

From the Parlows

We had been told to expect an attendance drop off during the summer but we did not anticipate quite the extent we saw last Sunday. It has been noted that we are producing more bulletins than are needed. We will adjust, that is easy. On the other hand, having to adjust the need upward is very hard.

The truth is, our most underutilized Sunday resource is the Visitors Book! I guess it is possible that some people could just be driving by at 10:00 AM on Sunday and decide “Oh look at that pretty old church; let’s stop”. Also, Ruth and I know no one in Ashland, Hanover County or Caroline County to invite. So, how do we encourage visitors? Yes you are correct, you invite them!

Suppose you encounter someone new to the area and you discern they want to get involved in the life of the community. What would you say to them to encourage them to try Fork with you? How would you explain to them why you are an Episcopalian?

Once we get a firmer idea of who the confirmands are for 9 Nov. we will be offering a number of excursions to other places of worship. We invite not just the youth but also adults who want to join Fork to participate. The basic idea is that one of us will remain here and the other of us go on the excursion and then go out for a snack or lunch afterwards and compare and contrast the worship experiences. We might also ask what practices could be incorporated at Fork. If possible we will do the same at a Friday Synagogue service and perhaps a Sunday evening Celtic Service at St. Stephens Richmond.

We know why we are Episcopalians. Do you know why you are one?

Faithfully, Bob and Ruth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Summer Sunday School: 10:00 AM

We're having children's Sunday School each Sunday from 10:00 AM to 10:40 during the summer months. Boo Smythe and Ann Neri have put together a series of lessons based on Old Testaments stories we'll be hearing in church. They follow the journeys of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. Each week the children and their leader will meet in the parish hall.

June 15th - We discussed Creation and drew pictures of where we see God to thank God for His creation that we enjoy.

June 22nd - We read about Noah and his wife and made animals out of clay.

June 29th - Complete the Ark animals and talk about our theme for the summer

July 6th - We will begin singing with Melissa and talk about our "Christian Family Tree"

July 13th - We will tell stories about Moses and his sister Miriam and make tambourines.

July 20th - Tell the story of David and Goliath and act it out.

July 27th - We will tell the story of Jonah and make fish

August 3rd - We will tell the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den and again try out our acting skills.

August 10th - We will tell the story of Ruth and Naomi and make something with wheat.

August 17th - We will read the books "In God's Name" and "God's Paint Brush" and make God's eyes.

August 24th - We will read "God said Amen" and practice our end of the summer church program.

August 31st - Tell the story of Abraham and the Great Family

September 6th - This is a Saturday and we will have a practice for our church performance on Sunday, September 7th.

September 7th - We will present our songs and "Christian Family Tree" in church. After the service we will have "Sundaes on Sunday in the Parish House hosted by the Youth Group.

If you have any questions please call Boo Smythe at [804-357-3319](tel:804-357-3319).

We look forward to seeing your children whenever your family can come to church. Taylor Kestner will assist the Godly Play staff this summer. Peace, Boo

Tree Harvest

As your elected Stewards of Fork Church's resources and heritage, the Vestry has unanimously voted to conduct a selected cut of the timber the woods to the rear of the church. A generous border will be maintained to protect our neighbors. This will result in a renewable financial resource for the generations that follow us. This action is expected to result in an income of up to \$50,000.00 to the parish. The Vestry proposes not using this income for the current annual budget. They would use it to establish an endowed fund that would support what they and the new rector conclude would best support their shared vision for the future. It could be such things as outreach, youth ministry including camps, music, or education. What a great way to welcome a new Rector!

The Vestry is calling for a Parish Meeting after the 10:00 service on Sunday 13 July to hear your input.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Each Sunday during the summer (weather permitting) we will try to have lemonade and cookies after the service. If you are willing to volunteer to take a turn on a Sunday, please contact Mac

Chenault at mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com or call him at 804-537-4003

Looking Ahead

Sunday, June 29

5-7PM Outreach Dinner

St. James the Less (Ashland)

Sunday, July 6 John Philip Newell, preaching at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 5:30 PM Celtic Service, followed by Dinner and further conversation with John Philip Newell.

Sunday, July 13 Parish meeting after service

Sunday, August 10 Jason Davis at Fork Church

Jason, a 2014 graduate of VCU, will be with us to share his experiences in the Young Priest Initiative of the Diocese of Virginia and the work he will be doing in the coming year at the mission to Seafarers in Hong Kong under the auspices of the Young Adult Service Corps of the Episcopal Church.