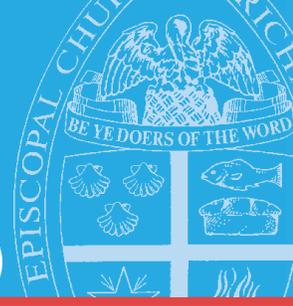


# Summer Chimes



June 2016-Aug. 2016

Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.5, No.4

## Past, Present and Future Plans Strengthen the Ties That Bind

### What's inside...



Youth Sunday, Mardi Gras, more... page 8



A Gift of Art and Spirit... page 15

June 5 is Founders Sunday, the time when, once a year, we recall our history, recognize our heritage and pay homage to the members of the Whitlock Legacy Society who have invested or plan to invest in our future.

Just a few weeks ago, the Strategic Planning Committee published our third strategic plan since 2001, calling for us to more deeply explore and expand the ties that bind us to God in Christ, each other, and our community and world.

These two views intermingle to enrich our present understanding of what God calls us to be: disciples and doers. In this issue of the Chimes, you'll find a couple of articles that explore the rich legacy that our church has.

- The Interview (page 15) with the Reverend Vienna Cobb Anderson about her extraordinary work of art in needlepoint that celebrates the stained glass window in our Chapel installed after the 1994 fire and received from Monumental Church by the sponsorship of the Dennis family.
- Who Was Elizabeth Whitlock? (page 13) About the bequest that first created our Endowment Fund.

So read and learn more about where we come from and where we want to go.

### The 2016 Strategic Plan **STRENGTHENING THE TIES THAT BIND**

#### God In Christ

Our faith life is the core of our community life. In order to accomplish any of the challenges set before us, we must be dedicated to prayer and worship.

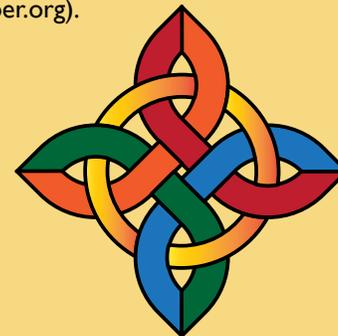
#### One To Another

Our community is only as strong as we are willing to see and serve Christ in one another.

#### Community & World

Our calling is to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

For a copy of the complete plan, visit <http://doers.org/2016plan> or contact Anita Lisk (355-1779 x.313 or [alisk@doer.org](mailto:alisk@doer.org)).



Find us online all the time:





The Rev. Randolph Marshall  
Hollerith, Rector

# From the Rector's Desk

## The Immanent God

**D**iana Butler Bass in her most recent book, *Grounded*, talks about the changing spiritual perceptions of God in Western culture. She says that we are moving from an understanding of God that is primarily vertical, where heaven is above us and hell is below us, to an understanding of God that is more horizontal, more grounded, a God who is present with us in all things. She writes:

*The conventional God existed outside space and time, a being beyond imagining, who lived in heaven, unaffected by the boundaries of human life. Thus, Western religion developed a language of what theologians call the omnis. God was omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient: all-powerful, in all places, and all-knowing. But the grounded God is a God in relationship with space and time as the love that connects and creates all things, known in and with the world. The omnis fail to describe this. Instead, we might think of God as inter, the spiritual thread between space and time; intra, within space and time; and infra, that which holds space and time. This God is not above or beyond, but integral to the whole of creation, entwined with the sacred ecology of the universe.*

This is a truth the mystics have known for a long time. God is transcendent and yet, paradoxically, God is immanent, as close as our own heart beats. God is not above us, distant and aloof. God is instead the ground of our being, as the great theologian Paul Tillich put it. God is literally that which holds "being" together, that which keeps existence from crumbling. The Holy pervades all things and can be seen in both the beautiful and the mundane. For centuries

monastics have taught about the holiness of everyday activities such as work. St. Francis taught his followers to see God in the wonders of nature. Mother Teresa found God in serving the poor and dying of Calcutta.

When I was a child, my family spent several weeks each summer on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with my paternal grandparents. Their home was my favorite spot in the world. It was right on the water and I was free all day to run and play with my dog. I remember so clearly the day I discovered my first holy place. I was about seven or eight and playing on a small section of beach collecting rocks. I don't know how else to say it except that as I sat there I became aware of a great mystery pervading everything. I didn't have the vocabulary for this experience at the time, but the small stones I was collecting were no longer just stones they were infinitely more precious and mysterious. Everything seemed special, the piece of driftwood, the bits of sea polished glass, the grains of sand stuck to my fingertips. I became aware that they and I were part of something much bigger and that somehow we were all connected. I remember being mesmerized and feeling this profound sense of joy. I knew I was experiencing something deeply true and that this moment was a gift. Even now I cannot do the experience justice, but it is almost as vivid in my mind's eye today as it was then.

Go and find yourself a holy place this summer. Perhaps you already have one that you return to often. Whatever the case, go and look for the God who

Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.  
Psalm 139:7-12

is as close to you as your own breath. Find him in the everyday wonders that surround you. Maybe it's on a beach, maybe it's on a mountain, maybe it's in your own back yard or around the dinner table with your family. Whatever the case, God is present with you and waiting to be discovered.

Blessings,

### Summer Schedules

#### Sundays, May 22-Sept. 11

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 5:30 p.m. Jazz Mass

#### Vacation Bible School

9:00 a.m. – noon  
June 20-24

#### Office Hours until September 2

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday-Thursday  
Closed Friday



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

## Choir Trip to England, July 8-17

This summer our Choir will carry St. James's banner across the Atlantic for the fifth time. The choir will be in residence at Worcester Cathedral from July 11 to July 17, singing evensong each day and mass on Sunday.



Worcester is a city of about 100,000 located in the West Midlands of England, about 17 miles southwest of Birmingham and only 23 miles north of Gloucester, where our choir had its first residency in 2003. A city rich in history, Worcester is the site of the final battle of the English Civil War, when Oliver Cromwell's army defeated the Cavaliers of King Charles II. (Worcester is also the site of The Lea & Perrins factory where Worcestershire Sauce is made.)

Worcester is certainly among the more interesting of all England's cathedrals. Located on the banks of the Severn River, it has been a place of Christian worship since 680, and the eclectic architecture of the Cathedral reflects the many centuries it has stood. Patron Saint Oswald built a cathedral in 983, and established a monastery. Saint Wulfstan (the only English-born bishop to retain his diocese after the Norman Conquest)

rebuilt the cathedral in 1084 and began construction of the present edifice. During Anglo-Saxon times, Worcester was a center of learning and one of the most important monastic cathedrals in England. It was a center of learning throughout the middle ages. Medieval textbooks in theology, medicine, law, history, mathematics, physics, and astronomy still survive in the cathedral library today. The monastery continued until it was dissolved in 1540 by Henry VIII. Some of the last monks became the first Dean and priests of the new protestant diocese. The cathedral was badly damaged in the English civil wars (1642-1651), and as a consequence a major rebuilding program was required after the Restoration of Charles II in 1660. Since the eighteenth century, the Cathedral has been famous for its part in the annual Three Choirs Festival, the oldest choral festival in existence.



### A Worcester Prelude: Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.

On each of our previous trips abroad there have been many St. James's parishioners who have been in attendance at our concerts and services. It is so gratifying to look into the nave of a

**ST. JAMES'S CHURCH**  
*invites you to our*  
**Welcome Summer Recital Series**

June 1 Kevin Kwan, Organist  
 Christ and St. Luke's,  
 Norfolk

June 8 A Worcester Prelude  
 St. James's Choir

June 15 Gus Highstein, oboe  
 Principal oboe of the  
 Richmond Symphony

large cathedral and see so many familiar smiling faces. I hope that everyone who is in the neighborhood will stop in at Worcester for an evensong in July. For those who are not able to hear us in England we have planned a special concert to present some of the music we will sing. Please join us on Wednesday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m. for "A Worcester Prelude." The offering will benefit the Choir Scholarship Fund which provides financial assistance to singers who need it. Music will include *Mass in G minor* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, settings of the evening service by Howells and Stanford, Anglican chant settings of several psalms, American shape-notes hymns arranged by Alice Parker, and spirituals arranged by the late Moses Hogan.

Peace,  
 Mark and Virginia



*The Rev. Hilary Streever,  
Associate Rector*

## Tend Your Faith This Summer

**No more homework,  
No more books,  
No more teacher's dirty  
looks!**

Ah, the irreverence of the end of the program year! I mean, school year. By the time you, dear reader, are flipping through the pages of this edition of the *Quarterly Chimes*, our education offerings will be wrapped up for the summer. But God doesn't go on vacation and neither does our faith life. The Holy Spirit goes with us and we can keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, wherever we may go.

Here are some ways you can tend to your faith life over the summer, whether at home, at work, or at play!

**Follow the Daily Lectionary.** So you want to read more of the Bible in your daily life? That's great! Don't, however, be tempted to start at Genesis and read straight through — most people (understandably) give up, eh, around Leviticus. The Daily Lectionary, beginning on page 934 of your Book of Common Prayer, provides manageable chunks of scripture for each day of the year. Choose your own adventure and follow one of the threads (for example, the Old Testament readings or the Gospel selections) for a while, or if you have plenty of time, read all the selections for the day! Call me if you need help navigating it.

**There's an app for that.** Or simply download Book of Common Prayer: Daily Office Readings by Logos Creative LLC to your smart phone. The Mission of St. Clare Daily Office app by Sound Marketing, LLC, offers Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, complete with the prayers, daily lectionary readings, hymns, and canticles. Audio versions are available too, such as Morning Prayer from the Episcopal Church in Garrett County, by Rev. Dr. Chip Lee, or Audio Daily Office @ The Trinity Mission, both available in iTunes (perfect for a fifteen-minute morning commute).

**Get a Study Bible and feed your mind, heart, and soul.** You wouldn't read Shakespeare without footnotes, so why read the Bible — written in foreign languages thousands of years ago and translated in many different versions in English alone — without them? In addition to very useful footnotes explaining things like historical context or translation difficulties, a good study Bible offers essays at the beginning of each book explaining important themes and the historical setting of the book, plus timelines and maps. You might be surprised what those footnotes might unlock. For adults aged 18 and up (and for inquisitive youth!), the Harper-Collins Study Bible or the Oxford Annotated Study Bible are great choices.

**Set your watch.** This is one practice for developing a contemplative way of

life. No matter where we are, we can practice looking for Christ in the world around us every day: in the beauty of creation and in friends and strangers alike. Set an alarm to buzz throughout the day (or your smart phone or smart watch gadget). Pause what you're doing then and quietly recall where you've seen God in the last hour or so — or maybe even right that moment. Then offer God a prayer of thanks or praise. Keep it up for a while and see what happens.

Grace and peace,

*Hilary*



The Rev. Carmen Germino,  
Associate Rector

## My Summer Reading List

I love a good book, but it is hard to find the time to do much reading during the program year. So my goal for this summer is to take advantage of the (slightly) slower pace and dig into a few books that have been sitting on my shelf or in my Amazon cart for a while now. Here's what I plan to read:

**Grounded** by Diana Butler Bass. Today, many people report finding spirituality in the beauty of God's creation more often than within the walls of church buildings. This book investigates that trend, and offers both hope and common ground for the faithful who may be fearful about the changes they see happening around them.

**Short Stories by Jesus** by Amy-Jill Levine. Levine is a Jewish New Testament scholar at Vanderbilt. In this book, she explores the parables of Jesus in their original Jewish context, bringing new insight to the brilliant, enigmatic, and timeless stories told by our Lord. I can't wait to read this one!

**The New Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander. This will not be an easy read, but it is an important one. Like Ta-Nehisi Coates' Between the World and Me, which I read recently and loved, this is said to be required reading for understanding the racial landscape of the U.S. today. The author argues that racial segregation is not actually over, but rather has shifted into a system of mass incarceration. Bishop Ted Gulick

recently invited all clergy in the Diocese of Virginia to read it, and I plan to take him up on it.

**Richmond's Unhealed History** by Benjamin Campbell. I led a book study on this one when I first moved to RVA five years ago. Now that I've been here long enough to have experienced some of the unhealed legacies for myself, I'd like to pick it back up.

**Not Hearers Only: A History of St. James's Episcopal Church, 1835-1985** by Weisiger, Traser, Trice, ed. Peters. Same with this one. I read it when I first began serving here, but at that point most of the people and places in it were unfamiliar to me and therefore abstract. Not anymore! Since we've just launched a new and exciting strategic plan for St. James's, I think it is time to re-read our history and celebrate this amazing parish – our past and our future!

**The Road to Emmaus: Poems** by Spencer Reece. I think every reading list should have at least one volume of poetry. Spencer was a classmate of mine at Yale. In this collection, he draws inspiration from the story of Christ, unrecognized, walking alongside the disciples after the resurrection. Some of the poems are about his time as a chaplain at Our Little Roses Home for Girls in Honduras, where we will return for another week of mission in August!

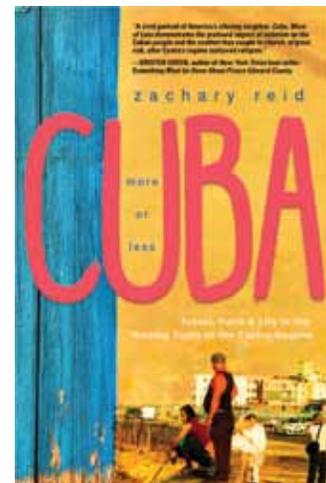
That's my list so far. It's probably too

ambitious, but that's ok. What's on your reading list this summer? If you are reading any of these, or something else interesting, let me know! I'd love to meet for coffee and talk books and life with you. Summer also warrants at least one juicy novel with absolutely no theological or intellectual merit. What do you suggest?

Faithfully,

*Carmen*

P.S. Don't forget to get a copy of Cuba, More or Less: Travel, Faith, and Life in the Waning Years of the Castro Regime by our own Zach Reid! It's a thoughtful and witty travelogue with the story of the Episcopal Church in Cuba woven throughout. I highly recommend it!



# Ministry

## ... for Youth and Young Adults



Mary Beth Abplanalp,  
Director of Youth and  
Young Adult Ministry

### About Those PEEPS from the Youth



What do you get when you mix together teenagers + glue + sugar-covered marshmallows??

#### HOLY PEEPS!

During Lent, our 6th -12th grade youth were challenged to create a religious-themed diorama using the popular Peeps Easter candy. With collaboration from their families at home, or their friends at youth group, our students made such creative, detailed, and hilarious projects. They chose themes ranging from Holy Baptism to church architecture, Moses to Jesus' Crucifixion. While displayed in an Art Exhibit during Holy Week, hundreds of parishioners voted for their favorite of



Crucifixion. While displayed in an Art Exhibit during Holy Week, hundreds of parishioners voted for their favorite of

each category. We now have an annual tradition on our hands, so mark your calendar to join us at the 2017 Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast to vote and enjoy the Art Exhibit open throughout Holy Week and into Easter.

Making the dioramas was a blast for these youth, but the real beauty happened in the Michaux House during the Art



Exhibit as parishioners of all ages smiled, laughed, and said things like "I am just amazed how clever these are!" These dioramas were a great reminder, to me at least, that even when we are wandering in the wilderness, if we pay close attention we'll discover the hope and joy of God's love is omnipresent.

Congratulations to the winners!

- Funniest: "Stained Glass Windows" by Libby McCoy
- Theological Accuracy: "Holy Baptism" by Taylor Sibley
- Most Creative: "Holy Matrimony" by Molly, Payton, and Kaelie Jager

#### A Graduation Blessing

(Source: Prayers from the Heart)

God of wisdom, bless these graduates whose hearts you have fashioned for beauty and grace. Bless those who love them and those who have guided them to this holy time and place. Call them to discovery, to seek their truest self, to fall in love with wisdom and claim her as their wealth. Send them forth in knowledge, your teachings be their guide. Watch over them, protect them, and walk softly by their side. Amen.

*Congratulations to  
all our graduating seniors!*

Love ya! Mean it!

*Mary Beth*





## Sleep On It

Becky Page

Director of Children's Ministries

As the Director of Children's Ministries I receive many resources about faith formation and Christian education. I recently read this article [Blessing Children in the Home](#) and thought you might find it a valuable resource.

### Bedtime Blessings

When our first daughter was a newborn we began the practice of blessing her at bedtime. Each night, one or both of us would give a blessing while making the sign of the cross on her little forehead. As she grew, and as our second daughter was born, the blessing we prayed at bedtime changed.

Occasionally, one or both of the girls didn't want a blessing and would say so, and then we might give them a quick blessing anyway, or not. But more often, when we didn't stay long enough to give them a blessing, we would get called back in: "Mommy, Daddy, I need my blessing." For a number of years, the night blessing came at the end of story time and a snuggle.

Our elder daughter is now in middle school. She gets a blessing every night. She says that she likes receiving a blessing every night and that it helps her calm down. Our younger daughter is happy to bless anyone who wishes for a blessing, including her favorite babysitters! Our prayer is that both of them know how much we love them and how beloved they are by God. Our blessings have changed a bit over the years, and

each of us offers a somewhat different blessing.

#### *How to Do Blessings at Home*

*Start simple:* Blessing children can be very simple. Our first blessing was short and sweet: "I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" or, "I bless you in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer."

*Be creative:* As the girls got wiggly and squiggly, we wove their bodies into the blessing: "I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. From the top of your head to the tips of your wiggly toes. From the fingers on this hand to the fingers on this hand. And everywhere in between – on the inside, outside, and when you are upside down."

*Give and receive:* One night when our second daughter was about 3, she reached out to give us blessings as well. The words were similar to what we had been using across the years of blessing but her own words. The words we have used over the years have changed to reflect the qualities each girl has or ones we want them to cultivate.

You can use the blessings offered above, or try one of the blessings below, or create your own.

- The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Aar-  
onic blessing from Numbers 6:24-26)

- I love you and bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; the God who knows and loves you, who watches over you and keeps you safe, growing strong, living, loving, and serving more and more. Amen.
- I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, this night and always. God give you good rest, and keep you growing stronger, wiser, kinder, and ready to serve – and always knowing how much you are loved. Amen.

[Blessing Children in the Home](#) is part of the Home Practices series on [Building Faith](#). ([www.buildfaith.org](http://www.buildfaith.org))

Becky

### VBS decorations

Can you share: beach towels, beach chair, beach umbrellas, inflatable beach toys (all sizes), hula skirts, surf and boogie boards, and/or baby pools to transform Michaux House into a beach town surf shack? We will be collecting these items in the Michaux House until Sunday, June 12 and they will be ready to be retrieved Sunday, June 26. Please contact me at [bpage@doers.org](mailto:bpage@doers.org) or 355-1779x314 if you have items that we can borrow.

# All Ages Spring into Mis



Youth Sunday on February 7 spanned two services and included a sermon by Ben Walters and Senior Blessing for those expecting to graduate from high school in the spring.

Easter's flowering of the cross and the choir's performance were beautifully inspiring.

(below) WomanKind's seventh gathering was a rousing success, mid-Atlantic and keyed by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Saturday began with a healing service and culminated with a healing service celebrated by Becca Stev



(from top to bottom) The Music Department had a busy season, presenting the Dylan Mass for the third year, a splendid Youth Evensong and hosting Trinity Wall Street organist-emeritus Stephen Hamilton for a performance of Durflé's *Stations of the Cross*.



(from top left, clockwise) The Mardi Gras for Missions leadership team held a sizzling event replete with fried oysters, jazz and costumes, and even the youngest guest found something fun to do.

# sion, Ministry and Music



and music



Another sumptuous Pancake Breakfast opened Palm Sunday courtesy of the youth ministry. And they spent a day at Shalom Farms for service in April.



Your vestry took a deep dive into trends and planning at their March retreat.

welcoming nearly 600 women from the an with a hymn sing led by Virginia Whitmire ens of Thistle Farms/Magdalene ministry.



(above) Carrie Acey reads a devotion at the Young Adults ministry-sponsored Stations of the Cross Hike attended by 120 kids and adults and held on Holy Saturday at Belle Isle park for the second year.



Nancy Warman celebrated with friends at the ACTS 10th Anniversary banquet where she was honored for her action and advocacy on behalf of ACTS and homelessness in Richmond.



Young Adults enjoyed fellowship at Thirsty Thursdays (above) and the hospitality of the Trow's for the Masters Tournament Open House (below).



SNOWFEST (right) and the 6th and 7th grade PYM weekend (below) kept youth, staff and volunteers busy from February to April.





Nancy Warman,  
Director of Servant Ministry

## Thank You, Doers of the Word

Let us give thanks to those who serve in the name of the church, as the hands and feet of Christ in our community:

McGuire Veteran's Ministry (Madeline and Snead Luck, leaders); CARITAS Intake (Margaret Corwin); CARITAS Shelter (Meg Stott, Amanda Roberts, Sharon Wayne); Project:HOMES (Kyle Martin, Andy Smith); Virginia Supportive Housing (Mary Slaughter, Judy Philpott); Hilliard House (Laura Garden), Food Force (Gigi Redmond, Mary Slaughter, Nancy Scoggins, Jenny Evans); Men Cooking Team (Harry Moore); Virginia Home Sing (Virginia Whitmire); Mentoring and Lunch Buddy Ministry (Paulette Pullen); Peter Paul Development Center (Bob Siegfried); St. James's Children's Center (Ida Farinholt).

These leaders and their teams have touched and enriched the lives of those who are hospitalized with injuries from war and accidents; homeless men, women, and children, elderly senior citizens; those who are hungry; those who live in shelters striving to become strong and self-sufficient for themselves and for their children; those who are challenged with handicaps, both physical and mental; those who are children and young people so they might grow from strong positive role models and the embrace of love.

To all team leaders and members, thank you not only for being faithful volunteers but most importantly for be-

ing "doers of the word." Thank you for embracing those we serve with kindness and compassion. Thank you for lifting up lives and for giving hope where it is most needed. Thank you for making strong the ministry of St. James's as you go out to serve the "least of these."

### DOERS DOING THIS SUMMER

The annual outreach mission will take place June 13-17 right here in our own Richmond community. We spend Monday-Friday working as partners in ministry with project:HOMES helping a low-income senior citizen with yard work and home repair. We also assist formerly homeless clients of Virginia Supportive Housing, those who are physically and mentally challenged, with yard work and apartment clean up. Cost is \$100. To join us, please contact lay leaders ([kyle@bkmartin.com](mailto:kyle@bkmartin.com)) or Andy Smith ([smitha@steva.org](mailto:smitha@steva.org)).

**BREAKING NEWS!** Our former Virginia Supportive Housing and Hilliard House advocacy teams have joined forces to better serve in our community. These are folks who periodically go to our community agencies to support staff and to help uplift those who are being served. Most often seen preparing and serving a meal at VSH, or painting a wall, planting flowers or cleaning a closet at Hilliard House, they plan to expand their ministry to other agencies as well. These are doers called to serve! These are doers who take the name and the ministry of St. James's out into the

world! If you can serve with this community ministry team, please contact lay leaders Mary Slaughter ([maryslaughter4@msn.com](mailto:maryslaughter4@msn.com)) or Judy Philpott ([philpott3@yahoo.com](mailto:philpott3@yahoo.com)).

McGuire Veterans Ministry team meets each month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. to provide an ice cream party and to visit with hospital patients and their families. If you can join this amazing ministry, please contact lay leaders, Madeline and Snead Luck ([madeleine.luck29@gmail.com](mailto:madeleine.luck29@gmail.com); [luck@trentcorp.net](mailto:luck@trentcorp.net)).

The Shepherd's Center of Richmond needs volunteer drivers. Founded by our own Bob Seiler, TSCOR is a non-profit service and education organization for people over 50. Google it online for more details or contact Executive Director Julia Adams-Buchanan at 804-355-7282 ([jadams@TSCOR.org](mailto:jadams@TSCOR.org)).

**GO FORTH TO LOVE AND  
SERVE THE LORD!**

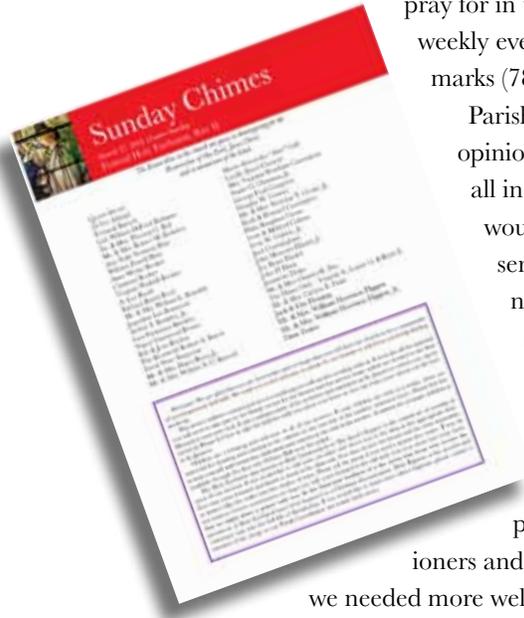
Blessings,

*Nancy Warman*

## There May Be A Test On This Later

The experiment with our Sunday Chimes and service missal (bulletin) in Lent produced some very interesting results.

We found general agreement on the benefits of some of the new elements. Survey respondents and other feedback showed parishioners liked the prominence and location of the worship participants and putting the names of the people we pray for in the service liturgy (75% liked). The list of weekly events (“This Week”) continued to get high marks (78% liked).



Parishioners responding to our request for opinions also liked the larger font (62%) and all in one booklet (63%). About half said they would like the new format to be used at all services. About one out of four parishioners responding to our survey and other requests for feedback did not like the new format.

The experiment with a new design was born out of a discussion in the fall of 2014 regarding the Sunday pew publications’ utility for new parishioners and visitors. There was a strong feeling that we needed more welcome messaging, to anticipate questions

about the service and facility that might be obscure to these folks, to recognize that the present format had been devised 20 years ago and the needs of the parish might have changed over time. In the early part of 2015 we did survey the congregation over four weeks about their use of the existing format. A small task force of clergy, staff and parishioners discussed content and form for a year, with the experiment being adopted just after the new year with the thought that Lent, being a definite and time-limited season, would be the right time to diverge from our “usual” and then to see how the Sunday pew occupants felt about the differences, positive and negative.

The Task Force reconvened in early May to consider all the points of view, and the costs. On balance, it was thought that making a wholesale change that might interfere with a quarter of our parishioners’ worship experience and require more of already stretched resources would not be good stewardship or fully engage the task force’s desire to be more welcoming and open. In the fall, the larger and one-booklet format might return from time to time.

## Cooper Introduces His New Book June 12.

Mark Cooper returns to talk about and sign your copy of his new book, *Mapping Your Adventure*, at a reception in Valentine Hall after the June 12 service at 10:00 a.m. Part description of personality and development, part personal memoir, the book leads readers

through the discovery of their own dreams and values with a personal inventory. Join us to welcome and celebrate Mark’s new adventure.



## Summer Jazz Mass Begins June 5



On June 5, we will return to a worship schedule that includes evening Jazz Mass in the Michaux House.

Every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. through August 28, our clergy will lead Richmond’s finest jazz players, along with cantors from our choir and congregants, through a specially designed liturgy that is open to the improvisation that is the heart of jazz music.

Readings may be from Scripture, thoughtful theologians, poetry, novels, really anything that reaches for the sacred and calls for our response. We will gather around a table set with the kinds of food our Lord and his disciples might have brought for an evening meal. Sharing bread and wine and fellowship, we will invite the presence of the Holy Spirit in our Eucharistic feast.

This is a service that is grounded in our ancient liturgical traditions and yet derives its energy from jazz, a delightful way for you to conclude your Sunday and a perfect place to invite your friends and family to join in. Great music, great liturgy, great spirit and great goodness abound. Please come often.

## Summer Brunch Returns

July 24 and August 21 following the 10:00 a.m. service

The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Credit cards are accepted and reservations by the preceding Thursday are definitely recommended. RSVP to Gina Young (gyoung@doers.org)



## What I learned from Reggio Emilia...

by Debbie Lickey

Executive Director, St. James's Children's Center

Reggio Emilia gets early childhood right. Newsweek Magazine named this tiny town in northern Italy as one of the top ten best early childhood programs of the world! The Reggio Emilia schools were developed after World War Two. At that time, parents took over the buildings that hadn't been bombed and insisted that their children, who had been traumatized by war, be given the support and healing provided by a quality early childhood.

The philosophy of the Reggio Emilia schools is based on accepting children as competent learners. In the Reggio approach, the teacher is considered a co-learner and collaborator with the child – rather than an instructor. Teachers are encouraged to facilitate the child's learning by planning activities and lessons based on the child's interests. Children's ideas are respected as teachers ask questions to further understanding, and engage in the learning and activities alongside the child.

In 1996 I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Reggio Emilia to train with teachers, leaders and family members. I gained a wonderful understanding of how important collaboration is and how far the reach of collaboration can take us in providing the best world for our children. The families who started these schools, the teachers and the municipality all embraced the importance of children's education. They all collaborated together to give their children the highest quality early childhood education.

In much the same way, the Children's Center and the St. James's Doers collaborate for the children of our Center.



*Young Adult builders rest after a good day's work making the sensory garden.*

Recently our goal of bringing nature into an urban setting was realized through the collaborative efforts of a donor to fund raw materials and the work of the Young Adults Ministry of St. James's to take those raw materials and create a multi-sensory area in the Michaux House courtyard for the children at St. James's Children's Center.

That collaboration has given our children the opportunity to be part of the process of seeding, caring for and reaping the harvest of plants. The re-imagined Michaux House courtyard also provides a wide range of sensory activities for the children to experience: smelling herbs, sand play,

rock and pebble sorting, water play and building with natural materials are all part of this 'outdoor classroom.'

We send many thanks to the St. James's Young Adult program as well as all of the other collaborative partners in St. James's church for continuing to make our quality program a reality!

Thanks to all the St. James's Young Adults who volunteered to build and install our

new Sensory Garden in the Michaux House courtyard!

Young Adult volunteers test out the new outdoor classroom they built. Seems they are having as much fun with the natural materials table as our three-year olds!

In partnership,  
Debbie

*Queen of the Garden Pat Caine welcomes children and visitors at the Grand Opening in April.*



## Sacred Spaces

by Harry Moore

### St. James's Memorial Garden

One of the most sacred spaces at St. James's is the Memorial Garden. Sometimes, we casually walk through it, not even thinking about the significance of the space. Other times, though, we pause, perhaps take a seat, and spend a few minutes in silent reverence.



Our Memorial Garden is now the final resting place for the cremated remains of those who went before us, each in their own way making significant contributions to St. James's. The first of the souls now interred in the garden was laid to rest in 1993. Since then, the total has grown to fifty.

The Memorial Garden is considered consecrated ground, and ashes are buried directly in the earth without any marker. While the church keeps a record of the exact spot of interment, there are no individual markers, and flowers or other types of additional memorials are not allowed.

There are currently four stones engraved with the names of those interred in the garden. Each person laid to rest in the garden is also memorialized with an individual page in the Book of Remembrance, which is maintained in the Gibson Hall Atrium, and most of those interred have entries written by the family.

The next time you walk through the Memorial Garden, pause, take a seat, and let the spirit move you.

## Who Was Elizabeth Whitlock and Why Should We Thank Her Every Year?

In 1930, 85 years ago, Elizabeth Whitlock bequeathed \$5000 to St. James Episcopal Church. Given without any restriction on its use, the vestry at that time wisely decided to invest this gift, thus creating St. James's Endowment Fund. In effect, she endowed her annual support of the church and became the first member of our Legacy Society. Today, the Society recognizes more than 100 parishioners, past and present, which have followed Elizabeth's example by remembering our church in their estate plans. This year, the income alone from Elizabeth's bequest will provide about \$3500 for current church programs. Since it was given, the income on the Whitlock endowment has provided over \$175,000 for St. James's. It is truly the gift that keeps on giving.



## Earthly Matters

by Monica Lewis  
Stewards of the Earth Committee

### Scoop the Poop

Dog waste is a major source of pollution in the James River watershed. It is also the easiest to prevent, if owners clean up after their pets. This fact and many more were shared Wednesday, April 6 when Lorne Field spoke to St. James's on water conservation. Lorne is in the pews at St. Andrew's on Sunday mornings. Weekdays, he works as the environmental outreach coordinator for Chesterfield County. And he gets outside into nature as much as he can. He recently accepted leadership of the Diocesan Committee on the Stewardship of Creation. Their upcoming fall conference will provide help to parishes and individuals undertaking projects like rain barrels and rain gardens to improve the health and quality of the James River.

It's surprising what rain water picks up as it moves across paved surfaces into the storm drain. Fertilizers, pesticides, detergent from car washes, and pet waste are some of the common pollutants that run off and find their way into our streams and rivers. Called "non-point source (NPS) pollution," in contrast to the hazardous discharges that come from a single point, such as a factory, these contaminants can be reduced greatly with awareness. "People can do things that harm the river without even realizing it. It's not like people want to harm the James, and if they realized they were, they'd more than likely be willing to alter their behavior. That's why it's so important to educate people." Lorne says. Knowing how far ecoli bacteria can travel and the harm it can do gives us all the more reason to scoop the poop!

# Stewardship



Suzanne Hall  
Director of Stewardship and  
Development

## The Bleeding-heart

*I know a bleeding-heart plant that has thrived for sixty years if not more, and has never missed a spring without rising and spreading itself into a glossy bush, with many small red hearts dangling. Don't you think that deserves a little thought? The woman who planted it has been gone for a long time, and everyone who saw it in that time has also died or moved away and so, like so many stories, this one can't get finished properly. Most things that are important, have you noticed, lack a certain neatness. More delicious, anyway, is to remember my grandmother's pleasure when the dissolve of winter was over and the green knobs appeared and began to rise, and to create their many hearts. One would say she was a simple woman, made happy by simple things. I think this was true. And more than once, in my long life, I have wished to be her.*

Mary Oliver

Time and the seasons are unstoppable. Spring, that spectacular prelude to summer, is full of pleasure and hope. I'm reminded of this poem every spring as my perennials begin as tiny sprigs of green and rapidly transform into fully realized hostas, peonies, and yes, bleeding hearts.

My grandmother was a city dweller with deep roots in an agrarian childhood as well as the Depression, and she tended ambitious flower and vegetable gardens. Her basement shelves were lined with Mason cars packed with tomatoes, corn, and pickles, providing delicious amendments to meals through the winter months.

We nurture our real and virtual



## FOUNDERS SUNDAY

gardens for pure joy and also to invest in the future. The health of our church, as well, is built on the generosity of many generations thinking of the future. We give thanks for their gracious gifts and recognize our own responsibility for the future of our parish.

June 5 is Founders Sunday when we celebrate faithful parishioners who have assured that our church has a firm financial foundation for the coming generation. This is a good time to invite you to join the Whitlock Legacy Society. To assist your planning of your own legacy, we are pleased to offer free copies of the Omega File. You can download the resource from our website ([www.doers.org/stewardship/planned-giving](http://www.doers.org/stewardship/planned-giving)), pick up one in the Narthex or we would be glad to deliver one to you through a member of our Planned Giving Committee.

Suzanne



# The Interview

**T**he most recent gift to St. James's from the Reverend Dr. Vienna Cobb-Anderson is an incredibly detailed textile work of art that replicates the stained glass window in our chapel. The Chimes wanted to know more about this effort and its meaning.

**Chimes:** What drew you to the Alpha and Omega window as a subject for your needlepoint artistry?

**VCA:** I think the angel window is the most beautiful window we have and thought it such a shame that we rarely see it because the doors to the chapel are usually closed. I spoke with Randy, who said it was his favorite window also and promised that if I did a copy in needlepoint, he'd display it so that we could all be reminded to look in the chapel and see the original.

**Chimes:** What does this window represent? What story does it tell?

**VCA:** The image reminds me of the part in The Book of Revelation where God says, "I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end." In that same quote is God's promise to make all things new and the promise to dwell with us. Angels are messengers of God and I see this angel carrying not only the book of life, but that promise. The sky in some places looks like a sunrise and in others a sunset; and the ground of the background is both verdant with growth and barren rock. These images, for me, portray good times and tough times, life and death, despair and hope – God with us at all times and places.

**Chimes:** How did you go about planning and executing your vision for this work?

**VCA:** This was the simplest part. I took a picture with my iPhone, went to FedEx and had them blow it up to 3' wide by 5' long. I then took this image, along with the color photo to a fabulous needlepoint shop in Washington, DC, The Point of It All, and they trans-



*Vienna's needlepoint banner shows the Angel with Alpha and Omega window dedicated to Katharine Dennis in the Chapel.*

ferred it to canvas. Two months later, I returned and spent two hours choosing threads to match the colors. The owner of the store, Susan Battle, and I made a three page chart, designating what colors went with which section, because there are different groupings of shades of grey and of shades of blue in differing sections of the banner.

**Chimes:** This image is complex. What gave you the confidence that you could do it justice?

**VCA:** A painted canvas is no big deal! It's like painting by numbers. I've done needlepoint all of my life, so this was no big deal. Just larger. The hardest pieces [I ever undertook] were the pettipoint vests I did for my nephew and great-nephew. The holes on those were half the size and harder to see.

**Chimes:** How long did the work take? What parts of the process did you enjoy the most?

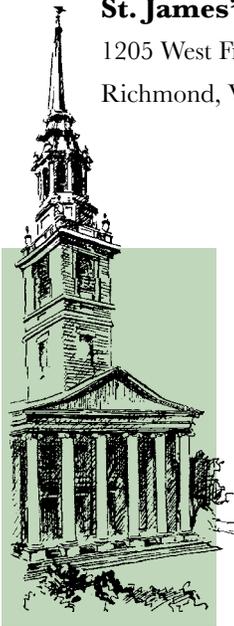
**VCA:** It took nine months, working daily; sometimes an hour, sometimes six hours straight. I learned that I can do

one square inch an hour, so it's always worth picking up the canvas and doing a row or two. By focusing on getting a small section done, before one knows it, several feet are finished. If you look at the whole piece, it's easy to get depressed by how much more there is to do! The best part about this project is that there was no boring, endless background of one color. With the Angel banner, there was the sense of constant accomplishment: a wing, a rock, a bush, the halo, the hair, the face, the book, etc.

**Chimes:** What were the surprises you experienced as you worked on the piece? Were there spiritual components or outcomes?

**VCA:** The one surprise came when I thought I had finished the banner and took it to DC to be backed. I was told it needed a cord around the edges in order to hide the canvas, which I didn't want. I had to bring the banner home and stitch two rows of black thread all around the edge! Boring, tedious, yet necessary.

The spiritual component of creating the banner is hard to put into words. Perhaps, because it's a non-verbal activity that touches the creative, non-verbal place in me that gives me a sense of living within the holy, of being fully present in time and space right now. It's a feeling, not a thought. It's breathing, not talking. Hence I don't have words to express the spiritual aspect of creation. It just is. It's fulfilling and exhilarating. It's being alive. And that is both joyful and fulfilling, hence, making the banner is more like play than work.



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