



Rejoice

June 2017

118 N. Washington St. ✪ Alexandria, VA 22314
www.HistoricChristChurch.org ✪ 703-549-1450

Strangers No More

By Marcia D'Arcangelo, Director,
New Neighbors ELL and Family Literacy
Program, Campagna Center

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...

(Matthew 25:35)

Strangers no more! Through God's grace they come to us. From far-away lands and in troubled times they arrive with hope, looking for friendship—and we welcome them. On Friday, May 5, New Neighbors celebrated the completion of English classes for the 2016-17 school year with 187 graduates! The Rev. Ann Gillespie gave the blessing, Dr. Tammy Mann, CEO of The Campagna Center, congratulated the students, and the teachers presented certificates to each of the students in the auditorium.

The New Neighbors ELL ministry at Christ Church started sixteen years ago and has grown to be stronger today than ever. Since 2001, this program has served more than 4,977 adult English language learners and 2,028 of their children in the child care classes.

New Neighbors does much more than teach English. Our story can best be told by the students themselves. Here is an excerpt of what New Neighbors means to Aziza, the student who spoke at this year's graduation celebration:

"One of the biggest obstacles in my own life was a big one we all share: the English language. I had never studied English in my country, Morocco, and I never thought I would



need to speak English. I came to the United States because of love and marriage. I started in this program two years ago. They were wonderful years. I learned so much from the nicest people in the world. I know I don't speak fluently, but I am proud that I can now speak in complete sentences. This program helped me to spend wonderful time with others from all over the world. Thank you to all of the volunteer teachers, child care teachers, and Miss Marcia for Making New Neighbors a happy place where we students can make friends and work to reach our goals."

Recent student survey results illustrate the value of the New Neighbors ELL program to the students and to Alexandria as a whole:

- 87 percent of students improved their English skills and qualified to advance to the next higher class level.

- 87 percent also reported developing a greater sense of confidence, independence, and self-sufficiency in their daily lives.
- 73 percent reported that they feel less isolated and more comfortable engaging with community services, such as health and safety agencies.
- 66 percent of students reported that learning English in the New Neighbors ELL program significantly improved their quality of life.

This program is possible because of the generous support of Christ Church in the form of classroom space and facilities, the dedication of nearly 30 talented volunteers who teach and provide needed support to the students every day, and our partnership with The Campagna Center which is dedicated to its ongoing success.



Rejoice is the official monthly publication of Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia, an Episcopal church in the Diocese of Virginia.

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston
Thirteenth Bishop of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff
Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. (Ted) Gulick, Jr.
Assistant Bishop of Virginia

Vestry

Emily Bryan, Senior Warden

Dave Riggs, Junior Warden

Nancy Carson, Geoffrey Giovanetti,
Susan Hahn, Kelley Brooke Hostetler,

Steve Humphrey, Jim Lafley,

Betsy Powell, Anne Shine,

Sandra Thompson, Janet Zavrel

Treasurer, Ken Knapp

Bill Baker, Assistant Treasurer

Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons,
Rector

The Rev. Ann Gillespie,
Senior Associate Rector

The Rev. Heather VanDeventer,
Associate Rector

The Rev. Dr. Richard Jones
Parish Visitor

The Rev. Dr. Diane Murphy,
Priest Associate

Director of Music

M. Jason Abel

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith.

The *Rejoice* deadline is the third of the month preceding publication.

Please email proposed articles to mbracco@historicchristchurch.org.

Those accepted are subject to editing for length and content. Susan Hahn edits *Rejoice* while Craig Keith provides design and layout. Carol Donlan gives her time and talent as an advisor. Meredith Bracco is the staff liaison.



@historiccc



New and Traditional Gifts at The Gift Shop

Confirmations, Graduations, Weddings, Independence Day, Labor Day—those are among the reasons to party this summer. No matter which of the innumerable reasons summer serves up to celebrate, the Christ Church Gift Shop offers unique finds as well as savory party treats.

A popular new book now available at the shop, from the Historical Tours series, leads you on a walking tour of historic Alexandria. In this first book by Christ Church parishioner Frederick Knops, *Walk The Path of America's Founding Fathers* guides you through Alexandria, one of America's most important Colonial towns in the shadow of the nation's capital.

It includes a section on religious and cultural institutions, leading with Christ Church. Proceeds from sale of this book benefit Act for Alexandria in perpetuity, and the Christ Church Foundation is one of four beneficiaries.

To spice up your snacks selection at celebratory events, you can serve Fig Preserves for your health food friends, Jalapeno Pepper Jelly for the spicy food lovers, and Good & Evil Pickles for your conflicted guests at just \$4.00 to \$7.00. That's only a small sampling of the many jellies, sauces, spreads, dips, and Virginia specialties available in the Christ Church Gift Shop.

Proceeds from the Gift Shop benefit our outreach and mission ministries.



A New Season of Worship Brings Eucharist Enrichment to Christ Church

By *The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons*,
Rector

The Episcopal Church has so many great gifts to offer. Chief among them, in my opinion, is the richness of its liturgical tradition. Our Book of Common Prayer is a living document, constantly read and reread, loved and challenged. It has been revised repeatedly over several generations to meet the growing and changing needs of the church, sometimes to the delight of its users, and sometimes not.

While the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the main worship resource for our church, there are a handful of other sources from which the clergy can draw to plan our communal worship. This summer, after the Day of Pentecost on June 4, we will be using one of these supplemental sources in our 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. worship services for the duration of the summer. We will be using Eucharistic Prayer 2 from *Enriching Our Worship* (EOW). This form of the Eucharist



offers the same elements we hear in our Prayer Book forms, including the *Sursum Corda* (“The Lord be with you”), the Proper Preface (“For you are the source of light and life...”), Eucharistic Prayer, and fraction. The

words of the Eucharistic Prayer are different in this form, as is the prayer after Eucharist. EOW’s Eucharistic Prayer 2 offers words about God’s creation of the world and about our complicity in its fall. It celebrates Jesus’ birth and good works while he lived and reminds us of the circumstances surrounding his death.

Our BCP is full of everything we need to worship together in the Episcopal tradition. Choosing to try another form of the Eucharist helps to expand our hearts and minds to other ways of hearing these holy words and receiving this holy sacrament. Expanding our worship resources helps us better hear the depth and breadth of our tradition. I invite you as you worship with EOW Eucharistic Prayer 2 this summer that you listen carefully to how your heart and mind are reacting to these words. I invite you also to send thoughtful feedback to me, Ann and Heather about how you are feeling during this season of new words in worship.

Region IV Update June 2017

By *Emily R. Bryan*, Senior Warden

Geoff Giovanetti has served as the Region IV representative on the Board of the Children and Family Network Centers (CFNC) for 25 years, and is stepping down as his current term comes to a close in June.

CFNC was founded in 1984, with significant early support from Region IV and its churches. Today, it provides preschool education to 137 children in eight classrooms located in Alexandria’s communities with greatest need. In recognition of Region IV’s early commitment, a seat on CFNC’s board is reserved for a representative of Region IV.

Thank you, Geoff, for your representation of Region IV, your tireless advocacy and commitment to providing Alexandria preschoolers an outstanding start to their education!

From Cindi Bartol, Christ Church and Betsy Faga, Church of the Resurrection

Region IV has approved its Outreach Committee recommendations for 2017 budget support of the following outreach ministries: Children and Family Network Centers (\$100); Hunger Free Alexandria (\$200); Meade Memorial Bag Lunch Program (\$2,000); Refugee Ministry program (\$200); West End Lazarus Ministry (\$2,300); and Episcopal Young Adult Service Corps to show support for a young adult from St. Paul’s in his one-year international mission assignment in Costa Rica. It was recommended that Region IV encourage churches also support the Refugee Ministry with volunteer time.

From the Rev. David Crosby, Immanuel on the Hill

Collaborative efforts with other Episcopal churches or other denominations in Region IV

Christ Church, Grace Church, and Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill are working together to offer Vacation Bible

continued on page 8

Resurrection Affordable Housing Project Included In City Budget

By Nancy Carson, Vestry Member

In a big win for low-income families, the Alexandria City Council added \$4.3 million to its Fiscal Year 2018 budget adopted May 4 to initiate construction of 110 units for a major affordable housing project on the Church of the Resurrection property. A small new church will be part of the structure.

Housing advocates led by the

Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance and members of the faith community including Christ Church worked hard for this decision over three years. They wrote a letter to Council detailing how much money is going to help people stay in their homes, and what a strain this is. The community turned out in force at budget hearings. They wrote individually to members of the City Council. The housing money was not included in the original budget; and without these funds the project could not qualify for

the tax credits and assistance necessary for funding. The apartments are a bargain for the City of Alexandria because Church of the Resurrection is contributing the land.

Budget demands are extremely high this year, reflecting increased school and Metro costs, as well as declining revenues. The Council made a decision to fund the project over much opposition to higher taxes. Please thank members of Council, and look forward to continued reports on the Resurrection project.

Rites of Passage

BIRTHS

- Liv Eleanor Reinprecht, daughter to Sarah and Steve Reinprecht and granddaughter to Laura and Steve Humphrey
- Elizabeth Joyner Byrd, daughter to Kate and Drew Byrd and granddaughter to Betsy and Tom Hahn

DEATHS

- Evelyn Rentchler
- Dr. Kazuko Price
- Bishop Bob Hibbs
- Norah Murphy
- John Poteat
- Joan Hutton Landis
- Kyle Milliken
- Jordan Edwards
- Betty Manning
- Joan Landis
- Ray Mims Sr
- Susanne Harvey
- Margaret "Peg" Dudar
- Andrea Zihar
- Aynessa Alexis
- Paul Colarulli
- Richard Collins
- Ruth Ferguson Hooke

WEDDINGS

- Lilian Lipton & Daniel Lowrey
- Miranda Bond & Robert Melvin

Thank you Barry Stauffer!



JAYNE OSGOOD PHOTO

Barry and Maggie at Wreaths Across America.

By Emily R. Bryan, Senior Warden

After six years of sterling leadership of the Properties Committee, Barry Stauffer is retiring as committee chair. Barry's impact on our campus is evident almost everywhere you look.

Barry's stewardship of our properties goes beyond the ordinary upkeep of the church grounds and buildings. In surveying our needs, Barry was struck by the poor condition of the Wilkes Street cemetery. He recruited volunteers from the church and the surrounding neighborhood, and with a committed team of volunteers was

able, over time, to expand the clean up to three neighboring cemeteries twice a year. He also leads a group in participating in Wreaths Across America at the Alexandria National Cemetery each December.

There is no way to recognize Barry's time on properties without mentioning his leadership of the HVAC campaign. He oversaw the research, development, and installation of the HVAC system with a steady hand and creative approach. Each time I feel the cool air in the historic church, I am reminded that Barry's leadership, and the generosity of members of the parish, will benefit parishioners for years to come.

In addition to these major projects, Barry oversaw the replacement of the church's slate roof, renovation of the Memorial Parish hall offices, restoration of the church steeple, the addition of the handicap walkway into the Meade Room, and countless other projects.

Barry's leadership of the Christ Church properties committee for the last six years has truly been remarkable. Please take a moment to say "thank you" to Barry in person!

I Believe I am So Called

Matt Welsch is the Director of Children's Ministry at Christ Church Alexandria and a postulant for Holy Orders. He is a native of Rochester, New York and lives in Washington, DC with his husband, Joel Meltzer, and their dog Annie.

I am delighted to announce that the Right Reverend Edwin F. Gulick Jr. has admitted me as a postulant for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. I have formally started a period of preparation alongside Bishop Gulick leading, God willing, towards ordination to the priesthood.

As many of you know, I have been discerning a call to the priesthood for many years. When I came to Christ Church in 2015, I had already completed seminary before spending two years teaching at a charter school in Washington, DC. Being here has allowed me to weave seemingly disparate threads together: my love of God, sense of call, theological training, experience in education, and passion for social justice.



I firmly believe God is calling me to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ and to foster communities of radical welcome. In particular, Bishop Gulick has charged me to reflect upon how my experiences have prepared me to help lead communities dedicated to undoing systems of injustice in the name of Christ.

Postulants are typically sent to seminary to begin their formal theological

training. Because I have already finished seminary and completed many of the other requirements for ordination, Bishop Gulick is asking me to spend the next year deepening and expanding my ministry here at Christ Church.

I am thrilled to be living into this call and walking this path alongside the Bishop and all of you. I am deeply grateful to the members of my Parish Discernment Committee, who spent several months praying, listening, and asking me thoughtful questions to help me discern whether this was the right time and place to pursue my call to ordination. I am also appreciative of the Vestry's statement of support in recommending me to the Bishop and the Committee on Priesthood.

So many of you have offered prayers, words of encouragement, and occasional words of redirection. I would humbly ask you to keep it up! I believe wholeheartedly that Holy Spirit has led me to this time, this place, and all of you. I can't wait to see where She takes us next.

Special Guest Choirs in June

During the month of June we will have a few choirs making their way through Christ Church. On Monday, June 12, the Youth Choir from Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church in Richardson, TX will sing a free concert at noon in the church. On June 25, at the 10:00 a.m. service, we will be joined by the Raleigh Boychoir from North Carolina. Later that afternoon, at the 5:00 p.m. service, the Youth Choir from First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge, TN will sing a number of selections. We are blessed to have these visiting ensembles sing here at Christ Church!



Fast. Pray. Love.: A Campaign for Such a Time

By Santiago Rodriguez, Youth Minister

There's a wonderful book published a few years ago entitled *Eat. Pray. Love.*," Presiding Bishop Michael Curry told us recently via video. "I want to invite you to fast, pray, and love by advocating for those who have nobody to advocate for them." Bishop Curry and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) are calling on each of us to join the campaign, *For Such a Time as This: A Call to Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy* (#ForSuchATime.) The campaign invites us to fast on the 21st of each month through December 2018, at which time the 115th Congress will conclude.

"We fast the 21st of each month because by that date each month, 90 percent of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly food stamp) benefits run out for families," Bishop Curry continues. "This means that the last week of the month is usually the hungriest week in America."

Bishop Curry invites all Episcopalians to make the fast our own. "Join us advocating in a variety of ways for the poor, for those who need public assistance, for our children who are the main beneficiaries of most of the forms

of the assistance that our government provides."

How do we participate? Christ Church will provide many opportunities for prayer, fasting, and advocacy on behalf of those in need. Watch for announcements around the third week of each month.

Fast: Enter this practice prayerfully. Fasting from food is one option that many will choose. Fast from a single meal on the 21st and donate the money you saved on food. Fast from solid food or a type of food. Fast from technology, social media, or television.

Pray: Spend time praying for those in need. Pray that God will open our minds and hearts. Pray that God will make us instruments of compassion and care.

Love: Support the Lazarus ministry to provide hope and help to people in the City of Alexandria. Advocate for those in need. Oppose cuts to public programs that help hungry people living in poverty. Contact your members of Congress (write letters, call, set up a meeting). Make financial offerings to support advocacy on days of fasting.

For Bishop Curry, this campaign is an opportunity "to join with Christians and with other people of good will to help our government to reflect the best of the American spirit." Join us.

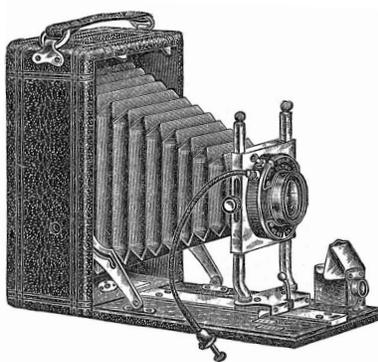
Where Do You See God?

By Susan L. Hahn for the Communications Committee

The Communications Committee invites parishioners of all ages the opportunity to creatively share your answer to this question: Where Do You See God? We will share your submissions on Welcome Sunday!

This theme is in alignment with Bishop Michael Curry's call to The Episcopal Branch of The Jesus Movement. You may read about that here: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/jesus-movement>.

Typically, we all have the chance to do things differently in the summer than in the rest of the year. This may include travel for vacation or mission opportunities, participating in Vacation Bible School, going to Shrine Mont, or being in community with



neighbors for summer social and service opportunities. But it could even be a simple trip to the grocery store, a walk around your neighborhood, an afternoon at the local swimming pool, playing tourist in your home town, that affords an unexpected moment. Wherever you go, you're quite likely to see God living in your daily life.

Take a picture that illustrates where you see Him, and email it to christchurchalexandria@gmail.com by August 21. If you already have a photo taken since June 1 of 2016 that you realize fits this theme, you may submit that. Your photo must be a clear, high resolution photo. Use "original size" as the option when sending via smartphone.

Please also include your name and a written caption or brief explanation with your submission to explain where you saw God. We will display your submissions during Welcome Sunday festivities, September 10, in the Meade Room. We may use some of your submissions in printed or digital publications throughout the rest of the year!

Confirmation: An Invitation to Live Out Our Baptismal Covenant

By Santiago Rodriguez, Youth Minister

On Sunday, June 4, the Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff will join us for baptism, reception, reaffirmation, and confirmation. During the 10:00 a.m. service, eleven of our youth will be confirmed: Rachel Adenan, Annie Bacon, Jamie Grimes, Thomas Haymes, Madeleine Quill, Cate Ross, Emma Ross, Julia St. John, Michael Viani, Emma Waldhoff, and Brendan Wommack. On that morning, Bishop Susan will lay hands upon each candidate and pray for the Holy Spirit to “empower her for your service” and to “sustain him all the days of his life.”

The journey that brings our youth to that moment of grace began many moons ago. Before the first confirmation class. Before they attended their first day of Sunday School. It began at their baptism or perhaps at the very moment their parents decided to transmit their faith to their children.

Confirmation happens in the context of robust, lifelong Christian formation. Dr. Lisa Kimball, Director of the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at the Virginia Theological Seminary, and a steering team member of the Confirmation Project, sees confirmation as a journey of “faith intensification.” Confirmation preparation is a program for development of faith. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus anew and to ask him to increase our faith, hope, and love. It is a time for teens to examine their lives and to discover



the ways they can actively engage in living out their baptismal covenant.

Commitment to Christian living and ministry are at the heart of the confirmation program at Christ Church. Fueled by donut holes and laughter, our youth talked, asked questions, and probed their lives. They explored the implications of Christian faith for the challenges they face today. They began to discern the ways God is calling them to ministry—to do God’s work in the world.

Confirmation is a rite of renewal of faith and an invitation to live faith in daily life. The journey of confirmation is a way for the candidate to figure out what it means to be an Episcopalian—to make sense of what it means to be a Christian in the world we live. For

young people to decide they want to be confirmed is about recognizing that God has been working in their lives.

They want to mark that by standing up in the midst of the congregation and having the bishop lay hands on them. It is a way to profess their faith and to celebrate the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The rite of confirmation will be a celebration of the faith journey of each one of our candidates. It will also be a moment of grace for the entire Christ Church community—a moment to recommit ourselves to live out the baptismal covenant and to transmit a living faith to our children, our youth, to one another, and to the people we meet in daily life.

Region IV continued from page 3

School (VBS) June 25–30.

The Rectors of Christ Church and Meade Church will do Pulpit Exchange first Sunday, in August, 2017. Fr. Colin Asonye will celebrate and preach in all the services at Christ Church and The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons will do the same at Meade. They will also have the opportunity to lead the Adult Forum to discuss topics of importance to both congregations.

Church of the Resurrection: With a lot of help from others, our food pantries are meeting a great need. The people of the West End have been blessed by the incredible outpouring of help for the West End Lazarus Food Pantry in the form of food, money, and volunteer help from the other City of Alexandria Churches—especially

from almost all of the other seven Region IV Churches (including Christ Church). In the 28 weeks this food pantry has been operating, we collectively have fed 2,047 people in 614 families. We also have been giving away women’s hygiene products provided in great quantity by the students at Virginia Theological Seminary, and toilet paper. Many organizations and businesses in the City of Alexandria donated their employees’ time and their resources to create a community vegetable garden where our school playground used to be (we donated the playground equipment to the family housing area at the seminary). We are also very happy we are now able to use the Capital Area Food Bank.