



Cross & Crown

News of the Ministry & Mission of R. E. Lee Memorial Church, 123 W. Washington St., Lexington, VA September 2007

September 9 is the Day!

*A Welcoming Fair
on the Courtyard at 9:15
with Sunday School
Registration to Follow!*

Take a Sunday-morning stroll on the courtyard and see some of the ways we are involved in mission in this parish, in the greater Church, and in the world. The entities of our parish—from Higher Education Ministries to Mission and Outreach, Stewardship to Christian Nurture—will have displays about their work, and you'll have an opportunity find a new place of service for next year or to renew a current commitment.

There'll also be juice, coffee, and breakfast treats, so join in and make the rounds!



Sunday School Start-up

After the Welcoming Fair, Sunday School registration for children will take place on the top floor, Parish House. Registration forms are not being sent by mail this year—register your child when you arrive.

Parish Office Notes

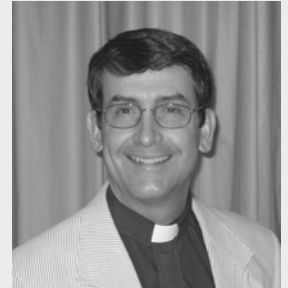
The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day.

The deadline for the weekly bulletin is Tuesday afternoon. The deadline for Cross & Crown submissions is the fifteenth of the month preceding publication.

And remember to contact Kay in the Parish Office with address or phone number changes!

It is good for me that I was humbled, so that I might learn your statutes. The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments. Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word.

Psalm 119:71-74



When I returned to the Church in 1977, after several years of youthful wandering, I sought to revive my relationship with God and seek purpose and meaning for my life. I imagined needing a few months of Bible study accompanied by a smattering of theology, history, and spiritual stuff to get me headed in the right direction, cruising down the road with Jesus—kind of a crash course in Christianity to reprogram my religious auto-pilot!

It did not take but a week of *trying* to read the Old Testament on my own for me to realize three things:

- I needed to commit to study for a *long* haul if I even expected to learn the basics of the faith,
- I would need lots of assistance along the way, *and*
- There was no such thing as a “religious auto-pilot!”

I realized that a true commitment to a relationship with God requires a life-time of study and growth. Learning about and understanding God and his Word is a continual process of spiritual growth, education, exploration and *transformation*. And it is a top priority for God.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

This is why every year our Parish organizes numerous offerings of educational opportunities for the Sunday School year, *not just for our children and young people but for all church members*. Study is not the only tool of spiritual transformation, but it is one of the basic, essential tools that sustains continual growth in our relationship with God.

The question is not *whether* God is calling you to study him and his Word. The question is *how*.

I invite you to join in the Psalmist's prayer and open yourself to God's calling to grow your relationship with him: *Give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.*

The Rev. Tom Crittenden

From the Stewardship Committee

Fellow Parishioners of R. E. Lee Church,

With the calling of the Rev. Tom Crittenden as Rector, the Stewardship Committee has chosen *Sing a New Song* as our theme for this year's Every Member Canvass. We see this as an opportunity for each of us to reflect upon our many blessings and renew our commitment to a lifestyle of stewardship. This theme is highlighted in portions of Psalm 96:

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples. Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honor and power. Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

We give thanks that Tom, Christi, and family are here at R. E. Lee Church, and we give thanks for the abundant gifts bestowed by God. All that we are and all that we have comes from the Father. Let us renew our covenant with God and find new ways to regularly give of our time, abilities, energy and treasure.

From the Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The Episcopal Church Women will meet at noon on Tuesday, September 4, in the Parish Hall for a brown bag lunch (dessert and drinks provided). Come and hear plans for plum puddings and the Christmas Bazaar as well as an update on the kitchen renovation.

The Lexington/Rockbridge County Ecumenical Women's Group will meet at Lexington Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. Attendees are asked to bring paper products to be given to RARA. Call Alice Furgerson (464-1244) if you have questions.

*For more information on either of these events,
call Alice Furgerson 464-1244.*

Education for Ministry (EFM) begins September 18

EFM will begin its fall session on Tuesday, September 18, at 6 p.m. in the Library. Those interested should contact Sharon Massie at sharonmassie@comcast.net or 464-5408.

EFM is a program of theological education-at-a-distance from the School of Theology of the University of the South. Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program covering the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology.

The program grants a certificate at the completion of the four years and 18 continuing education units for each year's work.

A Critter Update: After several recent bat sightings in and around the Parish House, a wildlife control specialist was called in to inspect the property. No evidence of an infestation was found, but preventative measures are being taken to make roof and vent areas of both the church and the Parish House inaccessible to unwanted critters.

A Celebration of the Feast of Marc Nikkel

***Sunday, September 2
3:30 to 7 p.m.***

A Diocesan Event
to benefit the school

At 3:30 on the Courtyard The Great Gathering!

Displays of Sudanese life and faith
Multi-media presentations
Banner-making
Sudanese crafts
Games, and drumming

Round-table discussions
with friends of Sudan—
*The Rev. Kim Webster,
The Right Rev. A. Heath Light,
The Rev. Lauren Stanley,
Dr. Jim Hentz*

Light refreshments
including Sudanese fare

At 5:30 in the church Songs and Prayers for Sudan

Remarks by The Rt. Rev. Heath Light,
fourth Bishop of our diocese.
Music by a Sudanese band
Sudanese hymns and poetry



Book Club
Wednesdays
7 p.m. in
the Library

In the Parish Register

Transfer Out
Rhonda & Emily Wheeler
to St. Andrews, Newport News, VA

Wonderful Wednesdays



St. Francis Choir (2nd grade - middle school)
Meets Wednesdays, 4:15 snack, 4:30 - 5:30 rehearsal

God's Children Sing (Ages 3 - First grade)
Meets Wednesdays, 3:30 - 4:15
Study Hall provided for siblings during these times.

Youth Ensemble
(high school students who wish to sing or play an instrument)
Call Daniel for meeting times!

For more information on any of the musical offerings of our church,
contact Daniel Brinson at 570-2626, or dbrinson@releechurch.org

A Tip of the Taper to the Carmichaels!

After years of faithful service scheduling our acolytes, calling each week with reminders, and rescheduling to accommodate busy youth schedules, Mike and Suzanne Carmichael are retiring. Our parish owes them a debt of gratitude for overseeing our young people in this vital contribution to our worship. For the mailings and the reminders and the response to last-minute cries of "Help! I can't be there," we offer heartfelt thanks.

Acolytes to Meet with the Rector

Our acolytes will meet with our new Rector on Sunday, September 16, immediately following the 10:30 service. He looks forward to being with you!

Acolytes Plan a Road Trip!

The 28th Annual National Acolyte Festival will be held on October 6 at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The Festival Service of Holy Eucharist with Rededication of the Acolytes will begin at 10 a.m., followed by lunch and a variety of workshops and tours.

Acolytes from all across our country will be there with their processional crosses, banners, and torches for the festive procession of acolytes. For more information on the trip, contact Susan Cross at crossx5@embarqmail.com. Chaperones are welcome!

Also, if you're interested in serving as an acolyte in our parish, contact Sharon Massie at sharonmassie@comcast.net. An acolyte training session is being scheduled, so this is a wonderful time to join this group.

Put it in the Bag for RARA

The food items for September for the RARA Food Pantry are dried beans and rice. Leave your items on the main floor of the Parish House under the hall table.



The Columbarium

At its regular August meeting, the Vestry voted to approve the location of a columbarium with niches in the church under the balcony and a scattering garden in the St. Francis garden area of the courtyard.

The Vestry will appoint a standing columbarium committee that will become a full committee of the Vestry charged with developing policy and procedures on issues relating to the columbarium.

Christianity and Culture

Sundays at 9:15 in the Parish Hall

Sept. 9 & 16
Images of Mary Magdalene
Pam Simpson
Professor of Art History, W&L

Sept. 23
The Psalms as Poetry
Suzanne Keen
Professor of English, W&L

Sept. 30
The Holy Grail
Roger Crockett
Professor of German, W&L

Notes of Thanks

I wish to thank the Wardens, Vestry and particularly the Parishioners of R. E. Lee Church for the very nice gift of a monogrammed clergy vestment garment bag that I received at the August 12 service. It will come in handy as I continue to travel to various churches to conduct worship services. I really appreciate this very kind gift.

John Furgerson

Dear Parishioners,

Thanks for remembering my graduation and for the cross from our former steeple.

Sincerely,
Andrew Pharr

Serving in September

Readers and Chalicists

September 2

- 8:00 Russell Knudson, Hank Humphreys,
Pam Simpson, Punky Dod, Sharon Massie
10:30 Landon Jones, Doug Cumming, Mary Doyle,
Renaë Patrick, Peter Fyfe

September 9

- 8:00 William McCorkle, Gerry Locher, Holt Mer-
chant, Hank Humphreys, Rob Apgar
10:30 Bob deMaria, Brian Dearing, Doug Ayer,
Melissa Cox, Buster Lewis

September 16

- 8:00 Sarah Lanford, John Milford, Russell
Knudson, Sharon Peters, Pam Simpson
10:30 George Brooke, Steve Riethmiller,
Mary Webster, Eileen Hinks

September 23

- 8:00 Hank Humphreys, Gerry Locher, Penny
Henneman, Punky Dod, Sharon Massie
10:30 Bridget Dearing, Judy Glick, Alice Furgerson,
Mary Doyle, Pat Gibson

September 30

- 8:00 Russell Knudson, John Milford, Rob Apgar,
Gerry Locher, Sharon Peters
10:30 Holt Merchant, Bill Noell, Farris Hotchkiss,
Clara Belle Weatherman, MJ Mayerchak

Lemonade Brigade

- September 2 Ann and Jerry Nay
September 9 Claudia and Don Ellis
September 16 The Smitka Family
September 23 Judy and Farris Hotchkiss
September 30 Lisa and Norman Bowles

A Note from the Welcoming Committee: On Sunday mornings, we need all our parishioners to make our newcomers feel welcome. When you see someone that you think might be new to our church, introduce yourself and chat with them. The lemonade time on the courtyard is a perfect opportunity for this. We want to be known as a friendly, welcoming church, and we encourage everyone to wear a name tag to make conversation easier.

Acolytes

September 2

- 8:00 Grier Cross
10:30 Will Shehan, Brittigan Coffey, Talmadge Coffey

September 9

- 8:00 Will Shehan
10:30 Anne Tatum Wright, Kris Hoolahan, Mary Lawrence

September 16

- 8:00 Brittigan Coffey
10:30 Zach Dearing, Matt Hinks, Thomas Bartenstein

September 23

- 8:00 Walker Cross
10:30 Talmadge Coffey, Forest Shaw, William Shaw

September 30

- 8:00 Will Shehan
10:30 Marshall Walden, Forrest Walden, Mason Grist

Greeters at 10:30

- September 2 Carol Muir and Mary Lawrence
September 9 Frank and Cecile West Settle
September 16 Charlotte Moore and
Clara Belle Weatherman
September 23 Chris and David Howison
September 30 Doris and Kris Hoolahan



AND WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING—Wonderful Wednesdays took off in high gear as children of all ages met in the Parish Hall for a Music and Pizza Party.

To Those Who Serve: Our thanks to all who serve during worship. If you find you cannot serve on the date assigned, please secure a substitute and notify Kay in the Parish Office, 463-4981 or hornerk@releechurch.org.

Bishop of the Diocese

The Rt. Rev. F. Neff Powell

Rector

The Rev. F. Thomas G. Crittenden

Director of Music: Daniel Brinson

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; The Rev.

Dr. Jackson P. Hershbell; The Rev. Dr. Robert

Crowdson

Vestry 2007

Buddy Atkins

George Brooke III

Molly Brown

John Burleson

Roger Crockett

Susan Cross

Libby Cumming

Bridget Kelley-Dearing

Bob de Maria

Bob Glidden

Cindy Mullen

Woody Sadler

Brian Shaw

Gretchen Walden

Jonathan Webster

- 1 Becky Merchant
- 2 Katherine Bowles
Harrison Branner
- 3 Buster Lewis
Isabella Sayre
Lola Shepherd
- 4 Gail Dick
Dick Sessoms
- 5 Ned Henneman
- 7 John Burleson
Dennis Cross
- 8 Pam Simpson
- 9 John Chiles
Marlys Craun
Virginia Hart
Al Rooklin
Jaclyn Stockwell
- 10 Dorsey Woodson
- 11 Ham Smith
- 12 Karen Hull
- 15 Valerie Gaylard
- 18 Judy Hotchkiss
Chuck Ivy
Carolyn Kuper

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- 19 Thomas Bartenstein
Peter Fyfe
Julia Littlefield
Nanalou Sauder
Frank Settle
- 20 William Cumming
Keith Gibson
Spencer Tucker
- 21 Rose Benedict
Chris Howison
- 22 Heather Mason
Ann Nay
Elizabeth Oliver
Mike Stolarz
- 25 Carolyn Knudson
Anne Weede
- 26 Christin Suthard
- 27 Teri Cochran
- 28 Myra Brush
Bill Dabney
Bob Walden
- 30 Lynda deMaria
Barbara Goldsten
Mo Littlefield
Will Shehan