

THE BELLRINGER

JANUARY 2013

GRACE AND GRATITUDE

Back in November, Tami and I went to see Olivia Newton-John in concert at the Strathmore in Maryland. The show was wonderful and her voice sounded as smooth as ever. Mixed in with all the songs that I knew was a newer one she had recorded on a CD just a couple of years ago and I had never heard.. The song is called "Grace and Gratitude". The song has an uplifting melody and simple lyrics but a very powerful message of how to live our lives each and everyday. As 2013 begins and I consider how to grow stronger in faith and be closer to the person God intends me to be, the words grace and gratitude keep echoing in my head.

Paul wrote to the young Christian church at Thessalonica on how to live in community he told them, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances. (1 Thes 5:16-18)". Paul reminds this budding Christian community and us of the gift of grace we have known through Jesus Christ and the gratitude that grace fosters in our hearts. We are reminded that if we want to change the world it begins by changing ourselves by modeling lives that are touched by grace. Imagine how a modeled life of grace and gratitude would effect our children, our co-workers, and our neighbors. Imagine how we might be transformed for the better.

The greatest gift from my time in Tanzania and Haiti this past summer was to be in communities where giving thanks to God for everything was a normal practice of life. In these places where the fragility of life is so clearly revealed, the practice of thanksgiving everyday cultivates joy, love, and hope. In circumstances that I had assumed would be bereft of these traits, I found them in abundance. I found Christian communities truly living out Paul's advice to the Thessalonians. This experience caused me to reflect on how I could live a more thankful life not just for all the blessings but for difficulties and disappointments too.

If you are looking for a simple practice of gratitude to begin the year, I have adapted a Prayer of General Thanksgiving from our Book of Common Prayer and shared it below. Taking a minute to read this prayer is a great way to begin or end each day. This is just one of many simple practices that can help us to live our lives in grace and gratitude.

Prayer of General Thanksgiving (BCP, pg. 836)

Accept, O Lord, my thanks and praise for all that you have done for me. I thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the

beauty of this world, for the wonder of life and for the mystery of love.

I thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care that surrounds me on every side. I thank you for setting me at tasks which demand my best efforts, and for leading me to accomplishments which satisfy and delight me. I thank you for also for those disappointments and failures that lead me to acknowledge my dependence on you alone.

Above, all, I thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant, me the gift of your Spirit, that I may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you for all things. AMEN.

Stephen +

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

By Gray Snead, DCE

December is always a busy month. It seems like every year it gets busier and busier, and the time goes quicker. The more activities and events, the more time seems to slip away. I'm always reminded near the end of the month, when I pause for second and say to myself, "wasn't it just Thanksgiving?"

Participants of *Journey to Adulthood* were busy in December with fundraisers and outreach. The J2A group hosted a successful Tree and Wreath fundraising sale in support of their upcoming pilgrimage trip for the summer of 2013. Many of you supported the group purchasing your greenery in response to one of the presale notifications, or stopping by the day of the event to choose your greenery for the season. Many more of you donated your time, energy and efforts to the event itself by participating in the presales, hauling trees and wreaths, purchasing and preparing food items, arranging the parking lot for the sale, tending the fire pit throughout the day, providing music, entertainment and good cheer, and showed much enthusiasm with waving arms and holding signs, drawing attention to the event for passing motorists. The next time you see them extend warm thanks of appreciation to the Lee Family, Marilyn and Jim Hourican, Desmond Curran, Chip, Tammy, Anna, and Lily Lindquist, Barbara Cooper, Jacob and Brian Russo, Mari Lauer, Nancy Searby and Kathryn Derby, Anna Close, Rev. Anna Scherer, and our Very Rev. Shepherd for all of their hard work, energy, and efforts throughout this fundraising event. Also, a very warm thanks goes to the Merrifield Garden Center for graciously donating their resources

coordinating the delivery and pickup of the trees for the event. *Thank You* Armando, Rob, and Fabiolah.

Some of you found *Parents Day Out* a successful way to work through your busy Holiday to do list. Our Nursery workers and assistants had a wonderful time entertaining your children with games, activities, toys, and craft projects throughout the afternoon. *Thank You* Miriam, Martha, Teresa, and Darwin for your patience, caring, and energetic attitudes.

The YAC participated in an Outreach activity for Martha's Table, an organization that deals with the effects of poverty in our community. Marco, Matt, Anna, Vince, Tammy, and Maureen assembled sandwiches and provided other lunch items for donation to the Food Wagon that provides daily nutrition to those in need. Thanks for your meaningful donation and efforts. They really make a difference!

Thank You to everyone that played a part in making this year's Christmas Pageant a success. It wouldn't have happened without your hard work and team effort. Heartfelt thanks go to Indra Chalk and Kim Suringa who gave so much of their time and energy taking on the task of directing; Hedy Rothfuss who suggested music additions and playing the recorder, and Janet Adams for helping the children learn the "new" songs; Julie Brown for washing and distributing costumes; Kristen Verderame for always being there with something positive to say, and with helping the actors know when and where to go; Heather McCall for playing the string bass;

Anna Close for her help with costumes, and shepherding the herd; and for all of the extremely energetic, and excited performers who worked so hard on their parts in the pageant, and for those I forgot to name -- ***Thank You all!***

Teen Events

The J2A skating outing that occurred on January 6th was great time with no injuries to youth or adults. Thank you to Nancy Searby and Marsha Taishoff for organizing this event.

The next J2A outing will be in Saturday evening February 8th and will be a bowling event called "Beat the Rector" Details will be available soon.

Journey to Adulthood January Meetings

Rite-13: Jan. 6 and 20

J2A: Jan. 13 and 27

YAC: Jan.13 "Eat, Pray, Love",
Parish Hall, 6-8pm; Jan. 27
after 10:15 service

THE HISTORY OF ST DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

By George Burghardt

1954—1958

Around 1954, the diocesan committees had decided a mission church should be established in the McLean area. It took until 1956 for the Diocese to commit the necessary money and get started on a mission church for this area. At that time, Grant Sherk was still in Seminary but he was assigned by the bishop to start the St. Dunstan's Mission. Father Sherk was the "glue" that made this undertaking possible and was a dominant factor in establishing the mission and guiding it in its growth. What follows is a reprint from "St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Fifteen Years – 1956-1971" written in 1971.



Grant R Sherk, Jr.

The Reverend Grant R. Sherk, Jr. was born on April 3, 1920 in West Norfolk (now Portsmouth). He is a graduate of the University of Virginia having received the B.A. degree in 1948 and the M.A. degree in 1950 in Foreign Affairs. During World War II he served in the signal corps as a cryptanalyst. He has been employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and by the Army Map Service. He left the Engineer Intelligence Division of

the Map Service to enter the Virginia Theological Seminary at Alexandria, VA in 1954. Upon his graduation from the Seminary, he was ordained Deacon in 1957 and Priest in 1958.

In the summer of 1956, while still in Seminary, Father Sherk was assigned by the Bishop of Virginia, the Rt. Rev. Frederick Deane Goodwin, to start St. Dunstan's Mission in the Chesterbrook area of McLean where he was a resident. He has been successively Seminarian-in-charge, Vicar, and now Rector of St. Dunstan's.

Father Sherk has served on the Executive Committee of the Diocese of Virginia, and on its Program and Budget Committee, for a four-year term (1965-1969). Since 1966, he has been on the Board of Directors of the Pastoral Institute, Washington, DC and has been President of the Institute and Chairman of its Board since 1969. At present he is also serving as a member of the Pastoral Care and Institutional Services Committee of the Council of Churches of Greater Washington, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia Mental Health Association. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion and Mental Health, Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity and the Kiwanis Club of McLean.

Father Sherk is married to the former Ellen Catherine Nesom. They have three children and one grandchild. Daughter, Marna and her husband, Edward R. Preste-

mon and their son, Eric, are in Ithaca, NY where Ed attends Cornell University. Son, Grant, attends VCU in Richmond, VA and daughter Linda, is at McLean High School.

The first communion was held in a classroom of Chesterbrook School with Bishop Samuel B. Clinton as celebrant and twenty communicants. The date was July 1, 1956. Besides being a seminarian, Grant Sherk was a lay reader at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Arlington. He was assisted in these early days by Charles Phipard, who became the first Junior Warden and after his death in 1959, the Parish hall was named in his honor. John Brock was also a major factor in the early church and later became the first Senior Warden.

Charles Phipard took full responsibility for setting up the school cafeteria for the church services and also the necessary cleaning and maintenance. The altar was a gift from St. Alban's in Annandale. The other chancel furniture was built by Carl Zimmerman. Music was provided by Mrs. Charles Phipard playing the piano.

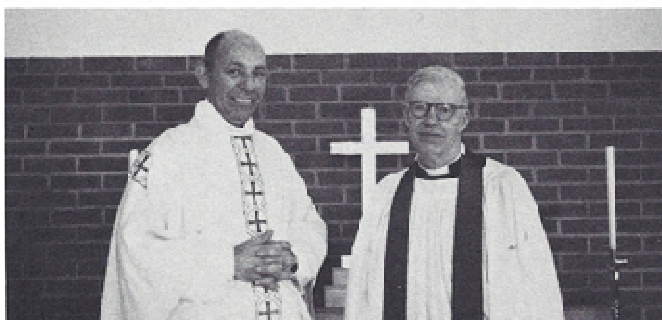
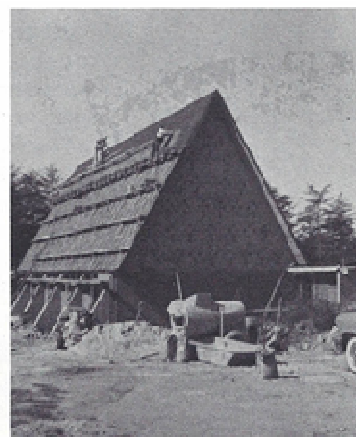
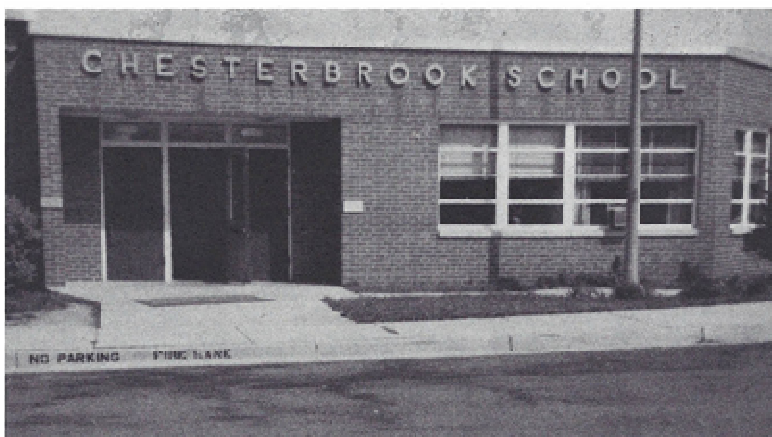
By the end of 1956 there were 62 communicants and by the end of 1957, there were 129 names on the Parish register as communicants and by the end of 1958, 180 communicants. The services at Chesterbrook School continued for two and a half years until December 1958.

(See Photo's on next page)

ST DUNSTAN'S PHOTO ALBUM



St. Dunstan's Christmas Pageant 2012



Photos From: The History of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church Story 1954-1958 by George Burghardt (See previous page)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES

YOUNG ADULTS FELLOWSHIP

Monday, January 7

7:00 PM

This is a group of folks in their 20s and 30s from various Episcopal Churches in our region who enjoy a cold beer, deep theological discussions, and fellowship. We meet about twice a month at Ireland's Four Provinces in Falls Church to talk about our faith and to hang out.

Our new book is *The Wisdom of Stability: Rooting Faith in a Mobile Culture* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. For more information, either visit our Facebook page or contact Rev. Anna Scherer at ascherer@stdunstans.net

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, January 16

Noon

Place: Vinson Hall

Ann Dietrich has graciously arranged for us to have lunch at Vinson Hall on Wednesday, January 16th. There will be valet parking for us at the front door.

As always a group of us will car pool from the church parking lot @11:40 AM.

-Helen Vogel (703)534-4877

BOOKWORMS

Saturday, January 19

10:00 AM at the Hopkins'

Our book for January is the #1 New York Times bestseller In The Garden of Beasts by Erik Larson. The time is 1933; the place, Berlin, when William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany in a year that proved to be a turning point in history. In The Garden of Beasts lends a stunning eyewitness perspective on events as they unfold in real time, revealing an era of surprising nuance and complexity. Barbara's address is 1504 Wasp Place, McLean, VA 22101.

-Helen Vogel (703)534-4877

FOURTH FRIDAY!!!!

Friday, January 25

6:30—8:30 PM

In the Parish Hall

Join us for warm chili and other winter treats for our Fourth Friday gathering on January 25, 2013

from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Parish Hall. This is a casual, fun gathering of friends and the chili and rolls will be provided.

If you last name starts with A-L please bring a salad to share. If it starts with M-Z please bring a dessert. If you have questions please call Anne Lauer at 703-505-3136 or Cheryl Mazzier at 571-282-4277. We look forward to seeing you there!



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 27

After the 10:15 AM Service

All are invited to the Parish Hall for St. Dunstan's Annual Meeting and catered lunch.

BISHOP VISITATION AND CONFIRMATION

Sunday, March 3, 10:15

Bishop Susan Goff will be making her first visit to St. Dunstan's on Sunday, March 3rd. We will only have the 10:15 service that day so the entire congregation can celebrate with those being confirmed and welcome Bishop. (No 8:15 AM Service on Jan. 27)

OUTREACH— A NOTE FROM FOOD FOR OTHERS

Dear Friends of St. Dunstan's:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1200.00 to Food for Others. Please know that we are truly grateful for your kindness, and your continued support in what we are doing and delighted that you chose to make a difference in our community by supporting our programs.

As you know, your contribution will be utilized to provide free food to individuals and families in need in

Northern Virginia. Your donation helps make it possible for our staff and volunteers to feed hundreds of hungry people every week-night at our warehouse and at sites in 16 low-income neighborhoods. We also provide bulk food to over 25 smaller food pantries, shelters, and other community-based programs that rely on us for help collecting and storing food. Our newest program aims directly at children who get little to eat between Friday's school lunch and Monday's school breakfast. Our Power

Pack Program gives a nutritionally balanced package of weekend meals to these children—helping them eat, which helps them to learn. Your support makes all this happen!

We will continue our commitment to fighting hunger in our community and your faith in us, as well as your support of our programs, means so much. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Roxanne Rice
Executive Director

PARISH REGISTER



Kathleen Jo McLaughlin
Sept. 28 1924—Dec. 23, 2012

Kathleen died on December 23, 2012 at Goodwin House after a brief illness. She was 88.

Kay lived in the DC area for 66 years. She was born in Shreveport, LA and worked at Red River Ordnance Depot in Texarkana where she met her beloved husband of 68 years, Arthur McLaughlin, whom she outlived. She was the proud mother of two children, March Schweitzer of Madison, WI and Douglas McLaughlin of Roaring Spring, PA. Besides her children, she is survived by two beautiful grandchildren, Elizabeth and Catherine

Schweitzer, and her brother, Wayne Versher of Morgan, TX.

She was a founding member of St. Dunstan's Episcopal [Church](#) in McLean and a devoted member of PEO. Memorial services will be held on Wednesday, January 23 at 11 a.m. at St. Dunstan's, 1830 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Goodwin [House Foundation](#), 3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church, VA 22041.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1/5 Brad Langmaid
1/7 Mary Lauer
1/8 Peter Brown
1/8 Katie Gibson
1/9 Michele Bassett
1/11 Kaden McCall
1/12 Bert Findly
1/3 Kelly Oler
1/14 Alex Akbari

1/15 Andy Jester
1/15 Elizabeth Young
1/16 Bill Dunn
1/17 Margaret Spurgeon
1/19 Lori Murphy
1/20 John Drain
1/21 Benjamin Keck
1/21 Mathew Keck
1/24 Drucella Andersen
1/24 Ted Lopatkiewicz
1/25 Lee Keshishian
1/26 Nowell Boardman
1/31 Sam Hellier

ST DUNSTAN'S NEW WEBSITE!!

We are our excited to announce that our website is live! The address hasn't changed – you can still find us at www.stdunstans.net, but we have several new features including access to sermons, a calendar, picture galleries, group pages and links to social media. Please take the time to visit the site and share it with your friends. We welcome your feedback!

ST DUNSTAN'S VESTRY

Sr. Warden – Nancy Searby
Jr Wardens – Linda Young, Philip Chalk
Treasurer – David Graling
Register – Tami Lindquist
Finance Shepherd – Jon Ambrosius
Stewardship Shepherd – Nancy Pierpont
Christian Ed Shepherd – Cheryl Mazzier

Outreach & Mission Shepherd – Mike Verderame
Worship Shepherd – Tommy Lee Whitlock
Communications Shepherd – Perry Williams
Newcomers Shepherd – Brian Russo
Discipleship Shepherd – Nancy Searby
Fellowship Shepherds – Brian Russo, Mike Verderame, and Lee Keshishian

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Epiphany</i> 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10 AM Sunday School & Rite 13 10:15 AM HE Rite II & Healing	7 7 PM Young Adults Irelands 4 Provinces 7 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall	8 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel 7:30 PM Vestry Meeting	9 10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	10 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Praise Choir/PH	11 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	12 9 AM -2 PM/MYO Pot Luck/PH
13 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sun. School & J2A 10:15 HE Rite II & Baptism 11:45 AM Choir II/Sanctuary 6-8 PM YAC Parish Hall	14 7 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall	15 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel	16 10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. Noon Lunch Bunch/Vinson Hall 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	17 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC	18 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	19 9 AM-Noon-MYO 10:AM Book- worms/ Hopkins' Home
20 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10 AM Sunday School & Rite 13 10:15 AM HE Rite II & Healing	21 7 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall	22 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/Chapel	23 11 AM Kay McLaughlin Service 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	24 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC	25 Fourth Friday/PH 6:30 PM—8:30 PM 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	22 9 AM-Noon-MYO
27 <i>Annual Meeting</i> 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sun. School & J2A 10:15 HE Rite II 11:45 AM Choir II/Sanctuary YAC	28 7 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall	29 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/Chapel	30 10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	31 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC		

CONTACT US
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