



Spring Chimes



What's inside...



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Missions Let Doers Heal the World

“So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of Your name.”
(BCP, Prayer for Mission)

Mission is central to our faith and, certainly, central to our parish life. St. James's continues to run one of the largest missions programs in the Episcopal Church. In 2013, we sent 83 Doers of all ages on mission trips to Cuba, Haiti, Honduras, New Orleans, New York and West Virginia as well as right here in Richmond. Doers have been on over sixty international and domestic mission trips since 1994.

“Mission is not about ‘saving’ souls – it’s about transforming the world, and ourselves,” explains Rev. Carmen Germino.

“Mission is about being, not just doing,” she continues. “This can be challenging for Doers, me included! But a huge part of mission work is to be in relationship, forming friendships built on trust and mutuality. On every mission, we offer financial support and physical labor to our host community, yet these are simply tools to demonstrate that we care. It is the knowledge that someone cares that can truly empower people living in poverty.”

“Making the initial decision to become part of a mission team goes well beyond filling in a roster spot,” notes long-standing missionary Mike Bily.

“Originally my thoughts were to challenge myself and to step away from my comfort zone. Or perhaps to physically experience the often hidden neglected

world around me, help out, and then walk away. I found mission work at St. James's has evolved into something more...much more,” he says.

In 2014, missions will go out from St. James's to New Orleans, Haiti, Honduras, Kentucky, West Virginia, and around our city. Additionally, we have supported a full-time missionary, Elizabeth Whitmire, who (*Missions continues on page 11*)

Easter Season Schedule

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 8:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast prepared by Youth
- 9:30 a.m. Stuart Circle Parishes Parade
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Reading of the Passion Gospel

Monday-Wednesday, April 14-16

- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist Chapel

Maunday Thursday, April 17

- 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Footwashing, and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 18

- Noon and 7:00 p.m. Litany for Good Friday

Easter Sunday, April 20

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist with the Children's Flowering of the Cross
- 11:15 a.m. Festival Eucharist

Find us online all the time:





A Life Examined

The Rev. Randolph Marshall
Hollerith, Rector

Frederick Buechner once wrote, “Even the most cursory of diaries can be of incalculable value. What the weather was doing. Who we ran into on the street. The movie we saw. The small boy at the dentist’s office. The dream. Just a handful of the barest facts can be enough to rescue an entire day from oblivion – not just what happened in it, but who we were when it happened. Who the others were. What it felt like back then to be us. ‘Our years come to an end like a sigh...’ says Psalm 90, ‘so teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.’ It is a mark of wisdom to realize how precious our days are, even the most uneventful of them. If we can keep them alive by only a line or so about each, at least we will know what we’re sighing about when the last of them comes.” (*Beyond Words*, HarperOne, 2004)

Melissa and I have always been huge fans of Frederick Buechner. We’ve read and reread most of his books and his writing never ceases to inspire. This quote in particular resonates for me because I have always been a keeper of journals. From the simple writings and drawings of my childhood, through my years of adolescent angst, and all my adult life, I have kept a journal of some sort where from time to time I stop to reflect on what is happening to me, inside me, and around me. Sometimes I write on a daily basis. Sometimes I need to write almost every hour. Sometimes I go for months without ever putting down one word. It all depends. Rarely do I record factual details like what I ate

for dinner or what the weather was doing. Rather, I almost always find myself reflecting on my hopes, dreams, worries, and fears. I work through problems, record a moment of grace, highlight one of life’s milestones, and throw up to God countless prayers and confessions. I have found that writing things down gives me the distance I need to better process an experience, emotion or problem. I have found that writing helps me let go of things I cannot change and make sense of things that seem senseless. Most of all I have found that keeping a journal helps me to see most clearly God’s presence in my life. I don’t often go back and read my journals, for me it is enough just to put it all down on paper (or the computer screen).

For centuries the Jesuits have instructed their members to do something similar as a fundamental form of spiritual devotion. It is called the “examen” and St. Ignatius instructed his followers that it should be done at the end of every day during a brief time of silence and solitude. James Martin in his book, *The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything*, describes the examen as follows: “Before you begin, as in all prayer, remind yourself that you’re in God’s presence, and ask God to help you with your prayer.”

- **Gratitude:** Recall anything from the day for which you are especially grateful, and give thanks.
- **Review:** Recall the events of the day, from start to finish, noticing where you felt God’s presence, and where you accepted or turned away from any invitations to grow in love.

- **Sorrow:** Recall any actions for which you are sorry.
- **Forgiveness:** Ask for God’s forgiveness. Decide whether you want to reconcile with anyone you have hurt.
- **Grace:** Ask God for the grace you need for the next day and an ability to see God’s presence more clearly.” (pg. 97)

Martin makes the point that the examen helps us to see God in retrospect. After all, God fills all of life but it is often only by looking back that we can see God’s passage through our lives.

This Lent, I invite you to adopt a spiritual practice that will stretch you and deepen your faith. Whether it is journaling, practicing the examen or some other discipline, I hope you will set aside some special time to reflect on God’s presence in your life. Because as Buechner once advised: “Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.” (*Now and Then: A Memoir of Vocation*, HarperOne, 1991)

Blessings,



Mark Whitmire, Director of Music
Virginia Whitmire, Organist and Choir Director

Upcoming Music Events you don't want to miss...

MARCH 9 CHORAL EUCHARIST

On Sunday, March 9, at 11:15 a.m. the musical portions of the Eucharist (Kyrie, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei) will be sung by the choir. While these are customarily sung by the entire congregation at St. James's, in many churches, and throughout the majority of Christian history, these portions of the liturgy have been sung by the choir alone. Musicians over the centuries have composed thousands of exquisite settings of the service. We will sing the Solemn Mass in C# minor



by the French organist and composer Louis Vierne (1870-1937). Vierne served as an assistant to the organist Charles-Marie Widor at the church of Saint-Sulpice in Paris. He subsequently became principal organist at the cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris, a post he held from 1900 until his death in 1937. Our choir sang Vierne's Solemn Mass at Notre Dame on Sunday, July 11, 2010.



MARCH 16 WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE

On Sunday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. the Schola Cantorum of Westminster Choir College will present a concert here at St. James's We are honored to be a stop on the Spring Tour of one of the nation's premiere choirs. Westminster Schola Cantorum presents a program titled "Journeys," featuring Meador's Stabat Mater and works by Tavener, Vaughan Williams, Thompson, Rheinberger, Waddles and Rutter.

MARCH 22 THREE CHOIRS CONCERT AT ST. STEPHEN'S

On Saturday, March 22, at 8:00 p.m. the Parish Choir will be joined by choirs from St. Paul's and St. Stephen's in a choral concert at St. Stephen's Church. The Three Choirs Festival, from which our series



takes its name, is a music festival held in England each August. The festival, one of the world's oldest music festivals, rotates between Hereford Cathedral, Gloucester Cathedral and Worcester Cathedrals. This concert, the fourth in our local Three Choirs collaboration will feature Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Sunrise Mass by the contemporary Norwegian composer Oja Geilo. With a choir of more than 100 of our city's best voices gathered, this will be a beautiful concert.

MARCH 30 DYLAN MASS

On Sunday, March 30, at 9:00 a.m. we will present our second Dylan Mass, featuring music by one of America's most prophetic voice Musicians include our West Gallery Choir and Guitar ensemble, and musical guests.





*The Rev. Ann Dieterle,
Associate Rector*

Slowing Your Pace During Lent Allows Grace to Appear

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make WomanKind 2014 a success. It takes a lot of doers to pull off an event like this, and I wish I had the space here to name everyone. But to the committee, all of the cooks and on-site volunteers, co-chairs Stacy Brinkley and Brooke Taylor, and Russell Lawson who put in countless hours on registration and communication – please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your service!

LENT

The number 40 comes up many times in the Bible. My Old Testament professor, Dr. Rebecca Wright, used to say that 40 is an amount that is “short enough to be counted but long enough to really feel it.”

Br. Robert L’Esperance, in a sermon shared through a recent entry for “Brother, Give Us a Word” writes, “During Lent, we are supposed to become more recollected; we are supposed to slow down and dig down a bit.” This year during Lent we are inviting you to slow down and dig deep with us through the experience and practice of prayer. We are offering several opportunities to support you and accompany you along this journey.

On Wednesday evenings Mark Cooper and I are leading contemplative prayer from 5- 5:45:00 p.m. in the Parkinson Room. This will be a time

of prayer, rest, and stress relief, combining elements of spiritual direction, SSJE’s prayer life – including music and contemplative prayer, yoga, and Mind, Body, Stress Reduction. Through it we will connect with Christ within, so that when we go out into the busy world, we will remain centered in his love. Through it we will also have the opportunity to go inward, which is one of the primary invitations of the Lenten season. This isn’t narcissistic naval gazing. This is silencing the disruptive voices of our culture and of our own hearts so that we can hear God’s voice more clearly. There is no need to bring a yoga mat or to wear special clothing. We will have our regularly scheduled evening prayer, using the service from the Book of Common Prayer, as usual in the chapel.

Our Wednesday night class from 7-8:00 p.m. will center on the practice and experience of prayer. Appropriately titled “The Practice and Experience of Prayer,” we’ll attempt to answer various questions that often come up in our prayer life, such as: How do we learn to pray and listen for God through our prayers? And, how do we begin to develop or deepen a prayer habit in the midst of lives that are already full and active?

The format of the class will include book study and discussion, the practice of prayer disciplines and the opportunity to develop your own rule of life. Most importantly, it will connect you with others who are learning to develop

and deepen their prayer lives too. The support and encouragement of community is invaluable in the spiritual journey!

We will also have a service of contemplative prayer on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 6:15 in the chapel. Using liturgies from various sources, this liturgy combines set prayers and silence and is bathed in candlelight. It begins on Thursday, March 6 and continues through April 10.

Easter is late this year. In fact at April 20 it’s almost as late as it can be – which is April 25 in case you’re wondering. I suspect that because of this, slowing down will be a little more difficult than it is in other years when we begin Lent in the dead of winter, when the days are still short and dark, and when the cold still has a tight grip on us. Though God can get through to us in any circumstance, usually slowing down is a prerequisite for digging deep. Daylight savings time coincides with the first Sunday of Lent, and the days will be considerably brighter and longer. Spring sports begin early on in the Lenten season. Still, I hope that you will slow down, and try to keep that slower pace throughout those 40 days. I promise that it’ll be worth it. I promise that the moment of Resurrection will be even more powerful, even more beautiful, if you first allow yourself to experience the 40 days in the Lenten wilderness.

Peace and Good,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann +".

¹ March 13, 2011, www.ssjje.org/ssje/2011/03/13/temptation-in-the-wilderness-br-robert-lesperance/



The Rev. Carmen Germino,
Assistant Rector

Lenten Visual Prayer Practice

I like to think of myself as a (very) amateur photographer, but lately I have not been taking many photos. I tell myself it is because I am too busy, but I'm no longer satisfied with that answer. For me, photography is not about perfect composition, but about pausing to notice beauty, and then sharing it with others. I believe this is a form of prayer. As part of my Lenten observance this year, I want to deepen my prayer life and notice more beauty around me. I'm going to commit to taking a photo a day throughout Lent and I invite you to join me!

This idea came from some Methodist folks I know, and I think it is a really neat one. So, here's the deal:

Each day during Lent, use the prompt word for the day to inspire you to take a photograph that somehow captures that word for you. It's like a prayerful and spiritual photo scavenger hunt. You can be as literal or as abstract as you want. You can use your Point and Shoot, your fancy DSLR, your old Polaroid, or your cell phone camera. Amateur and experienced photographers alike are encouraged to participate. Feel free to use the prompts out of order if that works bet-

ter for you – the word schedule is meant to inspire creativity, not stifle it.

If you want to share your daily visual prayers (your photos), post them on Twitter, Instagram, and/or Facebook (search for the public album called St. James's Lenten Photos 2014 and upload). Use hashtags #doers, #lent and #(prompt word of the day) so others can search for your prayer. It will be fascinating to see the different interpretations of the prompt words! Photography not your favorite medium? You can paint, sketch, sculpt, or write your prayer instead. The idea is simply to deepen and creatively expand your prayer life in Lent through daily visual images. Need a regular reminder of the word of the day? Check the daily God in your Inbox email.

However you decide to observe the season of Lent this year, I encourage you to reflect on and be intentional about the way God is calling you to a life of study, service, and prayer. There is so much beauty in the midst of this season of preparation for the risen Christ. Together, let's find it and share it.

Faithfully,

Carmen

Day	Date	Prompt	Day	Date	Prompt
Wednesday	3/05:	ashes	Friday	3/28:	desert
Thursday	3/06:	journey	Saturday	3/29:	bitter
Friday	3/07:	discipline	Sunday	3/30:	sabbath
Saturday	3/08:	wilderness	Monday	3/31:	hope
Sunday	3/09:	temptation	Tuesday	4/01:	contemplation
Monday	3/10:	grace	Wednesday	4/02:	humility
Tuesday	3/11:	sacrifice	Thursday	4/03:	mercy
Wednesday	3/12:	purple	Friday	4/04:	servant
Thursday	3/13:	prayer	Saturday	4/05:	thirst
Friday	3/14:	darkness	Sunday	4/06:	promise
Saturday	3/15:	hunger	Monday	4/07:	temple
Sunday	3/16:	love	Tuesday	4/08:	redemption
Monday	3/17:	offering	Wednesday	4/09:	trial
Tuesday	3/18:	reconciliation	Thursday	4/10:	lament
Wednesday	3/19:	holy	Friday	4/11:	forgiven
Thursday	3/20:	salvation	Saturday	4/12:	Jerusalem
Friday	3/21:	charity	Palm Sunday	4/13:	hosanna
Saturday	3/22:	fasting	Monday	4/14:	passion
Sunday	3/23:	water	Tuesday	4/15:	exodus
Monday	3/24:	humanity	Wednesday,	4/16:	grief
Tuesday	3/25:	transformation	Maundy Thurs.	4/17:	communion
Wednesday	3/26:	wisdom	Good Friday	4/18:	cross
Thursday	3/27:	confession	Holy Saturday	4/19:	tomb
			Easter Sunday	4/20:	resurrection



*The Rev. Alex Riffée,
Assistant Rector*

History, memory and all God's goodness

A good friend of mine, the Rev. Robert Berra, once wrote, "History is not a series of facts about the past to be learned. History is memory – memory embodied and remembered by individuals." During my years at St. James's, I have seen a lot of change in those to whom I minister most closely, youth and young adults. I have also seen change in myself. Though I could throw out facts about what we have accomplished in this short time or what we have seen unfulfilled in the areas of Youth and Young Adults, I find the most important attributes at this church are best found in story and memory. I am proud to say that I have been given many stories with which to remember.

It is amazing for me to see what a year can do with a child. In the blink of an eye, one who had little confidence may seem more comfortable in their skin (it probably felt like an eternity to them). One that had the gift of gab and the inability to sit still now has a noticeable glimmer of maturity and poise. God and time can do marvelous and powerful things for us. Though, it is hard to notice if we as parents or mentors played much of a role in this transformation. I believe we do, at least through support and presence.

I find it just as amazing that young adults change quite a bit even though their bodies and minds are out of adolescence and hardwired in many ways.

Many who started off as parishioners are now considered peers and friends. I see them change as they seek relationships with another. I see change when couples become parents for the first time. I see it when a man or woman has chosen a career path, but has finally found an interest or cause that creates happiness and fulfillment. This is often the hardest thing to find in a culture that demands success, even though success does not equal happiness.

As we approach Easter, each year remembering Christ's power over death and power to transform our world, I want all of us to take time to reflect on how much God has done for us in the course of a year. I want us to remember what things influenced us and what happened with our friends and family. At first glance, it may seem that not much has changed at all. However, the longer one lives in their hearts and minds and silence, the opposite seems to be true. Like the fashion industry, we live in a constant flux of rapid change.

Recently, I watched a Ted-X Talk about a young boy named Logan LaPlante. His topic was on hacking life. No, he is not a computer nerd.

His presentation went over the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" His answer, like that of a small child, was to be happy. Logan listed some key things that he believed needed to be a part of his life to truly

experience fulfillment and happiness. They are exercise, relationships, diet & nutrition, recreation, time in nature, relaxation & stress management, contribution & service, and religious & spiritual.

After reflecting on the past year, I want you to think about these categories and choose one that you believe you can intentionally take on in ways that will help re-energize your soul. As we enter spring, as we enter a resurrection life, my wish for you is to find happiness with yourself and God. When life is good or bad, if you find fulfillment, then God's will to bring about heaven on earth becomes that much more real.

With love and prayers,

Alex



Becky Page
Director of Children's Ministries

... for Children

What happens in Children's Chapel?

Have you noticed the swarm of children who leave the sanctuary after the gospel at the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday mornings? Do you know where they are headed when they pass through that door and what they are about to experience? It's Children's Chapel.

St. James's is blessed to have many families with young children who regularly attend the 9:00 a.m. Family Holy Eucharist. We also have new families with young children joining St. James's almost every month. Children's Chapel is a special part of the worship service for our children and for their families. Children sit with their families in the sanctuary through the reading of the gospel and then are invited to process to the Children's Chapel.

Children's chapel is intended to be a time and a place set aside for our children to learn about the gospel and our worship service in a more intimate space with a lesson that is directed

to their level of understanding. Each Sunday one of our priests, the one who has the role of deacon that day, leads the pack of children to the chapel. The priest uses the opportunity to share a lesson about the gospel and a worship experience.

Once in Children's Chapel, the candles are lit, which is a symbol to help the children understand that this is a sacred time and space. The children then share their offering which is given to the Charlotte Hermann Fund. (Charlotte Hermann was a homeless woman who lived on the steps of St. James's many years ago. These funds are distributed by the clergy to individuals who come to the doors of St. James's looking for assistance.) Most weeks, Mark Whitmire, our music director, leads the children with songs that allow them to recount their understanding of the gospel in a fun and interactive way. Then the priest shares a short sermon and prays for and with the children. So, in some ways, it is similar to what we adults do in the sanctuary. We sing. We listen to a sermon. We pray. But, in other ways, it is not the same. Not only do the children participate by lighting and snuffing the candles, collecting the offering, and distributing the bulletins – which they eagerly volunteer to do – but, they engage with the gospel, the sermon and the clergy. The songs and the sermons ask the children to think about and respond to the gospel. And, while not all the the comments are

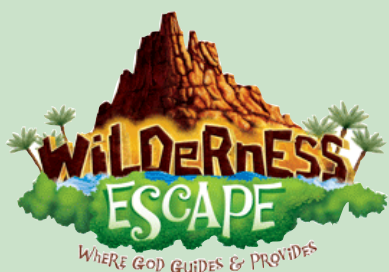
on topic (it is Children's Chapel after all) there are some comments that show a child who has been listening to and thinking about the gospel. Those moments of pure and innocent insight from the children are wonderful to hear and to share.

All of our priests, Randy, Ann, Carmen, Alex, Caroline and Mark take a turn in children's chapel. This time on Sunday allows them to interact with and get to know a "smaller" group of children and allows those children to form a connection and in some cases dialogue with the clergy. Children's Chapel also has the added benefit of allowing parents to be present in their worship experience in a way that may not be possible with young children in the pew beside them. In the coming months we will making some changes to Children's Chapel on Sunday mornings. Simple things like how they enter the sacred space, how the are seated within that space, and how we as adults can support them so that they can take what they learn in Children's Chapel with them to the sanctuary.

The next time your children return from Children's Chapel take a moment to ask them about their experience. You may be surprised what you will learn.

Blessings,

Mark your calendars for St. James's **VBS Wilderness Escape** June 23 - 27. Details to follow in the Sunday Chimes, eChimes and on doers.org!



Advent, and Chr



Advent Fair allowed for creativity on handmade gifts.



Mark Whitmire conducts the Children's Choir in "Friday Afternoons" at our St. Cecelia Day concert on Britten's 100th.



Jay West & Bobbie Smith entertain children at Haiti's Wings of Hope.



Concentrating on the bells during the Christmas Pageant



What a feast at the Taste of St. James's, much more than a bake sale for the Food Force.

Christmas Memories



Just wouldn't be a pageant without our trusty wise men's camel.



Wait a minute! Who's with baby Jesus behind the heavenly cherubs?



Tom and Mary Horton sponsor the Children's Center Christmas party, complete with generous gifts.



Beautiful sights at the Taste included an art show and sale.



Nancy Warman,
Director of Servant Ministry

Name and Claim Your Ministry! Sunday, March 2

Prayerfully considering one's role in ministry is an ever evolving process. Listening for and discerning God's call is a daily opportunity to let God embrace you and to lead you where He wants you to be.

As our New Year takes shape and

we look forward to the arrival of spring, please take some time to pause and to listen to God's call. Then



also mark your calendar for our Sunday, March 2 adult forum, "Serving Others Through In-Reach/Outreach Ministry." The vestry-appointed Service Commission will host another fabulous gathering of "doers" – each and every one of you, to meet all the lay leaders of our ministry teams and learn more about those ministries that are of special interest to you. This is a fun and happy opportunity for fellowship with friends and partners in ministry. A light breakfast and beverage will add to the festive morning! Most importantly, it will be a time to reflect upon your ministry, to name it and claim it!

During the year, you may "claim your ministry" at any time. Claim Your Ministry cards are located in the Narthex and in the Michaux House hallway.

Online CYM cards are also available at www.doers.org. I am always happy to help you discern your ministry call, to better understand opportunities to serve, and to answer questions. Please contact me at nwarman@doers.org or 355-1779 ext.333.

Winter Season Ministry

CARITAS Intake took place October 19-December 20 with 40 "doer" volunteers giving some 120 hours of service! Volunteers were at the church each night providing a warm and welcoming presence, along with hot drinks and healthy snacks to about 35 CARITAS homeless women guests. Margaret Corwin served as lay leader. Many thanks for her leadership and to all who served with her.

For those who have not heard, our **2013 Giving Tree ministry** has been called "Christmas giving extraordinaire!" Thank you to our 110 parishioners who took gift ornaments and the 41 who took ACTS ornaments. Twenty-three bicycles and one tricycle, a girl's vanity, and a real (not toy) guitar were provided among the hundreds of other beautifully wrapped gifts provided to 29 families with a total of 86 children and to 33 senior citizens. Contributions of over \$3500 to ACTS in-house emergency fund will continue to help us keep those at risk of losing their housing remain in their homes and work towards stabilization during this winter season. Many thanks also to Ginny Hofheimer

and her team of 16 "doer" volunteers who implemented this amazing Christmas season ministry!

From the Hearts of Those Served, "THANK YOU" to St. James's

A note from CARITAS Intake guests, "It has been appreciative in you all having me and other CARITAS clients in your basement and all the refreshments. It will always be remembered." On the return receipt of purchases made by an in-house ACTS client, she writes: "Thank you for your help. You keep my hopes and dreams alive!"

Nancy Warman

Servant Ministers Needed

Additional volunteers needed in

Wheels Ministry Could you drive the Westminster-Canterbury van once or twice a year to provide Sunday morning transportation to church member residents who attend the 11:15 a.m. service? Training for van driving is provided by lay leader John Waite. Our team of drivers could use a little help! Please contact John Waite (jdwaite@verizon.net) or Nancy Warman (nwarman@doers.org) if you can assist.

Worship Ministry Ever considered being a worship leader... Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Acolyte Leader, Altar Guild or Flower Guild participant, or Videographer? If interested please contact Anita Lisk (alisk@doers.org) to get connected to the appropriate lay leader.

McGuire Ministry What about visiting a patient at McGuire Veteran's Hospital? Want to be part of an awesome ministry team? McGuire Veteran's Hospital team ministry is the place to be! Volunteers continue to be amazed at the ministry they receive from the patients on the polytrauma and spinal cord units of the hospital. Team members providing an ice cream social and "ministry of presence" on the fourth Tuesday of each month (6-7:00 p.m.) return home feeling grateful and joyous for this opportunity to serve. If interested, please contact lay leader Barbara Cochrane at bcochrane27@comcast.net or 245-4545.

Missions continued from front cover

spends most of the year at Wings of Hope. And we help to bring in children needing life-altering surgery through our participation in the World Pediatric Project, which involves local doctors and the VCU Health System.

"My Haiti missions have opened up a new world to me in terms of my brothers and sisters in Christ," reports Kent Duffey.

"When I am in Haiti, I am with the people I feel I'm supposed to be with. There is no us and them, only one body in Christ," she says.

Kent also has served with World Pediatric Project and notes, "WPP is also a great opportunity to involve children in local mission work. My girls were instrumental in scheduling our outings and making sure Rocio and Anelle were never lonely. If kids get a glimpse into the world outside their 'bubble' they will be much more empathetic and compassionate as adults."

Mission at St. James's involves not just the organizers and travelers, though. The financial support offered to projects and recipients comes from the generosity of our parish, involving both the annual stewardship cycle and Mardi Gras for Missions, our annual Fat Tuesday reception and auction that last year contributed over \$50,000 to the Missions program.

According to Mike, "Once I became immersed in mission, I found I could not live without discovering what it means to give. I could not walk away. Seeing the faces of fellow beings light up simply because I wanted to help meant I became minimally sufficient. These were true 'missions of presence'."

To learn more about our missions, come to the Mardi Gras, correspond with Carmen (cgermino@doers.org),

speaking to a member of our Missions committee, visit the Missions page on our website or make a point to come to our autumn Missions Fair, where you can get the straight story from those committed to an upcoming mission. Dive in, Doers!

The Interview continued from p.15

able; members don't hesitate to take on responsibilities (whether its creating our missions handbook for trip leaders, leading a mission, helping with Mardi Gras or anything else that needs to be done); and there is so much thought, wisdom and experience that goes into discussions and decisions around the table as we try to make the best decisions possible.

The other thing I'll say about this group is that there are times during our meetings and discussions that you can't help but stop and recognize that you're watching God's hand at work. When over the course of a few monthly meetings, some tiny idea blossoms into a full blown mission with able leadership and dozens of enthusiastic participants going off to plant God's flag in what we would call a God-forsaken part of the world, you can't help but realize that something much larger and greater than ourselves had a strong hand in making it happen.

Magic in the Making

by Debbie Lickey
Executive Director, St. James's Children's Center

What a fabulous Board, Volunteers, and Staff we are blessed with! The Christmas party, as usual, was a magical event and a huge hit with the children and adults alike! And now the New Year has begun, along with the excitement and wonder of snow. I feel so blessed in my work with young children, as they bring that continued sense of joy



and magic that snow brings every year, (especially now that my own children are old enough that I no longer have to deal with the eternity of wet, freezing coats, mittens and melting snow from boots)!

The New Year has also brought, however, a sense of calm, security and belonging at the Children's Center. Children entered the school on that first day back from Christmas vacation as if they had never been gone. They were excited and chatty about their Christmas experiences but demonstrated a real sense of ease as they re-entered their daily schedules, which speaks to their comfort level and feeling of being a part of a loving community. I loved, as I passed in the hallway, hearing Mr. Johnson (who, if you have never met him is about 6'7") talking in a gentle voice to the children in circle and asking them, "...and what else did you do, tell me about your present, where did you go, etc."

It's hard to believe that it has only been 5 months since I joined the Children's Center. The church staff, Randy, church members, wonderful volunteers, and the Children's Center Board of St. James's has been so very welcoming and generous, it's been easy for me to also experience that same sense of comfort and belonging and for that I am very thankful.

We have had a busy fall. Two of our teachers have attended the Southern Early Childhood Conference and 3 teachers have begun the process of earning their Child Development Associates through our contacts with Child Savers and The Virginia Star Quality Initiative (VSQI) in Richmond. We have engaged in many hours of professional development



for the entire staff and plan to continue that process as the year progresses and our center gets ready for a new rating process through VSQI. We have been creating a teacher resource library and would love some volunteer support to get that project finished!

So now we settle in for a long winter'swell, certainly not a nap, but a

time of focused learning, establishing deeper relationships and taking children



into the next step of their concept and skill development. It is this time of year, as a teacher, that is optimal to really observe and get to know each child and their strengths, challenges, and interests. Now that expectations have been set and bonds established, teachers can assess what each child in his/her classroom needs to feel confident and learn in the manner that best suits each child's individual learning style. This too, is a magical time, as we are so fortunate to witness the transformation as these young children blossom into their own unique selves, under the guidance of all the adults that have wrapped their arms around them. Please feel free to come and visit and experience some of this magic yourself!



Welcome to Our New Vestry Members

Peggy Crowley (married to Michael, two grown sons) was baptized, confirmed and married at St. James's. She currently serves on Food Force 1, the Building and Grounds Committee and the 2014 Stewardship committee. She is an active community volunteer, as well, serving her fourth term on the Massey Cancer Center Advisory Board, executive committee and chairwoman of annual giving.



Carol Ann Fuller (married to Sam, two grown children) grew up in Atlanta and worked in Lynchburg as a nurse and actor after graduating from Agnes Scott College. She was active with Operation Smile and missions through St. John's Church. Now, she serves St. James's as a lector, as a Table Host at the Feast of St. James's, at Peter Paul Development Center, and on the 2013 outreach mission to Cuba.



Matt Harper (married to Karen, two grown children) joined St. James's in 2004. He and Karen are lifelong Episcopalians. He currently serves on the ushering and internet video broadcast teams. He is a veteran of the vestries at three other Episcopal churches in Florida, Iowa and California (where he was Sr. Warden). Matt serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Richmond Chapter of Alzheimer's Association and volunteers for Henrico County under the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.



Carrie Montague (married to Thayer, three boys) joined St. James's in 2002 through the Pilgrim's Path program and Wine, Women and Wonder. She has served as a Sunday School teacher, an instructor in the *Journey to Adulthood* program, at Vacation Bible School, was on the committee and then twice co-chair for WomanKind, on the Taste of St. James's steering committee, on a Search Committee (which called Rev. Ann Dieterle) and a Wednesday night cooking team. She has travelled to Honduras as a missionary.



Harry Moore (married to Beth, four grown children, two granddaughters) joined St. James's in 2000 after moving to Richmond from Tennessee. He has served on the vestry at both St. Timothy's, Signal Mountain and Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain. At St. James's, Harry served as Chairman of the Outreach Task Force, been a member of the Parish Choir and volunteered with CARITAS. He currently leads Usher Team 4 and the Men's Cooking Team.



Allan Rees (married to Terry, two children) has been an active member of St. James's since 2002 and both joined shortly after they were married. Allan has served on the usher team continuously since he joined the church. Terry has served as a shepherd for Bible Study and Sunday school programs. Allan and Terry have also served as CARITAS volunteers and support the missions and Shrine Mont programs at St. James's.



Our Legacy: Who is Elizabeth Whitlock?

Few of us know just how important Elizabeth Whitlock was and is to St. James's. In 1930, Ms. Whitlock, a lifelong member of the parish, left a \$5000 bequest to the Church, the first such "legacy" gift on record. At that time, the Vestry wisely decided to invest Ms. Whitlock's bequest which became the start of the St. James's Endowment Fund. With an annual return of about 5%, Ms. Whitlock effectively endowed in perpetuity her annual gift to our church. We continue to benefit from her remembrance every year! Wouldn't be wonderful if all of us made estate plans to follow Elizabeth Whitlock's example by endowing our annual donation to St. James's? It is very easy to do so – just talk to Chip Woodson and your estate advisers.

The Legacy Society recognizes members of St. James's who have provided for the Church through their estate plans; it numbers more than 140 parishioners and grows every year. Thanks be to God for Elizabeth Whitlock!



Stewardship



Chip Woodson,
Director of Stewardship and
Development

Stewardship and the Face of God

How often do you see the Face of God? Where is it seen? How does He reveal himself in the everyday moments of our lives? I have seen Him in the glowing face of the little child carrying her mite box, in my grandson's face

my life that harness the time, energy, enthusiasm and resources that make it possible to follow God's example...an example revealed through His son? As Thom Blair recounted in his Bible study class on "The Rich Man and Lazarus,"

and, through you, in the lives of others. You may find it in a word of support or guidance, a deed that was offered in a special time of need, or just by simply being present. How do your choices reflect God's desire for you to be His face and respond in His name? As we consider the choices we've made and look to take on behaviors that reflect our faith, we come closer to being God's face and finding that sense of fulfillment that leads you to the peace that passes all understanding.

Doers act – they put their resources, their time, and their talents to be the Face of God.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip". The script is cursive and fluid.

Look around at all the ways God's face is present in your life and through you, in the lives of others.

as he gives a treasured toy to another child, in the face of an attentive rector who just happened to show up at the exact moment when I needed encouragement, in the face of a benevolent parishioner as he delivers a legacy gift...and the list goes on. Like you, I see Him and feel His presence within the sanctity of St. James's walls, as well as beyond into unknown places that I've gone. And on each of those occasions I am reminded of the creative, generous, compassionate spirit that is of God...is God.

During this time of Lent my thoughts and prayers become more intentional as I reflect on what it means for me to live the life I am called to live. I hope to not only see the Face of God and to be increasingly more aware and thankful for His presence, but also to consider how I might be that face to others. How can I make the choices in

it isn't easy, but it is clear. And for that gift of clarity, on that day, I saw God's face and his grace. We are not left wondering what God would have us do for He continually reveals himself and gives us the choice to follow him.

And what is so inspiring to me is that it is not out of duty that God shows up in the many forms of the gifts he continues to bestow on us, but that it is done out of his love for us...that it embodies His spirit, not merely a sense of obligation. When I experience those gifts, the gift of his children and the bounty of this world and I think of him, He becomes the greatest Steward of all. How creative, how resourceful, how disciplined, how generous he is to always be there to give to His children as he reveals His face.

I hope you will look around at all the ways God's face is present in your life

The Interview

The Chimes paid a visit to outgoing Missions chair Scott Hetzer to ask a few questions about the field work that he was involved in during his tenure.

Chimes: What brought you to the leadership of the missions committee? Why did this role make sense to you?

SH: A couple of things...

First, I remember my first Vestry meeting (March, 2010), where responsibilities for leading Commissions and Committees were decided, and I asked Randy to please NOT put me in a finance role, where I'm generally plugged in for other non-profits, but instead to put me somewhere that involved the heart and helping others. I had already been active in our missions program through participation on several trips and serving on the Missions committee, so something pertaining to missions made sense.

Second, Randy and I felt strongly that our church needed the infrastructure and lay leadership in place to ensure that the missions program would not skip a beat if, and when, the clergy that was responsible for missions was called to another church. In early 2010, our church enjoyed a very robust missions program, but there wasn't a lot of structure around the program and it was still largely led by clergy.

This initiative to put in place the infrastructure and to have parishioners take the lead on the program turned out to be a good and well-timed decision. While Whitney's departure in 2011 left big shoes to fill, the program didn't skip a beat as the committee worked hand-in-hand with Carmen Germino in her new role with missions.

Chimes: What are the major effects of our missions effort, in your view?

SH: Helping others, in more challenging places and circumstances than our own, in some small but tangible way... while also providing our parish-



Scott Hetzer, Past chair, Missions while on the Haiti Mission team

ioners opportunities to be Doers of the Word.

The perfect mission for St. James's is one that enables us to put boots on the ground, to build something that will last, to establish relationships with other members of God's Kingdom and to provide opportunities for others to discover and/or enhance their relationship with God.

The most amazing thing about our mission work, is that while most of us go into it to do something good for others, most if not all of us come back realizing we've gained more from the experience (spiritually and other ways) than we can ever leave behind.

Chimes: What has leading the missions committee taught you about our parish's immersion in healing the larger world?

SH: Our parish is reminded every time we attend church to be "Doers of the Word and Not Hearers Only," and we take this to heart. There are so many people (local, national, international) that face so many challenges and are so deserving of some kind of break or help, and we are so fortunate and have it so easy on a relative basis, that many in our parish are seeking tangible ways to be Doers and help others.

Chimes: Why should members of our parish consider joining a missions

team?

SH: There are so many different ways to help others and joining a missions team going to some remote place far away is no better than helping members of our own Richmond community that need our help. But there are pros and cons to each that everyone should consider to see if participating in a mission makes sense for them. Some of the most important things to consider are:

- **Total immersion** – You extricate yourself from your normal world (jobs, family, cell phone, electronics), get off this treadmill we've put ourselves on, and plant yourself on someone else's turf, and become totally immersed in their culture.
- **Exposure to a world** beyond our "bubble"
- **Enlightenment** – Why is it that those we visit and help, who often have nothing compared to the excesses we "enjoy", are so full of joy and spirit? You can't help but wonder whether we have too much and whether it gets in the way of what really is most important in life.
- **Bonding with parishioners** – After a week in the mission field, you will know your fellow missionaries very well and share that bond for a long time.

Chimes: What is the foremost accomplishment of our missions committee during your service on it, in your view?

SH: I think our biggest accomplishment over the last few years is the structure, organization and enthusiastic lay leadership that has been put in place that will keep this missions program going for a very long time. I wish our parishioners could be flies on the wall during some of our meetings. Committee members are so vested in our program that it would make them proud. Attendance at our meetings is unbelievable
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