

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

# AIDAN'S AGAPE

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2010

EPIPHANY - LENT

"The Little Church with the Big Heart"

From the Rector

## Forming Christians, Building the Church

During the cottage meetings about stewardship I had the opportunity to talk with many of you about this parish and our hopes and dreams. We spoke of the desire, the call from God to expand in two areas, Christian Formation and outreach. I want to spend a few moments in this article with the area of Christian Formation.

I am focusing on the concept of Christian Formation rather than the term Sunday School. Sunday School to many people means children and just that, Sunday. At the 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church adopted a call to develop programs for lifelong learning and development of disciples. This is a focus on forming Christians rather than just educating people. There is a difference between education and formation. Education focuses on the head and formation focuses on both the head and the heart. The call from the national church is for formation of all ages, not just our children. We have a good program on Sunday that includes classes for adults as well as children and youth. We have an outstanding Education for Ministry program that has two groups, one on Thursday evening and one on Friday morning. However EfM is a huge time commitment. Many have asked for something more than Sunday, but not as involved as EfM. Over the next few months I want to make a very intentional effort to explore what that something else will look like. I plan to put together a Christian Formation Commission to explore programming and ideas that will help us as a parish do a better job of meeting the call for more effective Christian Formation. To do that, I will need your help. I am looking for people willing to join the commission and I am also looking for ideas. What are Christian Formation programs what would be of interest to you?

Ideas I have heard range from Popcorn theology (a night of watching a movie and then having a discussion) to a quiet retreat at Chanco. There are plans of a quiet day of meditation and reflection here at St. Aidan's for Lent (in March) as well as a Sunday evening program during Lent. We started a book club late last year that fizzled, but I'm always willing to try again. Old Donation has a group that meets at a pub one night a month for dinner and discussion. I am willing to try that as well. I have had a couple people mention a parenting group, especially one that deals with blended families. Not everything we try will be a huge success, but that is ok. If we do not try something new, we will never know if it will work. Remember the seven deadly words, "We've never done it that way before," have stifled more innovation than any other sentence.

So what are your ideas? What do you need to develop your life as a Christian?

Mark+

## Lenten programs

I am writing this over a week before Christmas, so it doesn't seem possible that it is time to plan for Lent, but this newsletter covers through February. We will once again have a series of programs on Sunday evenings during Lent. The evening will begin with Evening Prayer followed by dinner and a program. This will run for the first four Sunday's of Lent. The fifth Sunday of Lent (March 21) will be our evening to host the Little Neck Churches Lenten series. We will have an Evensong Service and Dinner. A possible topic for the series is an in depth look at the writings of St. Paul and an examination of what he really says about women. Watch the Friday E-news and the Sunday bulletin for more details.

## Where's Wendy?

Some of you have asked me about when we will be seeing Wendy back at St. Aidan's. Last year when classes at Christopher Newport University ended, Wendy was back with us for a few weeks in December and early January. The same thing happened at spring break and over the summer.

One very important change occurred in her life this fall. The Commission on Ministry and the Bishop, approved Wendy to become a Postulant for Holy Orders early this fall. This is the first step in becoming ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. This is a source of great joy for both of us. However as a postulant, she must be sponsored by a parish, and the rector of that parish cannot be the postulant's spouse. So St. Stephen's is going to be her sponsoring parish and the Rev. Scott Baker is her sponsoring rector.

She has been asked to engage in some additional activities at St. Stephen's as part of her formation as a priest. The sponsoring rector must submit evaluations of her work and progress during this coming year to the Commission on Ministry. As you can imagine, having your husband as your supervisor and evaluator for the Commission on Ministry is not a good idea. In fact the canons do not allow for it.

This means that while we will see Wendy for social gatherings, retreats and some Christian Formation programs, we will not see her on Sunday mornings. Know that this absence though is part of the preparation for the day when we can celebrate her ordination as a priest.

### ST. AIDAN'S EPICOPAL CHURCH

3201 Edinburgh Dr.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Rt. Rev. Holly Hollerith *Bishop, Diocese of Southern Virginia*  
Rev. Mark D. Wilkinson *Rector*  
Nancy Newhams *Parish Secretary*  
Jamie Dougherty *Music Director*  
Kari Jacobs *Handbell Director*  
Dennis Farrell *Sexton*  
Sue Wells *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

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(after hours extensions )

1 = office 2 = rector 8 = Pastoral Care

### The Vestry

Edie Barnett	Fred Parkinson
Michael Canonica	Becky Rankin
Jeff Diamond	Don Ritter
Peggy Fanney	Beth Simeone
Becky McCallum	Susan Summerlin
Lynn Meadows	Mary Whittaker

Senior Warden:

Junior Warden:

Treasurer: Tom Summerlin

Register: Bill Waide

### Pastoral Care Associates

Peggy Fanney	Ed Smith
Jessie Greene	Sue Wells
Gwen Daniels	Connie Williams

## VESTRY 2010

Welcome to our new vestry members: Mike Canonica, Jeff Diamond, Peggy Fanney, Lynn Meadows, and Fred Parkinson (who will fill the unexpired term of Justin Rice)

Many thanks for three years of service to those going off the Vestry: Susan Boze, Tom Metz, Bill Dempsey and Sue Wells, as well as Justin Rice (see article below)

Thank you also to Barbara Duke, Shannon Gray and Carl Masulonis for being willing to allow their names to be placed in nomination.

## Goodbye and Godspeed Justin

By the time most of you read this, you will know that Justin Rice will be leaving us to begin a new job in Dahlgren Virginia. He will be working with a weapons testing group, and, from what he says, it sounds like a great opportunity to play with things that go boom.

While we are glad to know that he is embarking on a new career, the fact that we will no longer see him on a regular basis makes this a bittersweet moment.

Justin has given this parish many years of wonderful service. The most obvious hole to most of us is with his work in recent years with our EYC group, both at St. Aidan's and on the diocesan level. It will be a big challenge to fill his shoes in leadership for our youth.

Justin has also been an integral part of the Senior Choir and a regular substitute in the HandBell Choir and has worked with and trained the acolytes.

Many of you may not be aware of the many hours Justin has put in as Junior Warden over the last year. He has overseen some huge projects and spent many hours during the week dealing with everything from big problems to little issues. I will certainly miss his help during the week.

This of course also means we are looking for some new leadership for the youth group. Any volunteers out there????

## Parish Life – 2010

Let me first thank everyone who contributed, in so many ways, to the success of the events we all enjoyed throughout 2009. From that Congregational Dinner last February when we first met Ima Helper and saw our "newlyweds" faces turn red, to the Newcomer's Reception and Family Social in May, to the Progressive Pool Party and Dinner in July and September, to the outstanding fundraising Talent Show and Silent Auction in November, to last month's Home Mass, memories were made for those who attended.

And what about the Family Retreat in July, the Fall Fair in October, and the Women's Retreat in November? Don't these traditions fall under the "umbrella" that is Parish Life at St. Aidan's?

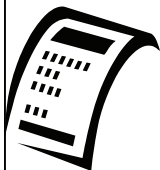
One of our goals for this New Year is to better define just that. We've gone into each of the past two years with an idea or two, and somehow people take charge and make it all happen. That's part of the beauty of our congregation. But it should (*hate that word!*) be better organized... and better defined.

If you are interested in helping us make that happen, please make yourself known to me. Call me at 427-7575 or email [dritter@cox.net](mailto:dritter@cox.net), and share your ideas and/or your willingness to work with us. Thank you. Blessings, Don Ritter

## Farm Fresh Receipts

Please remember to save your **FARM FRESH** receipts for the church. You can drop them by the office (put them under the door if locked) or place them in the alms basin on Sunday.

Last year we collected enough Farm Fresh receipts to purchase a white board easel for use in meetings and our various Christian Formation programs.



## Attention Holy Strollers! Relay for Life is Getting Organized Now

Are you interested in raising money for cancer research? Perhaps you love someone who has been diagnosed with cancer, or perhaps you are a cancer survivor yourself. Come be a part of St. Aidan's team at the American Cancer Society's **Relay For Life**, which will be held on **May 21-22, 2009** at the Little Creek Amphibious Base. Together we'll walk with thousands of other members of our communities (Virginia Beach and Norfolk are combining their Relays this year) in a fun and exciting event. Last year Relay raised over \$930,000, and their goal for 2010 is \$1,000,000!



Interested? You can learn more by checking out their website: [www.littlecreekrelay.org](http://www.littlecreekrelay.org). If you'd like to join St. Aidan's team, the Holy Strollers, please contact Jean Madden at [jbc523@cox.net](mailto:jbc523@cox.net) or 491-7886, or by calling the church office at 340-6459. We are looking for team members, and for people willing to take on leadership positions as well.

### A Message from Holy Cross Anglican School Sent through Nancy Smith & the ECW

Dear Friends,

The students and staff of Holy Cross Anglican School join me in wishing you a Blessed and Joyous Christmas Season and a Happy New Year! Your prayers, donations of school supplies and financial contributions have created Holy Cross and will help ensure that this ministry continues to grow and nurture the children of San Pedro throughout all of 2010. We often pray the words of St. Paul found in Philippians 1:6, "That the God who started this great work in you (Holy Cross Anglican School) would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears."

And speaking of 'great work', I wish each of you could have been with us for the Holy Cross Christmas Pageant held yesterday at the high school. Please try to imagine the excitement as hundreds of children sang like angels, danced with joy and joined in thanking their Heavenly Father for the precious gift of Jesus.

I'd like to share just one of the offerings - an original poem by Standard V sung to the "Twelve Days of Christmas" and dedicated to Holy Cross.....I think their words say it all - I just wish you could have heard their sweet voices and seen their smiling faces!!

*On the first day of Christmas, Holy Cross gave to me, a scholarship to high school;*

*On the second day of Christmas, Holy Cross gave to me 2 glasses of milk; 3 johnny cakes; 4 powder buns,  
5 plates of food!, .6 slices of melon; 7 dentists drilling; 8 volunteers; 9 computer lessons; 10 doctors helping;  
11 teachers teaching; 12 Christmas gifts!*

In this season of miracles we thank God for each of you, for the many blessings He has showered upon us all and for the ability he has given us to share with those in need. May your lives be filled to overflowing with God's love, peace and joy - this Sacred Season and throughout the coming year. In Christ, Francis

Please visit the School web site at [www.holycrossbelize.org](http://www.holycrossbelize.org) and the new Holy Cross Education Foundation site at [www.hcefoundation.org](http://www.hcefoundation.org)

Tax deductible donations to Holy Cross may be made through:

Holy Cross Education Foundation  
755 Corporate Way  
Eden Prairie, Mn 55344



### Coming Soon to a St. Aidan's Near You: Popcorn Theology

Now that the holidays are over, the days are shorter, and the nights are longer, perhaps a night out at the movies with a little stimulating discussion might be in order! Let's get together at church some cold winter evening for some popcorn and a movie, and then let's linger a bit to discuss the movie. After we discuss the film, we'll ask the question, "Where is God in the story?" More details to come...

**Reminder: "Quiet Bags" made & provided by the Craft Group hang just inside the door to the Sanctuary for use by children during the service.**

## St. Aidan's Prayer Chain Available by e-mail

Are you aware that St. Aidan's has a **Prayer Chain**? It serves the parishioners for those needing prayers for many reasons – illness, surgery, death of family member, job search – the list is endless. If you would like to have you or someone in your family added to the chain, please contact either Heather Tace, 463-1688 or [heatheritace@cox.net](mailto:heatheritace@cox.net), or Dodie Streit, 467-4273 or [dodie103@cox.net](mailto:dodie103@cox.net). Names will not be shared without permission. Also contact them if you would like to be added to those receiving this information.



## Shawl Group Continues Ministry; All are Welcome to Join



The Shawl Ministry is a group of women (tho not restricted to women) that meets monthly at 9:30 AM on the second Monday of the month to knit or crochet shawls. These shawls are given to people who need an extra "hug" for many reasons – illness, family crisis, new baby, etc. If you like to knit or crochet, or would like to learn, please join us on one of these Monday mornings. We would love to see you !!!

On the other Mondays, members of the group meet to work on individual and group needlework projects and always welcome new participants.

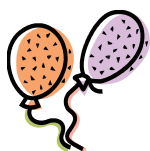
## LETTER OF THANKS TO ST. AIDAN'S

We would like to thank once again the members of St. Aidan's for their loving compassion in assisting our family for the funeral services held for our grandson Josiah Merrell, age 24, on November 16, 2009. We are ever grateful for their arranging the lovely reception in honor of his memory following the service. Special thanks go out to all who so graciously assisted in making it possible.

We also wish to thank those who sent their get well wishes and visited Betty during her recovery from multiple breaks of her pelvis sustained from a fall, as well as the many sympathy cards and calls following Josiah's untimely death.

May God bless you all as you keep our daughter Laura, her husband Joe, and their 15 year old son Chris in your prayers.

Betty and Bill Kennedy and family



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



01/02 Charles Clay  
01/02 Andrew Miller  
01/03 Joe Miller  
01/03 Susan Masulonis  
01/07 Alicia Brown  
01/07 William McCallum  
01/08 Peggy Kern

01/08 Matheau Villaluz  
01/09 Anne Fox  
01/09 Ann Glunt  
01/10 Jeannette Snyder  
01/11 Trent Patton  
01/14 Michael Summerlin  
01/15 Joseph A. Benson

01/15 Rodney Hudgins  
01/16 Lynn Coull  
01/19 Robert Schofield  
01/24 Mary Lou Miller  
01/24 Luther Williams  
01/25 William Bennis III  
01/25 Jennifer Stradsvold

01/26 Gregory Baisden  
01/28 James Timmons  
01/29 Julie Barr  
01/29 Stephen Summerlin  
01/31 Kasia Rice  
01/31 Barbara Ramer

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/02 Gregory Epps  
02/03 Susan Boze  
02/03 Nat Conway  
02/05 Doris S. Baer  
02/05 Jeanette Hamilton  
02/05 David Walters  
02/06 David Filz  
02/06 David Ventker  
02/07 Richard Baer  
02/07 Jessica DiNapoli  
02/08 Tatiana Brinkley

02/08 Christopher Epps  
02/08 Ryan Leach  
02/08 Jim Saunders  
02/10 Mark I. Harrison  
02/10 Lucille Siteman  
02/10 Fred Snyder  
02/11 Wes Byng  
02/11 Andy Hunter  
02/11 Maddox S Johnson  
02/11 Lisa Metcalfe  
02/11 Sabrina Waide

02/12 Serge Demchuk  
02/13 Elena Heckelman  
02/13 Wendy Wilkinson  
02/15 Chad Diamond  
02/15 Jessie Green  
02/15 Alex Sheard  
02/17 Jamie Dougherty  
02/17 Connie Williams  
02/18 Maxine Baer  
02/19 Peggy Fannery  
02/19 Robert Fentress

02/23 Bill Brown  
02/24 David Best  
02/24 Joan Brown  
02/25 William Jordan  
02/26 Susan Driskel  
02/26 Janet Hagerman  
02/26 Ginger Gray  
02/28 Fred Boze  
02/28 John Rice  
02/28 Beth Simeone  
02/29 Betty Armistead