



THE BELLRINGER

May 2012

SABBATICAL PLANS

In two weeks I will begin a sabbatical. I want to thank the vestry and congregation for your support in providing me this gift of a sabbatical. I have been excited to hear from so many people that view this sabbatical as not only an exciting opportunity for me but for the life of St. Dunstan's. At the heart of the sabbatical is my sense of God's call to experience Christianity in cultures very different from our culture. To experience Christ as an outsider, to experience Christ completely outside of my comfort zone, will open me to experience Christ and know Christ in a fuller and deeper way. I hope the seeds of relationship planted in Tanzania and Haiti may blossom into outreach relationships for St. Dunstan's.

Along with experiencing Christianity in Tanzania and Haiti, I have many other hopes for my time away. The first priority would be rest and rejuvenation. I look forward to traveling back to New Jersey to visit family and friends

that I haven't seen in a long time. Tami and I will be visiting churches that were instrumental in my formation as a priest before, during, and after seminary. It will be a joy to worship at Tami's side, something we rarely get to do. I will be training to run a 5K race and to complete it in under 20 minutes, as well as seeking the Holy Grail of golf, shooting par. There are many books I look forward to finally reading and perhaps I can make some headway on a special project concerning the spiritual experience of caring for aging parents. Below are some significant dates of my time away.

May 13 – Send-off Sunday
(Special Reception)

May 14 – May 21 CREDO
Clergy Wellness Conference,
North Carolina

June 24 – August 5 Tanzania
August 24-28 Port-au-Prince,
Haiti

September 9 – Return to St.
Dunstan's

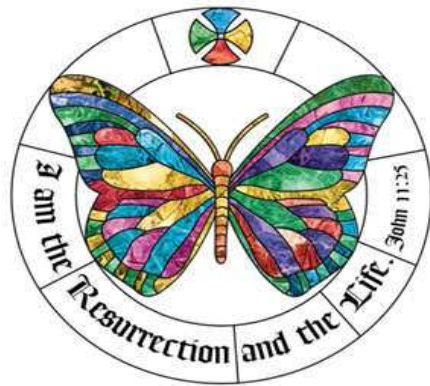
There will be special educational offerings at St. Dunstan's while I am away to help connect you with the sabbatical experience. We will have guest preachers and teachers visit to talk about Tanzania and Haiti. The Summer Sunday School program will focus on Christianity around the world by looking at a different country each week. Reverend Scherer will lead Adult Forums explaining the history of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

My hope is that when I return we will have enough information and education for us to begin engaging in an intergenerational international mission relationship. I am hoping to keep you updated on my sabbatical activities through a blog (technology permitting) that will be linked to our website. During my time away I will be holding St. Dunstan's lovingly in my prayers and I invite you to pray for me too. The Lord is up to something exciting in my life and the life of St. Dunstan's.

Stephen +

NEW LIFE

By The Rev. Anna M. Scherer



I have a picture in my office that is of a colorful butterfly with

the inscription "I am the Resurrection and the Life. John 11:25". The butterfly has often been used as a symbol of new life because of its life cycle. It begins as a tiny egg, hatches into a worm-like larva that spends its time eating and growing, then develops into a chrysalis. Out of this seemingly lifeless chrysalis a brand new butterfly emerges. Each step of this life cycle looks very different, but it is in particular the transformation from chrysalis into butterfly that so clearly brings to mind the

idea of new life.

It is fortunate that we celebrate Easter in the Springtime - a season which is full of examples of new and changing life. Flowers bloom everywhere, trees grow new leaves - everywhere color returns to what was once a bleak looking landscape during winter.

What images make you think of new life? What helps you to conceptualize the Easter promise of resurrection?

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

By Gray Snead, DCE

St. Dunstan's celebrated the important 'rite of passage' with three of its' youth from the Rite-13 group. Mary Margaret Chalk, Jack Lindquist, and Sam Taishoff participated in an emotionally moving service that marked their journey toward adulthood. All of us at St. Dunstan's wish them all of the Love and support we can provide as they continue their journey to adulthood. Rite-13 enjoyed hosting another movie night last month. Richard Lee, Rite-13 teacher and head 'Elf', is happy to see so many youth and parents at the monthly event, and is looking forward to seeing many more for next month's movie night on May 19th. The YAC group will be meeting May 13th, and 20th. The group is excited because on the 13th, one of the members will be sharing their rich Italian heritage with the group. Maureen Jenkins normally pro-

vides for us a wonderful meal and agape cookie to share together. This time, however, one of the other members will be treating us. Our stomachs can't wait! J2A will meet on May 13, and May 27th at their regular time and place, and Rite-13 will gather at the usual location on May 6th, and May 20th.

It was a wonderful thing to witness so much participation and enthusiasm at this year's Good Friday *Children's Stations of the Cross*. Thank you to everyone for sharing that time together. The youth would like to extend yet another *Thanks!* to our Very Reverend Shepherd for making the Maundy Thursday service educational and young person friendly. You make it fun for us and we love being included! Easter Sunday was a wonderful fun time at St. Dunstan's. Many thanks go to all who helped prepare the Easter Eggs, and for all of those that

helped plant them. Special thanks goes out to Perry Williams for the extra special eggs, and to Janet Adams, Maureen Jenkins, and Glen Seely for caring for and preparing our Alleluia plantings. It wouldn't have been a success without all of you! With so many that contribute to the success of events, it's hard to remember everyone's name. If I failed to mention you here, please forgive me. I am, after all *just a rabbit*.

I am looking forward to the upcoming summer months here with all of you, as we continue to develop outreach events that our youth participate in, summer programs and special events, and in our SHARE garden. It is indeed a pleasure to be here with all of you. As always, come on by and say 'hello', send me a message, drop me a note, or give a call. I'm *always* happy to hear from you!

Peace.

ST DUNSTAN IN MCLEAN

By George Burghardt

St. Dunstan was truly an extraordinary man and has been hailed as one of the greatest saints of the Anglo-Saxon Church. He believed in a strict monastic life. He was a Monk, Abbot, Bishop, Archbishop and later canonized as a saint. Even as a child he was noted for his devotion to learning and his mastery of many kinds of craftsmanship. He was master silversmith and perhaps the legacy of St. Dunstan in McLean was his bell making. I doubt that 1100 years ago there were many people who had the skills to forge bells. He did and he made an art of it.

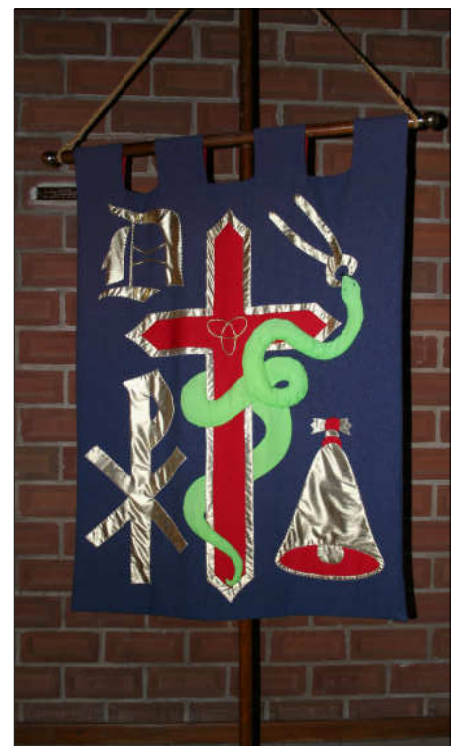
Some examples of bells at St. Dunstan, McLean, are what you are reading right now, "The Bellringer" and included in the Sunday service bulletin is "The



Peal". Our real bell sits high up on the front of the church. My favorite bell is actually two bells that are the light fixtures on the ceiling of the chapel. To be honest, I had never noticed them until Father Steve pointed them out to me. The "old timers" will remember that the main sanctuary had these bell light fixtures as the main source of lighting until they were removed and replaced by track lighting.

Another prominent legacy of St. Dunstan in McLean is the magnificent stained glass window in the main sanctuary. One of the main depictions on the window is the snake and the tongs. Legend has it that he was tempted by the devil in the form of a snake and Dunstan used his tongs to grab the head of the snake and repel it. Finally, there is a banner that is displayed at various times that has the snake and the tongs depiction as well as a bell.

So, the legacy of St. Dunstan in McLean is shown in many ways. Next time before the service starts and the bell peals, think not that the service will begin shortly but rather of this great man for which our church is named.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 2012 MEETING

The April meeting of the vestry was held as a planning retreat on Saturday, April 14th. The meeting was held at St. John's Episcopal Church, McLean in their conference room.

Vinson Hall Parking Update:

St. Dunstan's has submitted a proposal to Vinson Hall to use 30 of our parking spaces for \$40 per space per month. Vinson Hall is hoping to work with Chesterbrook Plaza for all their needed parking but an agreement has yet to be reached and if more spaces are needed they will contact us.

Exterior Painting/Repair:

Linda Young presented several proposals she has received for the painting and repair of the exterior of the church. Bids ranged from \$15k-\$29k. The vestry voted

to go with Faith Painters pending customer reference checks.

Fellowship:

Mike Verderame and Brain Russo, the co-leaders of Fellowship, raised concerns of items just being dumped in the kitchen and left for others to figure out what to do with the items. As part of the May 5th Parish Work Day, there will be a significant kitchen reorganization and clean-up.

Strategic Planning:

The vestry focused first on the area of Membership Retention and Growth. They walked through all the steps of how a person finds St. Dunstan's, visits St. Dunstan's, becomes baptized or confirmed and then becomes an active member in

the life and mission of the church. We agreed the church needs to be intentional about this process and have established some short and long term objectives that will be communicated to the congregation. The vestry looked at objectives for Outreach and Mission with "relational" and "intergenerational" being key themes. The day closed with a discussion of revamping our website and choosing a vendor. The process will continue at the next vestry meeting.

Full copies of the Vestry Meeting minutes are posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board.

The next Vestry Meeting will be Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 7:00 in the Undercroft.

PARISH REGISTER



Jean Johnston
November 2, 1924
April 14, 2012

We give thanks for the life of Jean Johnston. Jean was one of the first members of St. Dunstan's which was formed in 1957. She is an acclaimed artist and recently had a portrait of St. Dunstan's founding rector, The Reverend Grant Sherk, Jr., dedicated by Bishop of Virginia Shannon Johnston (no relation).

We will miss Jean's grace-filled presence at the 8:15 AM Service. The funeral service was held at St. Dunstan's Church on April 19th at 11:00 a.m. Please keep Jean's husband Sam and the rest of her family in your prayers.



Jane Ludlow

Jane K. Ludlow, who volunteered as an information guide at Washington National Cathedral for nearly 30 years, died March 10 at the Goodwin House assisted living facility in Alexandria. She was 90.

Jane Elizabeth Knight was born in Chapel Hill, N.C., and was a 1942 journalism graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her memberships included the League of Women Voters and St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in McLean.

May Birthdays

Bradley McAllister 5/01
Steve Learned 5/5
Robin Adams 5/7
Anna Marie Close 5/7
Cecilia Curran 5/9
Robert Klaus 5/9
Linda Young 5/10
Helen Freudenthal 5/12
Suzanne Cole 5/15
Elizabeth McCall 5/15
Alexander Horenstein 5/17
Karen Jester 5/23
Kristen Verderame 5/24
David Savage 5/25
Tami Shepherd 5/25
Leola Wenley 5/25
Liz Johnson 5/27
Davis Rose 5/27
Benjamin Barden 5/29
Peter Keck 5/29
Peggy Schilling 5/29

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS



PARISH WORK DAY

Saturday, May 5

9:00 am—1:00 pm

The Parish Spring Work Day is Saturday, May 5th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Because many hands make light work, **please** include this as part of your busy schedules. Even if you can come for just an hour, your participation will be a huge contribution to our church's upkeep.

This year an excavation of the garden area in front of the St Dunstan stained glass window will be a primary focus. Please bring extra shovels (marked with your name), and you see anyone giving away free fill dirt, please bring a bucket or bag of it—it will be used.

Other outdoor projects include sawing up branches, weeding, spreading mulch, raking leaves, pruning, and removing vines that are trying to strangle our trees. Indoors we can take on the scraping and re-sealing of cinder block walls in the stairwells.

Come for some or all of the day, and feel free to bring your favorite tools and gloves. If you have no tools, we'll have a variety on site that you can use. Water, beverages, and light snacks are provided. No special skills are required - just show up with your enthusiasm and a smile, we'll put you to work. Look for the sign-in table near the front door of the church.

UTO INGATHERING
Sunday, May 6th
8:15 AM & 10:15 Services



YOUNG ADULTS IN CHURCH (YAC)

Meeting Times

May 6th 6-8PM: Eat, Pray, Love: sharing time together in fellowship

May 20th 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Learning and Living the Christian Faith

LUNCH BUNCH

Wed., May 9

Noon at Peking Imperial

Peking Imperial is the Chinese Restaurant located in the McLean Giant Shopping Center. All are welcome-bring a friend. The carpool leaves the church parking lot at 11:40 am. Contact Helen Vogel (703) 534-4877.

BOOKWORMS

Sat., May 12

10:00 AM at the Hopkins'

As we mentioned last month our book will be Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson. As it is a rather long book, we decided to discuss it over two months. The first half of the book (chapters one-twenty-three) will be reviewed in April. The rest of the book (chapters twenty-four-forty-two) will be discussed in May. Steve Jobs story is not just about Apple! His tale is

instructive and cautionary, filled with lessons about innovation, character, leadership, and values.

SEND OFF SUNDAY

Sunday, May 13th

Following the 10:15 AM Service

All are invited to give The Very Rev. Stephen Shepherd a hearty and prayerful Sabbatical Send-Off at a special reception to be held after the 10:15 AM service on May 13th.

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, May 19

6-8 PM

Rite 13 will host a Movie Night, for all interested, on April 21st from 6-8 pm in the Common Rm.



TONGUES OF FIRE CHILI COOK-OFF

**On Pentecost Sunday
May 27**

Following the 10:15 AM Service

Who will be the 2012 St. Dunstan's Tongues of Fire Chili Champion?

Please join in this fun event as a contestant, or to sample delicious chili and vote for your favorite.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Tongues of Fire</p>  <p>Pentecost Sunday May 27th</p>		<p>1</p> <p>7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30 AM Bible Study/Conf. Rm. 1:30 PM Quilters/Common Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Praise Choir/PH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30 PM AA/ Common Room</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM—1:00 PM Parish Work Day</p> 
<p>6</p> <p>UTO Ingathering 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II & Healing Adult Formation 6:00—8:00 PM YAC /</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel</p> <p>7:00 PM Vestry/Common Room</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. Noon Lunch Bunch 1:30 PM Quilters/Common Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Praise Choir/PH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 PM AA/ Common Room</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00— MYO/PH 10:00 Bookworms/ Hopkins' Home</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Send-Off Sunday 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II</p> <p>6:00 PM—8:00 PM YAC/PH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall</p> <p>7:30 PM Region V Meeting/UC</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. 1:30 PM Quilters/Common Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 PM AA/ Common Room</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00-Noon-MYO</p> <p>6:00—8:00 PM Movie Night Rite 13 Host Common Room</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10:00 AM Sun. School 10:15 HE Rite II & Healing Adult Formation after services 11:30-12:30 YAC</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. 1:30 PM Quilters/Common Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 PM AA/ Common Room</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00— Noon MYO/ PH</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Pentecost Sunday Chili Cook-Off 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM HE Rite II</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 PM Centering Prayer</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. 1:30 PM Quilters/Common Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC</p>		

CONTACT US

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