



St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

# AIDAN'S AGAPE

MAY – JUNE 2011

EASTER

"The Little Church with the Big Heart"

## From the Rector

### The Challenges of a Transitional Size Parish

I have been rector here at St. Aidan's for a little over three years. That is one complete cycle through the three year lectionary and I have been looking back at some of the sermons I preached over my first year here. Something that has struck me is how much has changed in such a short time. There are many new faces in our family and many new families especially over the last year.

Our Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) has gone up from 140 to slightly over 160. Our youth have been on their first mission trip and are ready to go on their second one. We have added two Education for Ministry classes, two weekday bible studies revamped the food pantry, Outreach and any number of other ministries.

The challenge this presents is one that is common to a parish of our size. At an ASA of 160 people start to expect and want more programs and to see the parish run as a Program size parish. The desire is great, but the resources are a challenge. To truly be a Program size parish we need to be in the 200+ ASA range. That allows sufficient resources to hire the staff to lead the programs we all now want.

In the meantime incredibly dedicated volunteers try to do the work that paid staff do at larger parishes. This works for 12-18 months and then exhaustion sets in. We

are at the point in a couple of areas, the most notable is Christian Formation. Becky Rankin has done a phenomenal job running our Christian Formation programs, but is now at that burn out stage and needs a well deserved break.

I use the term formation rather than Sunday School because this is about forming Christians of all ages. The programs include adult, youth and children's ministries. Our new Wellness Center is part of all this.

Later in this newsletter Fred Parkinson the senior warden will write about the new committee that is forming to look at the mission and vision of St. Aidan's. This is important work and vital to the future of our parish. However the need to address concerns around Christian Formation are already obvious. No other single area came out with the level of interest and importance in our cottage meetings than this.

I am looking for three or four people who would be willing to work with me over the summer as a Christian Formation Commission. I am not necessarily asking you to teach a class, but help me to develop a management and support program for what we have that will support our teachers and provide a bridge to that time when we can afford to call a Christian Formation director.

Mark ✠

## The Rt. Rev. A. Heath Light will visit on June 5

We are pleased to have the Rt. Rev. Heath Light visit St. Aidan's for confirmation on Sunday June 5. Bishop Light is the retired bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. Bishop Light served the Diocese from 1979-1996. He was ordained in the Diocese of Southern Virginia by Bishop George Gunn

Bishop Hollerith regularly asks Bishop Light to make episcopal visits in our diocese when Holly is unable to make the regular visitation. Bishop Hollerith had planned to be with us on June 12, but was offered the opportunity to participate in a week long program at the Army War College. He is the first Episcopal bishop to be invited to do this in quite awhile and felt for the benefit of our diocese and the national church that he needed to accept.



Bishop Light graduated with a BA from Hampden-Sydney College and earned his Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary. He is married to Sarah Ann Light and his grandson Tray was president of the Canterbury Club at Christopher Newport University when Wendy started there as the chaplain for the club.

Bishop Light knows our diocese very well having served several churches in Southern Virginia including, St. Timothy's, Clarksville, St. John's, Chase City, St. James', Boydton, and Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk. Just last spring he did the confirmation services at Galilee in Virginia Beach.

The vestry has decided to stay with our normal schedule for the morning, but the bishop will speak to the congregation and our older youth during our normal Christian formation time of 9:30- 10:15 and will then celebrate and preach at the 10:30 service. I am encouraging as many of you to come to the 9:30 forum and then stay for the 10:30 service to hear the bishop. He is a gifted preacher and I hope you will support those youth and adults being confirmed and received. We may also have a baptism of a child of a family who has just joined the parish in the last few weeks. As this goes to press I am still working on those arrangements.

**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*  
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(after hours extensions )

1 = office 2 = rector 8 = Pastoral Care

*The Vestry*

Michael Canonica	Chuck Marks
Serge Demchuk	Carl Masulonis
Jeff Diamond	Sharon Metz
Barbara Duke	Fred Parkinson
Peggy Fanney	Beth Simeone
Shannon Gray	Susan Summerlin
Senior Warden: Fred Parkinson	
Junior Warden: Serge Demchuk	
Treasurer: Jerry Alley	
Register: Jane Bass	

*Pastoral Care Associates*

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

## Thoughts on keeping our facilities clean

I am grateful to Sharon Metz for taking on the special role of assistant junior warden. Sharon and I have been working closely with Dennis over the last few months to try to improve Dennis' ability to keep the building clean. With the new management for our Head Start program we have been re-inspected and certified for a day care center by the city. They are making more frequent visits to be sure that we comply with all standards, this is all fallout from the unfortunate departure of STOP as the managing company for Head Start.

I appreciate your bringing concerns to our attention but I do need to remind you all of a couple of things. Dennis is part of our worshipping community and when I was called to be your rector I was clearly told that his work with us is a part of our ministry. Dennis is not paid for Sunday mornings and does this work as a gift to the parish. He is often in on Saturday or outside of his normal hours all without extra compensation. Please keep that in mind when you ask him to do things on Sunday.

Secondly Sharon is giving countless hours and would appreciate being able to come to church on Sunday morning and worship. Please do not bombard her with criticisms and issues as she walks in the door to worship. We have a box in the parish hall for concerns or things that need to be fixed. Please write them down and drop them in the box. When Sunday morning becomes a complaint session for a volunteer it gets to the point where they wonder if they want to come to church.

If there is a critical issue on Sunday, please direct that to me. In the 10 minutes before church begins, unless the church is on fire, please hold the thought until after the service. That way I can focus preparing my own mind for the worship I am about to lead.

Mark+



### AC issues

We now have all of the air conditioning issues repaired at least until we get the money from the Kings Grant parking lot project. One problem we had on Easter was that people had closed down 4 of the 6 floor vents in the church. This severely limited the ability of our units to cool the church when it was full. If the draft from a vent is too cold, please move if at all possible to a different pew or slide towards the center rather than close the vent.

### Table Given in Memory of Frank Agnew

Thank you to Ann Agnew for the lovely table that now holds the pamphlets, etc. in the Narthex. Ann gave the table in memory of her husband Frank.

## DISCERNMENT KICKOFF

In February, the Vestry decided on whom to call to help facilitate the Discernment process. Mark and I split up the names, spoke to each potential member individually, and asked them to consider a call to the Committee. We had a great response, and at the March Vestry meeting we approved the following folks as members of the Discernment Committee (in no particular order): **Mark Buckner, Amelia Knight, Bill Dempsey, Edie Barnett, Ginger Gray, Scott Miller, and Nina Rodriguez.** In addition, **Mark Wilkinson** and **Peggy Fanney** will provide liaison with the Vestry. Rick Willis will continue as a consultant to the Committee.

On Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> we all met at Mark's house for an informal "get to know you" dinner, as we had called a wide cross-section of the parish and wanted the Committee members to become comfortable with each other before the work starts. At the April 26<sup>th</sup> Vestry meeting we devoted the first half-hour of the meeting to welcoming and charging the Committee members. They then split off for a short introductory meeting with Rick.

Next steps include a one day planning retreat at St. Aidan's on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>, and a public installation at the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. One of the first orders of

business for the new Committee is to draft their formal mission and vision statement, along with selecting a chairperson for their group. The Committee will then decide on how to go about soliciting input from the congregation through a variety of means, as well as an idea of what a timetable might look like.

We're very excited about getting this group off the ground, and look forward to participating in the process to discern just what God is saying to the people of St. Aidan's about our mission in the community. This isn't the corporate mission-and-vision check-the-boxes exercise you may be used to from your job – its developing the skills to listen to what God has in store for us. This will give us the skills and grounding to meet future challenges while still keeping God's focus at the center.

Please join the Vestry in welcoming our new Committee members. Reach out and share your thoughts with them. This process may spin off sub-committees for a variety of tasks, so indicate your willingness to serve directly to the Committee.

-Fred Parkinson, senior warden

## LET'S PARTY ON MAY 21ST!

"Family Time" will be the theme of this year's Newcomer's social, to be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday night, May 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 7 p.m. This will be a traditional "St. Aidan's Pot Luck" dinner, preceded by a special reception beginning at 6 for the newest members of our Church family. I'd like your help... so please read on!

We plan to have a slide show of as many "families" as I can gather electronically beforehand. Can you find me a recent picture? How about another one from days gone by?? Whether you are able to join us on the 21<sup>st</sup> or not, why not email me a pic or two and be "with us" in spirit? Please send them to [dritter@cox.net](mailto:dritter@cox.net) at your earliest convenience, with a "who's who" in the pictures for my reference.

Seriously?!? Imagine for a moment "The Newlywed Game." Now, instead of newlywed contestants, imagine the questions are geared toward a father and his daughter. Or a mom and her son. Or any other parent/child relationship! That's going to be one of our activities during the social, assuming you are willing to play with us! But we need you to "register" in advance. So again, please send me your names, and include the age of the "child" in the pair, and we'll reserve a place for you both. All contestants will have a blast, with prizes and laughs galore!

We'll have other games and musical entertainment for a thoroughly enjoyable evening, in the best tradition of a St. Aidan's party. Sign up on the poster, bring the kids, and let us know if you need babysitting. We want you to be there, and you *don't* want to miss it!

Thanks!

**Don Ritter**

## A Message from Angela Kellam of Seton Youth Shelters



Thank you to our dear friends at St. Aidan's! Your support and assistance is such a blessing to Seton Youth Shelters – you are always there to help us based on what we need. Sometimes it is a computer for our children to keep up with their homework, other times it is a meeting place for our volunteers to learn how to reach out to wary at-risk runaways, and most recently it was critically needed supplies that any home needs when there are many children to support – paper goods and towels.

The blessing is that every item and every occasion of support is wrapped in God's grace and love and reminds those of us ministering to troubled kids that his hand is on our work. Thank you for helping us know his love and support by keeping US in YOUR ministry

The spring time reminds each of us that God's plan for us is often revealed when we least expect it and so it has been for me as the new director of Seton Youth Shelters! As the chief nurse at DePaul Medical Center (sponsored by Mother Seton's own Daughters of Charity) I embraced their motto of "we dress the wounds, God heals them". Then I was the director of Beach Health Clinic where my focus was restoring good health to hard-working uninsured adults and their children through the talents of volunteer nurses, doctors and dentists. Subsequently, I joined United Way to share the stories of all the charities in our community in order to raise awareness and funding to continue their important missions. Now this spring, as my work is finished with my two sons and they have left to pursue their dreams, I find myself called back to Mother Seton.

In a few short weeks, I have come to know and appreciate that St Aidan's has been instrumental to Seton Youth Shelters over the years – in large ways (land, vision, governance) and small – paper goods, school supplies, and linens. I am looking forward to continuing our shared ministry for at-risk youth in our community and growing in ways that will allow us to nurture more children every day!

*Angela*



### CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



**Hannah Morgan:** graduating from First Colonial High School; will attend Old Dominion University

**Ryan Parkinson:** graduating from Ocean Lakes High School; will attend Old Dominion University

**Chane' Williams-Davis:** graduating from Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and minor in Spanish.

**Caroline Exner:** graduating from University of Virginia

**Jeff Heckelman:** graduating from the United States Naval Academy; will be commissioned an Ensign in the Navy. He majored in Ocean Engineering and minored in Spanish.

**Scott Poole:** graduating from Virginia Tech

**Andrew Summerlin:** graduating from the University of Georgia with a Master's degree in International Policy



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/04 Taylor Rue	05/15 Dana Diamond	05/27 Nina Rodriguez
05/05 Gregory Alley	05/16 Brad Dougherty	05/28 Alyse Dinapoli
05/07 Elisabeth Miller	05/17 Jason Johns	05/29 Jeffrey Rankin
05/08 Max Baer	05/19 Alex Byng	05/30 John I. Rice
05/08 John Duke	05/22 David Ritter	05/30 Wally Timmons
05/08 Bill Kay	05/23 Jean Madden	05/31 Andrew Poole
05/09 Kristine Catherine Tiger	05/23 Amanda Smith	
05/09 Ellen Walters	05/25 Loren Heckelman	
05/10 Bob Simeone	05/26 Anne Agnew	
05/11 Robyn Whittaker	05/26 Ian Brown	
05/13 Brittany Baer	05/26 Dana Higginbotham	



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/02 Charles Marks	06/17 Martha Platt King	06/25 Clare Parkinson
06/02 Carl L. Master	06/17 Susan Summerlin	06/26 Carol Inman-Leach
06/02 Bert Poole	06/18 Dick Bass	06/26 Patti Ritter
06/03 Fred Olds	06/18 Cathy Miller	06/28 Lynne Jonas
06/05 Robert Byng Jr.	06/18 Tom Summerlin	06/28 Christopher Ritter
06/06 Jean Higginbotham	06/19 Caitlin Dougherty	06/29 Susan Dempsey
06/09 Jerry Alley	06/19 Justin Rice	06/29 Ashley Miller
06/10 Marty Reid	06/21 Ethan Aydar	
06/10 Nancy Timmons	06/21 Catherine McCallum	
06/11 Heather Tace	06/24 Elizabeth Siteman	
06/14 Beth Callaway	06/25 Kyle Christopher Baer	
06/17 David E. Bergren III	06/25 Fred Katz	







## Chanco on the James Don't Delay ~ Register Today For the summer memories of a lifetime!

Summer camp registration at Chanco is in full swing and camp sessions are filling up fast! Register your child or grandchild TODAY for an experience he or she will not soon forget. Chanco on the James is our diocesan camp and conference center and is situated on the James River in Surry, Virginia. Chanco is a fully accredited camp operating continuously for over 40 years providing youth opportunities for individual challenges, personal growth and lifetime friendships in God's great outdoors. Space is still available for youth ages 8-18 in all camp sessions. Residential camp activities include swimming in our pool and the river, canoeing, kayaking, archery, arts and crafts, chaplain time, the ropes course, zip lines, bonfires, silly songs, games and skits all supervised by the fantastic Chanco counseling staff.

If your teenaged camper craves more adventure, then the Out Trip sessions might be just the right fit! These sessions will leave Chanco grounds and include activities ranging from caving, climbing and rappelling to jet boat trips, surfing lessons and flat water eco-tours...just to name a few. The Jr. Sr. High Conference (ages 13-18) is led by volunteer Christian educators and clergy from around the diocese and is a bargain at \$275.00. This conference combines all the elements of traditional residential camp along with a spiritual themed retreat program.

If your child is ready for an experience full of laughter, fun, new friends, personal growth, and increased independence and self-confidence this summer, then Chanco is for him/her! Don't wait! For more information or for easy on line registration, visit [www.chanco.org](http://www.chanco.org) today or call 1-888-7CHANCO and sign your child up for the summer experience of a lifetime!

## It ' s Holy Terrors Time!!!



The St. Aidan's Men's Softball team finished last spring's season tied for first place in their division with a record of 11-4, making the playoffs for the first time in a number of years. As a result, we have been moved up from Division 3 to Division 2 of the Church League, where the competition is expected to be tougher.

Fortunately, to meet this challenge, we have added some great "new blood" from folks new to St. Aidan's, including Brian Collins, Travis Provost, Nate Larson, David Link and Bill Moore! The team welcomes these new players and looks forward to playing by their sides as we continue this wonderful fellowship, now in it's 10th year!

One of the best parts of Holy Terrors Softball is our fabulous fan support, both human and canine! Fans can join our website and frequently show up to cheer us on, which always adds fun to the evening.

This year's schedule is printed below... we play Monday nights in May and June, and would love to see you there! We also still have some room on the roster if you'd like to join us!!

(Note – on any given day, if the weather is questionable, call the rain line at 385-0455 after 3 pm for updates.)

<b>St. Aidan's Men's Softball Schedule      Spring 2011</b>		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>TIME &amp; PLACE</u>
May 23	Bayside Church of Christ	6:45 & 7:45    City View #4
June 6	VB United Methodist Church	6:45 & 7:45    Princess Anne Green #2
June 13	Tidewater Nazarene	6:45 ONLY - Princess Anne Green #3
June 20	Glad Tidings & Kempsville	6:45 & 7:45 - Princess Anne Red #2
June 27	VBUMC & Bayside	8:45 & 9:45 - Princess Anne Red #3

**Please come on out and enjoy the fun and fellowship of St. Aidan's Softball!!!**  
**To become an "official" fan, be sure to join our website:**  
<http://app.teamzonesports.com/team/teamzone/default.aspx?teamid=19928>