



CROSS AND CROWN

News of the Mission & Ministry of R. E. Lee Memorial Church
The Lexington Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

MAY 2011

Confirmation May 8 with Bishop Light

The Rt. Rev. A. Heath Light, seventh bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, will be with us for confirmation on May 8. Our confirmands are Tomas McBrayer, Brooks and Michael McCabe, Lydia Orr, Noah Sailer, and Julia Grossman. Helen Moore and James Keane will be received. We invite parishioners to write a note to each of them as they celebrate this milestone on their spiritual journey. Mail your note to the Parish Office or drop it by on or before May 5.

The UTO Spring Ingathering – May 29

During Lent this year the children decorated mite boxes labeled “Penny Power” for collecting coins for the Boys’ Home. The effort has received generous support from parishioners who drop offerings into the Penny Power bottle they can’t help but see on the bridge between the Parish Hall and the church. The conspicuous location of the bottle invites outward signs of inward grace.

So it is with the United Thank Offering. When we keep our UTO box (or glass jar) at home in a place where it is seen every day, we are more likely to remember to give thanks for our blessings big and small. Not only that, participation in the UTO today is not limited to Episcopal women, as it was when it started, but has grown, much like the children’s Penny Power program for Boys’ Home. Today UTO is a vital missionary arm of the Episcopal Church at local, diocesan, and national levels. Moreover, it is also not limited to a penitential season but is practiced throughout the church year. Ingatherings occur twice a year with every penny going to support missions nationwide and abroad.

Since its inception in 1889, The UTO tradition has enriched individual spiritual growth through a daily discipline of prayers for each blessing recognized by the offering of a coin. To a school child, something to be thankful for might be an A or a B on a test; to a mother, a quiet moment for reflection after a busy day; to a father under stress at work, a loving family to come home to. These blessings may be shared or private, but when the thanksgivings are accompanied by thoughts of unknown others not so fortunate and matched by an offering, the whole process becomes sacramental: outward signs of inward grace.

It matters not how many coins are collected in the family’s UTO box, only how often you practice the discipline of prayers and offerings. At this and the next ingathering, let us increase the number of thankful people at R. E. Lee Memorial as witnesses to our spiritual growth and response to the needs of others.

Julia Littlefield, UTO coordinator

Second-Sunday Taizé Eucharist, May 8 at 5 p.m.

Sign Up, Say Cheese

Yes, friends, it has been three years since the last R. E. Lee Church pictorial directory was created. Since that time, 20 new families have been added to our



membership. Gathering a family of busy adults and restless children, hair combed and cheerful countenance, is a daunting challenge. Despite the inconvenience, a

pictorial directory is an ideal outreach tool, helping us connect names with faces. It is also a unique way to capture the history of a church family.

Plan on participating! ***The scheduled dates for photography and portrait viewing are Tuesday-Friday, May 24-27, from 2 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. each day.*** Each picture will be taken by a professional Olan Mills photographer, immediately followed by a meeting with a portrait consultant to select the photo for the directory.

Every participating family/household will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8x10 portrait. You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.

Sign up times for appointments will be the first three Sundays in May (1, 8, & 15) following services. Or, you can easily sign up at www.signup.olanmills.com. You will be asked to give either the church directory contract number 61293 or the church telephone number.

Questions? Contact Judy Glick at 463-4344, or e-mail glickjudy@embarqmail.com.

May 22, Sunday School Celebration and Picnic

The Sunday School year will close with teacher recognition and the Sunday school picnic following the 10:30 service.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, vegetable, entrée, or dessert to share.

The fourth-Sunday breakfast with the Men's Cooking Crew will not be held on May 22, but will resume on June 26.

1st Annual Parent Youth Convocation

Sunday, May 22 at 9:15 in the Undercroft

FAITH & DOUBT: What Thomas Can Teach Us Today

The youth of our church and their parents will gather during the Sunday School hour for a continental breakfast and to reflect on the central event of our faith—Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

What does it mean for us, for our world, and for our relationships with one another, that God incarnate died the death of a common criminal?

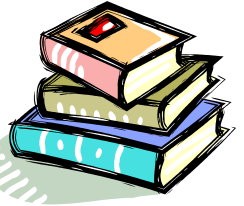
That was raised again three days later?

That some of Jesus' closest followers had doubts?

Join us for this powerful discussion!

Check it out!

Our parish library has turned another page with many newly acquired selections on a variety of subjects. We invite you to check in on what's available and check out a book that peaks your interest.



Among our titles are "Celtic Prayers from Iona" and two books on praying—with Julian of Norwich and Hildegard of Bingen. "Constantine's Sword" is a best-seller on the Church and the Jews by James Carroll. For an intriguing look at the synoptic gospels, there's "The Four Witnesses" by Robin Griffith Jones. An old tome with new meaning for today is "Reverence for Life," by Albert Schweitzer. For those who are sometimes befuddled by the Apostle Paul's writing, we have "What Saint Paul Really Said," by British theologian N. T. Wright.

On the table in the Welles Room, you'll find a sampling of what the library has to offer. You can peruse those volumes quickly, or take a more leisurely look among the shelves. If you'd like to check out a book, just sign the check-out card and drop it in the box on the table.

Christian Education on Sundays

9:15 Rise and Sing, Choir Room

9:15 Christianity & Culture, "Corrupted Manuscripts and Tangled Texts,"
Led by Tom Litzenburg, Parish Hall

9:30 NOOMA, Conference Room

9:30 Lectionary Class, Welles Room/Library

9:30 Sunday School for Children and Youth, 3rd floor Parish House

R.E. Lee is the place to be on Sunday mornings!

Youth Events

Wed., May 4, 6 to 7 p.m.

High School Night Out at Frank's Pizza

Sundays, May 1, 8, 15, 22

5-6:30 p.m., Youth Group

Youth Leaders

Mayumi Smitka

mayumi_smitka@yahoo.com

Megan Oliver

megan.oliver.2740@gmail.com

Wonderful Wednesdays

3:15 snack; 3:30 to 4:30 session

Godly Play

(age 3 to 1st grade)

St. Francis Choir

(1st grade through 8th grade)

Save the Date

Bishop Powell's
Annual Visitation

July 17

8 a.m. service here

10:30 a.m. service

at Lake Robertson!

VBS Start-up meeting



Vacation Bible School will be July 26-30 with the theme, Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus was a Kid! A VBS start-up meeting will be held Wednesday, May 11, at 3:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Workers and helpers are needed.

Spotlight on Mission



Rockbridge Area Habitat partners with hard-working local families to build safe, decent, affordable housing in our area. Of the four homes the affiliate builds annually, one is designated the "Disciples Build," and local church congregations join to provide volunteers and financial support for its construction.

The most recent Disciples Build project was Melissa Carter's home on Hawthorne Avenue in Buena Vista, completed in March, 2011. As in the past, R. E. Lee Memorial Church took a leading role in the project.

Melissa, 33, and her daughter, Ciesha, 7, were living in a poorly heated Lexington apartment. Ci has autism and asthma, and the tiny apartment was too small to house her essential therapy equipment. Melissa was not selected when she first applied for a home with Habitat, but rather than giving up on her dream, she entered a church-sponsored mentoring program that helped her improve her credit, secure a full-time job, and learn to budget her income.

When Melissa reapplied to Habitat in 2010, she was accepted as a family partner. Her new home has a room for Ci's therapy equipment and toys. A fence encircles the backyard, allowing Ci to safely play outside for the first time. Melissa's manager at Kentucky Fried Chicken recently said, "Melissa is hardworking and a joy. She always takes the initiative. She deserves this house."

You won't find many like her. Help RAH end substandard housing in our community, one home – one family – at a time. Your financial support and volunteer help are crucial to our continued success. You can be sure that we are excellent stewards of the resources entrusted to us: last year, 96 percent of every donor dollar was spent for programming.



**If you have items
to contribute to the
Habitat Resale Store,
call 463-4663.**



Melissa Carter, owner of a Habitat Home

**Visit our local Habitat organization at
www.rockbridgehabitat.org**

**To volunteer, or for
more information, call
463-3770**

Composting 101

Composting is a green way of recycling kitchen and yard waste into a useable soil conditioner. Leaves, lawn clipping, old hay, sawdust, straw, cornstalks, plants and plant parts from vegetable gardens or flower beds can be composted. You may also compost cool ashes, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, fruit and vegetable scraps, newspaper, paper towels and napkins, and cardboard rolls. Do not use dead matter, materials that have been sprayed with week killers, or meat products, which will encourage rodents to visit.

You can begin with a wire circle or purchase a composting bin. (1) Start with about 6 inches of the coarsest raw organic material you have such as chopped brush, which will allow air to circulate. (2) Moisten with water, sprinkle with lime and cover with one inch of garden soil or manure. (3) Additional layers of plant materials alternated with soil or manure can be added. The temperature in your compost pile will reach 140 to 160 degrees F. within a week and begin to "settle." You should turn the pile with a shovel and continue adding to the heap.

The compost is ready to use when it is a dark brown, crumbly and earthy smelling. At this point you can work a heaping handful into each square foot of turned soil for gardening or use as mulch around trees and shrubs.

For more detailed information, there are many good sites on the Internet.

Happy Composting!

The Green Committee

More than Soup Labels!

Betty Bentley oversees our parish's collection of labels for the "Labels for Education" program at Boys' Home, Covington. In addition to soup labels, you can also contribute box tops for items from Betty Crocker cake mixes to General Mills items (which bring 10 cents per top). See Sharon for more information on products and leave your labels & tops in the box on the table outside the Parish Office.

An Invitation from Daniel & Laura

A new life has its start,
we'll share with each other
one love, one dream, one heart

Please join us to celebrate
the marriage of

Laura Lee
to
Daniel Parke Brinson

on Saturday, the second of July
two thousand eleven
at half past one in the afternoon

R. E. Lee Memorial Church

Cake and cookie reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

In lieu of gifts, we invite you to bring a plate
of your favorite cookies to share at the reception.

If you are able to join us,
please RSVP to laura.daniel7211@gmail.com



On Palm Sunday, the community procession stopped at our church where The Rev. Louis Granberry, minister at First Baptist, offered a blessing on our parish.



WALKIN' ON THE WILD SIDE—The youth of our parish spent a recent Sunday afternoon with the residents of Safari Park in Natural Bridge.





Stewardship Vignettes

...or How Sacrificial Giving Has Kept Our Church Alive

Our Ties with Sudan

Another in a Series by Doug Cumming

Other parishes of our diocese also have missionary ties to the Sudan, the largest nation in Africa. R.E. Lee is only one of some 17 Episcopal churches around southwestern Virginia mentioned in the four-page history that former Bishop Arthur Heath Light wrote on the relationship between the diocese and the Episcopal Church in the Sudan going back to 1981. And ours is not the only Episcopal diocese in the United States bound to that utterly alien and ravaged, yet recognizably spiritual, culture.

Our own little relationship with Sudan exists because there is a story to tell. If we don't tell the story and hear it, then giving money doesn't mean much and will eventually peter out. That is the very nature of all Christian stewardship. The gospel itself is not only news, but also takes the form of a story, and the amazing stories that follow. The story of our church brethren in the Sudan is an extraordinary one, coming to us from Bishop Light, the Rev. Lauren Stanley, and parishioners such as the late Alta Fowler. It is the story of missionaries like Marc Nikkel and Lauren Stanley, of seemingly endless war and Babylonian exile, of a growth in faith like that of the early Church, and finally, of a peace treaty and a vote for independence. The news these days is uncertain; it seems far too early to know the whole story. But telling what we know is important.

Marc Nikkel was from a Mennonite family in California, a pacifist and a high-spirited man of many talents. Fresh out of art school, he spent nine months in Nigeria and Zaire with the Mennonite mission of his sister and her husband, then returned to California to study mission and theology at the non-denominational Fuller Seminary. There, he was drawn to Anglican traditions of faith and worship. In 1981, when Nikkel moved to Mundri, Sudan, to teach theology and anthropology at an Episcopal college, he grew interested in being ordained as an Episcopal priest. He had been spending time with the pastoral cattle-raising Dinka people, or "Jieng" as they prefer, learning their language, their worship songs and their ancient ways. As it happened, Bishop Light, visiting Sudan with a Partners in Mission team around this time, met Nikkel. It was as if this "giant of a man" simply appeared out of the wilderness. "Just from talking with him, you realized he was a poet and a preacher and a person who was a witness to Christ," Light recalls. Nikkel was interested in language and liturgy, and as Light realized when he saw Nikkel's biblical paintings on the wall of a chapel, an artist. "Also, a darn good theologian." Light helped support Nikkel's seminary education in the United States and ordination as a priest in Sudan.

Nikkel's apostolic letters home to friends and family, which are collected in a 2006 book titled *Why Haven't You Left?*, bear witness to the paradox of the conversion of literally millions of Sudanese during this period of renewed civil war. In 1988, at the height of the violence and a year after he had been kidnapped and held captive

by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, Nikkel wrote home from an exile in Kenya: "Regardless, whether far out on the periphery with students, refugees, and the displaced, or nearer the center, the impact of Sudan and of the sense of Christ's faithful presence there marks my soul. I believe he is present even, perhaps especially, among those who sense they are a forsaken people. Only he has the power to redeem a curse, power to transform drowning floodwaters into a redemptive baptism."

He saw the shells of rocket-propelled grenades re-formed into Christian crosses. He followed Bishop Nathaniel Garang on foot across the countryside to lay hands on thousands of new confirmands in loud, colorful celebrations with "all the buoyancy of a medieval pageant." He heard fireside conversations of how the "jak," the ancient animist spirits of the Jieng tribal past, had been overcome by the Holy Spirit, their totems cast into fires, the sacrifice of cattle to these "jak" renounced. Their tribal divisions fell away. A few Western friends who accused Nikkel of undermining ancient traditions with his missionary agenda did not understand – these "radical shifts in values and beliefs" welled up from the people themselves, he said. He felt himself merely a peripheral observer of this "birth of a new, self-consciously Christian order."

When Nikkel arrived in the Sudan in 1981, there were only a few thousand Episcopalians in the country's three dioceses. They were using the 350-year-old *Book of Common Prayer* introduced by English missionaries who had been forced out by national independence in 1956, thinking they had failed. Today, the Episcopal Church in southern Sudan claims some five million members, more than twice the size of the church in this country, making it one of the largest churches in the worldwide Anglican Communion. The number of dioceses in the Sudan has grown to 24, with 20 of those in the black African south. Bishop Light's explanation for the astonishing spread of the church there: "Evangelical zeal, and tremendous suffering."

Southern Sudan is now preparing, with joyful hope but some uncertainty, to become the world's newest nation this July by separating from the Arab-Muslim north. In a vote last January at the culmination of a five-year peace agreement, the people of the south choose independence by more than 98 percent.

In 1998, when he was in London enduring surgery and chemotherapy for the cancer that would kill him two years later, Nikkel drew parallels between his own illness and the experience of his brothers and sisters in the Sudan. "Before God, in my spirit and my friendships, this has been a wonderful time of learning and growth," he wrote. "In the way that God blesses Sudan amid great suffering, so I find he is blessing me in my sickness."

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter 2 8, 10:30 & 5 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Christian Ed 5 Youth Groups 6 Supper	2 5 Green Comm. (WR) 6 Property (CR)	3 10:30 ECW Coffee (Kendal) 6 EFM (WR)	4 6 High School Night Out at Frank's Pizza 3:15 Wonderful Wed. 7 Book Club (WR) 7 College Bible Study	5 10 Kendal Bible Study Noon, Nooma (WR) 4:30 Endowments/ Investments (CR) 7:30 Parish Choir	6	7
8 Easter 3 Confirmation 8, 10:30 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Christian Ed 5 Taizé Eucharist 5 Youth Groups 6 Supper	9 7 Christian Outreach (CR)	10 6 EFM (WR)	11 11 VBS Start-Up (PH) 3:15 Wonderful Wed. 7 Book Club (WR)	12 10 Kendal Bible Study Noon, Nooma (WR) 7:30 Parish Choir	13	14
15 Easter 4 8, 10:30 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Christian Ed 5 Youth Groups	16 5 Vestry (PH)	17 5 Stewardship 6 EFM (WR)	18 3:15 Wonderful Wed. 7 Book Club (WR)	19 10 Kendal Bible Study Noon, Nooma (WR) 7:30 Parish Choir	20	21
22 Easter 5 8, 10:30 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Christian Ed Sunday School Picnic 5 Youth Groups	23	24 6 EFM (L)	25 3:15 Wonderful Wed. 7 Book Club (WR)	26 10 Kendal Bible Study Noon, Nooma (WR) 7:30 Parish Choir	27	28
29 Easter 6 UTO Ingathering 8, 10:30 Holy Eucharist	30 Parish Office Closed	31 6 EFM (L)				

Pictorial Directory Photos

SERVING IN MAY

READERS AND CHALICISTS

May 1

8:00 Hank Humphreys, Suzanne Keen, John Milford, Rob Apgar, Sharon Massie
10:30 George Brooke, Joseph Henson, Jonathan Webster, James Keane, Punky Dod

May 8

8:00 Sarah Lanford, William McCorkle, Russ Knudson, Gerry Locher, David Jacobs
10:30 Dennis Cross, John Burleson, Farris Hotchkiss, Elizabeth Harralson, Shay Peters

May 15

8:00 Holt Merchant, Rob Apgar, Penny Henneman, Hank Humphreys, Pam Simpson
10:30 Roger Crockett, Anna Crockett, Mary Webster, Peter Fyfe, Clara Belle Weatherman

May 22

8:00 Suzanne Keen, David Jacobs, Lu Dooley, Gerry Locher, David Jacobs
10:30 Mike Smitka, David Jacobs, Judy Glick, James Keane, Pam Traugott

May 29

8:00 Sarah Lanford, John Milford, Holt Merchant, Rob Apgar, Gerry Locher
10:30 Dan Coffey, Marcy Molinaro, Mary Doyle, Sharon Massie, Buster Lewis

ACOLYTES

May 1

8:00 Forrest Walden
10:30 Mary, Maggie, & Jake Lawrence

May 8

8:00 Ben Connelly
10:30 Sydney Cross, Condé Crittenden, Harrison Crittenden

May 15

8:00 Noah Sailer
10:30 Katherine Bowles, Emma Burleson, Thomas McHan

May 22

8:00 Forrest Walden
10:30 Jake Lawrence, Thomas Bartenstein, Talmadge Coffey

May 29

8:00 Ben Connelly
10:30 John Smitka, Walker Cross, Tomas McBrayer

PLATE COUNT TEAM HEADS

May 1 Mo Littlefield
May 8 Barbara Luton
May 15 Bob Glick
May 22 Jeff Grossman
May 29 Susan Cross

ALTAR GUILD

May 1 Sharon Humphreys, Elizabeth Harralson, Nancy Walker, Diana Kenney, Julie Grover
May 8 Rose Gordon, Suzanne Carmichael, Joan Crawford, Chris Howison, Tracey Mason, Molly Brown, Myra Brush
May 15 Laura Stearns, MJ Mayerchak, Martha Ackerly, Pat Gibson, Paula Hunter, Alice Moore, Peggy Riethmiller, Mary Webster
May 22 Jane Brooke, Gretchen Walden, Judy Glick, Elise Sprunt, Catherine Marcus, Drusie Milford, Virginia Dabney
May 29 Sharon Humphreys, Elizabeth Harralson, Nancy Walker, Diana Kenney, Julie Grover

LEMONADE BRIGADE

May 1 Don & Claudia Ellis
May 8 The Webster Family
May 15 Barton & Gail Dick
May 22 The Bowles Family
May 29 David & Bonnie Gates

For the RARA Food Pantry Jelly, Canned Fruit & Lo-Sugar

*Leave your bags under the table
outside the Parish Office.*

Thursday Pantry Schedule

May 5—John Harralson, Elizabeth Harralson, Toni Brown, Lynwood Dent (Barton Dick, Bill Luton)

May 12—Paul Goddard, Sarah Burleson, Tom Crittenden, Clara Belle Weatherman (Mo Littlefield, Carol Muir)

May 19—Jane Brooke, Bill Luton, Norman Bowles, Linda Sizemore (Punky Dod & Joan Millon)

May 26—Claudia Ellis, Daniel Brinson, John Dinkel, Nancy Dinkel (Charlotte Murphy, Carol Muir)

USHERS & OBLATION BEARERS AT 10:30

May 1 Grigg Mullen, Cindy Mullen, Ed Craun, Dick Rathmell
May 8 John Milford, Drusie Milford, Chris Howison, David Howison
May 15 Roger Crockett, Anna Crockett, Frank Settle, Lynda deMaria
May 22 Tom Vinson, Joseph Henson, Jonathan Webster, Farris Hotchkiss
May 29 Barton Dick, Gail Dick, Dick Rathmell, Bob Glidden

GREETERS AT 10:30

May 1 Judy & Bill Noell
May 8 Pam Traugott & Linda Sizemore
May 15 Martha Ackerly & Punky Dod
May 22 Cecile & Frank Settle
May 29 Molly Brown & Tracey Mason

Deadline Information

Bulletins, Tuesday afternoon
Cross & Crown, 15th of the month
preceding publication.

Bishop of the Diocese

The Rt. Rev. F. Neff Powell

Rector

The Rev. Tom Crittenden

Chaplain

The Rev. Dr. Bob Crewdson

Director of Music: Daniel Brinson

Program Director: Sharon Massie

Parish Administrator: Kay Horner

Treasurer: Buddy Atkins

Financial Secretary: Anita Ramp

Publications Assistant: Susan Compton

Sexton: Connie Bryant

Clergy Associates: The Rev. John A. Furgerson

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

The Rev. Dr. Jackson P. Hershbell

Vestry 2011

Alexandra Brown

Suzanne Carmichael

Melissa Cox

Doug Cumming

Punky Dod

Mary Doyle

Don Ellis

Timothy Gaylard

Judy Glick

Sarah Lanford

Howard Pickett

Steve Riethmiller

Gloria Smitka

Mary Webster

Don Whittington

Gail Dick, Clerk to the Vestry

- 1 Janice Campbell
Christi Crittenden
- 2 Elizabeth Harrelson
- 3 Carl Weaver
- 4 Anne Harer
- 6 Bob Fabrizio
- 7 Rob Apgar
Elizabeth Moore
- 8 Steve Grist
Kate Holston
River Hull
- 10 Joe Crittenden
- 12 Anne Hershbell
- 13 Caroline Russell
Gordon Woodcock
- 15 Jenny Mastin
Alex Morrison



- 16 Elaine Price
Ginny Price
- 17 Dan Coffey
Phil Peters
- 20 Joan Crawford
- 22 Bill Connelly
- 25 Ernestine Hockaday
- 26 Georgie Brush
Jayne Shaw
- 27 Virginia Dabney
- 30 Bob Lawrence
Lyle McClung
Tim Moore
- 31 Ellie Mastin
Jenner Smith