

ST. PAUL'S, IVY

"Thou art the journey, and the journey's end." Boethius 480-525 CE

JOURNEY TOGETHER

Beginnings. Several months ago we began a new school year, when many of our church programs cranked up. About a month ago we began a new church year with the onset of Advent. And now we begin a new calendar year. It seems we are blessed with new beginnings, which can be a very good thing in the life of the church and in the lives of us as individuals. One of the aspects I enjoyed about seminary was the movement from one semester to the next. So often at the end of a term I would grimace when I thought of how maybe I had not done enough work, or maybe not given my family enough of my time or prayed enough or... The part in the confessional prayer "forgive me for things done and *things left undone*" had taken on new meaning. But hope would spring eternal when for at least a couple of days at the beginning of a new term I was actually caught up with the readings, was actually in a better rhythm with my family and my prayer life. I felt that I had been given a new chance, a new opportunity to begin again.

Our theme this year at St. Paul's, Ivy has been "Journey Together" and as we go about this journey I am made more and more aware of how this journey is about beginning—again. Our life with God is all about beginning again. The opportunity to draw near to God is refreshed every day. God meets us where we are- in the midst of our successes and joys and in the midst of our sorrows, our mistakes, our questions, our chaos. We don't need fancy words or the perfect way of talking about God, we just need to talk to God, to be with God and to let God be with us. So, as you turn the page to a new calendar year, consider ways in which you will journey toward God through prayer, study or service (preferably through all three) and jump in! Look for the myriad of offerings your church has for you that can help you on your way. I leave you with this Celtic blessing:

Bless to me, O God,
 The earth beneath my feet;
 Bless to me, O God,
 The path whereon I go;
 Bless to me, O God
 The thing of my desire;
 Thou evermore of evermore,
 Bless thou to me my rest. (Carmina Gadelica)

Faithfully,
 Shelby

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All women are invited to join the Bible study group as we begin an overview of the New Testament. We meet on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 beginning January 13 and ending some time in late April/early May. This is a wonderful opportunity to dive into Scripture and to gain the benefits of group study; it is a time to ask questions and to have a conversation about what Scripture says to you and to the world. And we laugh a lot. Child care is available. Contact the Rev. Shelby Owen if you are interested, spivyowen@aol.com, or 979-6354.

BEYOND JANUARY...

Women's Retreat: "Where is Home?"

Women, mark your calendars for the women's retreat coming up the weekend of February 27-28. It begins late that Friday afternoon and lasts through Saturday afternoon. The Rev. Pamela Webb, currently director of alumni affairs at Virginia Theological Seminary, will lead the retreat which will be held at the Elston Inn at Sweet Briar College which is about an hour from Ivy. Pam brings a great depth of experience in leading retreats to us as she explores the theme of "Where is Home?" You can sign up for single rooms (\$125) or double rooms (\$90). The fee includes room, meals and the program. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of your fellow parishioners better in a relaxed environment. There will be time for the program, meals, centering prayer and even a little yoga! You can participate in as many of the activities as you like.

Sign-ups will begin in mid-January. Look for the sign-up board in the back of the church or contact Debbie Scott DJScott@aol.com or Shelby Owen spivyowen@aol.com for more information. Carpools will be leaving the church at 4:30 p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM MOUNTIE

My family and I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for your kindness and generosity during Bim's illness and death. Your love and support have been a blessing and a comfort through this difficult time.

ADULT FORUM IN JANUARY

We will welcome 2009 and kick off our spring program with a social hour during the Adult Forum hour on January 4, continental breakfast provided by the Adult Formation Committee. There will be no agenda; it will simply be a time to talk informally with fellow parishioners.

The following weeks, on January 11 and 18, our theme will be "Our Children's Journey" with the Rev. Shelby Owen speaking about the children's Sunday School curriculum on January 11 and the Rev. Will Peyton discussing our youth programs on January 18. On January 25, our parish leaders will bring us up to date on the work of the vestry and its annual retreat and review the highlights of the Diocesan Annual Council meeting.

On February 1 Bishop Shannon Johnston will be with us for Adult Forum. Please join us for a conversation with him.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group continues to thrive, despite being formed only this fall. The December meeting, a Saturday pancake breakfast, attracted 25 men to hear Mac McDonald speak about his experiences as a radio announcer for UVa sports events. Upcoming events include a joint Sunday luncheon in January with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and SPI, a work weekend at Shrine Mont March 20-22, and a Mothers' Day lunch at church. We will choose officers and a permanent meeting time (Saturday breakfast or weekday evening dessert and coffee) early in 2009. The men's group has been formed for fellowship, service, and to hear talks interesting to Christian men.

We are particularly pleased to have our own parishioner, Dr. Mark Williams, speak at our next monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, January 14, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. Dr. Williams is the Ensminger Distinguished Professor of Geriatric Medicine at UVa and has been widely recognized as one of the best doctors in America. His book, *The American Geriatrics Society's Complete Guide to Aging & Health* is sometimes called "The Dr. Spock for Older People."

JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> <i>OFFICE</i>	<i>2</i> <i>CLOSED</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> <i>Rite I</i> <i>Feast of Lights</i> <i>w/ dinner</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Centering</i> <i>Prayer 12:00</i> <i>Boy Scouts</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Women's Bible</i> <i>Study</i> <i>10:30—12:00</i> <i>Scottish Danc-</i> <i>ers 6:30</i>	<i>7</i> <i>Eucharist</i> <i>9:30</i> <i>EfM grads</i> <i>10:15 Pas-</i> <i>toral Care</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Choir 7:30 p.m.</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Vestry</i> <i>Cathedral</i> <i>English</i> <i>Country</i> <i>Dancers</i>	<i>Retreat at</i> <i>College</i> <i>Eagle Scouts</i> <i>2:00 p.m.</i>
<i>11</i> <i>Morning</i> <i>Prayer with</i> <i>Healing Service</i> <i>Celtic Eucha-</i> <i>rist 5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Centering</i> <i>Prayer 12:00</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Women's Bible</i> <i>Study</i> <i>10:30—12:00</i> <i>Vestry 7:30</i> <i>Scottish Danc-</i> <i>ers 6:30</i>	<i>14</i> <i>Eucharist</i> <i>9:30</i> <i>Bible Study</i> <i>starts 10:00</i>	<i>15</i> <i>Choir 7:30 p.m</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18)</i> <i>Rite I with</i> <i>Baptism</i>	<i>19</i> <i>Centering</i> <i>Prayer 12:00</i> <i>Conf Class</i> <i>4—8 p.m.</i> <i>Boy Scouts</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Women's Bible</i> <i>Study</i> <i>10:30—12:00</i> <i>Scottish Danc-</i> <i>ers 6:30</i>	<i>21</i> <i>Eucharist 9:30</i> <i>Bible Study</i> <i>10:00</i> <i>Pantry Day</i> <i>12:00—2:00</i> <i>Adult Forma-</i> <i>tion</i>	<i>22</i> <i>ANNUAL</i> <i>Choir 7:30 p.m.</i>	<i>23</i> <i>COUNCIL</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Habitat Work</i> <i>Day</i> <i>MEETING</i>
<i>25</i> <i>Rite II with</i> <i>Baptism. Youth</i> <i>Sunday</i>	<i>26</i> <i>Centering</i> <i>Prayer 12:00</i>	<i>27</i> <i>Women's Bible</i> <i>Study</i> <i>10:30—12:00</i> <i>Scottish Danc-</i> <i>ers 6:30</i>	<i>28</i> <i>Eucharist</i> <i>9:30</i> <i>Bible Study</i> <i>10:00</i>	<i>29</i> <i>Choir 7:30 p.m</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>