



The Pitch from Fork June, July and August 2010

Where There's a Will, There's a Way

Dear friends,

'Tis the season. Spring is melding into summer, and this is a season for many happy events in people's lives—graduations, baptisms, weddings. We celebrate those milestones with joy, giving thanks for each new blessing. Somehow celebration seems especially appropriate during this lush season of greenness and growth. We marvel at the beauty of creation all around us as we rejoice internally over goals achieved, partnerships formed, children joining the household of God.

'Tis the season for gardening. I'm not a gardener, but I know that many of you are, and I am aware of your patient care of plants and seedlings—watering, weeding, pruning, and fence-building so that your good work might, literally, bear fruit. To garden is to make a long-term investment of yourself, to commit to the beginning, middle, and end of the growth process.

'Tis the season for writing or updating your will. That might seem like an odd statement, here in the midst of the lengthening days, the lingering sunlight, the weather beckoning us to picnics and pools. Perhaps we tend to think about making a will as something to focus on in the darker, sadder seasons of our lives. But it is not so. Do you know where in the Prayer Book you'll find the exhortation to make a will? It's in the section entitled *Thanksgiving for a Child!* It is precisely as new life is beginning—as we give thanks for the birth of a child—that we need to be most mindful about planning ahead. Like wise gardeners, we need to be thinking from the beginning about the middle and the end. The Prayer Book says, "*The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses* (BCP, 445).

'Tis the season. As I meet with couples preparing for marriage and with families preparing to have a child baptized, one of the questions I try to remember to ask is, "Have you made a will?" None of us knows what our future will hold. To create a will is to be a steward of the blessings you have received and of the people whose lives are most dear to you. And the season to do that is *now*.

So... Have you made a will already? Fabulous! Consider taking time this summer to look it over and make sure it addresses the situations in which you and your loved ones now find yourselves. Haven't yet made a will? Then do so this summer. Call a lawyer. Make an appointment. Tend the garden of your life. 'Tis the season.

Blessings. —Anne †

What's happening at Fork Church this Summer?

Fork Church and the Strawberry Faire

In an effort to promote our 275th anniversary this year and extend a gracious invitation to all visitors and guests who might wish to join our church family, we have reserved a booth at this year's Strawberry Faire in Ashland on Saturday, June 5th. We need your help to greet faire goers and sell a few items. The items include a wooden replica of Fork Church with a history of the church on the back, coffee mugs and tote bags. The sale of these items will help to offset expenses related to our anniversary events. The replicas are \$20.00, coffee mugs are \$6.00 and the tote bags are \$3.00. If you would like to volunteer to help, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, so please sign up as soon as possible. You may also call or e-mail Debbie Murphy at 227-3664 or murphydeb@embarqmail.com.



Graduation Sunday



Graduation Sunday is June 6th, when during the service we will thank our Godly Play and Adult Forum teachers and also recognize the graduates in our midst. They include:

- Jonathan Walker Smythe, who graduated from Collegiate School and will be attending William & Mary in the fall.
- William Harrison Smith, who graduated from Hampden Sydney with a BA in Economics.

Wood Ministry BBQ

There will be a BBQ dinner fundraising event for the West Hanover Wood Ministry at The Fork Church parish hall on Saturday, June 12, from 4-6 p.m. The cost is \$7 per plate which will include 1/2 BBQ chicken (or possibly pork), baked beans, roll, slaw, drink and dessert. Please contact any Wood Ministry volunteer or Jesse Gordon (422-6007) to purchase your tickets or if you would like to donate a white or chocolate sheet cake for the event.

The Annual Church Picnic

This year's annual church picnic will be held June 13th at the home of Boo and Jim Smythe, Mt. Olympus farm on Route 1. **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. **THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT FORK THAT DAY.** Mark your calendars now so that you do not miss out on this fun-filled day with your parish family!





Vacation Bible School

Our Vacation Bible School theme this year is *Jesus is the Light of the World*.

“There was once someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things that people just had to ask him who he was. One time when they asked him who he was, he said ‘...I am the Light’.” This is a quote from one of our Godly Play stories. We will explore how Jesus is the Light of the World and tell lots of stories about Jesus.

We will meet from June 21st through June 25th from 9:30 to 12:00 noon. VBS is open to all Fork Church children who will be three years old by June 1st and are toilet trained, through those who have completed 5th grade and will be entering 6th grade in September. The older children will participate in some activities and will help the younger children in other activities. Registration forms will be mailed the week of May 17th to all enrolled Godly Play families. If you have friends or other family member that would like to attend please call Boo Smythe at (h) 804-448-3517 or © 357-3319.

Upcoming Events

June 5 – Fork church booth at Strawberry Faire
June 6 – Graduation Sunday and recognition of Adult Forum and Godly Play teachers
June 12 – Wood Ministry BBQ at Fork, 4-6 p.m.
June 13 – Annual church picnic and worship service, 10 a.m., Smythe’s pavilion
June 21-25 – Vacation Bible School, 9:30 to 12:00 noon
June 23 – Healing service
June 27 – Outreach dinner at St. James the Less
July 28 – Healing service
Aug. 25 – Healing service
Aug. 29 – Outreach dinner at St. James the Less

News in the Life of Fork Church

Healing Service

Healing services are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at Fork Church, beginning at noon. 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. Services coming up are June 23, July 28, and Aug. 25.

Outreach Dinners

St. James the Less dinners are an easy way for everyone to see first-hand how mission can make a difference. If you have not participated to date, please think about doing so. It is a wonderful experience. There are many ways to help other than preparing food. For instance, many of the people served are infirm and have difficulty moving around. Serving tea and coffee, setting up and breaking down tables, and drying dishes are just a few examples of ways you can help.

Howard Anderson

The next outreach dinner will be Sunday evening, June 27. Please call Lou Ann Cave at 227-3649 if you would like to help.

Godly Play Sunday School

Christian Education at Fork Church is alive and well. As we wind down this academic year we are also gearing up for Vacation Bible School (VBS). We have told stories from the Old Testament, the New Testament, stories of Saints, stories that relate to the liturgy of the Episcopal Church such as how and why we celebrate communion and how we celebrate the baptism of new members of the Christian faith.

We have watched our Godly Play children grow physically, mentally and spiritually. It is a wonderful experience for me to see the spark of recognition when we begin to tell a Bible story and the children remember who Noah is or what happened to Abraham and Sarah or how Moses led the people of God through the Red Sea.

Boo Smythe

Journey To Adulthood

Our J2A group has also had a busy year. Besides meeting at the church once a month all year we had three 6th graders attend the 6th and 7th grade weekend at Shrine Mont in November and two high school youth attend the Shrine Mont weekend in April. We made cookies for our older Fork Church member to be delivered at Christmas. Due to snow, etc. the cookies were frozen and later sold at the opening day of Mt. Olympus Farm to make money to buy a Lego Robot Kit for the Peter Paul Development Center (PPDC).

Two car loads of youth participated in a “Ride Around” sponsored by the PPDC. These youth rode around Church Hill neighborhoods where the families served by the PPDC live. This is an area of Richmond which is nothing like the neighborhoods where our youth live. It was after this trip that the J2A youth decided to raise money to buy the Robot Kit for the PPDC youth who had won the Lego Robot contest last fall, only to have their robot stolen. Our youth raised the money through the cookie sale in April and a Mother’s Day Breakfast May 9th at Fork Church. The kit has been ordered and will be delivered by our youth as soon as it arrives.

The youth have also helped several times with the outreach dinners at St. James the Less.

We have six children who will enter the 6th grade in September and will join the Fork Church Youth Group this summer. They are Claire McLaughlin, Jessica Overby, Griffin Aderhold, Nate Miles, Morgan Kay, and Anthony Droppleman. You will see them acolyting beginning June 19th. This summer the youth will get together about once a month to enjoy a pool or pond party, go bowling or just “hang out” and have fun.

These are great young people who never cease to amaze me with their energy, enthusiasm, intelligence, dedication, and their care for each other along with a never-ending sense of humor.

We have one senior, Walker Smythe, graduating from Collegiate this year and heading off to William and Mary for his freshman year of college.

Jim and I have had a great year and look forward to an even better one beginning in September 2010.

Boo Smythe



Cemetery Update

The Fork Episcopal Church Cemetery gravesite prices are as follows:

Church member: 1 lot - \$400

Church member: 2 lots - \$700

Church member: 3 lots - \$950

Church member: 4 lots - \$1,200

Non-member, family-connected lots are \$500 per lot regardless of the number of lots purchased.

Two cremations are allowed in one lot or one cremation with a regular burial. Unlike years past, lots may not be sold for burials of persons with no Fork Church connection.

Arbors and trellises of all kinds are prohibited. Artificial flowers are not allowed in the cemetery. No lots shall be enclosed by iron fences, copings, hedges or posts other than the lot markers put in by the Cemetery Committee.

For further information, contact Hugh Campbell, Cemetery Chairman, at 227-3253.

WHEAT Update - Thank You Fork

When we agreed to take on phone duty for WHEAT a year and a half ago, we didn't ask your permission. Nor did we consider how much it would impact you. Since then we've come to you time and time again asking for your help and support and every time you have been there for us and for WHEAT. We are so thankful to you for your help in this important ministry. Everything you do makes a difference.

WHEAT continues to be very busy. Every tour of duty is different but it isn't unusual for us to field 42 calls, deliver 80 bags of groceries and provide financial assistance to eight families in a two-week period. Unlike many charities, WHEAT does not require any proof of need. If someone calls and ask for help, we provide what we can. While we help people in the Social Services system we also help people who don't qualify for Social Services assistance. One only needs to live in Western Hanover and ask for help.

We are always particularly happy to help people who are working hard to help themselves but have encountered an obstacle that your generosity can help them overcome. As we write this we are helping a family who experienced a kitchen fire and another family that is trying to making it on their own without the help of an abusive husband.

There are, of course, many people with problems so great that we can't help them out of the trouble they are in. For instance, we called on a client with depression, a physical disability and an apparent hoarding problem. Bringing her groceries and helping her with rent won't change the course of her life but it will help her get by while others more qualified help her with her larger problems.

The WHEAT system which requires no proof of need has its pitfalls. There are certainly people who look to take advantage of whatever handout they can find even if they don't really need it. But for every one of those there are two more people who really need help, who thank God for organizations like WHEAT, and don't want to take any more than they need. Thank you for helping us be there for them.

Elizabeth Gordon and Lisa Licata

Parish History Notes #28: Sewell Stavely Hepburn

A native of Missouri, Reverend S. S. Hepburn began his career at parishes in Loudoun County, Virginia, and Kent County, Maryland, where he met and married Nina Powell. He was residing in Hanover County by 1879, when his son Thomas Norval Hepburn, was born. In 1881 he was rector of St. Paul's Parish, and concurrently ministered at Immanuel Church in Old Church, St. Peter's in New Kent County, and St. David's in King William County, as well as St. Paul's Church in Hanover Court House. According to Immanuel Church documents, he held the longest tenure of a Rector of St. Paul's Parish.

Rev. Hepburn, or "Brother Hep" as he came to be known, accepted a call to St. Martin's Parish in 1893 and moved his family to Hanover Academy, which had recently closed as a boys' preparatory school. In 1903 he retired and returned to Kent County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Brother Hep made many friends while rector at Fork Church, and long after his departure he continued to visit and conduct special services for members of the congregation. On these visits he would accept quarters at Oakland, Airwell, Janeway and Hickory Hill. As late as 1929 he assisted Mr. Mason at a Fork Church wedding.

In spite of his life-long dedication to the Episcopal Church, Rev. S. S. Hepburn will be remembered because of his famous granddaughter, Katharine Hepburn, who was born in Hartford, Connecticut, soon after his departure from St. Martin's Parish.

Next Issue: Fork Church in 1900

Alastair Macdonald

The People of Fork Church

Thanks Are Due:

- The driveway has had new stone applied on it. Thanks to Glenn Murphy for volunteering to complete this work and Howard Smith for loaning the use of his truck.
- Thanks to all who contributed to the "Hope for Humanity" Sudan Walk May 2. Fork raised \$454.00 The Walk raises funds for Hope and Resurrection Secondary School in Southern Sudan.

Thanks from CARITAS

We received a memo from CARITAS which Fork helped host at St. James the Less April 21 and 22 for 40 homeless women:

Hello, all. This is just to tell you that you made a lot of needy people's lives better this week. Saturday morning, we were told by several of the ladies that they really appreciated what was done for them during their stay at St. James the Less. And they weren't just being polite, either. Granted, there were a couple of "issues," but overall, things went smoothly and your efforts were the reason why.

Please pass on to all your workers the gratitude of the ladies. I think it really is a pretty impressive statement that all these churches can gather to do something so important and so appreciated.

Until next year!

Sandi Shirey

Thanks to Courtland Warfield and Carl Tennille and all who helped make this such a success.

Thanks for Outreach Dinner

Thanks to all who helped with the April 25th outreach dinner at St. James the Less. We had a special challenge that night – the dishwasher broke and everything had to be washed by hand!! I have a special appreciation for Tim and Taylor Kestner and Tish Iorio who stayed overtime until the last knife was hand-dried. The youth group was a WONDERFUL crew! They knew what to do and got right to work, serving, waiting on tables and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks also to Boo and Jim Smythe, Janet Hayes, Deb Anderson and the Thompson family for providing food as well as helping in the kitchen and making the guests feel welcomed. Lisa Licata and Court Warfield provided the meat, which, along with all the sides and desserts, were delicious and plentiful. It is a wonderful feeling to hear and see the gratitude of those we are serving and to know that we've shown the love of Jesus to them.

Lou Ann Cave

Thanks to Karen Blackwell and the Daisies



You may have noticed how beautiful it looks in front of the Parish House. That is because of the hard work of Karen Blackwell and the Daisies. They pulled weeds and planted shrubs and flowers. Thank you so much. It looks beautiful. Thank you also to the Smythes who donated flowers; and to the Ashland Berry Farm for providing plants at a discounted rate. If we've forgotten anyone who contributed to this effort please let us know.

The Vestry

Congratulations and Blessings to Mazie Florance!

On Friday, May 7, at a special service of Evening Prayer in the Diocese of Easton, Md., Mazie Florance will be received as a novice oblate of Episcopal Carmel of St. Teresa, a contemplative community for women in the Episcopal Church. What does that mean, exactly? It means that after a year of careful preparation—including prayer and study, retreat and reflection—Mazie will begin a special relationship of close connection to the Carmelite community while continuing her life and ministry among us here at Fork Church. Each religious order has a particular emphasis, and the Carmelites' is prayer—which seems particularly appropriate for Mazie, who is a faithful member of the Fork Church Prayer Chain, a regular participant in our monthly healing services, and a lay Eucharistic minister serving at our altar many Sundays of the year.

As an oblate, Mazie will follow the Carmelite rule of life, which includes daily Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer; half an hour each day of private prayer; active engagement in a local church (that's us!!); and ministry in the world, which Mazie fulfills through a variety of volunteer services. Mazie will visit the Carmelite community four to five times a year as part of her commitment to this new calling, but her home and ongoing ministry are right here in our midst, as they have been for many years.

During worship May 2, we said a special prayer for Mazie, sending her off with our blessing as she makes this new and important level of commitment in her spiritual journey. Please keep her in your prayers. Thanks!

Congratulations on Baptism

Congratulations to Holland, Hudson, and Jennings Droppleman, who were baptized May 23. Welcome to the household of God.

Community and Diocese

Report on 2010 Diocesan Annual Council

by Anne Kirchner and Courtland Warfield

What is Annual Council? It's the once-a-year gathering of the Diocese of Virginia at which each parish is represented by at least one lay delegate. Larger parishes have more delegates; Fork has one. Our delegate in 2010 was Court Warfield. (Clergy also attend Council as voting members but are not representing their individual parishes when they do so.) The Diocese comes together at Council to worship, to share news of our ministry in the previous year and plan for the year ahead, to elect leaders, and to discuss and vote on various issues that have been put forward by members of Council. The Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia is traditionally scheduled for the last weekend of January. Council normally takes place on a consecutive Friday and Saturday. Due to a major snowstorm, however, this year's Council met on a January Friday and then reconvened on a February Saturday to finish its business.

What happened at this year's Annual Council?

We had a major liturgical celebration on the first day of Council as Shannon Johnston was officially recognized and invested as our 13th diocesan bishop at a service at which Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori preached and officiated. Later that afternoon, Bishop Shannon gave a pastoral address in which he identified five priorities for the Diocese of Virginia:

- Youth and Young Adult Formation
- Strengthen Existing Congregations
- Evangelism/Proclamation
- Multi-Cultural/Ethnic Ministries
- Mission Beyond Ourselves

The priorities were based on input from the seven Town Hall meetings held throughout the Diocese last fall and resonate with Bishop Shannon's own priorities. As the diocese moves forward on these priorities, Bishop Shannon is interested in hearing our ideas about how the diocese can partner with congregations (like us!) to make these goals become a reality.

In his address, Bishop Johnston also challenged clergy and church educators to focus on teaching the basics about Christianity. Noting the trend that the number of "Communicants in Good Standing" is rising in some churches even while the "Average Sunday Attendance" is falling—this is true for Fork—he challenged clergy and vestries to set a three-year goal of having 50 percent of communicant strength at worship on Sundays. He pointed out that folks with season tickets to sporting events tend to make the commitment to attend regularly—and that *our* season ticket is to eternal life! Recognizing that some of the weightiest deliberations we face cannot adequately be dealt with in the short time frame of an Annual Council, Bishop Johnston also mentioned that he plans to hold regional forums in 2010 to address topics arising from the debate on human sexuality. (The full text of his address can be found on the Diocesan website: www.thediocese.net under the links governance, annual council, then 215th annual council.)

When Council reconvened in February, one of our major tasks was voting on the resolutions that had been submitted for consideration (and had been studied and, in cases, amended by the resolutions committee). We passed resolutions to authorize the appointment of an assistant bishop as financial resources allow;

- establish the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday;
- affirm Christian faith formation as a lifelong journey in Christ and to make available on the diocesan website a resource called *The Charter for Christian Education*;
- request that the bishop appoint a taskforce to promote training in the prevention of domestic violence;
- affirm a National Church resolution promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts;
- support the people of Sudan, Jerusalem, and Haiti through our prayers, contributions, and ongoing relationships;
- commend our bishops for their commitment to the global Anglican Communion;
- study and report on the proposed Anglican Covenant; and
- ask the Bishop to empanel a group of clergy and lay people, including legal professionals, to create and recommend standards to be written into our diocesan canons so that there is a clear and enforceable set of rules to follow if services of same-sex blessing become authorized.

The resolution committee clearly recognized that the council remains divided over the human sexuality issues and that the resolutions originally presented went further than Council was prepared to go at this time. Bishop Johnston correctly stated in his pastoral address the issues need more study. The substitute Resolution (R-14s) addresses this by calling for a panel to help Council better understand just what changes in canon law might be necessary if new laws pertaining to this issue are approved by Council. The work of the panel will provide Council the opportunity to address the issue in a more ‘orderly, careful and deliberate manner.’ Many of us may find it easy to reach a decision as to how we feel regarding this issue. The crux of the matter really is what is God’s will...not what do we feel. Not so easy to discern without study, reflection and prayer. Hence the Bishop’s call for a renewed effort to present the issues concerning human sexuality at regional forums.

What do these things mean for me at Fork Church?

Among other things: Your vestry will be taking a closer look at the bishop’s challenge to increase Sunday attendance and will be making sure that those who serve in the area of Christian formation have access to the new *Charter*. You will notice that Sudan, Jerusalem, and Haiti will be mentioned regularly in our prayers of the people. This summer you will have an opportunity to take part in a study group about the Anglican Covenant as we at Fork grapple with the challenges laid before our entire worldwide communion; and as Bishop Shannon develops his plan, you will be invited to participate in regional forums about human sexuality.

Diocese Sets Meeting for June 12 About Property Dispute Follow-up

The Supreme Court of Virginia heard the appeal of the Diocese and the Episcopal Church in the property dispute with congregations who voted to leave the Church and sought to take Episcopal property with them. We expect the Court to issue a ruling on Friday, June 11. Bishop Johnston has invited members of the continuing congregations to join together on Saturday, June 12, for a time of prayer, information sharing and a discussion of next steps. Anyone interested in sharing in this time of togetherness and mutual support is welcome to attend at St. George's, Fredericksburg, beginning at 10 a.m.

Free Child ID Program

We are offering you an opportunity to have an ID made for your child(ren), free of charge, after the Church Service on June 13th at Mt. Olympus. As part of its community service, the Westhampton Masonic Lodge#302 A.F. & A.M. of the Grand Lodge of Virginia has developed a comprehensive child identification and protection program known as VACHIP, Virginia, Child Identification Program. This is part of a national program and one you can read more about by going to www.vachip.org. The Masons do not keep any information and no information will leave the site. James Palmer, a member of Fork and a member of our choir, has offered to make this service available to Fork at our Church picnic. A questionnaire that you will need to complete as part of the process will be handed out at Church. There is a sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary. Please see Lisa Licata (227-3268) or James Palmer (270-5030) if you have any questions.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Towel Mission Trip for Youth

The name Towel Ministry derives from the towel that Jesus tied around his waist and used to wash the feet of his disciples. The towel is a symbol of loving service to one's friends.

For the second year in a row, the Diocese of Virginia will sponsor a youth mission trip to the Marion campus of the Towel Ministry in North Carolina. The trip will take place July 10-17. Towel is for rising 9th- through 12-graders. The intention of the Diocese of Virginia's mission trip is to bring together youth from churches around the Diocese to share a common mission.

Typical jobs will include painting, laying flooring, building decks, demolition, etc.

The cost of Towel is \$400 per person. Please don't forget about the Youth Mission Vouchers (\$200), available to all youth who have been confirmed in the Diocese of Virginia.

Visit the [Youth Mission Trip Web Site](#) for more information, or contact [the Rev. Mary Davila \(703-777-1124\)](#), youth mission coordinator for the Diocese.

Art and Soul Camp



The date for 2010 Art and Soul Camp at Shrine Mont is July 18-23. Course offerings include digital photography, drawing, painting, and collage. To learn more about nurturing your spiritual life through creative arts at this retreat visit www.shrinemont.com. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Solo Flight XX

“One is a Whole Number” national Episcopal Conference for adults who are single will be held at Roslyn Conference Center in Richmond, Sept. 3-6. Solo Flight was founded to offer opportunities for those who are single in the Episcopal Church and their single friends. There will be opportunities for spiritual growth, learning, fellowship and networking with those who share similar values. The conference is staffed by professionals who know the single experience first-hand and are themselves on a spiritual journey. Keynote speaker is Jane Gentry Vance, former Poet Laureate of Kentucky. For more information go to www.soloflightministry.net

Foster Parents Needed—Maybe YOU??

Virginia Home for Boys and Girls (VHBG), which began in 1846 and is the second oldest children's home in continuous operation in the United States (and is also the employer of Robert Steele, former Fork Church member), is recruiting foster parents. We offer all foster parents hands-on training, a sign-on bonus, and 24-hour on-call support. There are over 6,000 youth in foster care in Virginia. Please consider opening your heart and home to serve these youth. We hope you will join our team. Please contact Anna Antell at (804) 270-6566, ext 113, or visit www.boysandgirlshome.org for more information.

WHEAT

WHEAT is in danger of running out of funds to help out our neediest neighbors. If you would like to provide financial support for WHEAT's ministry, please mail a check to WHEAT, PO Box 171, Beaverdam, VA 23015.

