

From the Partlow's

On Children and Youth: In a recent evaluation to your Vestry we expressed the opinion that Fork Church's greatest assets as you face the future were your youth and Sunday School programs (youth and adult), the adult choir, and the growing children's Choir. A huge challenge we see is the lack of facilities for infants. We think that some sort of a committee should be formed to address possible solutions. It is asking a lot for a young couple who perhaps knows none of you to take their precious infant all the way over to the Parish House and leave it with a stranger...if we have a nursery attendant that week. We would be happy to work with such a brainstorming committee.

On Summer: As the school year draws to a close, we are moving into the more relaxed days of summer when many of us look forward to vacations or just slowing down from the fast paced months of the school year. In the "old days", I am told, some churches even closed down for a month or so while everyone, including the clergy, vacationed. That has not been our experience. We do not remember those days gone by!

We do remember church services occurring with regularity on Sundays in the summer. We recall the days before air conditioning when we cooled ourselves with those card-board fans with a picture of the church or Jesus and donated by the local funeral home. There was always vacation Bible school for at least

a week or two. Sometimes churches held ice cream socials –with a variety of ice cream flavors and wonderful baked cakes and cookies! Sometimes they held sing-alongs when folks gathered to sing their favorite hymns – followed by fellowship and refreshments. And often there was at least one memorable parish picnic!

Summertime is an excellent opportunity to try some different activities – low key, more relaxed. We were wondering if there is any interest in folks gathering at 9 AM each Sunday this summer to perhaps discuss Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) – the Pope’s address which you can read on line. Even children might enjoy the discussion. Let us know. *Bob and Ruth*

Help Wanted

Vestry Registrar. Attends Vestry meetings and prepares minutes. Once minutes are approved, posts one paper copy and e-mails a copy to the parish Secretary to post on the Parish Webb page. A great way to keep up with parish events.

Region XI Representative (Episcopal Churches in our geographical area). Attends periodic meetings. A great way to meet other Episcopalians.

Diocesan Annual Council Alternate Delegate. Attends annual Council. Wonderful way to learn about the workings of the larger Episcopal Church.

Announcements

The Easter Season is the most joyous and celebratory season of the church year. As we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ these next few weeks, we will, as a part of the celebration, omit the confession. It will return as we enter the season "After Pentecost".

May 17 10-2PM Faith & Females: Women's Ministries in the Diocese of Virginia -

This is an opportunity for girls and women to discuss the intersection of women's issues and ministries and faith formation, at St. James the Less. There is no cost to attend; lunch will be provided (suggested \$5 cash or check donation at the door). Space is limited. To register, please contact Kendall Martin at kmartin@thediocese.net.

Saturday, May 17th You're invited to a BBQ Chicken Dinner –at Rouzie's Chapel United Methodist Church from 4-6PM. This is a fund raiser for the Western Hanover Wood Ministry.

The menu is ½ chicken, beans, slaw, roll, dessert and a drink. All this for \$7.00!! For more information please call 804-449-6794

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM Godly Play –Parish House

Sunday, May 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM Godly Play –Parish House

Dates to Remember

Saturday May 17

4-6PM - Chicken Dinner at
UMC Rouzie's Chapel

Tuesday May 20

7:00PM - Vestry Meeting

Sunday, June 1

Last Day of Sunday School (Godly Play)

5:00 PM Youth Group

Sunday, June 8

Parish Eucharist and Picnic at Mt. Olympus