

THE BELLRINGER



NOVEMBER 2012

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Ah, to hear a politician speak without having to use a fact checker, this is my dream. Is it Election Day yet? Besides the chasm building language that has placed compromise and collaboration on the endangered species list, I have found the lack of honesty and “spinning” of the facts to be disheartening and exhausting in this political season. In the midst of ongoing political deception, we also get the news of a one thousand page report on Lance Armstrong that says he was systematically cheating and subsequently lying about it for years. Another hero tossed off the pedestal because of the lack of truth that great ambition can create. From politicians to sports heroes, from Wall Street to Madison Avenue, truth seems to be a scarce commodity in our world. Should the truth still be something we value? Perhaps before answering that question we might ask, “What is truth?”

Scholars and philosophers have wrestled with defining truth for centuries. Plato and Socrates who believed truth was that which conformed to an external reality. Philosophers such as Kant, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche have presented us with various understandings of truth. These understandings are less rigid and suggest that truth may conform to historical settings, different cultures, subjective reasoning, and group consensus. These definitions are difficult to

grasp and even more difficult to apply to our lives. Volumes and volumes have been written attempting to define truth with extremely convoluted attempts to provide an answer. Though truth is difficult to define it seems to be a case of “We know it when we see or hear it.” But can we trust our intuition and how do we teach truth to our children?

The philosopher’s explanations can seem very confusing and not very helpful. However, I have found a very helpful understanding of truth from Pope Benedict XVI (the current Pope) in his book, *Truth and Tolerance*. In his book, he equates truth with love, truth is love. This is a very different and liberating perspective of truth. Truth becomes less about the action and focuses more on the motivation behind our actions. Truth becomes something to be sought after and truth takes on an immense transformative power for the good. The definition of truth moves from being situational to being universal.

In the Gospel according to John, the word “truth” appears more than the other three Gospels combined. Truth is a central theme that defines Christ and supports the idea of truth as love. There are some famous “truth” quotations from John: (John 14:6) Jesus answered, “I am the way and the *truth* and the life.” (John

8:32), “Then you shall know the *truth* and the *truth* shall set you free” (John 1:17) “Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” The most poignant *truth* quote comes not from Jesus but from Pontius Pilate while interrogating Jesus before Jesus is sentenced to death. He says to Jesus, “What is *truth*?” (John 18:38)” Jesus says nothing because the Truth is standing right before Pilate’s eyes. The nature of God is love and Jesus is God incarnate so Jesus Christ is love and love is truth.

What is truth? This might be a question we find ourselves asking way too often these days. Perhaps it is too much to expect the truth from a broken political system or from a broken humanity. Perhaps we shall leave the problem of defining truth to the philosophers and scholars as they redefine truth for each generation. As Christians we need not worry, because unlike Pilate we recognize the Truth standing before us in Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we know the truth, the love of God in our lives. This is truth that is unchanging and a truth worth pursuing. Be not anxious about the truth because the Truth is with us always.

Stephen +

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS-OCTOBER 2012

Treasurer's Report:

Ken Anderson provided an overview of the financials through September 30th. Income has been lower than expected as a result and pledges lagging in the summer, while expenditures are slightly below what was expected. The loss for three quarters is \$17,944 which is actually favorable to where we were at the same time in 2011. Ken indicated that he will begin planning the 2012 budget with David Graling and will have a draft for the November meeting.

Jr. Warden's Projects Report:

Linda Young and Philip Chalk reminded the vestry that Parish Workday is scheduled for October 27th. A Boy Scout gave a presen-

tation regarding a proposed Eagle Scout project. The project involves rebuilding the broken bridges in the Memorial Garden. The vestry asked several questions and then voted to approve the project which will begin immediately. Since we are not completely satisfied with the proposals that have come in to redo the Common Room, we will seek other bids.

Outreach & Mission:

Anna shared the details of the Walk for the Homeless that will be happening at St. Dunstan's. She also shared plans of having a bake sale on Election Day to raise money for Nets for Life. Stephen said he will be having three different presentations on his experiences in Tanzania and Haiti. He has already pre-

sented to the Outreach Committee.

Capital Improvement:

A representative from MTFA Architecture gave the vestry a presentation on things to consider as we think about the future of the parish hall and office wing. He laid out a very comprehensive program of discovery and implementation. His presentation left the vestry with much to consider as we move forward.

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

The next Vestry Meeting will be Tuesday, November 13,, 2012 at 7:00 in the Undercroft.

OUTREACH



Pumpkins Bring In \$750 for Five Talents and Anglicans in Africa

That's right: The previous mark was surpassed this year by more than \$100, as St. Dunstan's fourth - and fifth-graders labored long and hard to carve some 34 pumpkins in just 3.5 hours October 28. Special thanks go to Tom Cole, without whose energies the undercroft would still be a trainwreck. The \$750 will go to Vienna-based Five Talents (fivetalents.org), a organization that funds microcredit programs among impoverished Anglicans around the world. St. Dunstan's gift is sent each year to Uganda, where millions of families are trying to live on a dollar or less PER FAMILY per day



Walk for the Homeless a Success!

We want to express thanks to all those who contributed to our annual Walk to Help the Homeless. Thank you to all those who walked or donated, and those who helped with food for our luncheon. We surpassed our goal of raising \$1500 for Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington and raised a total of \$2040!

Election Day Bake Sale to Benefit Nets for Life

St. Dunstan's is having a bake-sale on Election Day, Nov. 6. This benefits NetsforLife, which is an organization that works to prevent malaria.



SHARE calls for Volunteers

Share is experiencing an extreme shortage of beds for individuals and families who need them. Please get the word out that Share can use twin, full-size, and queen mattresses, box springs, and frames. Donors can request pickups by calling 703-448-1054 and recording a message.

**NEXT OUTREACH MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
6:30 PM
IN THE UNDERCROFT**

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES

YOUNG ADULTS FELLOWSHIP

Monday, November 5

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 book is *Darkness Is My Only Companion: A Christian Response to Mental Illness* by Kathryn Greene-McCreight. For more information, either visit our Facebook page or contact Rev. Anna Scherer at ascherer@stdunstans.net

THING-A-THONG

Saturday, November 10

5:00—10:00 PM

Parish Hall

J2A is hosting this fundraising event for their upcoming pilgrimage. For more details contact Richard Lee: leerich007@aol.com

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, November 14

Noon

Place: Café Tatti

We return to our old faithful restaurant, Café Tatti located at 6627 Old Dominion Drive, McLean.

All are welcome-bring a friend. The carpool leaves the church parking lot at 11:40 am. Contact Helen Vogel (703) 534-4877.

BOOKWORMS

Saturday, November 17

10:00 AM at the Hopkins'

Our selection for November is The Cat's Table by Michael Ondaatje (Author of The English Patient) The story begins in the early 1950's as an eleven year old boy in Colombo boards a ship bound for England. At mealtimes he is seated at the "cat's table"- as far from the Captain's table as can be - with a ragtag group of "insignificant" adults and two other boys. As the narrative moves between the decks and holds of the ship and the boy's adult years, it tells a spellbinding story. It is a quick (265Pg.) and an interesting read.

-Helen Vogel (703-534-4877)



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thursday, November 22

10:00 AM in the Chapel

All are invited to our Thanksgiving Service in the Chapel at 10:00 AM.

CENTERING PRAYER

EVERY TUESDAY

7:00 PM

Centering Prayer meets every Tuesday in the Chapel. Please join us.



ORDER GREENERY NOW

Help Make a Pilgrimage Happen!

St. Dunstan's **J2A** group is partnering with Merrifield Garden Center to bring you the most beautiful Christmas trees to decorate your home for this holiday season. The J2A students are now taking *pre-orders* for a variety of sizes of Fraser Firs. All items will be available for pickup from 10:00 to 4:00 on Saturday, December 8th at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church. In addition, we will offer free home delivery. Now how can you pass that up? That's a deal, for sure! Forms can be found in the Narthex, the Fellowship hall, and the Church office. See Gray and/or Richard Lee for more de



ST DUNSTAN'S QUILTERS

Wednesdays

New Meeting Time

2:00—3:00 PM

In the Common Room

The St. Dunstan's Quilting group meets every Wednesday. Enjoy good company as you sew, quilt or knit. We look forward to you joining us.

Looking for a Way to Serve at St. Dunstan's ?

Looking for a way to serve St. Dunstan's and contribute to the entire congregation's spiritual experience? Consider Altar Guild, and it's only **once every 4 weeks!** A team prepares for Sunday's services at 9 AM on Saturday, and, on Sunday morning, works before a service to set up Holy Eucharist or after the service to clean up. If you are new to St. Dunstan's, it's a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners. Ideally, there are 6 members on each team. Currently, most teams have 4 members. Remember, many hands make light work and a lot of fun. Men are welcome. Call Pat Moore for more information: evenings 703-556-3961 or daytime 703-376-9083

ST DUNSTAN'S PHOTO ALBUM



St. Dunstan's 5K Runners!



September Shrine Mont Parish Retreat



Having a great time at Shrine Mont!



PARISH REGISTER

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



11/01 Maddie Cunnion
11/03 Alden Irons
11/04 Kathryn Derby
11/08 Maggie Taishoff
11/09 Joanna Rider
11/11 Annika Yungner
11/12 Grant Thompson
11/13 Liam Connolly
11/14 Jim Henderson
11/15 Madeleine Chalk
11/15 Paul Raehn
11/16 Jacob Shue
11/16 Ryan Shue
11/21 Kevin McCarthy
11/21 Donna Shedlock
11/21 Lynn Mento
11/21 Ted Russell
11/21 William Vogel

11/22 Judge Chalk
11/22 Kaitlyn Irons
11/22 Kevin Postelle
11/27 Connor Scanlon
11/27 Keri Wepler



BAPTISMS

Kaitlyn Taylor Postelle

And

Sadie Dupree Postelle

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church,
McLean
Sunday October 28, 2012

ST DUNSTANS IS NOW ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER & GOOGLE PLUS

To access go to:
Facebook.com/
DunstansMcLean
Twitter.com/DunstansMcLean
Gplus.to/DunstansMcLean

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please let us know if your info is correct or if changes need to be made to your contact information. If you have revisions please submit them to office@stdunstans.net or simply mark up the hard copy in the vestibule.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>CHOIRS</u> Joy 6:15/PH Praise 6:45/PH Adult 7:30/UC	2 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	3 8:00 AM –1:00 PM Brooksfield School 25th Birthday Bash
4 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10:00 AM Sunday School Rite 13 10:15 HE Rite II & Healing YAC after 10:15 Service	5 7:00 PM Young Adults/ Four Provinces	6 Election Day! & Bake Sale!! 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel	7 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Rm. 2:00—3:30 PM Quilters/Common 6:15 PM EFM/Common Room 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely 7:30 PM SHARE Meeting/PH	8 <u>CHOIRS</u> Joy 6:15/PH Praise 6:45/PH Adult 7:30/UC	9 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	10 9:00 AM MYO/PH 5-10:00 PM J2A Fundraiser/PH “Thing-A-Thong”
11 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sunday School J2A 10:15 HE Rite II 11:45 Choir II	12 7:00 PM Boy Scouts #652/PH	13 11:00 AM Vinson Hall 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel 7:00 PM Vestry/UC	14 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference Rm. Noon Lunch Bunch/TBD 2:00 PM Quilters/Common Room 6:15 PM EFM/Common Room 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	15 <u>CHOIRS</u> Joy 6:15/PH Praise 6:45/PH Adult 7:30/UC	16 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	17 9:00 AM MYO/PH 10:00 AM Bookworms/ Hopkins' Home
18 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10:00 AM Sunday School Rite 13 10:15 AM HE Rite II & Healing Noon-J2A Parent Meeting/PH 6-8:00 PM YAC /PH	19 7:00 PM Boy Scouts #652/PH	20 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel	21 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference 2:00 PM Quilters/Common Room 6:15—9:15 PM EFM/Common Room 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	22 Thanksgiving Service 10:00 AM 	23 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	24
25 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sunday School J2A 10:15 AM HE Rite II 11:45 Choir II	26 7:00 PM Boy Scouts #652/PH	27 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel	28 10:30 AM Bible Study/Conference 2:00 PM Quilters/Common Room 6:15—9:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	29 <u>CHOIRS</u> Joy 6:15/PH Praise 6:45/PH Adult 7:30/UC	30	

CONTACT US
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