

From the Partlow's

What is the mission of the Church? Where does it take place?

We can simplistically say that the Church exists for a two- fold mission:

- Spread the news of the love of God that we experience through Jesus Christ
- Make that love incarnate by feeding the hungry, healing the sick and visiting the lonely and prisoners.

In past years we in the Northern hemisphere saw ourselves as the saved and blessed. The “mission field” was way out there someplace like “Darkest Africa”. Times and the world have changed. The border separating us from the spiritual and physical needs of the world shrank from Africa and Asia to Appalachia, Alabama, to the East End of Richmond and South Side of Richmond and now guess what: to Hanover County Virginia. As the immortal Pogo observed: *We have met the enemy and he is us!*”

There was a telling article in the Monday Richmond times dispatch about Hanover County. If you missed it the link is below.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/local/hanover/social-services-agencies-cope-with-increased-caseloads/article_f3aef79c-cb01-59ac-ab3c-71999498f9e2.html?mode=print

Aware congregations once often posted a sign over the back door of the church “Beyond these doors lies the mission field”. But before your rush out count the costs. I recently received the following reflection:

Cry and Die

To call a local church into the mission of Jesus is to call its members into two behaviors. First we cry. Then we die. We let our hearts be broken with the things that break the heart of God. Then we die to the comfortable patterns of life that insulate us emotionally and geographically from those for whom Christ died.

Ben Campbell Johnson

Are we ready for mission? *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.

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.

We look forward to seeing your children whenever your family can come to church. Taylor Kestner will assist the Sunday school staff this summer.

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.

Kitchen Clean Up – Saturday July 13, 9am – 12noon

Coffee & Bagels served!!!

We're going to clean out kitchen, two storage areas and pantry (room outside of kitchen)

If you have any items in any of these areas, please plan to be here on Saturday, July 12th or talk to either Paul Newell or BooSmythe concerning whether we should keep or discard your items. Thank you

Lemonade on the Lawn

Volunteers still needed for this Sunday 7/6 and next Sunday 7/13. We are not limited to lemonade and cookies; we could have ice cream, flavored frozen ice. You are only limited by your imagination and what the kids will enjoy please contact Mac Chenault by calling him at 804-537-4003 or emailing him at mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com.

Looking Ahead

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.

Saturday, July 12 9AM -12N - Clean out the kitchen

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.