

Antrim: A Newsletter from St. John's

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Rector's Message



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

On August 1st, I officially celebrated my first year with you as your Rector and Priest. As the saying goes, "Time flies when you are having fun." This year has been one full of joy, fun, affirmation, challenges, a few disappointments and the realization that much work lies ahead as we make our communities the Body of Christ in Halifax County. I want to thank all of you for your welcoming and loving hearts shown to us. You have made us feel welcome and that you treasure our presence among you.

Much has been taught and said about how one approaches their first year as rector at a new parish. Some believe that no changes should be made so that one can get a sense of the community, what they value, and what is important to them. Another line of thought is that the first year is the time to implement change because it is expected that someone new is coming and they have different ways of doing things so new things will evolve. In true Anglican fashion I decided on the *via media* (middle way) and have made a few changes mainly centered around our liturgy. It seems that most of these changes have been well received and that you appreciate the reasons behind them. I thank you for the freedom in being able to implement them.

Now that we have gotten to know each other a little better and hopefully understand and appreciate each other I believe it is time to look deeply at how we want to live out being "The Body of Christ" in Halifax County. Christ calls us to "Love God" and to "Love our neighbor as ourselves."

Scripture is pretty explicit in sharing with us how we might do that. One of my seminary professors reminded us that there are over 10,000 references in the Bible about taking care of the marginalized, the destitute, the orphan, the homeless, the hungry, the prisoner, the naked, the lonely, the poor, the widow, the sick...I could continue for a couple more lines and still not touch them all.

As parishioners at St. John's and Trinity we are all truly blessed. We have lovely worship spaces and parishioners whom we call "friend." We are blessed with a roof over our head, clothes on our back, and food on our table. It is time for us to be the "Body of Christ" in Halifax County and identify ministry opportunities that will benefit those who we read about almost every time we read a passage from Holy Scripture. There is much to be done here and the rewards will come in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely people, in the most unlikely ways.

This is not salvation by good works, this is grace through faith, for by living out our faith in the One who died for us, Jesus Christ, our hearts want to share that love by loving others.

I invite all of you to observe our community, find a need, discover your passion and then act. We are all here for one another and when this community's need and our passion meet we will have identified our ministry.

Remembering Reverend Fred Martin



1937-2009

Rector, St. John's 1965-1993

A Memorial Service for The Reverend Fred Martin was held at St. John's on Saturday, August 15th at 4:00 P.M. A Rite I Evening Prayer service with additional rites at graveside was followed by a light reception and sharing of memories in the undercroft.

Father Fred Martin served this area of Southside Virginia for many years, pastoring churches in Kenbridge, Crewe, Victoria, Boydton, Halifax, Clarkton, and Danville. During his 28 years of service at St. John's and throughout his ministry he was active in the Civil Rights movement and was an advocate for the marginalized around us. A fellow priest wrote of him, *"His life was marked by courage, prophetic insight, faithful priesthood, and honesty. A model rector. A model human being. A soldier. He kept the faith, finished the course and won the race."*

A Thank You From The Martin Family

Dear Gary, Joani, and Members of St. John's,

What a wonderful welcome you prepared for the Martin Family when we returned home to Halifax last Saturday. Evening Prayer with all of you was a blessing, enhanced by the wonderful choir. The reception afterwards was nothing short of magnificent!

That so many of our former EYC and out-of-town members filled the church was serendipitous indeed. How good to once again worship with those who filled our pews during the years of Fred's ministry. Within the welcoming arms of all the St. John's community, we could release his spirit with joy and rest knowing his memorial was amongst old friends and in the place where he happily chose to minister for twenty-eight years.

Now that you have finished the lovely exterior renovation, my prayers are that you all may worship with joy and love within that special sanctuary where so many have knelt over a century and a half and that St. John's will move into a new vibrant ministry with your energetic priest, The Reverend Butterworth.

With love and thanksgiving,
Diane Martin

Please type the following link into your web address bar to view photographs of the reception.

<http://tinyurl.com/l2wupt>

A Letter From The Reverend Bruce Stewart



Dear St. John's Family,

I am sorry I cannot be with you as you celebrate the life of Fred Martin. It was through Fred that I was first invited to lead a parish music weekend with St. John's in September 1982 before the "new" hymnal had even been published! The "new" hymnal was just approved by the General Convention of 1982 but would not be available in print until 1985. From that weekend I was invited back for 11 years of Vacation Bible School and a week-long Lenten series. I have many wonderful memories of St. John's and Halifax.

My gracious hosts for those many visits were Jo and Kenneth Powell, and I also enjoyed meals in many of your homes. I read in the newsletter that after these many years of faithful service, Jo was passing on the mantle of newsletter editor. I would be happy to continue receiving the news from Halifax. My email address is below.

In addition to my work with the Center for Liturgy and the Arts, I am also now the chaplain at Goodwin House Alexandria, a continuing care retirement community of 420 residents and 360 staff established by the Diocese of Virginia 42 years ago. If you are ever in this area, please come by for a visit.

Please give my love and prayers to Diane Martin and her family and know that I will be thinking of you and having you in my prayers especially this afternoon and in the years to come.

The Reverend J. Bruce Stewart
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Vestry Resolution Honors Member



The Vestry members, along with Father Gary, adopted a formal resolution with regard to the commitment to St. John's by Jo Powell. She was recognized during the Sunday service with a framed copy of the resolution and many thank you's from the congregation for her many decades of service. She wrote personal letters to people connected with the church to make the cemetery a self-perpetuating entity, kept the books for the cemetery fund, and wrote/put together the monthly newsletter. Congratulations on this special recognition, Jo!



A Leap of Faith



Those in attendance at church on Sunday, August 16th got a special treat! Phillip Saunders II, on summer break from his first year of college, presented a sermon to the congregation. He explained how his summer job as a white water raft instructor for the Boy Scouts of America gave him the opportunity to grow closer to the Lord. He told us about a young boy with cerebral palsy who had never even climbed a ladder. He was able to climb into an overhead obstacle course with encouragement from Phillip. He took a leap of faith when he jumped across a three foot gap in the course. The young boy had faith that Phillip would be there to catch him if he fell. Phillip challenged us to trust that the Lord will always be there for us and He will catch us if we fall.

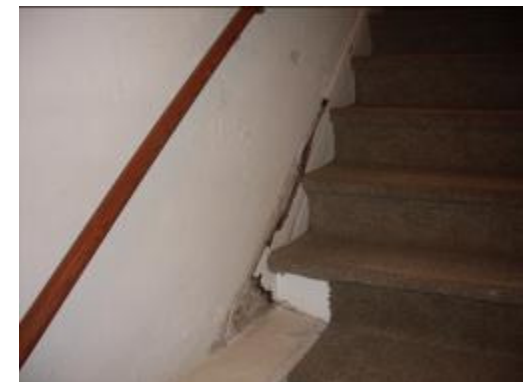
Restoration Update

The end of this phase of restoration is in sight! Next we will have landscaping done and obtain estimates on repairing the interior damage from moisture and termites.

Please remember that our ability to make monthly loan payments—and finance additional necessary work—depends on each person's ongoing support of the Restoration Fund 2009. Pledges of \$66,900 have been received to date, including a \$10,000 pledge from The Chastain Home and \$7,500 from the Diocese.

Actual money received to date is \$42,140, which includes gifts from The Chastain Home and the Diocese, as well as some non-pledged gifts.

Donations may also be made to the Restoration Fund in memory or in honor of a friend or a loved one! All gifts are needed and most welcome, pledged or not. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Episcopal Church, memo: Restoration 2009.



Godly Play Seminar



St. John's was the host site for the Convocation IX Godly Play workshop on August 22nd from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. Three trainers from the diocese led the session, and four ladies who drove all the way from the Newport News/Norfolk area on Saturday morning shared their expertise with us. Each time a workshop is offered, our teachers are given the opportunity to interact with other Godly Play teachers. We get many of our ideas to make Godly Play even more fun for the St. John's children through these experiences. We have been able to make friends with other parishioners from St. Andrew's, St. Paul's, and Epiphany Danville. The St. John's teachers give up much of their time in the pursuit of making Godly Play better for our children.

We are blessed to have a group of dedicated teachers who minister to our children ages Preschool through 5th grade. Volunteering to be a teacher for Godly Play is a huge time commitment, and it is truly a calling! Each teacher studies and memorizes his/her story and the coordinating movements with the props, practices telling the story with those props during the week, and arrives at class 10 minutes before the students to get ready for the day's Bible story lesson.

Godly Play is a type of Christian education for children in which the teachers continually receive training to become better storytellers. The Christian Formation time follows the flow of the Eucharistic service and uses much of the same language. Students are greeted at the beginning of class in much the same way we are at the beginning of the church service. They also have time to share a snack that is representative of the bread and wine.

Special thanks is given for our Godly Play teachers, doorkeepers, and substitutes

Chris Butterworth
Mary Eva Cassada
Bill Confroy
Jane Carlton Confroy
Monty Epps
Missy Henderson
Dana Long
Andy Lowe
Kim Parker
Carol Pattarini
Aleacia Peer
Andrea Redd
Tammie Saunders

Church Directory Update

The Communications Committee is continuing its work on the new church directory. Debbie Lowe spent all of May, June, July, and part of August taking and gathering all the individual and family photos of our church family. We anticipate that the directory will be finished, proofread, and printed by December so it will be ready for distribution at the beginning of Advent.

Outreach



Canned goods are needed to help meet increasing requests for food at the church. Please bring non-perishable foods (nothing fancy) and place in the box beneath the narthex table until further notice. Any food donation or monetary donation will be appreciated!

We Urgently Need:

- Canned Chicken & Ham
- Canned Tuna & Salmon
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruits
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Hot & Cold Cereals
- Pasta & Rice



Blessing of the Animals

Mark your calendars! The annual "Blessing of the Animals" service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, October 4th. The service will be conducted at the Edmunds Park picnic shelter and will be followed by a covered dish meal.

Cursillo

<http://cursillodsv.org>

The next Cursillo Weekend is scheduled for October 1-4 at Camp Chanco. Cursillo is a spiritual weekend led by lay persons, where you will experience Christ through talks, small group discussions, worship, and singing. If this is something you might like to try, contact Father Gary.

October Weekend



October Weekend at Chanco, for youth in Grades 8-12, will be held Friday, October 16 through Sunday, October 18. The fee for the weekend is \$110; assistance with that fee may be available. Please see Father Gary if you are a youth interested in attending. We must send in registration to the diocese by October 1.

September Birthdays



Jack Dunavant	Sept. 1
Andrea Redd	Sept. 2
Charles McCormick	Sept. 3
Isabel Bradley	Sept. 9
Mary Archer Osborne	Sept. 11
Laura Parker	Sept. 11
Sarah Tuck	Sept. 17
Betty Covington	Sept. 23
Tucker McLaughlin	Sept. 23
Lelan Dunavant	Sept. 24
Nancy Evans	Sept. 25
Julie Dunavant	Sept. 27
Donna Strange	Sept. 27

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Each Sunday we pray for individual members of our parish family.

September 6

Lee & Harriett Clark
 Geraldine Coates
 Fred & Violet Perkins
 Claudia Perkins
 Bill & Jane Carlton Confroy
 Ben & Kimberly Conner (nursery supervisor)

September 13

William Covington
 Bill & Margaret Covington; Katherine, Ned
 Jim & Honey Davis
 Charlie & Joan Devine; Julie, Kate

September 20

Helen Dunavant
 Helen Wadino; Peyton
 Jed & Melissa Dunavant; Catelyn, Ashley
 Mark & Robin Harris; Christian, Jamie, Emma

September 27

Jack & Bertha Jane Dunavant
 Dave & Joy Abel; Elle, Lawson
 Richard & Julie Dunavant; Lelan
 Debbie Dunavant; Jackson
 Jack Dunavant III
 Otis & Sarah Epps; Brian, Matthew, Kyle
 Jacque Epps; Libby
 Jerry Epps

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer



September 6

St. Michael's (Bon Air)

September 13

St. James' (Cartersville)

September 20

St. David's (Chesterfield County)

September 27

Calvary (Dinwiddie)



Anglican Cycle of Prayer



September 6

The Most Reverend John Wilson Gladstone
Moderator, Church of South India & Bishop of South Kerala

September 13

Southern Highlands - (Tanzania)
The Right Reverend John Mwela

September 20

Southwark - (Canterbury, England)
The Right Reverend Thomas Frederick Butler

Southwark - Croydon - (Canterbury, England)
The Right Reverend Nicholas Baines

Southwark - Kingston-upon-Thames - (Canterbury, England)
The Right Reverend Richard Ian Cheetham

Southwark - Woolwich - (Canterbury, England)
The Right Reverend Christopher Thomas Chessun

September 27

The Most Reverend David Robert Chillingworth
Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and
Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane

September 2009

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Confirmation Classes		1	2	3	4	5
September 6th at 5:00 P.M. (St. John's) September 12th at 5:00 P.M. (St. John's) September 27th at 5:00 P.M. (St. John's)			Healing Service 10 AM <hr/> Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM <hr/> Adult Sack Supper and Discussion 6:30-8:00 PM			
6 Holy Eucharist service 9 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM	7 Morning Prayer service @ 9:00 AM in the Chapel	8	9 Healing Service 10 AM <hr/> Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM <hr/> Adult Sack Supper and Discussion 6:30-8:00 PM	10 Prison Ministry 9:45 AM <hr/> Brotherhood of St. Andrew meeting in the Parish House 7:15 PM	11	12
13 Holy Eucharist service 9 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM	14 NO Morning Prayer service in the chapel	15	16 NO Healing Service <hr/> Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM <hr/> NO Adult Sack Supper and Discussion	17	18	19
20 Holy Eucharist service with The Rev. Fred Poteet 9 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM	21 Morning Prayer service @ 9:00 AM in the Chapel <hr/> Vestry Meeting 7:15 PM	22	23 Healing Service 10 AM <hr/> Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM <hr/> Adult Sack Supper and Discussion 6:30-8:00 PM	24 Prison Ministry 9:45 AM	25	26
27 Holy Eucharist service 9 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM	28 Morning Prayer service @ 9:00 AM in the Chapel	29	30 Healing Service 10 AM <hr/> Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 PM <hr/> Adult Sack Supper and Discussion 6:30-8:00 PM			



St. John's Episcopal
Church

Halifax, Virginia

Father Gary is in his
office at St. John's on
Mondays and
Wednesdays

Church Office Hours
 Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday 8 AM-3 PM
 Thursday 9 AM-Noon
 Friday Closed

St. John's Episcopal Church VOLUNTEER CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

Responsibility	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25
Christian Formation with Nursery	K. Conner	K. Conner	K. Conner	K. Conner	—	K. Conner	K. Conner	K. Conner
0-3 yrs.	K. Conner	K. Conner	K. Conner	K. Conner	—	K. Conner	K. Conner	K. Conner
PreSchool-5 th gr.	<i>Jonah, The Backward Prophet</i>	<i>Paul's Discovery</i>	<i>The Flood & The Ark</i>	<i>The Great Family</i>	—	<i>The Exodus</i>	<i>The Ten Best Ways</i>	<i>The Ark & The Tent</i>
Storyteller	C. Pattarini	J.C. Confroy	D. Long	M.E. Cassada	—	C. Butterworth	M. Epps	Al. Peer
Doorkeeper	J.C. Confroy	D. Long	M.E. Cassada	C. Butterworth	—	M. Epps	Al. Peer	An. Lowe
Grades 6-12	T. Saunders	D. Martin	D. Pryor	T.Q. Martin	—	T. Saunders	D. Martin	D. Pryor
Adults	(Schedule in classroom)							
<u>9 a.m. Nursery with Helper</u>	K. Conner	K. Conner	K. Conner	K. Conner	—	K. Conner	K. Conner	K. Conner
<u>9 a.m. Lector*</u> (read lessons)	B. Gillis	J. Devine	M. Peer	C. Butterworth	C. Perkins	D. Martin	M. Mosby	M. Covington
<u>9 a.m. L.E.M.*</u> (chalice bearer)	S. Mosby	C. Perkins	Al. Peer	J. Devine	W. Bane	C. Butterworth	D. Strange	B. Granger
<u>Acolytes</u> – 1 st Server	J. Saunders	S. Pattarini	C. Redd	Au. Lowe	Z. Long	M Purvis	H. Saunders	I. Martin
2 nd Server	H. Saunders	I. Martin	N. Henderson	As. Peer	H. Long	M. Bane	J. Saunders	S. Pattarini
Acolyte-in-Training	A. Saunders	L. Redd	H. Parker	L. Parker	A. Saunders	L. Redd	H. Parker	L. Parker
<u>Children's Story</u>	T. Saunders	D. Martin	W. Bane	C. Butterworth	—	D. Martin	W. Bane	C. Butterworth

SUBSTITUTES

Godly Play Doorkeeper—Bill Confroy, Missy Henderson, Andrea Redd, Tammie Saunders;

6th grade – 12th grade—Phillip Saunders, Dana Long;

Lector—Charles McCormick, Helen Dunavant, Beth Robertson, Shelley Peace, Brenda Snead;

Chalice Bearer—Charles McCormick, Beth Robertson, Shelley Peace;

Children's Story—Peg Anderson;

Nursery 9:00 a.m.—Donna Strange, Andrea Redd