

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

# AIDAN'S AGAPE

"The Little Church with the Big Heart"

## From the Rector

### Still Flying in Formation

In the last newsletter I wrote an article entitled *Flying in Formation*. In that reflection I wrote of how geese fly in formation to make it easier for the group to cut through the air. However the lead goose needs to change positions and a different goose needs to take the lead to give the leader a break. I then speculated that this is exactly what we need to do at St. Aidan's to keep our programs and mission moving forward.

I am happy to report that we had a wonderful example of that over the summer in our Vacation Bible School. A special thank you to **Shannon Gray** and **Brian Collins** for stepping up and making this very special program happen. I'm equally pleased to say that Shannon has volunteered to head up VBS for next summer! In addition many others stepped up as shopkeepers, assistants, tribe leaders. It takes a large number of people to make something like this happen and in true St. Aidan's style, you, the members of the parish, stepped up.

This also made an important statement about what is a priority for this parish, and that is our children and their spiritual growth. We will soon begin our fall program, and we can always use additional leaders in this area. I continue to look for someone to take on the role of coordinating the Christian Formation program and hope and dream that in the near future our budget will grow to allow us to return this important position to our staff. We have not had a formation director since my first year here. A person in this position is vital to fulfilling what I already know is a significant part of our mission as a parish. I hope as we plan our fall Stewardship Campaign that you will keep this in mind as you pray about your support of the parish.

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## From the Senior Warden

### Not your usual summer doldrums...

It's been a very different summer at St. Aidan's this year, and it's not just the funny smell in the Narthex. Normally, summers are kind of quiet around here, but this summer has turned out to be a busy one, and I see a great amount of momentum building at St. Aidan's that I take as a mark of the Holy Spirit working through us to make St. Aidan's a more vibrant and mission-oriented parish. Let me walk you through some of the goings-on:

Our second consecutive year of youth mission trips saw our intrepid teens going again to West Virginia to help Reach Work Camps help Peterstown. Teen mission trips looks like they're here to stay!

The Visioning Team met several times over the summer to get a charter together and make headway on developing a strategy to help St. Aidan's discern what the Holy Spirit has in store for us. You'll see a lot more on this in the fall.

We finalized negotiations (and an endless mountain of paperwork and court approvals) with Kings Grant House to formalize our new joint parking lot. Work may start in the fall. Since we had to spend money in advance on the early demise of some A/C units, once KGH sends us our payment we'll be able to kick-start the Capital Fund with a transfer to cover those sunk costs.

We had a very successful Vacation Bible School this year, with a new more inter-active program and first-time leaders Shannon Gray and Brian Collins. As I think many of you are aware, we came close to cancelling Vacation Bible School this year when it looked like we were going to have a hard time getting enough help. After a successful appeal, many long-time and first-time folks stepped forward to make this a great success. Mark and I were very gratified that such a large number of folks responded in a short time over the summer. Leadership is already in place for next year!

The Men's Group is taking a sabbatical from cooking to see where they want to focus, and a new parish social life (you guys got a new name yet?) group met at the Simiones' home to help plan out the social calendar for the year.

Although the Zoo picnic has been postponed due to Irene, Outreach has organized a successful new ministry around helping our neighbor Seton House through the gathering of toiletries and paper products for them.

We've run an informal summer Christian Ed program for the first time, which may lead to other opportunities through the fall.

A new Fall Fair committee has essentially formed itself to guide our major fund raiser on a year-round basis. Planning is already well underway for this October's fair, and we're trying something a little different than we've done recently.

We speed-painted the parish hall in a day, as well as handled one (so far!) hurricane clean-up.

Stewardship has met through the summer to develop a new ministry-based approach to the usual fall campaign that stresses how our ministries function, rather than the usual discussion of budget minutia. Also look for a roll-out of a planned-giving program. All this has been possible because of a year-long push to improve our accounting transparency and accountability. Funds we've borrowed to tide us over in the past have been repaid; new fund trustees have been installed, and a more streamlined set of fund guidelines produced.

This is a tremendous amount of work by a large number of folks who have dedicated a part of their summer to helping your church become more enriching, connected, and alive. Don't just stand by and watch; jump in, help out, and see what the Holy Spirit is saying to you through *action!*

## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- VBS was successful; 2/3 of those attending were not from St. Aidan's:
- Shannon Gray has volunteered to chair VBS next year
- Lynn Meadows will teach 5th and 6th grade Christian Education class;
- Mark will be performing the duties of Christian Ed Director until one is hired.
- There may be one High School class, grades 9-12, if another teacher can't be found.
- Ned Davis has been hired as the new Bell Director
- Outgoing Vestry Members: Carl Masulonis, Shannon Gray, Beth Simeone, Susan Summerlin. The outgoing Vestry Members comprise the nomination committee who put together a slate of parishioners to run for election in December.
- Bill Waide and Susan Summerlin were appointed as alternate delegates to Annual Council in February. Delegates are Andy Fischer, Becky Rankin, Ed Smith and Pam Butler.

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### Vestry Launches Visioning Team

Like people, organizations can experience a mid-life crisis. As St. Aidan's approaches its fiftieth anniversary the vestry has decided to initiate a dedicated effort to re-examine our purpose, mission, and vision. As a result the vestry has commissioned the St. Aidan's Visioning Team. Co-led by Scott Miller and Peggy Fanney, the team, which also includes Edie Barnett, Mark Buckner, Bill Dempsey, Ginger Gray, Amelia Knight, Nina Rodriguez, and Mark Wilkinson has met several times and plans to complete its work by June, 2012. Rather than trying to discern the future of St. Aidan's, this group will act as guides to lead the parish through a discernment process through a series of "holy conversations". The outcomes of this process will be documented vision and mission statements for St. Aidan's, along with an initial transition plan for moving toward the desired future state. Along with the holy scripture and the congregation of St. Aidan's, the Visioning Team will employ the consulting services of Rick Willis, and will use the books, Holy Conversations written by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann, and Changing the Conversation, written by Anthony Robinson as references. Please familiarize yourselves with these books so that you'll be prepared to fully participate in the process. Look for opportunities to join in this important conversation about our future as Christ's disciples. In the meantime, please contact any of the members of the Visioning Team or the vestry if you want to more about the process or intended outcomes.

Team Scriptural Foundation: Matthew 5:13-16 – Salt and Light

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.”

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp-stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

# FALL PROGRAMS BEGIN

## Education for Ministry EfM

Education for Ministry begins the week of September 5<sup>th</sup>. The Thursday class has room for two more students and the Friday morning class is full.

Did you know that St. Aidan's is the only parish in Virginia Beach to offer two of these classes? We may be the only parish in the diocese to offer two classes. This is another example of the interest in and strength of our Christian Formation program.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS 9/11

Adult Bible Study - Sunday Morning: Come on out and take part in some lively discussion and learning at Adult Bible Study between the church service, 0930-1015, in the hospitality room. This year, we are taking on the Gospel of Mark, a deep look into the Apostle Paul in all of his iterations, the Devil and the Virgin Mary. It will be both entertaining and spiritually rewarding. We look forward to seeing you there! For further questions, contact Fred Parkinson, Tom Metz, or Chuck Marks.

## PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH BEGIN 9/11

### **Godly Play**

Godly Play classes will resume on September 11. The class groupings will be the same as last year with preK-1 meeting in the Godly Play room by the youth room and the older children through grade 4 in the class down by the Head Start classroom. We are always looking for volunteers to help out as doorkeepers. Please contact Peggy Fannee [peg-robfanney@verizon.net](mailto:peg-robfanney@verizon.net) if you would like more information or to help out.

### **Grades 5 and 6**

Fifth and Sixth graders unite. In the room next to the kitchen. 9:30 a.m. September 11. C U there. Lynn Meadows will be leading this class this year with a new curriculum so come and join the fun.

### **J2A**

J2A classes will resume for youth in grades 7-12. Since this is the second year of the two year cycle classroom locations and groupings will stay the same. 7th and 8th in the classroom, 9-10 in the library and 11-12 in the library. We're looking forward to seeing everybody back.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT OFFERING

Last year we offered a Wednesday night bible study from 6:30-7:45. It is a 14 week course and the book for it runs \$20.00. I am working on putting this together again this year. A class on the *Book of Revelation* has been one suggestion for the start of the year and Kerigma has a great study guide. Mae Peele along with Sue and Irv Wells will be leading the program. Starting date September 21st.

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# FALL PROGRAMS BEGIN 2

## SOMETHING NEW FOR MEN

Over the summer I have been doing research into the area of Men's Spirituality. I sensed that the Men's Group as constituted needs to evolve into something more than a group that cooks for a variety of events. I have been looking into a program out of Richard Rohr's Center for Action and Contemplation in New Mexico. I have read a great deal of Richard's material and you have heard me quote him in sermons. In particular he is a leading writer in the area of men's spirituality.

The program is called, MALE: Men As Learners and Elders. This is not your typical men's group. It is not a group that cooks, fixes things around the church, or other normal guy things. This is a group that focuses on the spiritual needs of men, in particular men approaching the second half of life (men in the 40s and up). This is not a Promise Keepers group that claim men need to reclaim their leadership in church by taking over from the women.

This program is about developing a healthy relationship with God so that the men of the church can make a positive contribution to the spiritual health of the parish as well as their own lives. The focus is on the second half of life because this is when most men have established their careers and are confronted with questions of meaning that are part of our normal spiritual and emotional development. The church as a whole has failed to provide programming for men. This results in men not feeling comfortable with being spiritual leaders in the parish.

Now the big question, are any of you men interested in taking the plunge to look at where God is calling you as a man in the church? If so, please contact me at [rector@aidanvbva.net](mailto:rector@aidanvbva.net).

## Trivia Night

Form a team and get your game on. Trivia nights begin Saturday, September 17. From 7:00 to 9:00, impress others with how much useless knowledge you have. Invite your friends, your family, and people who aren't as smart as you. Cost to play is \$5.00 per player. Maximum number of players per team is six. Valueless prizes will be awarded. Sodas and snacks provided. Proceeds will benefit the Beach Bag program to provide hungry children with weekend supplies of food.

## WELLNESS CENTER

The Wellness Center is looking forward to a new year with some expansions to our program.

The center will continue to offer **Yoga** on Monday and Saturday, **Tai Chi** on Tuesdays and **Kettlebells** on Thursday. We are looking to add a **Zumba** class (starting 9/22). For all of these classes, you can start at anytime.

**Tai Chi** is becoming very popular around the world for fall prevention and general health improvement, and for good reasons. There are many forms of tai chi but specially designed programs for health have many advantages. Scientific studies show that tai chi improves and possibly prevents chronic conditions such as arthritis, heart disease and diabetes. In addition, it improves balance, immunity and reduces stress. In fact, tai chi improves practically any aspect of health.

**Zumba** were unable to do it this past Saturday due to the storm, so we rescheduled it to be the 10th instead. Do you mind updating the website? Zumba will then start on September 22nd and will continue for 10 weeks. The cost will be \$80 for the ten classes.

Mark has been in conversation with the folks at Tidewater Pastoral Counseling. They often are looking for places to offer classes in a wide variety of areas. Possible classes to be offered include: **coping skills for dealing with aging parents, dealing with the joys and challenges of blended families, general parenting classes, grief support groups** and other topics. The big question is what would you like to see offered by the folks at Tidewater? Let Mark know what you would like and he will see what can be scheduled.

These classes would be open to the entire community & would help to broaden our outreach to people who do not attend our parish. This would be a great way to get our name in front of people & offer a chance for people to get to know us better.

Plans are under way for another **silent retreat** that will be open to people from around the diocese. This program was very successful in our first attempt and with those who have expressed an interest and some additional people this program will continue to grow.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS: info you need to know

### Update on Head Start

The transition to the new Head Start program is just about complete. We have an agreement with the new company and straightened out some billing issues. There are many changes in the teaching and support staff for this fall so we will see some new faces working with our children. I look forward to meeting and continuing to support this vital outreach initiative. I am also hoping that we can build even stronger ties with Head Start.

The children will return to class after Labor Day.



### Parking Lot Update

Bert Poole has reported that all of the paper work is now done to grant the easement needed for the new joint use parking lot with King's Grant House. We hope to have the \$50,000 for capital improvements to our property sometime in September.

No definite word on when they will start construction, but the money will allow us to begin the upgrades to our back entrance that is part of the project. It will also reimburse our general fund for some AC repairs that had to be made this spring. These repairs were to replace one of the compressors that were already slated to be replaced and relocated. This unit handles the AC for the narthex, kitchen and hallway to the education wing.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We held a fabulous Vacation Bible School the first week of August. Almost 50 children from our neighborhood and the Mission of the Holy Spirit participated. The program was Hometown Nazareth Where Jesus was a Boy. The parish hall was transformed into a marketplace with shops and crafts for the children to do. A great piece of this was that the crafts were based on what children in Nazareth might have done during Jesus' time. Thanks to Jamie for her musical contributions.

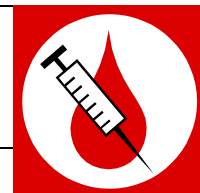
A huge thank you to all of the people who worked so hard to put this together. Everybody from the shopkeepers to the guides for the tribes as well as the choirs, vestry, softball team and Men's group who provided dinners really made this a memorable week

Letters have been sent to all of those participants who are not members, inviting them to come join us this fall for our regular Christian Formation programs.

Thank you to all!

Shannon Gray and Brian Collins

**BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. AIDAN'S.....MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1-7**



## ST Aidan's Fall Fair and Oyster Fest!

Mark your calendars for this year's Fall Fair planned for Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, from 10:30 AM until 4:00 PM. We are looking to harness the positive energy of our Congregation for the single largest Outreach Fundraiser of the year. We are also looking to grow our Fair while retaining all of those things that we love so much about our traditional Fair: Craft and Bake Sale; Kid's Games; Book Sale; Scarecrows; and the community spirit of St. Aidans! As you can see from the title, we are looking to expand the food portion of the Fair while eliminating the rummage sale so we can focus our volunteers on supporting the expanded portions of the Fair. There is a new Fall Fair Committee, currently composed of: Beth and Bob Simeone; Lynn Meadows; Grace Parkinson; Fred Boze; Tom Metz; Becky McCallum; Becky Rankin; and Chuck Marks. The next planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the church. We are looking for some volunteers to take on oversight of small slices of the Fair to make the entire affair manageable. Here are the positions we are trying to fill:

- Craft Coordinator
- Bake Sale Coordinator
- Oyster Coordinator (Tom Metz)
- Food Coordinator – lots of folks willing to help!
- Beer Coordinator – we may have to have a competition for this one!
- Vendor Coordinator (Beth Simeone & Grace Parkinson))
- Kid's Games Coordinator – lots of folks willing to help
- Police/Fire Department Coordinator (Andy Fisher)
- Scarecrows (Byngs)
- Set-Up Lead – You plan it – volunteer coordinator gets your labor!
- Clean-up Lead
- Volunteer Coordinator (Chuck Marks)

If you are interested or already claim a particular area, please contact Chuck Marks at 757-348-2677 or via email: [cbmiii@aol.com](mailto:cbmiii@aol.com); or any of the committee members listed above! Help make this event a success!

### **A Note from Kari Jacobs**

THANK YOU! I just wanted to send another thank you your way for the wonderful 4 years I had at St Aidan's. We have finally settled into our new home here in Poplar Bluff and just had our furniture delivered! Dan had to check in early to his command as he made "Chief" and is busy going through the "initiation" process. I will miss seeing all of the members of the choir - you truly are a wonderful bunch and I will miss the great members of your parish. I am actively searching for a handbell choir here and hope to be blessed with a group as welcoming as you. Please drop a line or stop by if you are ever in this neck of the woods. Many Blessings

Kari Jacobs, 65 County Road 4751, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



09/01 Alyce Vaitkus	09/13 Rebecca Rankin	09/22 Jeffrey Madden
09/03 Audrey Wright	09/14 Elizabeth Boze	09/23 Charlie Marks
09/04 Adriana Rice	09/14 Rob Seeley	09/23 Matthew Reid
09/05 Joshua Harris	09/16 James Fox	09/24 Carl W. Master
09/07 Jane Filz	09/17 Millie Gepp	09/25 Bill Kennedy
09/09 Catherine Miller	09/17 Alice Meinicke	09/26 Charles Clay
09/09 Nancy Smith	09/17 Erol Aydar	09/27 Anna Johnson
09/09 Barbara Duke	09/18 Michael King	09/27 Ryan Waide
09/10 Sharon Metz	09/18 Beth Saunders	09/28 Melissa Waide
09/11 Thomas M. Demchuk	09/19 Tiffanie Gibson	09/29 Carole Crouse
09/11 Harrison Poole	09/20 Cole Aydar	
09/11 C.J. Harris	09/21 Donald Beaman	



# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/01 Brianna Alm	10/11 Gloria Bennis	10/19 Scott Poole
10/02 Sarah Seeley	10/11 Sidney Vaughn	10/21 Anna Kern
10/03 Darby Reid	10/12 Gloria MacRae	10/21 Sarah Kern
10/03 Dodie Streit	10/12 Clayton Russell	10/21 Mariel Lee King
10/04 Olivia Hinde	10/12 Tom Vaitkus	10/23 Kenny Waide
10/04 Dianne Sheard	10/15 David Smith	10/24 Barry Higginbotham
10/06 Jean Beaman	10/17 Kim Dempsey	10/25 Ryan Parkinson
10/06 Carolyn Master	10/17 Jeff Diamond	10/25 James Wilkinson
10/07 Kathy Exner	10/19 Peter Dempsey	10/26 David Crouse
10/08 Gordon Siteman	10/19 Aidan Master	10/26 John Kortze

## 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*

Ned Davis *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

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





## Treasurer's Report

We do not have final figures but as good as July was, August fell short especially with almost no collection on August 28 due to the hurricane.

