

April/May 2010 Pitch from Fork

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite Easter passages has always been Luke's story of the two disciples encountering the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). The disciples, overwhelmed with grief because of the crucifixion, don't recognize Jesus, even though he walks with them for a long time and interprets holy Scripture to them. It is not until he breaks bread with them that they realize who he is.

On the last full day of our Holy Land pilgrimage, Jim and Boo and Mazie and I had the opportunity to walk the road to Emmaus—sort of. No one knows for sure where Emmaus really was; scholars point to several different sites, located numerous miles from one another. So we walked along an ancient Roman road so battered by time and elements that the "walk" was more of an aerobic feat as we climbed up and down, crossing streams and scaling earthen banks.

We don't know where Emmaus was, but as our leader pointed out, it doesn't really matter. Heading to Emmaus, the disciples were going in the *wrong* direction. All of the important action was happening in Jerusalem, which lay further behind them with each step they took. It was only after they understood who Jesus was that they turned back to the holy city. The disciples were heading in the wrong direction, yet Jesus still showed up and walked with them. I find that greatly comforting.

Luke's Emmaus story also doesn't tell us exactly who those disciples were. Luke names only Cleopas, who shows up in no other Bible story. The other disciple on the road is unnamed. Hanging above the desk in my office I have an icon of the Emmaus walk, given to me by a favorite cousin. In it, the other disciple is a woman—making space in the story for *me*. I love that. We don't know where exactly the disciples were going or even who they were, but Jesus was with them—just as he is with us when we don't know exactly where we are going or exactly who *we* are. The Emmaus story belongs to all of us; the Emmaus story is *our* story.

Above all else, the Emmaus story teaches that Jesus shows himself, then as now, in the breaking of the bread. When we gather at the Table, Jesus is in our midst. This Easter season, make it a point to be present for the breaking of the bread. Come to church. We break bread together Sunday by Sunday, and it works best when we are all together. The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. So will we—whoever we are, wherever we are heading. See you at the Table.

Blessings. —Anne †

A Message from the Junior Warden

As I was reading a recent Lenten message, I was really struck by the last statement of the meditation. It stated “Lent can be the fallow ground we crave for our spiritual growth . . . time to be still, to *do* nothing, to let the wisdom of God’s season work below the surface.” This passage spoke to me because of the hectic, hurried world in which we all live. There is very little time anymore to sit, be quiet, and reflect. I often find myself “craving” some quiet time amidst the crazy day-to-day schedule. Even my 10-year-old son, Ben, expressed these sentiments recently in a school assignment. In it, he was asked to answer the question: if he could change something about himself or his life, what would that be? He wrote: “If I had to change something about myself I would be a little less busy so then sometimes I could just relax.” As the old saying goes – “out of the mouths of babes.”



One of the unique offerings Fork Church has for us and our children is a place to worship – out in the country – where we can be still and quiet and listen to what God has to say to us. Fork is miles away from strip malls and Starbucks and all the noise and busy schedules that distract us from God. To me, Fork offers a simplicity you don’t find in other areas of our lives and helps us focus on the reason we are here. It provides a quiet place to worship with friends and family, and be still.

There are many reasons I love Fork Church, but during Lent, this reason stands out among the top reasons. As your Junior Warden this year, I hope to help keep this and other unique aspects of Fork in the forefront of our conversations and work.

Beth Schubert

Happenings at Fork Church

The Path to Easter

Blessings to each of you as we are about to embark together on the holiest journey of the Christian year—our walk through Holy Week and into Easter. I always feel a bit as though Holy Week sneaks up on us, and this year is no different. I’m guessing that the events of the *first* Holy Week also felt sudden and unexpected to those who experienced them, so maybe this is the way it should be.

There is no path to Easter that does not lead through Holy Week. If we are truly to experience the joy of resurrection, then we must walk with Jesus through the valley of the shadow of death. I invite you to be intentional about doing so. Please mark your calendars now and make every effort to be here for our communal journey along the path that leads to resurrection:

Palm Sunday, 10 a.m. March 28: *Liturgy of the Palms* as we remember Jesus’ triumphal arrival into Jerusalem; *Reading of the Passion* as we look ahead soberly to his betrayal, arrest, and death—and acknowledge our own sinfulness and culpability

Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. April 1: *Maundy Thursday Liturgy* as we remember Christ's institution of Holy Communion and of footwashing; and *The Stripping of the Altar*, the stark, bleak reminder of beauty being stripped from the world with Christ's death

Good Friday Service, 7 p.m. April 2: There is no Holy Eucharist this day but instead a solemn time of prayer and song as we remember the darkest moment in human history, our killing of the One who came to save us.

The Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. April 3: This is the central service of the Church Year, the moment of our passage from darkness to light, sadness to joy, Lent to Easter. This is the service which makes sense of the whole sweep of salvation history and in which we together renew our baptismal vows, remembering that it is the Easter life into which we are baptized.

Easter Sunday, 10 a.m.: This is a festive service of Holy Eucharist, with special music and much rejoicing. Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

To come to church on Easter only is to miss the journey that gives Easter all its meaning. Don't let that happen to you!

Pilgrim Talk

The Central Hanover Episcopal Church Women will meet at Fork Church on Mon April 5th (Easter Monday). Mazie Florance will give an informal talk about her recent Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Please bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert will be provided.

Mark Gilbert Service and Reception

There will be a graveside burial service for Mark Gilbert's family and friends on Wednesday, April 14 at 10 a.m. in the Fork Church Cemetery. Immediately following will be a reception in the Parish Hall.

Please pray for Mark's son Rad and his wife Phil and all who mourn; and please also pray for Mark as she enters new life. We give thanks for her life and ministry among us here at Fork. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



CARITAS

Fork Church's support of Caritas is set for Wednesday, April 21, and Thursday, April 22 at St. James the Less in Ashland. This year the group will be all women and we are planning for a total of 40. We need to provide and serve dinner on Wednesday evening. The menu will consist of a chicken casserole, salad, rolls and dessert. There are signup sheets in the back of the church along with the recipe for the chicken casserole. We will need five casseroles as well as the salads, desserts and rolls. In addition, we need people to sign up to provide and serve breakfast early Thursday morning. We also need to make up 40 bag lunches for Thursday.

Two additional volunteers are sought: one to assist in taking folks to showers and to the laundry Wednesday evening, and one to stay over Wednesday night at St. James the Less so that there is someone present with knowledge of the local area.

Please sign up to support this important ministry. Contact Courtland Warfield 227-3864 or Carl Tennille 883-1174 for info. Thank you.

Special Service at Smythe's Pavilion

On Sunday, June 13 **instead of** our usual 10 a.m. worship service at Fork Church, there will be a 10 a.m. worship service (including Holy Communion) at Boo and Jim Smythe's pavilion, followed by an all-parish picnic. During the service we will bless the pavilion. Boo and Jim will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be swimming, canoeing, kayaking, games for the children, etc. Fun for all ages!



News in the Life of Fork Church

275th Anniversary Steering Committee Update!

Your 275 Committee has gone hysterical. Oops, I'm meant to say historical!!!

Each time we meet, our ideas for events to celebrate our 275th anniversary grow in number, and we have to stop "in the name of Jesus" (Fork Church opera attendees might remember that song sung by the Fork Supremes) and remind ourselves that we can only do but so much. Then we quickly rein ourselves in and focus on fewer ideas! This is evidence of the love and respect we have for our charming and very special church!

We have decided that, rather than have a one-day event, we would spread the celebration over a period of time, concluding with a very special weekend, November 12th with our finale on November 14th. You might ask, why should we celebrate? A church that has a strong sense of its history will have a better sense of identity to build on for the future. Periodically, every congregation should take a look back to rediscover how its church came into being, what its early ministry was like, and how it has grown and changed over the years.

Such a celebration gives individual members the opportunity to join together in focusing on the church as a body of believers who have been blessed by the Lord. It can also be a wonderful time to benefit from the gifts of the people. And it's an occasion for church members of all ages to tell and hear stories of the past and present days of this special church.

Many of you have already noticed the mite boxes the children have decorated. This project is well underway and is meant to help them grasp this wonderful occasion. There are 275 days between February 12th and our anniversary, St. Martin's Day, November 14th.

To get the children involved in 275 and promote the spirit of giving and caring for others, which is the basis for our church, we have distributed mite boxes for the children to collect 275 cents between now and November 14th. They can raise money by doing chores around the house, saving their allowance or helping a neighbor – whatever you think is appropriate.

At our service on November 14th, the children will present their boxes to the Bishop. The money raised will be donated to the Red Cross Relief effort in Haiti. We will also distribute mite boxes to the congregation and leave boxes in the church in the event any of our "older children" want to participate.

We are also planning:

- publication of the parish registry from 1825 – 1905
- publication of vestry minutes from 1829 – 1844
- archaeology report
- concert on the lawn
- memorabilia and quilt display
- joint event with Scotchtown
- reenactment of Patrick Henry's speech
- presentation of church architecture
- a feast
- and our finale on November 14th with special guest, our Bishop Shannon.

To commemorate this important event and to help raise money, we will sell numbered limited-edition replicas of the church with an imprint of the history on the back, plus coffee mugs and tote bags with our church imprinted on both.

We are so excited and hope each of you will participate in all of the events and bring your friends and neighbors. This will be wonderful opportunity to showcase our church and open our doors to potential newcomers who will surely love Fork Church as much as we do! If you'd like to help please call Debbie Murphy.

Buildings and Grounds

Did you tire of the snow and rain and cold this winter? Well, your buildings and grounds committee sure did. The weather took a toll on our parking areas this year. We blocked off several spots that were just too muddy and soft for parking cars. As of this writing, help is on the way. We will have those areas improved with new gravel very soon. The yellow tape crime scene motif will be gone!

We are also working on plans to trim and remove some unhealthy and threatening trees around the buildings and parking lot. We also plan to have the rest of the driveways dressed up and smoothed out once the tree work is done.

We are currently getting bids to upgrade the heating system in the old part of the Parish House. In case you hadn't noticed, several historic framed tapestry pieces were recently hung in the Sanctuary entryway. We have a number of additional maintenance items planned for later this year also.

As always, we welcome your input and suggestions. Feel free to contact Greg Muniec or Tim Kestner with any ideas or concerns you may have for the Buildings and Grounds area.

Godly Play Has Plans for Fork's 275th



On November 14, Fork Church will celebrate its 275th anniversary and Godly Play is working on some special activities to help make this historic occasion meaningful for children. The first project will use mighty mite boxes to capture the concept of "how many is 275." Children

will fill the boxes with 275 pennies they earn or save from allowances between now and November 14. It works out to just about a penny per day. The boxes will be presented at the anniversary service and earmarked for the ERD effort in Haiti.

If you have graduated from the Godly Play age group, you are still invited to participate in this way of counting down the days to our big day. There are plenty of mite boxes for all. Lisa Licata and Boo Smythe are coordinating this project, and they welcome your input.

The Fork Church is on Facebook!

You can find The Fork Church on Facebook by going to www.facebook.com and search for The Fork Church, Doswell, Va. We are experimenting with this as a new communication mechanism for Fork so please let Lisa Licata know if you have any suggestions or questions. Sign in and become a "fan" of The Fork Church to get event notifications.

Thanks

Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper was a huge success, thanks to Lisa Licata, Elizabeth Gordon, Jenny Smith, and Sally Campbell. We owe a big 'thank you' to them for all they did!

Many thanks to Jack Haar for filling in for us at the organ bench today while Lindsey was away!

Time, Talent, and Treasure

Paul Newell and his thoughts on stewardship



Paul Newell, our esteemed 2010 stewardship chairman, lived in three other states before making his way to Virginia and eventually to Fork. Born in Delaware, his family relocated to New York and later to North Carolina. As a teen, Paul became active with youth activities and serving as acolyte at All Saints Episcopal Church in Greensboro, NC. While attending UNCC in Charlotte, where he majored in Business Administration, Paul made a connection that determined his career path. He met a girl whose father helped get him a job with Schindler Elevator, and that eventually led to a lifetime career, so far! (Paul has an interesting story about swimming in the Mediterranean his first day of work!)

After being relocated to Richmond 1985, Paul started attending St. Bartholomew. He became involved in the Chamberlayne Actor's Theater (CAT) and met Amy Jackson when they both were auditioning. They married in 1998, lived in the West End and continued attending St. Bart's for a while. Then in 2004 Amy went to work as Director of Design Services at Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, and the Newells moved to Doswell for an easier commute. They found the charm they were looking for in a house that needed some work and continues to keep them busy, but enjoy living there with their three dogs, Daisy, Charlie and Bucky.

Amy first became active at Fork Church, singing in the choir, but Paul honored his commitment to finish serving on the vestry at St. Bart's. In 2009 they officially transferred to Fork. Even before transferring and finishing on the vestry at St. Bart's, Paul jumped into helping pull off the first Fork Church Night at the Opera in 2008.

Paul's involvement with stewardship began at St. Bart's when he and a new rector began a friendship and had discussions over the financial situation at the church. Paul started to reevaluate what he could do with the blessings in his life. "If you look at the big picture, we are very blessed. There are people in the world who are trying to find food to not to be hungry – and we are trying not to gain weight," he says. And he took a new look at what stewardship really means: "It's more than just pledging money. It's about giving your time and talent as well as your treasure." Paul believes that stewardship is not about giving to meet a budget but giving what you are called to do with the resources you are blessed with. In essence, it's "returning to God the gifts He's given you ... and doing your part to make the world the place God wants it to be."

Like our families, our church has bills to pay to keep the lights on, says Paul. But more importantly, a church cannot do outreach without resources. When he got involved with stewardship at St. Bart's, he started looking around at all the things the church could be doing. He realized that when pressed for time he could at least buy books for a children's library. At other times, Paul feels we need to carve out the time to serve. "It's not about guilt. At St. Bart's I was 'Joey Joiner' and spread myself too thin. I found out that I couldn't do everything and decided it's better to do one thing well. What are the things I can do to let God know I'm thankful? CARITAS? WHEAT? The wood program? Or give money?"

"When you strip it all down, when someone is at their absolute moment of need, it's an opportunity for us to be at our absolute best," says Paul. "And when we address the needs of the person on the street or someone in transition who needs a little help for now, or help build a house through Habitat for Humanity, we are listening to Jesus whose message to us is to help others. That is outreach." Paul believes when we do outreach, we also build fellowship and community in our church.

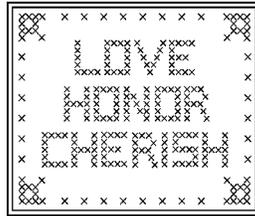
Even fellowship comes back to stewardship, he believes. "The opera was successful in bringing people together. The pancake supper was successful with people having good time and covering costs. As people get excited they will reevaluate their financial relationship with God."

At some point you really do have to focus on the budget, says Paul. "It's a touchy subject but we are a family and we have to talk about it, just like any family would talk about their finances. We need to know if we can we pay the power bill." And then beyond that, he says, we need to ask ourselves, what are we here for? "Of course we enjoy nice things, but when we look at someone who can't even fathom a vacation, shouldn't that compel us to step up?" We also need to consider the advantage many of us had that allowed us to get a good job, with parents paying for our education or being granted a scholarship.

Other thoughts Paul has on stewardship:

- Stewardship also entails taking care of the property we've been gifted with. We're charged with maintaining our buildings and property.
- Stewardship is not just talking about today's needs but about the long-term future of the church. It's not only what can you do today with your time, talent and treasure, but perhaps there is something you can do to leave a remembrance, such as a gift in estate planning.
- Each of us has to have faith in our vestry to make prudent, stewardship decisions. As with any organization, once you hand a gift over, you've released it to be used by those you've chosen to lead.

Paul sums up his outlook on stewardship – and on life: “You get a clean slate every morning. You can be angry about yesterday, or you can be happy. Every day is a new opportunity. You have a choice.”



Parish History Notes #27: Fannie Doswell and St. Martin's Chapel

A young Frances Ann Sutton, daughter of James T. Sutton and Mary Oliver, married Thomas W. Doswell of Bulfield, near Hanover Junction. For a period of time in the second half of the nineteenth century, the Doswell stable was famous in Eastern horse environments. Lavish events were held at the Bullfield race track, now overgrown but still visible from the air.

“Fannie” Doswell, as she was called, was a pious woman who regularly provided quarters at Bullfield for traveling ministers and bishops. Her most significant project was the construction of a small wooden Victorian chapel near Hanover Junction, now Doswell, for railroad worker who lived in the area. After years of fund raising, especially at the horse racing functions, the small church was completed in 1878, and named St. Martin's Chapel, being within the borders of St. Martin's Parish. Because of the main source of funding, this original building was also known as “the turfmen's church.”

For the next twenty years Fannie Doswell was the superintendent of the Sunday School at St. Martin's. Thomas W. Doswell died in 1890, and in 1898 Fannie moved to Charlottesville, where she lived until her death in 1903. They were both buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery. The original chapel burned in 1944. The current St. Martin's Church stands near the site of the fulfillment of Fannie Doswell's dream.

Next Issue: Sewell Stavely Hepburn

Alastair Macdonald

Diocese and Community



Region XI Council Meeting Report from Barbara Woods

The first meeting in 2010 of Region XI Council was held February 4 at Calvary, Hanover Courthouse. President Toni Haar called the meeting to order and the Reverend Jellico Bright offered the opening prayer. Thanks were extended to David Keill for his past duties as Dean, and Anne Kirchmier assumed her duties as the present Dean of the Region appointed by Bishop Johnston. Discussions turned to updates from Parishes that were represented. Of special interest: The Church of the Epiphany will have a Priest-in-Charge very soon; Church of the Creator's food closet has been serving 100 families a week; at St. James the Less, the free medical and dental clinics have recently opened their 5th satellite. They are open 4 nights a week - four in Ashland and one in Mechanicsville.

New business centered around what Region XI is to accomplish. What can the Region do that the Diocese cannot do? It was agreed that Dean Emeritus David Keill would set up a Facebook page so that we can continue discussing our mission statement online. The next meeting will be held Thursday, May 20 at 7:30 at Fork Church, Doswell. Future meetings will be held Wednesday, September 8, at St. James the Less, and Tuesday, November 30, Christ Ascension. After closing prayer the meeting was adjourned.

Easter Brunch at Roslyn

Roslyn will offer its annual Easter brunch on Sunday, April 4 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Featuring carving, waffle and omelet stations. \$30/person for adults, \$10/person for children 12 and under (includes tax/gratuity; no charge for infants). Pre-paid reservations are required. Contact Roslyn at 800-477-6296.

Shrine Mont Offerings

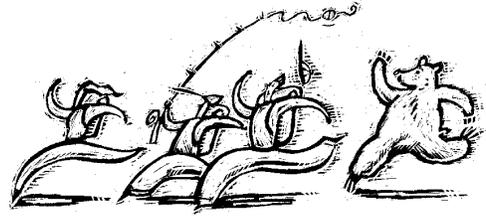
- Treat Mom to a Relaxing Weekend or a Special Sunday Lunch at Shrine Mont during Mother's Day Weekend. For more information on reservations for overnight or Sunday lunch; May 7-9; Contact Shrine Mont [540-856-2141](tel:540-856-2141) or shrine@shentel.net
- Peacocks: Positive, Passionate and Proud: The First Annual Women's Spring Retreat at Shrine Mont will take place June 4-6 with the Rev. Dr. Kathleen Price, who will lead the group on an adventure of self-exploration.
- Art & Soul: Learn how to nurture your spiritual life through the creative arts at this July 18-23 conference.

More information online or by calling 540-856-2141.

Shrine Mont Camps Open House

Are you considering registering for Shrine Mont Summer Camps, or want to learn more about Camps? You and your family are invited to attend a Camp Open House. Experienced staff members will

lead you on a tour and answer any questions you may have. The Open Houses will take place from 1:30-3 p.m. on March 27, April 10, May 2 and May 23. Contact **Kathlyn Jones** to register (800-DIOCESE x31) and let us know if you'll be joining us for lunch.



Annual Stewardship Conference

The Rt. Rev. Bud Shand, bishop of the Diocese of Easton, will join the Diocese of Virginia as keynote speaker at the annual Stewardship Conference under the theme "We Are the Diocese: Sharing Our Abundance." Participants can join in workshops to learn more about stewardship communications strategies, quick and easy giving campaigns and even energy conservation. Learn more and download a registration form at thediocese.net/Events/eventView.asp?EventID=44. Questions? Contact Matt Farr (800-DIOCESE x29).

Scholarship Opportunities

More than 60 scholarships are currently available through the Episcopal Church for education and schooling opportunities. Download applications and materials at episcopalchurch.org/109539_110675_ENG_HTM.htm

Trinity Annual Opening

The annual opening of **Trinity, Beaverdam**, located at 18185 Teman Road, Hanover County, will take place Sunday, May 31, at 4 p.m., with a reception to follow. For information contact Anne Gordon Curran, 804-285-4210.

Honduras Mission Opportunity

Good Shepherd, Burke will go on a one-week mission trip to EL Hogar in Honduras (www.elhogar.org) on April 17, 2010. We have not filled all of the seats and welcome participants from other churches. Contact team leaders Sharon and Richard Holcombe at shh5508@cox.net or jrholc49@cox.net.

Laptops for Liberia

The Diocese of Liberia has received a grant to supply wireless modems that will allow 23 stations throughout Liberia to be connected via Internet. With no land phone lines, and sometimes poor cell connectivity, this will be a big boost to their diocese. Donations of used laptops with Pentium 3 (or better) processors are welcome. Please contact Mary Anne Bryant at mabryan@thediocese.net.

Building Fund

The Episcopal Church Building Fund will host a symposium April 6-7. The intent is to bring together those who are looking for new, creative ways in which to solve church building issues. Some participants may have significant building problems (under-utilized sanctuaries, deferred maintenance issues), while others may have success stories centered around creative space use or development of a new revenue streams. It will also be an opportunity for the Building Fund to listen to the issues and challenges affecting our Church so that we can better frame how best to respond to their needs. For registration information, please call 804-592-3512.

Dear Friends in Region 11,

Emmanuel, Brook Hill, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year – 15 "Decades of Devotion." We're holding several events which we would like to share with your congregations.

First is an organ concert by members of the Richmond Chapter, American Guild of Organists at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 14.

Next is a tour of the church and Brook Hill plantation, 19th-century home of the Stewarts, founding family of Emmanuel, on April 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The centerpiece of our anniversary year is the July 11 festival service and reception on July 11, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Brook Hill, on July 6, 1860.

Attached, find details of the March organ concert and the April tour. Details of the July service and celebration will be forthcoming. Please share this information with your congregations, by means of your bulletin boards, newsletters and announcements.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact 150th Anniversary Committee chairman Marilyn Malone (804) 746-4748, or me, committee member Pat Row (804) 320-4619.

Sincerely,
Patricia M. (Pat) Row
for Emmanuel 150th Anniversary Committee
(804) 320-4619
fourrows@aol.com

Bloomfield Grants

The Bloomfield Foundation's mission is to provide grants that assist physically disabled children and young adults up to age 35 with the unique demands of their daily lives, encouraging them to maximize their independence. Mostly, Bloomfield monies go toward the purchase of durable medical equipment, but additional grants provide attendance at various camps programmed for these special individuals. More information and a copy of the Bloomfield Foundation grant application is available in the Fork Church office.

The Pitch is still accessible online at the Fork Church website: www.theforkchurch.org.