



# Genesis

MY SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST,

I write this letter in the days leading up to our Annual Meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to our time together, praying that we will seek God’s will for the life of our congregation, and for the world we are called to serve, and then choose to do something about it.

October 4<sup>th</sup> also happens to be the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi as appointed in our Church calendar. Francis is one of the most beloved of all the saints. His appreciation for the glory of God’s creation, coupled with one of the most compassionate souls to ever walk the earth, has made a lasting impression on the Church and on the world.

Several Sundays ago, I spoke about the meaning of “orthodoxy” and “orthopraxy”. Orthodoxy has to do with “right belief” about God. It is about theology, that is, the words we use to describe and teach about our faith in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is no doubt that orthodoxy is of utmost importance to the Christian community. For good reason much has been said, written, argued, and debated in regards to orthodoxy over the centuries.

Orthopraxy, on the other hand, has to do with putting our orthodoxy into practice. Our faith is not just about reciting Jesus’ summary of the Law as found in Matthew 22:37-40. It is about putting those words into action.

This, in my estimation, is what makes Francis’ life so remarkable. He took his Lord’s words to heart and made that love for God and for all God’s children the basis of his entire life. He did not just talk about God’s peace. He truly became an instrument of that peace.

Another Francis has recently visited our country. Pope Francis had much to say about the Good News that Jesus came to share with us, and his teaching was beautiful and profound. More importantly, it was what he did while here that resonated with most people. His embodiment of Christ’s love in the compassion he humbly shared with those he met, that is the reason why so many call him “the People’s Pope”. Rather than lecture about right doctrine and dogma, he embraced the powerful, the poor, and those of other beliefs. Instead of drawing distinctions between “the righteous” and the “unrighteous”, he included us all. That is exactly what his namesake did almost eight hundred years ago. Of course, Francis of Assisi was simply responding to the divine love revealed in God’s Son twelve hundred years before his lifetime and decided he must do something about it.

We are to preach the Gospel always. We are to use words when necessary.

Faithfully in Christ,  
The Rev. Rob Banse



Blessing of the Animals  
October 4th at 4 p.m.

**Our Annual Meeting & Election will be held beginning at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 4, 2015**

**One service Holy Eucharist Rite II at 9:30 a.m.**

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 4, Annual Meeting-one service at 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 4, Blessing of the Animals at 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 24 @ 9 am Blessing of the Hounds
- Oct. 24, 9 am-2 pm Cherry Blossom Mamovan in Church parking lot
- Nov. 7, 4-7 p.m. PCCC Oyster Roast

## VESTRY NOTES

The Vestry met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on September 15, 2015, at 6:00 in Cox Hall. Rob opened the meeting with a prayer that was followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. Greg Ellison offered the Bible Study from the Wisdom of Solomon.

Carol Miller presented the Treasurer's report and the Finance Committee report. The annual Audit report, required by Canon I.7 (a), (f)-(g), has been completed and will be presented to the Vestry at the October meeting. Profit and Loss comparisons between August 2014 and August 2015 were discussed. Pledge payments are down, but expenses are down as well, particularly expenses related to the Gulick House. Pledge collections received are 74% of the total pledged for the year. The Balance Sheet for the year to date was also discussed. The Endowment earnings are down somewhat due to recent stock market uncertainty. Carol also reported two new members to the Finance Committee: Dan Murphy, who will chair Stewardship this year has joined the committee; and Hurst Groves, who brings his experience as a Vestryman and Finance Committee member from his previous church has also joined.

The Annual Meeting was discussed at length. The Vestry had previously agreed to model the meeting as closely as possible to the May "State of the Parish" meeting that had been so well received, with many parishioners saying they thought we should have more meetings like it. The structure of the meeting was discussed and an additional Vestry meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, to plan further.

Dan Murphy led a discussion on the stewardship plan for 2016. He will announce the plans at the Annual Meeting. Dan also discussed the need for a three-year budget for proper planning purposes for the church. None on the Vestry knew if such a plan had ever before been adopted at Trinity before, but a three-year budget would allow the Vestry and the congregation to take a longer view of the needs of the church and plan accordingly.

Out of the Annual meeting discussions, the Vestry agreed it was important and would be helpful to have input from the congrega-

tion on what they wanted Trinity to be known for. To that end, bulletin boards were arranged in Cox Hall asking questions and sticky pads were attached so parishioners could write their answers and attach them to the boards. The answers on the boards will be taken into consideration when the new Vestry begins its business in October.

Rob reported that the Clergy Committee has not yet been successful in finding the right Assistant Rector for Trinity. The Clergy Committee agreed the next step should be to contact the Diocese and enter Trinity Church into the program the Diocese sponsors matching senior seminarians with starting positions following graduation. The program offers several advantages for Trinity and will allow us to interview many of the top graduates at the earliest stages of their search. At the same time, the Clergy Committee will continue to review applications as they come in response to the advertisements on the Diocesan website and the Province website.

The Wardens said farewell to the Vestry. Gina Hammond expressed her deep gratitude to the staff for their hard work and cooperation this past year. She also stated what a privilege it had been to work with the Vestry the past three years, to have been both Senior Warden and Junior Warden. She said she looked forward to continuing to work for the church in whatever capacity she was needed.

I thanked the Vestry for the great honor to serve the congregation of Trinity Church and to work with them in that service. We worked together, stood together as we needed to do, and supported Trinity and the Rector as we were called to do. I look forward to continuing to volunteer and to work and support Trinity in any way I can. I also thanked the Trinity staff for their outstanding and ongoing work at the church.

Finally, I thanked our Rector, Rob Banse, for the honor and privilege of working with him. His deep faith, spiritual leadership and guidance in church matters are a blessing to us all.

Faithfully,  
Rebecca Hoecker

## S.O.M.E.

On September 18th, we went to DC and fed 350 people and fed them well. Thank you to all who donated baked goods for they were gratefully devoured. A special thanks to Ambassador & Mrs. Anderson for providing fresh apples.

Cooks: Sarah Sisk, Robin Keys, Jane Kates, Sharon Clinton, Edie Smart and daughters Charlotte & Pricilla, Beth Lamond, Nicky Perry, Harriett Condon, and Ann MacLeod.

Serving: Robin Keys, Mary & John MacDonnell, Jim Gemmer, Leigh O Wood, Carol Miller, Gina Hammond, Margaret New, and Ann MacLeod.

Join us in November when we will cook the meal in Cox Hall, Thursday the 19th at 7:30 a.m.

We serve on Nov. 20th leaving the church lot promptly at 8:30 a.m.



# Announcements

## Mammography Van to Visit Trinity – Oct. 24

The Cherry Blossom Foundation aims to assist *local* women through education, detection, and treatment of breast cancer. Pursuant to that mission, the Cherry Blossom Foundation, together with Trinity Church, will be hosting a mobile mammography van in the parking lot across the street from the church, **Saturday, October 24 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.** There will be **no cost** to those wishing to be screened, as care will be underwritten by the Komen Foundation, and Novant Health. **Please call Stephanie Knapp at 540-592-3333 to schedule your FREE appointment.**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Members of Trinity are also encouraged to participate in the annual Walk/Run scheduled for Sun., Oct. 11, 1:00 p.m. at Foxcroft.

The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation provided grants to Novant that helped to purchase the mobile mammography van. Screenings will be offered on a drop-in and also a sign-up basis (for appointments), and will be made available to patients regardless of whether they have medical insurance. For more information, please contact **Stephanie Knapp**.



The Annual Blessing of the Animals is scheduled for Sunday, October 4th at 4 p.m.

Bring your furry or not so furry friends to be blessed by The Rev. Banse!



## 2015 TRINITY CHRISTMAS AUCTION

This year's Trinity's Christmas Auction will take place on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to participate! We are presently seeking donated items. Now is the time to donate items or services. For more information or to contribute your items and/or skills to the auction, please contact

Betsy Crenshaw: 540-592-3343, [betsy@trinityuppperville.org](mailto:betsy@trinityuppperville.org)

## ADULT FORUM: FALL 2015

Join us in Cox Hall from 9:30a—10:15a

**Oct 18 + 25: Kathryn Gemmer: "The Layperson's World of C.S. Lewis as Viewed Through his Radio Talk Series and Best Selling Book 'Mere Christianity'"**. It has been over seventy years since C.S. Lewis first delivered his *Mere Christianity* discussions on live radio in war torn England. Come explore what relevance these timeless radio topics have for our world today. Session 1 will include a brief biography of the award winning author as he progressed from a self proclaimed atheist to the role of a devout Christian who shared his beliefs with the world. This session will also begin the discussion of a basic tenet of *Mere Christianity*: the natural ability of the human individual to discern between right and wrong as evidence for the existence of God. "This study aims to fulfill the vision of C.S. Lewis of reaching people from all faith backgrounds."

**11/8/15: Rev. Arthur Bishop : Anglican Church History**  
Arthur H. Bishop is a retired Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister who served congregations in North Carolina, Indiana and Virginia. He holds three academic degrees—BA from Barton College, Wilson, NC and two graduate degrees from Christian Theological Seminary and Butler University, Indianapolis, IN. He is the author of "Jesus: What He Was and What He Wasn't." 2005 and "Creating Religion Freedom--16th Century Revolution that sparked Christian Dispersion." 2013. He has lectured with Life Long Learning Institute (LLI) for seniors, Prince William County since 2006 including "The Historical Jesus," "Lasting Effects of Two World Wars," "Early Christianity in the First Century," "Protestant Reformation," "First Four Centuries of Christianity," "History of WWI." He resides with his wife Nadine at Heritage Hunt, Gainesville, VA.

**12/13/15: Anne Konur: Windswept Academy**, Mission in South Dakota: Challenges and Blessings of the Lakota peoples.

## TRINITY CHURCH 1840—1992 BY KITTY SLATER (PART ONE)

Religion has been an active and important part of the life in the Upperville area, at least since 1775. The Baptists were the first to have a church, the Goose Creek Baptist Church, reached from this area by the Lower Goose Creek Church Road, still identified on the recently published Fauquier Streets map. On days of today this once upon a time holy road was part of a boundary of some of the Paul Mellon properties joining our West View farm. Sharing boundaries, Paul Mellon and my mother-in-law, Tacie Fletcher Glascock Slater, researched and brought to light the detailed Minutes of the Goose Creek Baptist Church, which it is believed to have been located near a creek ford, over which the scenic stone bridge on Old Route 50 near Atoka and now a Virginia landmark was built by Croset, the bridge builder and famed engineer of the mid-1800's. The Church Minutes stated that the meetings were well-attended, and the discourses of Thomas Bridges much appreciated. However, Mr. Bridges did not appear to practice what he preached. As after leaving Goose Creek Church, he was convicted of horse stealing, and spent time in the Penitentiary. Also, according to the Minutes of 1816, "being harvest, no meeting was held. In this year, we had no summer. There were frosts in every month, although wheat ripened at the usual time." At that time, women members outnumbered the men 2:1, [53:27]. The complete Goose Creek record books are now included in the Virginia archives of the University of Virginia library, with a copy having been presented to the Upperville current Baptist Church.

Concordia Meeting House "a free church for white people" was erected in the early 1800's as Upperville's first place of worship, and located on a site back of the current Upperville Post Office. Together with other denominations, Episcopalians attended services there until 1840, when Trinity Church, Meade Parish, was established. The Reverend George Adie, having succeeded in erecting a small, though handsome and comfortable edifice, number of communicants: 20. After the Civil War, Concordia was offered as a Negro Church, and was said to be used as such until 1894, when it burned. The lot was eventually acquired by the People's National Bank of Leesburg. The branch bank was built there, but it went defunct in the 1920's, after the cashier had helped himself generously from the till, and committed suicide. The former bank building, whose thick stone walls were built from the ruins of Concordia, is the present Upperville Post Office. Today's two black Upperville churches, one Methodist, the other Baptist, evidently were outgrowths of Concordia Meeting House. The Episcopalians were late-comers in having their own church in Upperville before 1840. Methodists also pre-dated them with the Upperville Methodist Church, a handsome building of Georgian design being built in 1832 on land offered by George Calvert, husband of Eliza Carr, one of the six daughters of Joseph Carr, the founder in 1818 of Carr Town, later to be called Upperville. He also had four sons. Carr's "Mansion House" as it was called, of the village is, as of this date 1992, owned by Trinity's Senior Warden, Thomas diZerega. During the Civil War, the church proper was commandeered by Union forces as a hospital; the basement used as a stable. Some years later, the U.S. Congress authorized payment for damages. The Calvert family also owned the large brick house now called the Keith House, of Trinity's real estate holdings. In my time, "Miss May," Miss Mary Rosser Calvert was a saint of Trinity and of the

Upperville community. I know of three homeless women, one in a wheelchair, that she took into her home to care for and love until their demise. She was a complete Altar Guild of Trinity, even making the communion wine from her own vineyard, which once turned to vinegar. Her face resembled the Mona Lisa. Prior to the establishment of Trinity, the landed gentry of the area were among prominent Methodists. John P. Dulany included on his Welbourne Plantation near Middleburg, a Methodist church, and when Methodist circuit riders weren't available, the squire conducted services himself. In later years, the church was converted to be the home of his great-granddaughter, Miss Elizabeth Lemon, a maiden lady now in her late 90's. Beth is a granddaughter of Col. Richard Henry Dulany, founder of the Piedmont Hunt in 1840, and of the Upperville Horse Show in 1853.

When Trinity Episcopal Church was established on a site within the village of Upperville, the Dulanys and others transferred membership here, and several of Dulany memorials were included in the Trinity Church of 1895, and re-set in our current Trinity Church. The marble baptismal font is in memory of John P. Dulany. The following quote is from the Fauquier Historical Society Bulletin, July issue, 1924, as researched from Episcopal Virginia records: "Upperville, Fauquier County, Phillip Slaughter, Rector, a few members and friends of the church in the village of Upperville and vicinity enjoying the occasional ministrations of the Assistant Bishop Meade, and of the Reverend George Adie, having succeeded not long since in erecting a small, though handsome and comfortable church edifice were inspired with an earnest desire to have a minister and the regular services of the church. Number of communicants: 20.

During the past winter, the present incumbent was induced to take charge of this little flock and has been highly gratified with their prompt and liberal contribution to his support. A petition has been presented to the present 1840 convention for the organization of a new parish. Cuthbert Powell offered his credentials and took his seat at this convention as delegate from Trinity Church." (Cuthbert Powell owned Llangollen near Upperville and built the manor house.)

Bishop Meade wrote in his book Old Churches Number Two, page 275, "The Reverend George Adie, minister of Shelbourne Parish, Leesburg, 1832 – 36, holds regular, though infrequent services at Upperville, Middleburg, and Aldie, with his charge at Leesburg. Obviously, he was a tireless and eager beaver, spreading the Episcopal doctrine. In his stewardship as Assistant Bishop of Virginia, Bishop Meade made many pastoral visits to members' churches under his jurisdiction. After a pastoral visit to a church in Clarke County, he must have been shocked at the apparent [un]ruliness of the congregation of which the Rector, the Reverend George Goodwin once wrote, "Today was sacrament, yet the breed and price of horses was a theme sufficiently holy to employ the minds of those who were just bowed around the altar." And, he quoted the following jingle:

"Some come here to laugh and talk  
Some come here for the sake of the walk  
Some come here to sleep and nod  
Few come here to worship God."

You know what's said, "The more things change, the more they remain the same." But, this version could never apply to our Trinity, or could it?

In 1840, Trinity's first full-time Rector, Reverend Phillip Slaughter, was followed by the Reverend William Johnson, who resigned soon after to take charge of St. Paul's in Norfolk, where he died of yellow fever.

The next minister of Trinity was the Reverend Richard Wilmer, who later became a Bishop. After him at Trinity was the Reverend O.A. Kinsolving, 1853 – 1870. Of him, Bishop Meade said, "He proved not only acceptable to his own people but was popular with all classes."

In 1846, Middleburg Emmanuel Church was separated from Shelbourne, Leesburg, and included in Meade parish; and in 1850, the church at Aldie was similarly transferred. Later, these churches were split from Meade to form Johns Parish, named for Bishop Johns, Assistant Bishop of Virginia, after the death of Bishop Meade. This occurred during the tenure of the Reverend Kinsolving at Trinity, Upperville.

By my count, there have been 18 ministers of Trinity. I have known seven, and have been more or less actively involved in church-related activities since the late days of the Reverend Edward B. Burwell, Rector 1910 – 1930, who baptized and confirmed me. After his retirement, when he continued to make his home in Upperville in the house now owned by his granddaughter, Mary Burwell "Bunny" Nesbitt. Mr. Burwell assisted at my wedding, conducted by the Reverend William Page Dame, Rector 1933 – early 1936, when he returned to his native Maryland to take over a church in the Green Spring Valley. Here in 1936, his daughter, Josephine married Daniel Forrest deButts of Upperville. Mr. Burwell's wife was a straight-laced lady of the old school, and I was a member of her Sunday School class that was held in the main body of Trinity Church. She was insistent that the class learn the Nicene Creed by heart with absolutely no prompting. Today, I sometimes think of Mrs. Burwell, who always wore a black velvet Roman choker around her neck, when I look around church and see almost everybody else in the congregation reaching for a prayer book to read it.

Mr. Burwell, besides attending to his flock, liked to shoot and fish with his four boys, who were contemporaries of the seven sons in the Dulaney/deButts family, who lived in the original house at Ayrshire. Hunter and Doctor Dick deButts have been among Trinity's Vestry. Harry deButts and Ed Burwell, the senior members of the families, set an Upperville tradition of the "Coon Dogs" in 1919 which has carried forward through the decades and in 1952, Le Chalet Pantherskin, high in the Blue Ridge off Snakeskin Road, became their so-called "clubhouse." Here they shared tales of hunting and old romances and loving cups of bourbon and branch water. Their descendants have continued in the "Coon Dogs" tradition and annually hold family reunions the last week in August.

The opening gun is the barbeque at Le Chalet Pantherskin, reached by an impassable mountain pass that somehow becomes

passable the last week in August each year. The climax of the reunion is the attendance of the entire group, [having] multiplied to many more than a hundred, at Eucharist services at Trinity Church. At one of these services, a stone was set in memory of Mr. Burwell in the main aisle floor of Trinity.

Following the Reverend Edward Burwell, 1910 – 1930 at Trinity, was the Reverend Laurence Brent, who arrived late in 1930. He was *no* Mr. Burwell. But Laurence was young. He was married while at Trinity and he was ambitious and he fired-up Trinity inreach and Trinity outreach. Among his first outreach activities, he started a mission in an abandoned mountain shack in what was then known as Semper's Hollow, on the east side of the Blue Ridge, southwest of Paris and at the edge of a large property that was considered almost a feudal domain. The owner of this block of land employed as farm laborers seven or eight illiterate, ignorant and inter-married families, most with the same name, and most of whom had never been as far away as Winchester. Laurence Brent, besides holding services at the mission, Miss May Calvert had gone with him to teach Sunday School, Trinity arranged, at the insistence of our Rector, to hire a school bus to bring his mission group to church at Trinity. This attempt was not successful. The children screamed, lice was visible in their hair, and even babies' faces had been smeared with rouge. (We never figured out quite why.) And the body odor from this new congregation was overpowering! They believed in the "layered" look. As the weather cooled, a layer of clothes was added on top of another, 'til springtime. Even Lawrence decided the mission was still their bag. Almost none of the adults had ever been inside a school, although there had been a one-room Paris school for many years, so their children didn't go to school either. My sister, Anne Gochnauer, a long-time member of Trinity, and then a recent graduate of Sweet Briar College majoring in psychology, became interested in the Semper's Hollow Mission, and raised the flag for a Parish School then lacking a teacher. She invaded Semper's Hollow in a Model "A" Ford Roadster with a stylish rumble seat, to collect pupils. She met with little or no enthusiasm from the parents or from the owner of the so-called "domain." But Anne coaxed some of the parents to agree to send some of their younger kids, who arrived at school's first day with fear and trembling. "C" for "Cleanliness" was definitely the first lesson but soon she was successful in teaching them their A-B -C's and to write their names and to begin learning the 3-R's. After a reasonably short time, some of the older brothers and sisters began to give school a try. Herbert, a handsome, tall 16-year-old, evidenced an avid interest in learning after he got over his embarrassment at being in school with six-year-olds. Anne said he reminded her of the "Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come". He became her prize pupil and was an influence in spreading the good word about Miss Anne's school. Some of her Paris pupils would stop in later years to speak to her and report on the reasonably good jobs in the area. One named Jack, who Anne had thought really hopeless as a learner, reported some success in the sewer department of Fairfax City. Anne taught at the one-room Paris School for a couple of years during the depression, moving on to still work with youth as head of the National Youth Administration in 18 Virginia counties.



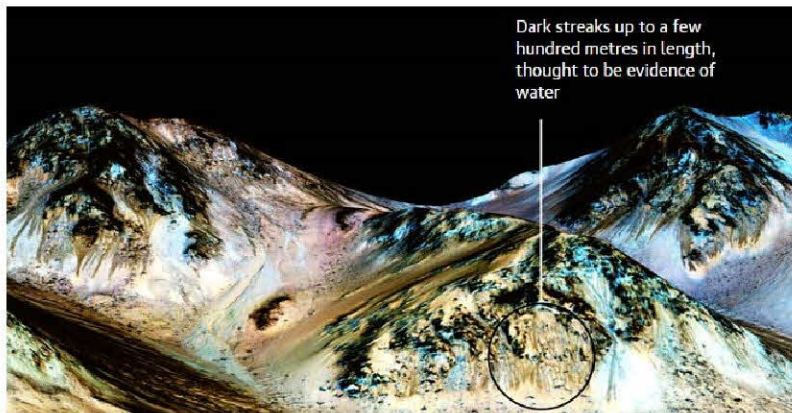
## SERVING IN NOVEMBER

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Oct. 15-Nov. 18: Team 5—Ellen Hall, Holly Bimba, Harriett Condon, Bunny Shick, Celeste Wheelwright Nov. 19-Dec. 23: Team 4—Jolly de Give, Jim Gable, Patty Jarvis, Pamela Wynfield				
	<b>November 1 All Saints</b>	<b>November 8 24 Pentecost</b>	<b>November 15 25 Pentecost</b>	<b>November 22 Christ the King</b>	<b>November 29 I Advent</b>
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Gina Hammond Joyce Brower Jane Kates Pat Sharp Edie Smart	Gina Hammond Margaret Hilliard June Hambrick	Jimmy Hatcher Gay Estin Elizabeth Gore Dorothy Gow Ruth Ripley Barbara Sharp	Carolyn Smith Cathy Boswell Arla Lewis Mary MacDonnell Gretchen Zeltner	Anne Coyner Barbara Augenblick Sally Fletcher Becky Hoecker Betty Long Cindy Mullett
<b>Memorial Flowers</b>	All Saints	Wanda & Foster Johann	John Levis		Greens
<b>Lectionary Readings</b>	Solomon 3:1-9 Psalm 24 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44	1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44	Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-9 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36
<b>8:00 a.m. Service: Holy Eucharist Rite I</b>					
<b>LEM</b>	Beth Lamond	Walta Warren	Lewis Martin	Ellen Hall	Dan Haney
<b>Lector</b>	Cindy Thompson	Greg Ellison	Cheri Martin	Walta Warren	Beth Lamond
<b>Ushers</b>	Nicky Perry Walta Warren	Debbie Gerbich Barbara duPont	Robert Bonnie Jimmy Hatcher	Holly & Chuck Bimba	Sarah & Greg Ellison
<b>Healing Ministry</b>	Cheri Martin Clyde Lamond	/	/	/	/
<b>Coffee Hour</b>		Millington Family			
<b>10:30 a.m. Service Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>					
<b>LEM</b>	Arch Randolph Sheryl Heckler	Barbara Augenblick Ken Knapp	Gina Hammond Ed Moore	Sabine Bibb Pamela Wynfield	Elizabeth Norman Debra Latiolais
<b>Lectors</b>	Kelly Johnson Margaret Hilliard	Joe Markus Page Gravely	Randy Mullett Richard Myers	Arch Randolph Joe Fluet	Ginny Fluet Jill Vogel
<b>Ushers</b>	Jim Hoecker Penelope Yungblut Ray Ewing	Elizabeth Courts David Hartley Mac Hartley	Tre, Elle, & Chuck Benefield	Susan Grayson Jolly de Give Michael Scholes	Ken Knapp Stanley Dees Bunny Shick
<b>Healing Ministry</b>	Ginny Fluet Melissa Neal	Stephanie Knapp Elizabeth Gore	Ginny & Joe Fluet	Melissa Neal Michael Scholes	Stephanie Knapp Joe Fluet
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Blunt, Ince, Williamson Families	Gable Family	DeFranco Family	Stern Family	
<b>If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please find someone with whom to trade. Please remember to notify the church office of any changes. Thank you.</b>					

## ALL THINGS SAINT FRANCIS

It would seem that this Fall all things Francis are coming together. Most of us have spent the better part of a week watching images of the truly remarkable Pope Francis' visit to the US east coast as he continues to personify in both word and action what it means to be a Christian perhaps more than any religious leader in recent memory. One week later, the feast day of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, actually falls not only on a Sunday but the Sunday of our church's annual meeting when we will celebrate in word and song the Saint who dedicated his life to helping the poor and appreciating all of God's creatures and creation.

In the midst of the Francis whirlwind, it would have been easy to miss the important announcement about the latest discovery on Mars made on the Monday following the Pope's visit. It seems that the Mars exploration has moved yet another step closer to finding life outside of earth as the use of spectral analysis has proven the existence of actual water currently flowing on the frozen red planet. In reading about this discovery I re-



membered that a little over two years ago I had written on these very pages about the Mars rover discovering proof of water at a molecular level. In reading what I wrote at the time I was fascinated to realize that this first discovery coincided with

the election of Pope Francis. Could there be a connection between the Pope and alien life worthy of the National Inquirer or Jerry Springer? Of course not! And yet, the notion is intriguing. I'm not well versed in what the Catholic Church's stance is on little green men but I feel almost certain the St. Francis

would have embraced them as one of God's creatures.

For now, I will reprint my original article and consider this an update. I will save a third run of it for when we eventually find evidence that God's kingdom extends far beyond our earthly bounds.

*Christian*

## WATER, MARS, AND GOD

As many of you know, I have a great love of the water. From the estuaries of my birth place in North Carolina to the Shenandoah River where I now live, I feel most at home in places where one can float. And so, amid a foot of snow in the middle of March, the appointment of a new Pope, and preparations for the holiest and busiest time in the church year, I was thrilled to find out that at some point in history I could have dipped my paddle on Mars. Yes, the Mars rover has found definitive evidence of water on Mars and the basic ingredients necessary to support life. Armed with that knowledge, I will publicly go out on a limb and predict that the rover will eventually also find direct evidence that there has at some point been life on the planet Mars.

The book of Genesis tells us that water was the first thing. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and before he started tinkering with it, the earth was entirely water. It was from the water that all the rest came. Water is clearly God's canvass and brush, so if there was ever water on Mars then God must have been there too. And if God was there then I think it's a safe bet there has been life, maybe even still, because that is what God does. Now I don't really expect one of the pictures to come back from Mars with a pointy eared alien looking into the camera, tapping on the lens and saying what the

heck is this. Although wouldn't that be cool? I do however think it is just a matter of time until a photograph of a Martian fossil of some sort finally changes, once and for all, our age old perception of being at the center of the world. If there has been life on our very next door planet, just imagine what the possibilities are for life in the rest of the universe.

In the church, we have just relived the journey of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In these post Easter days, as the risen Lord appears as the victor over death, we have learned that God is far greater than we knew before. If and when the news comes from Mars, the scientists, philosophers, and theologians will have a field day debating the meaning and significance of the discovery. But to me, the message will be clear and simple and much the same as Easter. God is huge. Far greater than we knew before. Possibly long before the time of Genesis, God got his feet wet on Mars and one day soon we may see him looking back at us through the lens of Curiosity.

*Christian*

## Trinity Episcopal Church

*The Diocese of Virginia*

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston,

*Bishop of Virginia*

The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. "Ted" Gulick Jr.,

*Assistant Bishop*

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff,

*Bishop Suffragan*

### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert L. Banse, Jr., *Rector*  
Christian Myers, *Director of Music Ministry*  
Richard McPherson, *Organist*  
Beth A. Rogers, *Parish Administrator*  
Betsy Crenshaw, *Administrative Assistant*  
John Knouse, *Director of Family Ministries*  
Angela Lake, *Housekeeping*  
Tommy Breeden, *Sexton*

### Officers & Vestry

Becky Hoecker, *Senior Warden*  
Gina Hammond, *Junior Warden*  
Charles Ince, *Treasurer*  
Mark Thompson, *Registrar*  
**Class of 2015**  
C. Greg Ellison, David Hartley  
Becky Hoecker, Gina Hammond  
**Class of 2016**  
Bob Appenzeller, Joe Fluet  
Marguerite Sweeny, Pamela Wynfield  
**Class of 2017**  
Barbara Conner, Susan Grayson  
Jim Gemmer, Dan Murphy

## Break Out of Your Shell

OYSTER ROAST 2015

SATURDAY, **Nov. 7, 2015** • 4-7PM

PIEDMONT CHILD CARE CENTER • UPPERVILLE, VA

OYSTERS FROM THE NORTHERN NECK

BBQ COUNTRY • WINE & BEER

MUSIC BY TROY AND PAULA HAAG

### TICKETS:

\$35 IN ADVANCE • \$45 WEEK OF THE EVENT

KIDS UNDER 12: \$5

### CONTACT FOR TICKETS:

PCCC@PIEDMONTCHILDCARE.ORG

(540) 592-3908

### SPONSORED BY:



All proceeds go to the  
John P. Lewis Scholarship Fund,  
a 501 C3 Organization

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Trinity Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 127  
Upperville, VA 20185

Phone: 540-592-3343  
Fax: 540-592-3408  
E-mail: [info@trinityuppperville.org](mailto:info@trinityuppperville.org)  
[www.trinityuppperville.org](http://www.trinityuppperville.org)

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