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The Clergy and Staff are grateful to God for all he has done in sending His Son, and for the way He has continued to guide and direct our church.

We wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas season and a blessed New Year!

A WORD FROM PAUL WALKER

“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” - Matthew 16:24-25

Jesus describes the two realities of human existence (and ultimately there are only two): trust in yourself and suffer eternal loss, or trust in God and gain eternal life. In these potent, descriptive verses, Jesus calls a thing what it is.

“For whoever would save his life will lose it.” Trusting in yourself, worshipping yourself, saving and securing your own life may very well gain you the trappings of success in this world. But in all cases, without exception, it will lead to your own destruction.

The inevitable end of trusting yourself is illustrated in the Roman version of the Narcissus myth. One day while hunting, the handsome and thirsty Narcissus bent down to drink from a stream. He saw his own reflection and fell in love with it. As he bent down to kiss the image in the water, it seemed to run away. Narcissus was heartbroken. He grew thirstier and thirstier, but he wouldn't drink for fear of damaging his own beautiful image. He eventually died of thirst and self-love, staring at his own reflection.

Bob Dylan, commenting on Narcissus, sings, *“Now he worships at an altar of a stagnant pool / And when he sees his reflection, he's fulfilled.”* Narcissus may have been thrilled and fulfilled as he gazed at his brief and ephemeral reflection. But in the end, Narcissus died because he could only love his image at the expense of himself.

“But whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Trusting in Jesus may very well lead to physical death in this world and will always lead to death of your own petty and narcissistic hopes and dreams and ambitions. This is what Jesus means when he tells us to take up our cross and follow him. Following him can mean nothing else but death to self.

But, death to self is a good thing, isn't it? Death to all that is greedy and addicted and lustful and jealous and sardonic. Do you really want to go on living with those hateful monkeys on your back? Do you really like their incessant chatter in your ear and their pointed nails in your back?

There is pain involved in the removal of the monkeys, because there is always pain in death. And yet, there is also your new life; there is your *found* or *saved* life. Trusting in Jesus means trusting in the one who has taken the monkeys with their teeth and claws off your back and placed them on His own. He has taken them to the cross to die with Him.

When the day is finally done, trusting in Jesus, in the words of Flannery O'Connor, means, *“the life you save may be your own.”*

Ever,
Paul

New Adult Sunday School Class

The Rev. David A. Johnson

Beginning Sunday morning, January 18, I'm teaching a six-week class on Holy Communion as our adult Sunday School class, 10:10-10:50 in the Gibson Room. Here's what we'll cover each week:

- 1/18 Holy Communion in Scripture
- 1/25 Holy Communion in the Early Church
- 2/1 Holy Communion in the 1549 and 1552 English Prayer Books
- 2/8 The Theology of Rite One, Eucharistic Prayer I (BCP 333-340, used most often at the 7:45 and 11:00 Sunday services of Christ Church)
- 2/15 The Theology of Rite Two, Eucharistic Prayer A (BCP 361-366, used most often at the 9:00 Sunday services of Christ Church)
- 2/22 Gratitude, Humility, and Faith at Holy Communion

Each week I'll have a handout that you can have as a resource, or if you miss a week or two you can see what we covered. I hope you'll join us.

Dave

The Uncreated Light

January 18—March 8, 2008

Sundays, 8:45—9:45 am

Donovan Room

Throughout the Bible, light is used to signify the presence of the holy. It alerts us to what is extraordinary and beyond words. The Eastern Orthodox refer to God as the Uncreated Light, existing forever, with no beginning or end. It is this mysterious form of light that glows throughout Scripture, from the opening of Genesis to the closing of Revelation.

Appropriate for Epiphany, the season of light, a new study on this subject begins in January. It will follow the progression of the special Godly light through the history and prophecy of the Old Testament into the Messiah light that illuminates the New.

Erin Wells

Overview of Adult Christian Education

The Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

There are lots of wonderful things happening at Christ Church and with the start of the New Year I would like to draw your attention to some regarding "Christian Education." First, our Adult Education classes on Sunday mornings (10-11 am) have been a blast. We will have a class on "New Year Resolutions and Jesus" (Jan 4 and 11) and then Dave will teach a 6-week series on "Holy Communion" (see opposite). This class promises to be an amazing opportunity as Dave is writing his thesis on an Evangelical-Anglican approach to Holy Communion. Adult Ed will end the Spring with two classes taught by all three clergy on "The 39 Articles of Faith" and "The Resurrection."

In addition to these Sunday morning classes, adult confirmation classes beginning on Wednesday evenings in March. We will cover all the central beliefs of the Christian faith and the Episcopal tradition. This will be taught by all three clergy and will be fun and informative. There will be more details to come on that later.

Finally, on Tuesday evenings (Jan 27-May19) from 7:30-9:30, I am teaching a theology class at Christ Church called "God and Scripture." This is a seminary course for Reformed Theological Seminary, but since Christ Church is the host church, all parishioners are invited to audit the course for FREE.

Our goal in all this is so that we may "know God's grace in all its truth" (Colossians 1:6).

Blessings,
Justin

The Angel Tree

Christmas program was a wonderful success this year as Christ Church provided 36 children of incarcerated parents with presents and a party in their honor. Big thanks to all who donated presents, grocery store gift cards, and their time with volunteering at the party.



2009 Youth Confirmation Class Schedule

This Youth Confirmation Class is for current 8th graders and high school students at Christ Church who would like to be confirmed. Classes will be held at the Magruder House (across the street from Christ Church) from 10:10-10:50 on Sunday mornings. We will cover some basics of Christian belief, including a phrase by phrase look at the Apostles Creed. Each class will be taught by Paul Walker, Dave Johnson, or Justin Holcomb. As indicated below, in addition to our Sunday morning classes, we will have some additional events as well. To register, simply email Dave Johnson: dave@christchurchville.org.

- Sun. 1/11** Class 1: What is a Christian?
Sat. 1/17 PACEM at Wesley United Methodist Church (details TBA)
Sun. 1/18 Class 2: The Grace of God
Sun. 1/25 Class 3: The Old Testament
Sun. 2/1 Class 4: The New Testament
Sun. 2/8 Class 5: The Lord's Prayer
Sun. 2/15 Class 6: The Book of Common Prayer
Sun. 2/22 Class 7: The Sacraments and the Church Calendar
Sun. 3/1 Class 8: "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth"
Fri. 3/6-7 Overnight Retreat at Wintergreen
Sun. 3/8 Class 9: "I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary"
Sun. 3/15 Class 10: "He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried"
Sun. 3/22 Class 11: "He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He will come again to judge the living and the dead"
Sun. 3/29 Class 12: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins"
Sun. 4/5 & (no class—Palm Sunday and
Sun. 4/12 Easter Sunday)
Sun. 4/19 Class 13: "the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting"
Sat. 4/25 Confirmation Dinner (6:00 in Meade Hall)
Sun. 4/26 Confirmation with The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, Suffragan Bishop of Virginia

Prayer Requests

Pray for your fellow parishioners: Louise Taylor, Kay Orrick, Frank Thomasson, Wally Tymoff, Ruth & Emma Snyder, Helen Wick, John Dodge, John Chappell, William Muller, Woody Woodruff, Denise Fisher, Sophia Bass.

Pray for friends and relatives of parishioners: (Unless requested, remain on list for 1 month.)

Judy Taylor (Tricia Witherow's mother), Genny & Tim Sutko (Marcy Hooker's niece & brother), Tim Turner (Judy Drayer's nephew), Hazel King (Caroline Wilhelm's mother).

Pray for expectant parents: Lindsey & Justin Holcomb.

Pray for our leaders: George, our President; Barrack, our President-Elect; Tim, our Governor and David, the Mayor of our city.

Pray for those on the Active Duty list: Ensign Matthew Warnecke, U.S. Navy (Karen & John Warnecke's son); Jason Morris and Ed Ledford (sons-in-law of Eugene & Lanier Bogen).

Pray for the bereaved: Ron Hutchinson, Georgia Davidson, Betsy Boswell, Sophia Bass, Ellen Hathaway, Diane Cole, Franzén family, Davies family, Gladys Harris, Wootten family, Ruthana Jenkins, the Lucas family, the Simeone family, Sara Daniels' family, the Kennan family, Tom Harrison, Melville Krebs, Bo Campbell, Gerry Iannelli, Deborah McAndrews.

Please make your requests for prayer known to us: 100 W. Jefferson St. / Charlottesville, VA 22902;

Phone: 293-2347; Email: cec@christchurchville.org



Wednesdays at Christ Church

Evening Prayer

Eucharist with Healing

Westminster Canterbury Eucharist

Every Wed.; 5:30 p.m.

First Wed. of the month; 10 a.m.

Last Wed. of the month; 11:15 a.m.

Mission and Outreach News:

Abundant Life update

Christ Church has a long history of cooperation with Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries, including volunteers and financial support. A recent article in the Abundant Life newsletter explains one of their youth ministries and highlights the ongoing collaboration of one of our parishioners working from overseas! For more information visit www.charlottesvilleabundantlife.org.

Our thanks to the Abundant Life staff for sharing this article with us.

“Who are we?” “Five-Eight!”

By Dylan Rosenthal

“I CAN’T HEAR YOU!” “5/8!”

“ONE MORE TIME!” “5/8!”

“Just in case you didn’t know.”

With this chant the 5/8 Club (5th through 8th grade boys) kicked off its seventh year of weekly meetings this fall. The chant has become a 5/8 tradition whenever someone – child or adult – attends for the first time.

Though the participants have changed over the years, what has not changed is the goal of the 5/8 Club to raise up respectful, responsible, caring young men of God. Our strategy is a highly structured, fun, after-school program with high standards of attendance, behavior, and participation. Plus there are rewards for those who meet those standards, like eligibility to play on the club’s YMCA basketball teams, and cool field trips.

Each meeting includes the basic components of: snack, icebreaker, teaching, activity, and dinner. Variety comes, from week to week, during the teaching and activity times, i.e. the curriculum. Over the years the curriculum has addressed soft skills like self-confidence, service, and leadership; hard skills like photography, writing/recording songs, learning to play guitar, and designing a website; and life skills like handling peer pressure and avoiding drug and alcohol abuse.

Currently, the 5/8 curriculum includes a monthly Bible study, small group discussion and prayer time, and a team competition around the Bible lesson. The boys are divided into small groups by grade, with each volunteer leader assigned to one group. Small group leaders have responsibilities outside of club time. For example they try to make contact with parents, and have their small groups over for dinner once a month. This gives time for mentoring

relationships to form.

This fall, the 5/8 Club is missing one of its most-beloved and longest-serving volunteers, Brett Ferrell. Brett, a former Abundant Life employee who graduated from UVA in May, is traveling through the Middle East on a Christian pilgrimage. And while his absence is felt by both boys and leaders, it has created an opportunity. Brett was always one to share his life with the boys-- he even invited them to his graduation party! Now he is sending pictures and videos electronically of his journey for the boys’ education and enjoyment.

Each month, Mark Turlington communicates with Brett about the biblically significant locations he’s visiting and then plans a Bible study. While Mark teaches, Mike Hoovler projects Brett’s images and videos onto the wall. And once a month, the boys do a conference call with Brett where they can hear from him directly and ask him questions about the Holy Land. Sites the boys will learn about include Mount Nebo, where God showed Moses the Promised Land; Bethany beyond the Jordan, the site of Jesus’ baptism; and Mount Sinai, where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

We hope seeing the pictures and videos and interacting with Brett will engage the boys with their faith in a new and exciting way. We also hope 5/8 members will be inspired to give back to their community-- like Bryan Cornejo, an 11th grader and 5/8 alum who is serving as a volunteer leader this fall. Please pray for Brett’s health and safety, and that God would use the 5/8 Club to positively impact the lives of its members and the community.



Christ Church Tutors—Thank You!

This fall, several dedicated Christ Church parishioners tutored second graders from Clark Elementary School at the Friendship Court Community Center. Friendship Court is a public housing neighborhood a few blocks from our church, and the second graders involved were part of an after school program called FOCUSED. Volunteer tutors worked with these students and two instructional aides from Clark every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons. Tutors met students at the Community Center and spent an hour and fifteen minutes working with the pupils to complete homework as well as enhance reading and math skills. Students and tutors also had time to play educational games on the Center's computers. James Pierce, principal of Clark Elementary had this to say about the collaboration between his school and Christ Church:

“We have seen tremendous gains with our FOCUSED students in the second grade after school program. We have a higher rate of completed homework, which teachers and parents appreciate. Also, the relationships that the tutors have formed with the second graders continue to deepen. Overall, partnering with Christ Episcopal Church has been a success. We look forward to enhancing the relationship between the church and Clark School into the next semester.”

Many thanks to the following parishioners who gave of their time and talent to ensure the success of this initial effort: Beverly Wispelway, Clair Robison, Danielle Donovan, Erin Wispelway, Ginger Mayfield, Jacquelyn DuVall, Judy Drayer, Kathy Brust, Lydia Davis, Pat Dwiggin, and Wilson Oswald.

Volunteers are currently being recruited to tutor second semester. Three or four adults are needed each Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Please prayerfully consider whether you can spare an hour and a quarter once a week in this ministry to our downtown neighbors. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Proal Heartwell at 295-6932 or pheartwell@villageschool.us.

See photos next column. Proof that one picture really is worth a thousand words!



Christ Church Tutor:
Vestry Member
Clair Robison



Christ Church Tutor:
5 o'clocker
Erin Wispelway

PACEM

One of my favorite parts of our Episcopalian liturgy is that, at the close of the service, after we've greeted one another, asked for and been granted forgiveness, and taken communion, we pray,



“Now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.”

Come January 10-23, we at Christ Church have a special opportunity to do just that as we partner with Wesley Memorial United Methodist to host two weeks of the PACEM men's homeless shelter. We need about 60 volunteers to help with staying overnight, making and serving food, doing laundry, and just visiting with PACEM's guests.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please get in touch with:

Maureen Scott (MMSCOTT89@aol.com) or Terri Taylor (509.5107; taylor.terri@gmail.com).

JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Days Off: Monday—Liz Edrington, Friday—Paul Walker, Dave Johnson, Justin Holcomb</p>	<p>Bible Studies at Christ Church Tues. at 7:15 a.m.—Men's Bible Study in Meade Hall Thurs. at 9 a.m.—Women's Bible Study in the Gibson Room. resumes on January 15th.)</p>	<p>New Choir Rehearsal Time: Tuesdays 7:30 to 9 pm</p>	<p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	
<p>4 7:45 Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:10 Adult Education 11 Holy Eucharist Rite I 5 PM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>5 Dave Johnson out of office all week on Continuing Education</p>	<p>6 Noon Loaves & Fishes 4 Endowment Committee Meeting</p>	<p>7 5:30 Evening Prayer</p>	<p>8 Noon Loaves & Fishes Volunteer Luncheon</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Sunday School Resumes! 7:45 Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:10 Christian Education 11 Morning Prayer w/ Holy Eucharist 5 PM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Noon Loaves & Fishes 4 Executive Committee Meets</p>	<p>14 10 Shawl Ministry 5:30 Evening Prayer</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 2 PM Alison Iannelli Funeral Service</p>
<p>18 7:45 Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:10 Christian Education 11 Holy Eucharist Rite I 5 PM Holy Eucharist 6 PM Dinner</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Noon Loaves & Fishes Messenger Deadline 5:30 Vestry Meets</p>	<p>21 5:30 Evening Prayer</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Village School Concert Diocesan Council In Reston Virginia</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 7:45 Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:10 Christian Education 11 Morning Prayer w/ Holy Eucharist 5 PM Holy Eucharist 6 PM Dinner</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Noon Loaves & Fishes</p>	<p>28 10 Shawl Ministry Messenger Mailing 5:30 Evening Prayer</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Liz Edrington in Haiti. Returns on February 11.</p>	<p>31</p>

BREAKAWAY IS COMING!

It's everything you could want in a retreat: Frisbee golf, a hot tub, a zip line, a rock wall, pool, ping pong, delicious food, ridiculously beautiful scenery, volleyball, comfy beds, bball, snacks, soccer, Nertz, strange superhero-like funny dudes, great music, and time awaaayyyy...

Come one, come all!

February 13-16th!

Email me if you know you're coming and I'll save you a spot...
liz@christchurchville.org



WANTED: ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Good news: you were a teenager once, but not anymore. You've been there. You made it through. Now you're coming to Christ Church and thinking, 'How can I be connected to the community in a really amazing way?' Well, let me tell you: we have some pretty awesome kids here who would love to get to know you. Youth ministry goes beyond college leaders helping out with youth group; it is about connecting kids to the Body of Christ, the church, and that's you! There is something incredibly beautiful and powerful about adult Christians offering a bit of their time to kids in order to love and serve them. We get to seek Jesus together, asking questions together honestly, and hopefully loving each other (by the grace of God) in the meantime.

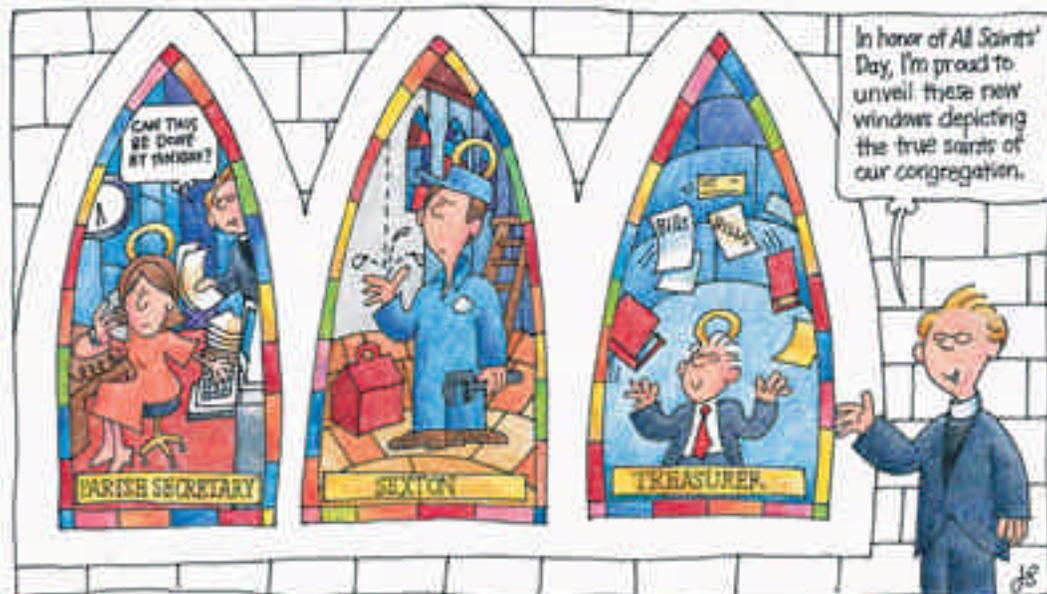
If any of this tugs at your heart in some way, or if you are at all interested in talking more about being involved with youth ministry, please let me know. It could be leading a small group, it could be mentoring a kid, it could be helping on events or trips; there is no box in which you must fit to be a youth volunteer. I am excited to see the Lord continue to grow this ministry, and I would be so glad to talk with you about how you might be involved. Please prayerfully consider it and let me know if you are interested...

many thanks! Liz

*liz@christchurchville.org 293.2347 ext. 103

Coming Up:
Jan. 17 – 3:15-
4:30pm M.S.
Broomball
Feb. 13-16 – All
Youth Winter
Retreat
(Breakaway)
Feb. 27-28 –
H.S. Ski
Retreat

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THE VESTRY

Harry Bowen,, Senior Warden
 John Warnecke, Junior Warden
 Kemp Hill, Register
 Dale Varga, Treasurer

Catherine Baritand

Rick Carter

Carol Craig

Mike Dickens

David Drayer

Bill Gordon

Kemp Hill

Hock Hockensmith

Donna Murray

Andrew O'Shaughnessy

Consi Palmer

Clair Robison

Lester Wilson

Vestry Contact info:

bowenb@msn.com

Honduras Mission Trip

I would like to invite you to join me in a mission adventure to Honduras (Feb 28-Mar 8, 2009). Our mission will be a combination of relational ministry with "Our Little Roses" and a work related mission in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. This past spring I was introduced to mission last year in an exciting and powerful experience.

Our Little Roses is a home for girls ages 1 - 21 who typically have endured various forms of abuse and deprivation that most people prefer not to think about. For most of these girls, sexual abuse, hunger, violence and homelessness are an accepted part of life until they are blessed to be given a home at Our Little Roses. I cannot tell you about all 70 to 80 girls there but I can tell you I was particularly touched by Iris and, her sister, Carolina. Iris and Carolina are now 7 and 11 years old. Up until a year ago, they had spent the last 4 years living on the street. Iris was living on the street at age 3! When I met them, Iris and Carolina had been living at Our Little Roses for approximately 6 months. There were times when Iris was smiling, jovial and engaged in her surroundings. Then without a moment's notice or warning, you could catch a look of melancholy on her face that showed she was far away in deep thought. No doubt she was remembering some of her experiences that she would prefer to forget. It is impossible for me to think of these moments and not be moved to tears.

Speaking personally, I have **NEVER ENJOYED AN EXPERIENCE AS MUCH AS MY MISSION TO HONDURAS THIS PAST SPRING**, with the possible exception of helping create and raise three awesome kids, now young adults. My Honduras experience moved me spiritually and emotionally as never before. Please email me if you are interested in this opportunity. You will receive infinitely more than you will give and you will be changed forever.

Blessings,

Cleve Brannock (clevebrannock@msn.com)