



# Cross & Crown

News of the Ministry & Mission of R. E. Lee Memorial Church, 123 W. Washington St., Lexington, VA April 2008

*From the Rector:*

*The United Thank Offering is a vital arm of the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church worldwide. We thank Julia Littlefield for her dedication to the success of the ingatherings here at R. E. Lee. I commend Julia's article to you as we prepare to expand the circle of thankful people on April 27.*

## The UTO Spring Ingathering

*An Offering of Thanks*  
Sunday, April 27



*So if you're worried, and you can't sleep,  
Just count your blessings instead of sheep . . .*

The lyrics of a tune popular in the fifties easily come to mind whenever a United Thank Offering ingathering rolls around. The song expresses a truth about the human condition fundamental to the rise of a cherished tradition in the Episcopal Church.

The UTO serves purposes of both individual spiritual growth and church-wide mission. Through the discipline of daily prayers of thanksgiving for God's gifts, small and large, accompanied by offerings, we carry out God's will for us to serve others. Twice a year at UTO Ingatherings our offerings combine with those of other parishes in the diocese and in the national church to support Episcopal ministries in the United States and abroad.

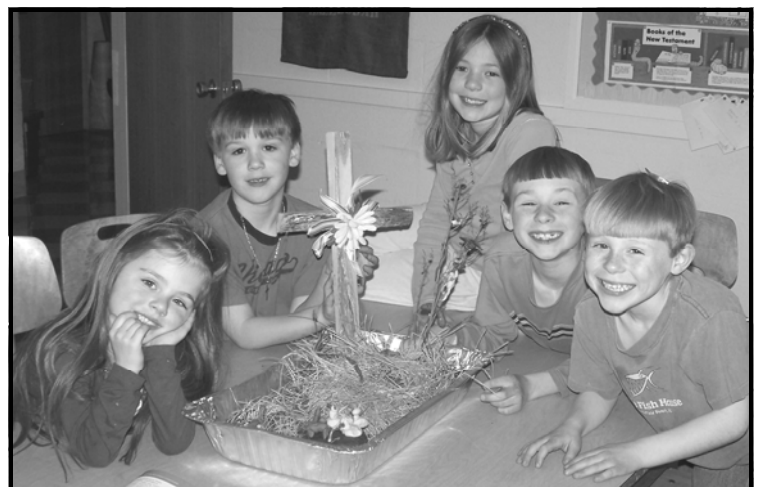
In an effort to do our part in "widening the circle of thankful people," we at R. E. Lee Memorial seek to continue increasing our parish involvement in the United Thank Offering mission. We have made strides toward that goal. In 2007 participation grew from 34 in the spring to 54 in the fall, but even that number represents less than a third of our parish pledging units.

If you are new to the UTO, all you need to do is pick up a blue box in the narthex or in the Parish Office and keep it at home in a place handy to everyone in the household. Begin your daily prayers of thanksgiving, private or shared, and signify each with an offering of a coin or two. Encourage your children to do likewise so that regular thank offerings themselves become a habit of joy and thanksgiving.

You will be surprised how much your humble offerings amount to at the end of six months when you count, wrap and take the coins to the bank. Then simply deposit them, write a check for the amount to the church with "UTO Ingathering" on the memo line, and place the check into a UTO envelope for the collection plate on Sunday, April 27.

*" . . . and you'll fall asleep  
counting your blessings."*

*Julia Littlefield*  
Parish UTO Coordinator



An Easter Garden that grew and grew was one of the projects of Children@Lent. Shown above with their handiwork are (l to r) Elise Brooke, Adam Webster, Caroline Webster, Pierson Hotchkiss, and Jackson Hotchkiss.

# RAINFOREST ADVENTURE

Vacation Bible School  
June 23-27



This will be an intergenerational event—volunteers of all ages and talents are needed to guide us into the rainforest!

## Get in on the Planning!

Start-Up Meeting  
Wednesday, April 9  
4:15 to 5:30 in the Parish Hall

*This year, we will be using the Rainforest Adventure curriculum by Augsburg Fortress. Rainforest Adventure is set under the canopy of a vibrant and exciting rainforest.*

*This lively program will engage our children and their friends in discovering that everyone can do their own part to care for God's creation. Kid-friendly Bible stories emphasize stewardship with a jungle full of hands-on, fun-filled activities.*

*For more information, contact  
Sharon@releechurch.org.*

## St. Francis Choir Goes on the Road!

To Boys' Home, Covington  
Sunday, April 27, Noon to 4

*The St. Francis Choir will make its second trip to Covington to sing at Boys' Home. The trip is being organized by The Rev. Connie Jackson, chaplain at Boys' Home. The choir will have lunch with the boys and staff, and present an informal concert including instruments and singing with the boys. Boys' Home is a ministry of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. We welcome anyone who would like to visit Boys' Home to join us for the trip!*

## Coming in May!

May 1 at 5:30 p.m.  
Ascension Day Evensong

May 4, Youth Sunday at 10:30

*We're organizing a team of musicians to help lead the music on this Sunday. If you'd like to sing or play an instrument, please contact Daniel at 463-4981 or dbrinson@releechurch.org.*

**Vehicle Needed**—A local support organization is looking for the donation of a used car for an impoverished local family in serious crisis. The car is needed by a single parent of three for frequent trips to Charlottesville for medical treatment. For more information, contact Kirk Luder at 458-8592 or kluder@wlu.edu.

## Outreach Spotlight on Habitat for Humanity

*This article is part of a series sponsored by the Christian Outreach Committee to spotlight our parish's outreach in the community and the world.*

Rockbridge Habitat, founded in 1989, has relied on the faithful support of R. E. Lee Memorial Church and other area churches to help carry out Habitat's Mission of providing safe, decent and affordable housing to hard-working families in our community. Since its inception, Rockbridge Habitat has built 37 homes, with four completed in the past month. These 37 families, with their 66 children, have a stable environment to grow as a family, a room to study and advance, and a place to retire with family. In short, these families have attained the dream of homeownership, a dream that often seemed out of reach before working with Habitat.

Rockbridge Habitat gives partner families a hand-up, not a hand-out. The families build their homes with the support of volunteers from church congregations, schools, service groups and individuals. This volunteer support helps to lower the cost of these homes. Partner families pay for their home with a 20-year, zero-interest mortgage that covers the cost of land and house construction. As the families pay back the mortgage, the funds are re-used to build additional houses in the community.

Rockbridge Habitat also tithes annually to Habitat International, with all funds used to build homes overseas. Since 1989, Rockbridge Habitat has funded the construction of seven additional homes, mostly in Guatemala.

The congregation of R. E. Lee Memorial Church has had a wonderful impact on Habitat's success. Many of Habitat's leaders, who often worked as volunteers at the construction site, have come from your congregation. Significant, sustained financial support has come from your congregation, through pulpit appeals, collections, annual budgets and your endowment. Your prayers of support have guided Habitat as it carries out God's work here in our community. For all of this, Rockbridge Habitat is grateful. Habitat looks forward to a future working together with your congregation.

## Sunday Mornings at 9:30

Sunday School for Children  
top floor, Parish House  
Lectionary Bible Study  
Welles Room (Library)  
Led by Sharon Massie

At 9:15

Christianity and Culture, Parish Hall  
"Good & Evil in the Garden of Eden:  
Sexuality, Moral Freedom,  
and Human Nature."  
Led by Tom Litzenburg

## Serving in April

### Readers and Chalicists

#### April 6

- 8:00 William McCorkle, Lu Dooley, Pam Simpson,  
Gerry Locher, Sharon Peters  
10:30 Melissa Cox, Sarah Engstrom, Anna Crockett,  
Clara Belle Weatherman, Elizabeth Harralson

#### April 13

- 8:00 Sharon Massie, John Milford, Penny  
Henneman, Sharon Massie, Gerry Locher  
10:30 Doug Ayer, Bill Noell, Doug Cumming,  
Gloria Smitka, Pat Gibson

#### April 20

- 8:00 William McCorkle, Sarah Lanford, Rob Apgar,  
Hank Humphreys, Pam Simpson  
10:30 Dan Coffey, Judy Noell, Mary Doyle,  
George Brooke, MJ Mayerchak

#### April 27

- 8:00 John Milford, Holt Merchant, Pam Simpson,  
Sharon Massie, Sharon Peters  
10:30 Dane Boston, Matt Graham, Farris Hotchkiss,  
Buster Lewis, Clara Belle Weatherman

### Acolytes

#### April 6

- 8:00 David Jacobs  
10:30 William Shaw, Forest Shaw, Matt Hinks

#### April 13

- 8:00 Walker Cross  
10:30 Marshall Walden, Forrest Walden, Mason Grist

#### April 20

- 8:00 David Jacobs  
10:30 Will Shehan, Joe Crittenden, Conde' Crittenden

#### April 27

- 8:00 Walker Cross  
10:30 Grier Cross, Anne Tatum Wright, Madison Wright,  
Michael Lawrence

### Greeters at 10:30

- April 6 Susan and Steve Lawrence  
April 13 Lori Apgar and Melissa Cox  
April 20 Judy and Bill Noell  
April 27 Tracey Mason and Evan Atkins



## Easter Sunday



### Ushers & Oblation Bearers

- April 6 Farris Hotchkiss, Mike Carmichael  
Marnie & Harry Wheeler  
April 13 Buddy Atkins, Wade Branner, Steve & Francis Grist  
April 20 Jonathan Webster, Jerry Nay, Lynda & Bob deMaria  
April 27 Mo Littlefield, Ed Craun, Peggy & Steve Riethmiller

### Lemonade Brigade

- April 6 Judy & Farris Hotchkiss, Pierson & Jackson  
April 13 Barton & Gail Dick  
April 20 Merce & Erika Brooke, Emma, Elise, & John  
April 27 Howard & Holly Pickett and Clara

### ***Put it in the bag for the RARA Food Pantry!***

Peanut butter and jelly for April.  
Leave your items on the main floor  
of the Parish House under the hall table.



*Kids' Night Out!*  
*Friday, April 4, 6 to 9 p.m.*  
*To reserve a spot for your child,*  
*Contact Susan Lawrence at*  
*Lawrences@rockbridge.net. There is no charge, but you're*  
*asked to bring a donation for the RARA Food Pantry.*

*Bishop of the Diocese*

The Rt. Rev. F. Neff Powell

*Rector*

The Rev. F. Thomas Crittenden

*Director of Music:* Daniel Brinson

*Program Director:* Sharon Massie

*Parish Administrator:* Kay Horner

*Treasurer:* Buddy Atkins

*Financial Secretary:* Anita Ramp

*Volunteer Coordinator:* Lynne Lorrier

*Sexton:* Connie Bryant

*Clergy Associates:* The Rev. John A. Furgerson

The Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Litzenburg, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Jackson P. Hershbell

The Rev. Dr. Robert Crewdson

**Vestry 2008**

Buddy Atkins

George Brooke III,

Molly Brown

John Burlison

Jay Crawford

Roger Crockett

Susan Cross

Bob Glidden

Elizabeth Harralson

Bridget Kelley-Dearing

Julia Littlefield

John Milford

Dick Rathmell

Woody Sadler

Gretchen Walden

1 Gladys Cunningham

Joan Millon

3 Punky Dod

Dot Fogo

Alice Moore

5 Forest Shaw

Herb Slaydon

6 Molly Brown

7 Diana Kenney

8 Emily McClung

Anne Sauder

9 Lori Sadler

10 Eileen Head

Suzanne Keen

Larry Lamont

William McCorkle

14 Lisa Bowles

15 Helen Head

Julie Jennings

Beth Knapp

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16 Nancy Boggs

Don Ellis

18 Susan Cross

19 Henrietta Alphin

Neil Penick

Peter Sailer

20 Erika Brooke

22 Buddy Atkins

Caroline Connelly

23 Rusty Ford

Peggy Kritzer

24 Andrew Mullen

25 Stuart Houston

26 Pierson Hull

Bill Noell

Chuck Smith

27 Suzanne Carmichael

Nancy Walker

28 Tom Goad



## April Cross and Crown

*Cross and Crown is the monthly newsletter of R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church in Lexington, VA. The editor is Kay Horner. The deadline for C&C is the 15th of the month. Articles and items of interest may be e-mailed to hornerk@releechurch.org or dropped in the C&C box in the resource room in the Parish House. Please include contact information.*

"I think this would be a good day for someone to take one last shot at getting a pledge out of Oscar Lander."