

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

AIDAN'S AGAPE

JULY - AUGUST 2011

PENTECOST

"The Little Church with the Big Heart"

From the Rector

Flying in Formation

On July 3rd, I spent some time reflecting on the statement in Matthew from Jesus that his yoke is easy and his burden is light. At the time I preached about how a yoke of two well trained oxen could do the work of three when properly trained. The sum is greater than the individual parts. Yoked with Jesus our work does become easier; this is a relationship that uplifts and sustains us. This idea of unity making our work easier is an important concept as we move forward as a parish.

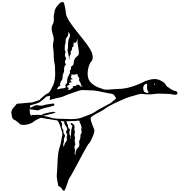
Another example that I considered using was that of geese flying in formation. When geese fly in a V formation they are truly working as a team. All of the geese use each other to break the wind and makes it possible for each goose to not have to work as hard. There is one exception to the rule however and that is the lead goose. The lead goose does have to work harder than the others, but the other geese know this. So every so often the lead goose gets to take a break and another goose assumes the point position. The all take turns supporting each other to move the formation forward towards their goal at the end of their migration. This allows the flock to fly faster and farther than they could ever do as individuals.



Our challenge at St. Aidan's as a transitional parish is that we have several lead geese who need a chance to rest. This means someone else must step up and take the point. We see this in a number of ministries.

We need new vestry members every year so those who have served have the chance to rotate off

and get a break. So too we need two new delegates to council each year. In particular this year we need two people to step up and help me with Christian Formation as we move forward with our visioning process. I speak to that in an article later in the newsletter. We will need to take a look over the next year at how we maintain our gardens. The faithful garden club has been doing this for many, many years and have just gotten to the point where it is too much for these stewards of our property. There are other ways to approach this ministry and the Property and Grounds committee will take a look at this.



In a perfect parish, no ministry should be run by the same person for more than three years. If a person serves year and year, they will finally burn out and never return to their place of leadership. If each of us however steps up and takes a moment at the point of a ministry then others can rest and be ready to return. Ideally I would like to see all of our ministries work out a rotation. Over the next few months I will be contacting individuals in the parish about stepping up to take the point. This is crucial to our future success and God has great plans for us.

I hope you will all take a few moments and prayerfully consider how you might be able to take your place in the V formation and help us move forward into our future.

Mark +

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

In my lead article I mentioned the need for some leadership in the area of Christian Formation. I am ideally seeking two people who have an interest in Christian Formation, but are not currently teaching one of our classes. The mistake I made last year was in allowing a member to try to tackle both leading the program and teaching a class on a weekly basis. That is just too much work for any one person to do.

The two people would work directly with me and then with the teaching staff to support them in their roles as Christian educators. Ideally I would like at least one person with some experience in teaching children, in particular in the middle to high school age group. We need to evaluate curriculum and help our current teaching staff adapt the curriculum we have to meet our specific needs. This would involve periodic meetings with the teachers to help support them in their ministry. I also need some clerical help in keeping track of the students and families registered for classes. One of the other tasks would be in helping integrate new families and their children into our Sunday morning and evening curriculum.

So is God calling you to help in this ministry? Take a moment to prayerfully consider if this might be a place where you can help St. Aidan's.

We also need a volunteer or volunteers to help Lynn Meadows with the 5th and 6th grade Sunday School class.

VESTRY

Believe it or not, it is not too soon to consider helping out by being a member of St. Aidan's vestry. We hold elections in December for four seats. I am looking for a balance of newer members as well as some seasoned veterans to lead our parish forward over the next year.

A vestry term is three years and we meet once a month on the third Tuesday of the month. There is a vestry retreat the first weekend in February. Each member is a contact point for one of our many ministries.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY EfM

It is also time to consider joining one of our most dynamic Christian Formation programs. **Education for Ministry EfM** is a wonderful chance to study the bible, church history and theology in a seminar type setting. We offer two classes, Thursday nights from 6-9 and Friday morning 9-12. This is not a program for people planning to seek ordained ministry. This is a program for people who want to know more about our faith. We also look then at how you might use this training for the greater glory of God.

Alice Meinicke is the lead mentor for the Friday morning class and Wendy Wilkinson is the lead mentor for the Thursday evening class. The class is limited to 12 for each session, but we do have room in each of the classes for new students. Scholarship aid is available if you need it. Email Wendy wendywilk54@verizon.net or Alice meinicketa@aol.com for more information or visit our EfM page on the web site <http://www.aidanbva.net/Aidan%27sEfM.html>.

The "New" Parish Life!

One of this summer's activities will be the long-overdue formation of a group of folks to plan and oversee St. Aidan's social calendar.

We are expecting to kick this off in mid-August... please watch future bulletin announcements for more details. Anyone interested in participating in this ministry is welcome and encouraged to do so. The intention is to have some fun as we gather to brainstorm about and schedule our future events.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please see or contact Don Ritter (dritter@cox.net).

Summer for Seton

Continue to bring in toiletries for the Seton Street Mission Outreach Van. They need soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. The little items you get at hotels while traveling work great. Just leave them in the basket in the Narthex. We have already had one Outreach packing party blitz in July and will have another in August.

August 7th – Paper drive continues as it does all year on the first Sunday of each month. We collect paper towels, toilet paper, toiletries etc. for the residents who live next door. While you are out school shopping, please pick up an extra notebook, notepaper, pens or pencils for the kids at Seton.

August 14th – Mission of the Holy Spirit. We are serving dinner today. If you can help by bringing an item or serving, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

A Day at the Zoo for the Seton Youth Shelters Mentoring Children of Prisoners program. This is a way to help the people who help our most vulnerable youth. On Sunday, August 28th, St. Aidan's and the zoo will team up to provide the mentors with a fun free outing for their charges. They will receive free tickets to the Virginia Zoo and are invited from 3:00-6:00 to a picnic (hosted by us) at Lafayette Park next door to the zoo.

These mentors are volunteers for a minimum of one year with a child and meet for a minimum of one hour per week with that child. With a parent incarcerated, this special time one-on-one helps the child and his or her caregiver.

What do we need to make this day a success?

Helpers to help the cookout run smoothly. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Donations of food or money to help with food for the cookout. See the list of items needed in the Narthex.

Gently used games that the children can "win" to bring home and play with their friends or family. If you have games that are in good shape, but that your children have grown out of, please consider donating them. We will have each child choose one game to bring home. Leave them in the Narthex.

Fall camp 2011

October 24-27

Shrine Mont

Late October is a glorious time in the Shenandoah Mountains of Virginia. The last week of October is an amazing time at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs. From Monday through Thursday, people from all three dioceses in Virginia gather to play, to learn, to worship, to relax and to spend quality time in mountains.

This year's keynote speaker is author and scholar Marcus Borg. Borg is Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. He is the author of such books as *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, *The Heart of Christianity*, and *The God We Never Knew*.

Music and humor are provided by Folk Theologian Ed Kilbourne.

Workshops this year include Journaling, Genealogy, Prayer Beads, Dreams Prayer Shawls, Native American crafts and field trips to the Rt11 Potato Chip Factory, the Fibersmith (yarn shop) in Woodstock & an Orchid Grower.

Consider a few days away this fall. Brochures are available in the Narthex.

ST. AIDAN'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)
AUGUST 7-10
HOMETOWN NAZARETH, WHEN JESUS WAS A BOY

When Jesus was a boy did he laugh, play, have a family, and go to church like we do now?

Come to this summer's coolest vacation bible school and get the answers to these at many more questions about Jesus in his youth.

Come gather at 5:30 for a light dinner before beginning your exploration of Jesus' s life as a boy through stories, songs, and crafts. Visit a marketplace and see what kind of interesting things are for sale. You can even make some of them to take home. We will have games, music and a nightly visit to Mary's house to hear what Jesus' mother has to say about her son.

This amazing program is open to children from the age of four up until fifth grade. Registration forms can be found in the St. Aidan's Narthex or may be downloaded at <http://www.aidanvba.net/Documents/vbSRegistration11.pdf>. In addition to providing outreach to our youth, this program will benefit our local community. VBS attendees will have an opportunity to further their spiritual experiences by bringing in supplies to benefit Seton House.

How can adults further their spiritual experiences? They can spread Jesus' teachings by taking them outside the sanctuary walls and into action. Remember, "Your service has just begun." We have most of the major volunteer positions filled, but we still need the following:

1. **Tribe leaders:** 4 adults and 4 youth. Tribe leaders travel with your tribe of children through the various activities. This is an easy and really fun job.
2. **Games leader:** We have the games, we just need someone to take charge and an assistant to help out.
3. **Marketplace crafts:** We have a leader but we need additional help.
4. **Registration/administrative:** We need people to help register the children as they arrive
5. **Decorators** (there is always room for more).

If you, would like to volunteer, but you just don't have the time, there are other ways to contribute. Sign up to bring-in the much needed supplies it takes to make this program successful. There are sign-up sheets for materials and volunteers in the St. Aidan's Narthex.

For more information and most importantly to volunteer contact Brian Collins at briangcollins@gmail.com.

Join us for this great program. [Click here](#) to go to our Children's Ministry page for more information and registration forms.

A Report from EYE

Editor's note: Anna Marks was one of a group of youth from the Diocese of Southern Virginia who attended this year's Episcopal Youth Event in St. Paul, MN. This is a report on her impressions of this event.

So. EYE. Before I had left, people told me it was pretty much a large-scale Blackstone. And since Blackstone was pretty much my favorite part of the year, I decided to attend. I had no idea how much this event would change my view of God and Episcopalians.

For those of you who do not know, I recently attended EYE (Episcopal Youth Event) in St. Paul, MN at Bethel University. It is a gathering of Episcopal youth representatives from all over the world to come and rejoice in our faith in God. Each day consisted of a Eucharist, an Opening Program, and a series of workshops to attend to deepen our faith in Christ.

Whenever a large group of Episcopalians get together, especially the youth, a bond of friendship is formed. Here you can literally walk up to someone you have never met, shout "I love you," and they will give you a huge hug. That's just when 125 people are together. But there were over 1000 people at EYE, loving and sharing and caring. Pretty cool.

Now, one of the workshops I attended was called "Christian Youth Ministry in an Interfaith, Ecumenical, and Unchurched Cultural Context." Due to the title, you would think that not many youth would attend, but almost 200 of us came to hear a man named Roger Nishioka speak. He talked about working with other denominations to spread the good news of Christ: because something that is severely lacking in the Episcopal Church is evangelicalism. Yes, we do mission work, and community service, but what we DON'T do is stand on street corners holding signs. Because the crazy Christians do that, the ones who believe that Leviticus is the word of God, and we should all hate anyone not just like us. This works to our disadvantage, because the public's only image is that of the angry sign holders. So more and more people move towards atheism, because a hating God doesn't appeal to them.

Quite frankly, Christians can do better. We need to do a better job of spreading the news about our God, the loving, the forgiving. So, I challenge YOU, the people of this church to be different, to make a change. We need to move forward in our view of Christ, and challenge those who stay locked in year 0 AD. Because people change with time, and why can't churches? After all, they're just groups of people.

Anna Marks

P.S. EYE was really fun.



JULY BIRTHDAYS



07/01 Julie Armistead
 07/01 Joshua Barr
 07/03 Andrew Duke
 07/05 Cory McCallum
 07/07 Jennifer Johns
 07/08 Amy Barr
 07/08 Annie Dempsey
 07/08 William Masulonis
 07/09 Mary Ann Russell
 07/12 Travis Fox

07/13 Mark Dinapoli
 07/14 David Armistead
 07/14 Anna Marks
 07/17 Liz Villaluz
 07/19 Donald Braham
 07/20 Don Ritter
 07/21 Tom Meinicke
 07/22 Andrea Diamond
 07/22 Wendy Vaughn
 07/24 Eliza Aydar

07/24 Tommy Heckelman
 07/24 Bill Seeley
 07/24 Heather Duke
 07/25 Kevin Brinkley
 07/25 Ed Smith
 07/26 William Benns IV
 07/28 Grace Parkinson
 07/31 Lynn Meadows

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



08/01 Gail Dickson
 08/02 Edith Barnett
 08/03 Geoffrey Rice
 08/09 Mabel Peck
 08/11 Andrew Summerlin
 08/11 Fred Parkinson

08/14 Louise Smith
 08/17 Jonathon Best
 08/17 Nancy Byng
 08/20 Sandy Buckner
 08/20 Sue Wells
 08/21 Jeffrey Siteman

08/21 Mark Wilkinson
 08/23 Andy Jones, Jr.
 08/25 Verna King
 08/26 Jane Bass
 08/31 Alexander Bergren
 08/31 William Waide

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*

Handbell Director

Dennis Farrell *Sexton*

Sue Wells *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

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1 = office 2 = rector 4 = Pastoral Care

The Vestry

Michael Canonica

Serge Demchuk

Jeff Diamond

Barbara Duke

Peggy Fanney

Shannon Gray

Chuck Marks

Carl Masulonis

Sharon Metz

Fred Parkinson

Beth Simeone

Susan Summerlin

Senior Warden: Fred Parkinson

Junior Warden: Serge Demchuk

Treasurer: Jerry Alley

Register: Jane Bass

Pastoral Care Associates

Peggy Fanney

Jessie Greene

Gwen Daniels

Ed Smith

Sue Wells

Connie Williams