



The Pitch from Fork February/March 2010

Dear Friends,

Although it may not seem like it, Lent is just around the corner. Ash Wednesday falls on Feb 17, and to mark the start of this holy season, we will have services that day at noon and at 7 p.m. Please come.

The season of Lent is a special time in the Church Year, an opportunity for us to journey deeper in our relationship with Jesus as we prepare for the joy of the Easter season. That joy has no place to go if we don't make room for it in our souls. The best way to make such room is to take Lent seriously, to engage actively in the self-examination and repentance to which the Prayer Book calls us in the Invitation to a Holy Lent. As in previous years, I have ordered copies of a Lenten devotional booklet for us to read together during Lent. This year's theme is "healing ourselves and hurting world," with a special focus on relationships. The booklets will be available in the church entryway by late January. Please pick one up for your family's use. If you would like us to mail one to you, please let us know.

You may know that for many centuries, Lent and especially Holy Week have been special times for pilgrims to visit the Holy Land, the site of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This year I am privileged to be part of a group from our Diocese that will be visiting the Holy Land during Lent. Along with Mazie Florance, Boo and Jim Smythe, and about 20 other pilgrims, I will journey to the Holy Land on Feb 22 and return on March 11. We will be engaged in a course of study called *The Palestine of Jesus*, which is offered by St. George's College in Jerusalem. The course itself is a 14-day study tour which combines academics and spirituality. Among other sites, we will be visiting Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Church of the Resurrection.

Our trip is being organized by a group called *The Jerusalem Mile Project*. It turns out that *the Jerusalem Mile* is another name for the labyrinth. When Christians weren't able to travel to Jerusalem in person, they would prayerfully walk "the Jerusalem mile" instead. (If you haven't ever walking a labyrinth, this Lent would be a great time to do so. There is a permanent outdoor labyrinth in Richmond at Union-PSCE, in the park on the corner of Westwood Ave and Loxley Road, across from old Richmond Memorial Hospital. Westwood runs between Hermitage.) I am about to have the amazing privilege of walking some Jerusalem miles in the holy city itself. As I do so, all of you will be much on my mind and in my heart. I can't wait—both to go AND to come back and share with you all that I have learned!

I go to Jerusalem as a pilgrim, but actually all of us are pilgrims every day in this Christian life. The Lenten season is a crucial part of our pilgrimage, a special journey we undertake every year. I pray that every step of your Lenten pilgrimage will draw you closer to the heart of God; and I look forward to hearing about your Lenten pilgrimages even as I prepare to share with you mine.

Blessings. —Anne †

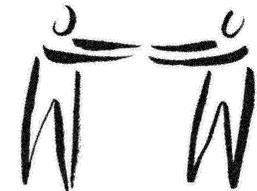
The Tines (and The Pitch from Fork): They are A-Changin'

Welcome to the new *Pitch from Fork*! Actually, if you are reading this newsletter, you probably won't notice too many of our recent changes to Fork's communications, but we thought you might want to know about them. Beginning with this issue, *The Pitch from Fork* is being sent only to a small number of folks, those who let us know that they wanted to continue receiving a paper copy of our news via the US mail. *The Pitch* that you are receiving is a collection of news and other information that has been sent out electronically to other members of the Fork Church community in a document called *The Tines*. *The Tines* is sent out once per week and includes the coming week's bulletin announcements as well as other Fork Church news and local and diocesan news. (If you wish to be added to *The Tines* mailing list, simply send an email to me: anneofforkchurch@embarqmail.com.)



The Pitch from Fork will continue to be published every other month. Some of the time-sensitive items in *The Tines* will not be included in *The Pitch*, but in general we are trying hard to make sure that important information about Fork Church happenings and upcoming events are included in this paper newsletter for you. We hope that you find it helpful and informative, and we are grateful for your interest in Fork Church and for your prayers for our life and ministry. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any suggestions or feedback about *The Pitch from Fork*. I am deeply grateful to our editor, Lou Ann Cave, and to our graphics designer, Debbie Murphy, for all of their hard work on this and every edition. Without their dedication, this newsletter would not exist. —Anne

Haiti Relief



Reach out to those in need

Episcopal Relief and Development has established a disaster relief fund for Haiti. To donate to the Haiti Fund, visit www.er-d.org or call 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. Please put "Haiti Fund" in the memo line of all checks.

Happenings at Fork Church

Vestry Retreat and Installation

The 2010 Vestry will gather for a day of prayer and planning at Anne's house on Saturday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The vestry retreat is an important time for the leaders of the parish to come together as a team and to lay out our goals and agenda for the coming year. Please keep the vestry in your prayers throughout the year but especially on Feb 6. The 2010 vestry will be officially installed during the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Feb 7. Plan to be there to support and thank your vestry leaders.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Tuesday, February 16

Come join us for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 16 at 6:00. Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Lent. Because we often give up fattening foods for Lent, a tradition developed of eating foods made with butter, fat and sugar (the good stuff) on Shrove Tuesday. For us that means pancakes, sausage and apples!



Mark your calendars to come to the Parish Hall on February 16 from 6 to 7:30 for dinner. A small donation of \$3.00 per person is appreciated.

Help is also needed to shop and cook for the meal. Cooks should plan to arrive at 5:00 p.m. on the 16th. A sign up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the sanctuary. You can also email Lisa Licata at lisa@licata.org or call (227-3268). Come join us for this evening of good food and fellowship.

Lent Begins

The holy and penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. We will have two services of Holy Eucharist that day, one at noon and the other at 7 p.m. In Ash Wednesday's somber, thought-provoking liturgy, we are marked with ashes and reminded, "*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*" The path to Easter leads through Lent. Mark your calendars now and be here on Ash Wednesday so that we may begin the journey together.

Confession

This sacramental rite is one way for us to practice the self-examination and repentance into which Lent invites us. Over the ages, many Christians have found it helpful to make a private confession during the season of Lent. By calling confession "The Reconciliation of a Penitent," our prayer book reminds us that the purpose of confession is to restore us to a right relationship with God. If you would like to make a private confession as part of your Lenten observance this year, please let Anne know. Sometimes—even though it is hard—it can be very helpful to name our wrongdoings aloud **and** receive absolution for them.



Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday Service with Liturgy of the Palms—10 a.m., Sunday, March 28
Maundy Thursday Service and the Stripping of the Altar—7 p.m., Thursday, April 1
Good Friday Service and the Way of the Cross—7 p.m., Friday, April 2
The Great Vigil of Easter—8 p.m., Saturday, April 3
Easter Day Service—12 a.m., Sunday, April 4

Interested in Baptism for You or Your Child?



Baptism is usually not performed during Lent, but the Easter Vigil service (Saturday, April 3, 8 p.m.) is an especially appropriate time for baptism, as is Pentecost (Sunday, May 23). Other dates can easily be arranged as well. Contact Anne if you would like to learn more about this important Sacrament in the life of a Christian.

Holy Eucharist and Healing Liturgy



Healing services are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at Fork Church, beginning at 11:00 p.m. We use litanies and prayers from an Episcopal worship book. The service includes an opportunity to come forward for prayer for healing and anointing, and it ends with our familiar Eucharist. You may come for healing prayers for yourself or on behalf of others. The service is open to all—members of Fork and your co-workers, relatives, neighbors, and

friends. After the service, we usually go to lunch together. Please join us.

Since Anne will be away the fourth Wednesday of February there will not be a service that day. The March service will be on the 24th.

Flower Guild

The flowers that decorate our altar each Sunday are usually contributed by an individual or family to commemorate a significant occasion. What a beautiful way to share with your parishioners both the happy occasions of your immediate family as well as the loss and remembrance of loved ones. Many of our members celebrate their children's or grandchildren's birthdays with a contribution to the altar guild as well as remember loved ones on birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. I hope that you will consider sharing with us these significant moments and occasions in your life while helping us decorate our church on Sundays. The flower guild accepts contributions year round for the flower/greenery arrangements placed at the altar each Sunday. The recommended contribution is \$30.00 however any amount will be accepted. These contributions are especially appreciated during the winter months when flowers aren't as abundant as in the spring and summer months. Also, when you choose to make these contributions, you are welcome to take the flower arrangements with you following the service to enjoy their beauty in your home or perhaps share with others. Please make checks payable to Fork Church Alter Guild. We look forward to sharing your future dedications.



Coffee Hour Sign Ups



The After Church Coffee Hour/Lemonade on the Lawn Schedule for 2010 is posted in the Sanctuary on the Bulletin Board. Please find a Sunday where you can sign up to host alone or with a friend. If you have any questions, please feel free to give Lisa Licata a call at 227-3268. Coffee hour is one way for us to provide fellowship for one another and for guests in our midst. Please volunteer to host!

Parish History Notes #26: Fork Church during the War Between the States

A popular tradition notes that Fork Church was used as a hospital at some point during the Civil War. However, there is no mention of any such use in the comprehensive "Official Records" published after the conflict. Because of its remoteness from Confederate medical centers, it is unlikely that the church provided any convalescent facilities for wounded soldiers. On one occasion, however, Fork Church was near the front lines of the battle.

For a few days in May 1864, General Grant and the Army of the Potomac faced General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia in a stalemate along the North Anna River. As a result of several engagements there were significant casualties on both sides, but Union troops withdrew to the north of the river and southern units moved to Hanover Junction (now Doswell) along the Verdon Road. A Union cavalry officer reported that all bridges over the Little River had been destroyed, so it is not likely that casualties would have been brought to Fork Church.

Certainly the congregation provided support and assistance throughout the conflict. At Trinity Church on Sunday, August 11, 1861, Rev. Horace Stringfellow responded to a plea from the medical purveyor of the Confederate States, proposing that ladies of every church in the Confederacy collect blankets and ship them to Richmond. In May 1863 at the Sixty-Eighth Annual Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia, Rev. Stringfellow reported that St. Martin's families had provided contributions of \$1,750 to soldiers and \$1,200 to "Fredericksburg sufferers," after the bloody engagement five months earlier. Mr. Stringfellow had four sons in the Confederate Army. They all survived the conflict. Section 5 of the Fork Church Cemetery was designated for Confederate soldiers, but there are no markers in that area, nor is there record of any burials there.

Next Issue: Fanny Doswell and St. Martin's Church

Alastair Macdonald

New in Church

After the service a young couple talked to a church member about joining the church. He hadn't met the husband before, and he asked what church he was transferring from.

After a short hesitation, he replied, "I am transferring from the Municipal Golf Course."

Reports from the Annual Meeting, Jan. 10, 2010

Profiles of newly elected vestry members:

Howard Anderson

Howard came to Fork Church in the late 90s, and has been a member of the choir since that time. From Halifax, Va., He has two children, daughter Bree, a clinical psychologist in Portland, Ore., and son Evan, who is currently living in Roanoke, Va., having previously been involved with the horse breeding industry in Arkansas. Howard met his wife Deb on a cycling tour (Bike Virginia) in 2004 and they were married four years later during the 2008 Bike Virginia, gathering with friends in a park in Damascus, Va., for the ceremony. Deb is from Pittsburg and has a son and a daughter attending Penn State.

Howard is a former prosecutor and now an administrative law judge with the State Corporation Commission. As such he conducts hearings, rules on motions and writes decisions in a variety of cases, including securities, banking, insurance and utilities. One of his most involved cases was determining a right of way for a large transmission power line over the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains and across the Appalachian Trail.

“Besides choir, mission has become my niche,” says Howard. He was a part of the Fork mission team to the Dominican Republic – his first overseas mission trip. He hopes Fork will become involved in helping with mission needs locally, nationally and overseas.

In local missions, Howard enjoys helping with the outreach dinners at St. James the Less. He is the Vestry liaison for the missions committee. His vision for Fork in the area of missions is to get involved at the Peter Paul Development Center in the east Churchill section of Richmond. Toward this effort, he has arranged several “windshield tours” for Fork members. “These tours will introduce them to the community that the center serves, to experience the environment, and create a vision for what can be done to help the people in this area,” he says. Howard is hoping to create ties between Fork and the Diocesan-supported center on a variety of support levels, including having Fork youth work with kids from that area in after-school programs at the center. Howard also initiated Fork’s adoption of a family through the center for this Christmas season to help provide some of their needs.

Another hope that Howard has for Fork is continued growth in youth programs and a growing church population. He believes strongly in events such as the Fork Opera and the Heavenly Stew. “It gets the church working together for a common purpose, building community while raising funds,” says Howard. “I would also like to have more men’s voices in the choir.”

Ruth M. Syman-May

Ruth has been involved with Fork Church since 2001. Prior to her marriage to Ned and coming to Virginia, Ruth lived in Connecticut where her two married sons and her four grandsons still reside. Her stepson, stepdaughter and a step grandson are now a part of her family too.

Ruth has found her niche in ministry and outreach, representing Fork in YMCA’s Bright Beginnings program and spearheading Fork to adopt a Christmas family for four years, She has participated in CARITAS, WHEAT, prayer group and home visits, and help formed the Pastoral Support Committee. She has also assisted the Vestry, youth group, and this year's opera production. Ruth is an active participant in Wednesday healing services and Sunday Adult Forum. She is a member of Episcopal Church Women.

When asked what drives her to ministry, Ruth says perhaps it is compassion, and considers that a gift from God. “I have always had a draw to youth and their zest for life, yet they have a need for an overseer/mentor/protector.” Ruth is drawn to people in general, especially those less fortunate or having a difficult time. “Sometimes being a caregiver, helper, teacher or counselor just FEELS right,” she says. “That I possibly helped one person's situation, day or uncomfortable moment fosters hope, not only for them but for me, too.”

It is not surprising that nursing is Ruth's professional background. Health limitations make her involvement a “slippery slope” but she continues to help “whenever and wherever I can.”

Ruth feels ready for Vestry service, now that she has a longer history with Fork, and feels her past experiences can help promote growth. She feels it may be time to canvass the church family again, to take a new look at our strengths, desires, and weaknesses. She feels that some long-time members' needs or desires may have changed. “We do have new families and more younger families, so change and growth has already occurred. Working with and improving on what we have now would create a solid foundation to build onto.”

Ruth's hope for Fork's future is continued growth and ministry to people's needs, acknowledging the limitations of a smaller church, but “we can support and promote growth to those we have in place.” Personally, Ruth would like to see more discussion groups based on books, movies and God. And she looks forward to Fork having a kitchen that allows for more social events and fundraisers. “I tend to be a social person,” says Ruth, who feels drawn to gatherings and functions, “and preparing for them is fulfilling also – just being in community.”

Teresa Kestner

Teresa Kestner, her husband, Tim, and daughter, Taylor, have been at Fork for six years. Teresa's involvement at Fork began with Godly Play and assisting Boo Smythe and Ann Neri on Sundays. She has served CARITAS lunches and St. James the Less outreach dinners. For the past few years she has served as Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) and Webmaster for the church website, which she also designed.

When asked why she is interested in serving on the Vestry, Teresa gives this answer: “Stewardship is not just a monetary committee and effort that occurs every fall. Being a steward of something means taking care of that something for a period of time. Here at Fork, being a steward of the church follows various paths and lengths of time, but it is usually shared by many for many purposes - but ultimately it is the continuation of The Fork Church.” Teresa quotes a familiar phrase that it “it takes a village...” and believes the Fork community is the village. “It is an honor to be asked and I feel it is my time to accept and carry on the work that was begun many years ago by others who cared enough to ensure that a place of God would be here for those who wanted or needed it.”

Teresa describes Fork as a special place with special people who are capable of doing much. “Many have hearts that are bigger than the church itself, and they give freely of it and often,” she says, humbly noting that her own contributions are minor in comparison, but that “my support helps the vision of others and ultimately the church – and the ‘village’ continues to thrive.”

What is Teresa's vision for Fork? She is delighted to see the growth at Fork Church over the past few years. Teresa feels that families are the “heart and soul” as well as the future of the church. She and Tim say they became a part of Fork primarily because of their daughter, Taylor, and she feels Fork could one day be an important part of their grandchildren's lives, too. “Our youth learn by our actions, what we do as well as what we do NOT do,” Teresa believes firmly. “It is important to me to teach my daughter to become and be the best person that she can be – to be the Christian that we are all intended to be.”

In short, Teresa's vision for Fork is that it continue to be "a place of learning about God and Jesus and about how to be a good child of God as well as a good steward of God's house – a place of peace that we all need." Teresa feels that more and more these days, children need a safe place to grow, to find themselves. And she wants them to "find God as well as themselves as they grow into the adults that may someday take our places as stewards of The Fork Church."

Lisa Licata

Lisa Licata and her family have been connected to Fork Church for about two years. When she and her husband, Mark, daughter McKenzie (14), and son Whit (9) began visiting Fork, they "tried to slide into the back row surreptitiously, but found very quickly that you couldn't sneak into Fork Church!" She recalls being greeted by old friends as they went to and from the Communion table, and meeting new friends after the service. "My children laughed when we finally got into the car that they felt like they had just walked the red carpet and narrowly escaped the paparazzi!" But the Licatas were hooked, and report that what they found at Fork was more than they could have hoped for, including a church with a rich history and tradition and a congregation that had lovingly cared for their church through good times and bad, "keeping it alive for people like us to find."

In addition to a community of friends and neighbors, Lisa and her family were delighted to find "fabulously creative and passionate people with a love of fun and life and a common set of values ... a place where my children want to come and hang out with their friends and with the adult friends that have embraced them ... a minister who educates, guides and cares for us and who is also a friend."

Lisa quickly found a niche with the WHEAT and the Wood Ministry for her family, who have all been involved in delivering food and wood, talking with the families they help, and "learning what it really means and feels like to give of yourself to help others." For the second year, Lisa is helping teach Sunday School, and she has served this year as Parish Life chair. Lisa is grateful for these opportunities to meet more people in the congregation and enjoy their wonderful children. She reports that the entire Fork Church experience has brought her family closer together. "The positive feelings we have received from our affiliation with Fork have made me want to give back to the church however I can. Vestry service seems the logical next step."

Lisa has served on the Vestry in a temporary capacity, filling the role vacated by Brad Turner for the second half of 2009. In this role she has tried to learn and understand the church's history and to discover "what draws families to Fork Church and what keeps them here." In addition she has tried to learn what people want from the church, the Vestry and from Rev. Anne. Lisa says she still has a lot of learning to do but feels learning is very important.

"As a Vestry member I serve for the pleasure of the congregation and I feel my job is to care for and preserve the church, as those serving before me have done so well, and to help provide the congregation with an environment where they can find the spiritual fulfillment and the wonderful sense of life and community my family has found at Fork." Lisa hopes that Fork will continue to grow and "be filled with life and laughter and a mingling of young and mature voices." She also hopes the church community will continue to care for its wonderful building and grounds and expand and improve the Parish House. She would like to see facilities that will give the congregation the opportunity to give more to each other and to the community.

"Most of all, I hope that Fork Church will continue to be a place that makes people feel welcome and like they have come home," says Lisa.

Annual Meeting Vestry Liaison Reports

Christian Formation—Beth Schubert, Liaison

Godly Play:

In 2009, we saw the continued growth and success of the Godly Play Program under the direction of Boo Smythe and Ann Neri. Boo and Ann have invested an enormous amount of time and energy to planning and carrying out the program and their enthusiasm is tireless. The success of their efforts is evidenced by increased enrollment over the past few years, the excitement of the children in the program, and increased parent participation in assisting with the program. We are all very grateful for Boo and Ann and for what they and this program mean to our children and families. In addition to weekly Sunday School, the Godly Play children put on a play in early 2009 entitled “Noah and the Arkettes” and despite the best snow storm in a long time, were able to have the annual Advent Play on Christmas Eve. We anticipate continued growth in 2010 and ongoing success with Godly Play.

Youth Group (J2A):

Similarly, the youth group continues with the Journey to Adulthood program and is growing in numbers and enthusiasm. Three of our children attended Shrine Mont summer camp for a week in August and in the fall, we had several youth attend weekend youth retreats at Shrine Mont. This year the youth group has been focused on missions and community service by helping with the St. James the Less Outreach dinners and starting a relationship with the Peter Paul Development Center (PPDC) in Churchill. This is an ongoing focus that will be continued in ‘2010. They plan to expand the relationship with PPDC and get more involved with supporting this wonderful ministry. In addition, taking a mission trip at some point in ‘2010 is also a goal for the new year.

*A very special thanks to **Boo Smythe** for the many ways she helps develop the spiritual lives of our children from pre-school all the way through high school. Without Boo’s commitment and tireless dedication to our children, we would not have the tremendous growth and high quality programs for our children and youth. Boo’s wonderful fun-loving spirit gets our children of all ages excited about coming to church and sparks a desire to get involved in the ministries of the church and the community. Boo truly embodies the definition of Godsend and we are incredibly blessed to have her.*

Nursery:

The nursery continues to be a challenge in terms of soliciting volunteers to help with the nursery during the church service. In 2009, there was a significant increase in the number of volunteers in the nursery -- particularly people who do not have children in the nursery, but were willing to give of their time. We are very grateful to all of those who volunteered their time to our littlest members. In ‘2010, we hope to see the new tide of volunteers continue to grow as the number of children and families grow in our congregation.

Adult Education:

The Adult Education Forum continues to go well. Don Schubert and Ann Kirchmier co-lead the forum this year and covered topics such as the wrath and grace of God. There have also been some seasonal small group studies for Lent and Advent which have occurred in the evenings for several weeks at a time. In 2010, Adult Forum Sunday School will continue and there is a plan to explore congregational interest in additional programs such as continuation of seasonal small group meetings and possible meetings in homes with light suppers.

Worship—Cari Overby, Liaison:

Acolytes:

There were several additions to the youth group this year who now serve as acolytes. Thanks to Boo Smythe for providing the training for our newcomers. I have worked on creating more formalized training for our acolytes and have put together a revised set of guidelines combining the previous versions that were being used. Thanks to Mark Licata for bringing me up to speed and sharing his thoughts with me. I will also be working in creating a training video that will demonstrate the acolytes' responsibilities from a visual perspective as well as offer a comical demonstration of unacceptable behaviors. We put together a pre-assigned schedule for the acolytes and leave it up to them and their parents to facilitate any changes or substitutions and make sure I am aware of any scheduling change. I make sure the schedule stays updated, distributed and posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall as well as in the church entryway and in the vesting room. It is important for the parishioners to know who is serving as acolytes each Sunday and encourage you to offer positive feedback to them. Conversely, constructive criticism is appreciated as well. If anyone is interested as serving as a mentor for the acolytes, please let me know. We would like to have someone to monitor the acolytes during the service to both encourage as well as correct when necessary.

Flower/Altar Guild:

I am especially grateful for the wonderful women who serve on the flower and altar guilds. I offer very little assistance to them as they are a well oiled machine who keeps our church beautifully decorated and appointed each and every Sunday. I do want to mention that we are always in need of contributions to the flower guild and encourage you to commemorate and remember significant occasions in your lives. Your contributions are a wonderful way to celebrate joyous occasions as well as remember those loved once who have been lost. Your contributions are especially appreciated during the winter months when our flowers are mostly purchased. Please also let me know if any of you would be interested in volunteering your time. Perhaps a few men may enjoy a little flower arranging for a change. I plan to work with the flower guild this year to perhaps put together a flower arranging workshop so we can all have an opportunity to learn their skills and perhaps donate some time to them.

Choir:

The choir is another area that I am grateful to have under my area of responsibility. These wonderful men and women speak for themselves and I want to thank them all for their beautiful voices, musical talent and the time they devote to keeping the music alive at Fork.

Buildings and Grounds—Greg Muniec, Liaison:

2009 was a busy and productive year for the B&G area at Fork. The main project that we tackled was replacement of the H.V.A.C. systems in the Sanctuary. Our ancient oil furnace and central air units had been on life support for a while. We replaced them with a new system of dual oil furnaces and heat pumps. We also had extensive plaster repair work done to the damaged areas of the Sanctuary walls. Several exterior light fixtures were replaced. The three toilets in the Parish House were replaced. The basement walls of the Parish House were scraped and waterproofed. Gutters and drainage pipes were installed around the kitchen area. The seams of the metal roofing on the Parish House were re-sealed. New written guidelines for usage of the church facilities were established. Several work days were held and many parishioners volunteered to help clean and fix and organize and paint.

Plans for 2010 include:

Creating a priority list for ongoing and long term maintenance projects to aid with planning and budgeting. Establishing a team of volunteers to handle trash removal. Exploring gutter options for the Sanctuary and Parish House. Trimming dead and dangerous tree limbs near the buildings and parking areas. Spot-painting Sanctuary walls. Re-grading driveway entrances. Continued monitoring of the plaster in the Sanctuary. Scheduling several work days to tackle ongoing clean up and fix up tasks.

The B&G group always welcomes your ideas and feedback and sweat equity. Greg Muniec and Tim Kestner are the co-chairs of this committee. Please feel free to contact them with your suggestions or questions.

Parish Life—Lisa Licata, Liaison:

Parish Life Activities for 2009 included the following:

Coffee and Conversation with Anne

Lemonade on the Lawn/Coffee Hour

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Summer Church Picnic with Godly Play and Youth Group kids

The Second Annual Heavenly Stew (with wreaths) was a big success this year, raising over \$2000 for the General Fund.

Shrine Mont November Family retreat in November was a wonderful experience. We had over 30 people in attendance and had a wonderful weekend of fun and fellowship. The group consisted of new and old Fork members as well as cradle Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians. For many of us this was the first time we'd talked, outside of our own homes, about why we were at Fork and what we'd found at Fork Church. The group expressed thanks to all of the dedicated members of Fork who kept the Church going through some very difficult years. They expressed support and enthusiasm for the Sunday School program, youth program, activities (like the Opera), and hope for more community events and continued growth for the Church. It was a wonderful weekend.

Spring and Fall Clean-up Days in conjunction with Building and Grounds. The Spring Clean-up day was a great success with lots of people and a lot accomplished. The Fall Clean-up Day had a much lighter turn out – only a handful of people – but we got a lot done nonetheless.

We are discussing some possible new activities for 2010 that include:

Listening Hours

Organized but informal hikes around the Fork Church trails

Moms' Night Out (with babysitting at the Parrish House)

Other Activities under review, and which require more planning, are:

After School and Before School Day Care Center (under investigation)

Monthly supper (family pricing) and conversation

2009 was an exciting and busy year for Parrish Life. We look forward to more fun and fellowship in 2010.

Mission—Howard Anderson, Liaison:

- The dinners at St. James the Less have been and continue to be organized by Lou Ann Cave. The dinners provide food for approximately 40 people.
- Caritas is scheduled for Wednesday night and Thursday morning April 21-22 (2010). Carl Tennille and Court Warfield are in charge of this ministry.
- WHEAT: Lisa Licata and Elizabeth Gordon continue to represent Fork by attending the meetings and providing phone answering service.
- Fork adopted a Christmas Family through the Peter Paul Development Center in east Churchill. Christmas gifts and food were provided for a family of five (four kids and their Mom).
- The Fork Youth provided Christmas gifts for young people in east Churchill through the Peter Paul Development Center.
- The Fork Youth are planning a mission trip to the Dominican Republic this summer.
- Rev. Anne made a contribution to the Angel Tree Fund (Prison Ministry) from her discretionary fund.

Goals for 2010:

- Provide more support for Lou Ann Cave with the dinners at St. James the Less;
- Support and involvement with the Peter Paul Development Center, especially with regard to our youth;
- Increased involvement with the Angel Tree Fund;
- Develop mission trips and opportunities for our youth.
- Continue to develop a framework and coordination for all areas of mission at Fork Church

Finance and Administration—Carl Tennille, Liaison:

The stewardship effort for 2010 resulted in an increase in pledges from approximately \$106,000 to \$115,000; unfortunately the pledge income for 2009 came in about \$5,000 short of what was pledged. Hopefully we will do better in 2010.

With the increase in pledges and other income the vestry was able to approve a budget for 2010 that had some minor increases for the first time in several years.

2009 also saw Fork complete the transfer of the Trinity Church property to the Diocese.

Pastoral Care—Anne Rickman, Liaison:

Happy New Year to all! This year has been a very productive one for me with the help of many folks. I have been able to start an e-mail tree for taking food to those needing short term help. You don't need to be a great cook or know how to e-mail, all you really need to know is where the Ukrops locations are. When many people participate it does not entail excessive work for one person. Please sign up.

We now have a "Lunch Bunch" on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Rev. Anne has moved the Healing Service to 11:00 on the fourth Wednesday so they can join us for lunch afterwards. We meet at the Smoky Pig at 12:00. You don't have to be a member of Fork, so invite your friends. Also we have guys that come. Hope to see you there.

The prayer e-mail prayer chain is very active and is managed by Rev. Anne. That way confidentially can be maintained if you so wish. Here again you don't have to be a member of Fork for us to pray for you. We have many on the list that are family and friends

I look forward to another great year. If I can be of any help, please call me.

Fork Church Proposed 2010 Budget

2010 Budget

Revenue

Pledge	114,716.00
Plate	3,000.00
Special contributions	10,000.00
Memorial	0.00
Church use and fund raisers	1,500.00
Reserve fund	0.00
Interest	<u>26,250.00</u>
	<u>155,466.00</u>

Expenses

Buildings and Grounds

Routine and preventive:

Building	1,500.00
Housekeeping	2,460.00
Mechanical & electrical	2,000.00
Organ maintenance	1,785.00
Utilities	<u>13,800.00</u>
	<u>21,545.00</u>

Church Administration

Copier lease & maint..	4,000.00
Diocesan & regional contr.	3,500.00
Finance software support	750.00
Insurance	7,800.00
Office expenses	
Postage	1,275.00
Supplies	1,500.00
Publications/Advertising	650.00
Other	500.00
Taxes	<u>400.00</u>
	<u>20,375.00</u>

Personnel

Clergy

Automobile expense	3,500.00
Continuing education	1,000.00
Discretionary fund	1,000.00
Insurance	5,460.00
Mobile phone	750.00
Rector expense account	1,000.00
Sabbatical cd	1,000.00
Salary/housing/pension	<u>79,325.87</u>
	<u>93,035.87</u>

Other personnel

Nursery	1,000.00
Organist	7,500.00
Payroll taxes	1,250.00
Secretary	6,250.00

Supply clergy	<u>750.00</u>
	<u>16,750.00</u>
	<u>109,785.87</u>
Parish Life	300.00
Worship	<u>500.00</u>
	152,505.87

Accounting of Available Fund Lines	2009	2010	
Building Fund	12,340.45	0.00	
Cemetery Fund	21,350.27	8,964.05	10K in CD
Memorial	785.00	820.80	
Organ Rehabilitation	582.64	0.00	
Education Fund	597.29	597.29	
Vacation Bible School	435.00	163.53	
Youth Group	3,971.50	6,550.50	*designated for Mission
Discretionary	599.92	272.69	
Choir and Robe	4,927.47	4,927.47	
Pavillion	237.20	237.20	
Mission	4,463.72	4,463.72	
Sabbatical		<u>1,000.00</u>	
TOTAL Designated	<u>50,290.46</u>	<u>27,997.25</u>	
Reserve CD		83,265.67	
Ending Bank Balance 11/29/2009**		79,831.85	**Waiting on Dec. bank statement
Total General Funds		163,097.52	
Operations budget	152,225.00	14,798.00	137,427.00 budget spent***
			*** does not include Dec. payroll approx. 5K
Non-designated balance (Reserve)		65,033.85	

Income 2010	Expected Income	Jan-10
Pledge	114,716	2,050*prepaid pledges
Plate	3,000	
Special Contributions	10,000	
Church use and fund raisers	1,500	
Interest (from endowments)	<u>26,335</u>	<u>26,335</u>
	<u>155,551</u>	<u>28,385</u>

The Fork Church Total Funds	Nov-08	Nov-09	
Altazera Hackett Oliver Memorial Fund of Fork Church	3,736.29	4,074.74	Used for interest general fund

Bessie C, Clarke Fund of Fork Church	3,537.39	3,857.81	interest general fund
Nancy Wright Pollard Fund of Fork Church	967.94	1,055.62	interest general fund
Stuart A. Oliver Fund of Fork Church	20,833.07	22,720.20	interest general fund
Fork Church Cemetery Fund	247,847.28	283,670.19	interest cemetery
French Pollard Fund	102,314.85	111,582.87	interest general fund
Goodloe-Anthony Fund	99,575.20	108,595.05	interest general fund
Fork Church Endowment Fund	65,023.54	70,913.59	interest general fund
Fork Episcopal Church - Rectory Certificate 6855395	169,329.88	184,668.34	interest general fund
Sabbatical CD	6,160.42	6,206.80	cap impro
Sabbatical CD	2,000.00	2,000.00	sabbatical
Sabbatical CD	2,000.00	2,000.00	sabbatical
BB&T CD	35,000.00	35,394.11	cemetery
TOTALS	758,325.86	836,739.32	

Income Trend Data

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
ACTUAL PLEDGE*	68,245	93,440	105,051	109,429	102,042	101,528	
PLATE	2,585	3,219	3,882	3,528	3,357.3	3,325	
CHURCH USE	875	960	923	1,077	425	1,821	
SPECIAL							
CONTRIBUTIONS	12,765	12,278	13,673	10,648	20,195	21,072	
Totals	84,470	109,897	123,529	124,682	126,019	127,746	
* Actual pledge received plus unscheduled pledge							
Pledge	73,690	104,173	111,058	125,932	107,212	106,110	114,716
pledged received	65,945	86,802	99,618	106,387	96,597	96,518	
Difference	7,745	17,371	11,440	19,545	10,615	9,592	
%	0.11	0.17	0.10	0.16	0.10	0.09	
Unscheduled pledge	2,300	6,638	5,433	3,042	5,445	5,010	
Pledge History							
Pledge Units	49	60	56	63	57	61	64
Average dollars	1,524	1,744	1,981	1,999	1,881	1,739	1,792

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Vestry Retreat (at Anne’s House)
7 10:00 am Vestry Installation	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Coffee Hour	15	16 6:00 pm Pancake Supper 7:00 pm Vestry mtg	17 12:00 noon Ash Wed. Service 7:00 pm Ash Wed. Service	18	19	20
21	22 Anne and others leave for Jerusalem Pilgrimage (Feb. 22- March 11)	23	24 NO HEALING SERVICE 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch	25	26	27
28 St. James the Less outreach dinner						

MARCH 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Deadline for Pitch articles	11 Jerusalem pilgrimage group returns	12	13
14 Coffee Hour	15	16 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 11:00 am Healing Service 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday	29	30	31			

Can you receive e-mail? You may prefer to receive news from Fork through a weekly e-letter, *The Fork Times*. If you wish to be added to *The Times* mailing list, contact Rev. Anne Kirchmier at anneofforkchurch@embarqmail.com or call her at 804-687-5396.

Visit The Fork Church website: <http://theforkchurch.org/>

The next *Pitch from Fork* will be the April/May edition. Articles and announcements should be submitted to Lou Ann Cave by March 10. Send to thecaves5@embarqmail.com.

Easter Spring Flowers Order Form

Name of giver _____ Phone number _____

Address _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

__Lilies and tulips: \$15

__Hydrangea: \$20

Please make your check payable to The Fork Church Altar Guild. Send with order form to Linda Turner, 11079 Locust Ridge Place, Doswell, VA 23047 or leave in the designated box in the church foyer.

DEADLINE: Sunday, March 14

Questions or specific requests? call Linda at [227-3519](tel:227-3519).
