enforcement? Reviewing pornography on



More 2013 Cole photos, from left: Tom with Marjorie at a FairieCon convention near Baltimore; with Gabrielle and Suzanne at the Steampunk-themed Midwinter Ball for Baltimore Folk Music Society; the Coles at May Revels

a seized computer while visiting an FBI field office as part of my internship with the Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. It made the male agent very uncomfortable; that was the best part. It was part of determining what charges were to be filed.

If you could choose one outfit to wear through eternity, what would it be? Only ONE outfit? Surely, that must be hell.

Do you have any favorite quotations or mottos? "You will do foolish things, but do them with enthusiasm." —Collette. (I don't know who Collette is.)

Do you have any favorite books or movies? The ones with female vengeance themes—*Kill Bill*, *Hard Candy*, *Dogville*. I mentioned I'm a bit of a Fury.

When you find yourself worrying, what worries you the most? The fact that I'm worrying. Seriously, I have a pretty abiding sense of faith (flowers of the field and all that).

What is the most dangerous thing you've ever done? College.

If we turned on the TV after you were watching, what chan-

nel would it be on? Channel 3, because that's what we use to access the Wii and Netflix. We don't have cable or satellite or anything and we don't have good reception.

What is your main web browser's home page? The Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers—an inclusive organization that focuses solely on homeschooling and takes no stand on issues of religion or partisan politics. We are not homeschooling for religious reasons (though I can cite you chapter and verse on how I feel that call was confirmed. Ironical, huh?).

What do you like best about Saint Dunstan's? The location brought us here, the people keep us here.

If you could change something about Saint Dunstan's, what would it be? I often have strong opinions. If something is not working for me, I tend to want to respect that it might be working for others and I consider moving on. I've been told it's important to say something, though, in case others feel similarly. My parents have stayed in churches they did not agree with and they ended up

evicted from their own church: They were continuing Episcopalians when the Church of the Epiphany, Herndon, decided to break away and join CANA. It was very painful, and while I understand and admire their allegiance to the Episcopal church, I would have changed churches long before it got to that point. We changed from our last church because of location (it was all the way across McLean!) and service times. I guess I'm just a rebellious daughter.

Complete this sentence: Yeah, I would be a better Christian if I... Well, cutting out the irreverence might be a step in the right direction. Ascribing more to the doctrine of the church might help. "Christian" is such a loaded word—I tend to avoid it to prevent misunderstanding. I'm not a big talker about my faith because God doesn't need me sounding like a salesman for him. The catechism states that the nature of God as revealed in Jesus is that God is Love. Love is everywhere; sometimes it's not easy to see, but it's there. When I'm at my best, I'm adding to it rather than taking from it. Not an easy thing to do when I'm a Fury, but I try. ■

DECEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Sunday Schl. 10:00 AM Confirmation Group 10:15 AM HE Rite II, & Healing Samaritan Ministry Christmas Party	2 7 PM, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall 7 PM, Young Adults	3 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel 6:30 PM Outreach Meeting	4 10:30 AM Bible Study / Conference Room 6:30 PM EFM 6:30 PM Bible Study/ Seely	5 6:15 PM Praise Choir, Parish Hall 6:45 PM Joy Choir 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir	6 8:30 PM AA, Common Room	7 McLean Youth Orchestra
8 8:15 AM HE Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 9:45 AM Senior High: Chesterbrook Asstd. Living 10:00 AM Sunday Schl. 10:15 AM HE Rite II Women of St. Dunstan's Craft Fair Pageant Rehearsal Spirit Choir Rehearsal	9 7 PM, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall	10 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel	11 10:30 AM Bible Study / Conference Room Noon, Lunch Bunch, Café Tatti 6:30 PM EFM 6:30 PM Bible Study/ Seely	12 6:15 PM Praise Choir, Parish Hall 6:45 PM Joy Choir 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir	13 8:30 PM AA, Common Room	14
15 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Sunday Schl. 10:00 AM Confirmation Group, Undercroft 10:15 AM HE Rite II, & Healing Pageant Rehearsal Noon-3 PM, Discernment Committee	16 7 PM, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall 7 PM, Young Adults	17 7 PM Centering Prayer, Chapel 7 PM, Vestry Meeting, Undercroft	18 10:30 AM Bible Study / Conference Room 6:30 PM EFM 6:30 PM Bible Study/ Seely	19 6:15 PM Praise Choir, Parish Hall 6:45 PM Joy Choir 7:30 PM Alleluia Choir	20 8:30 PM AA, Common Room	21 10 AM, Book Club, Conference Room 2 PM, Supper Club Christmas Party, Catherine Beauchamp's home
22 8:15 AM HE Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II Spirit Choir Rehearsal Jesus at the Mall, Region V Fellowship Event	23 7 PM, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall	24 5 PM, Holy Eucharist Rite II and Pageant 7 PM, Centering Prayer, Chapel 10:30 PM, The Feast of the Nativity; Holy Eucharist Rite II	25 10 AM, in the Chapel: Holy Eucharist	26	27 8:30 PM AA, Common Room	28
29 8:15 AM HE Rite I 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II	30 7 PM, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall					

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