

The

CHRONICLE

Bruton Parish Episcopal Church

www.brutonparish.org

December 2016

Closing in on our Goal

By Bill Brauer, Senior Warden

As a proud member of the Vestry for the last three years, I have witnessed the incredible outpouring of generosity and passionate commitment of our clergy and congregation to love and serve the Lord. God has truly blessed us with a wealth of opportunities, talent and treasure as a vibrant parish community and in responding to the responsibilities and challenges associated with preserving and worshiping in an historic parish church.

Together, we are making a difference in our community and the world through an incredible array of ministries that not only impact our lives but also touch the lives of our many visitors and those in need. The Lord has placed us in His garden to work and care for it; accordingly, we have responded with our precious gifts of time, planned giving, annual contributions and pledges.

The Campaign for the Fourth Century is almost over, but we still have work to do. Many of you responded generously this year, during which you were asked to increase your 2016 giving. A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to each of you. It is anticipated that this will bring about an increase of nearly \$200,000 over the previous pledge period. Those gifts as well as your pledges to 2017 Annual Giving all count toward the total Campaign goal of \$8,000,000, and that goal is well within our reach.

This year, in order to conclude the Campaign, we ask for the return of all pledge

cards by December 31st. As you prayerfully consider your 2017 pledge, please consider increasing it over the prior year if you are able to do so. We are so close, and your commitment will help us to provide for outreach and other ministries and the care and well-being of our treasured church and parish house.

This campaign has brought us together as a community of Christ and in many other ways. It has positioned us financially as we enter the next century of our commitment to love and serve the Lord. Your participation is important, consequential and very much appreciated. Thank you!



Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

Childrens' Pageant & Holy Eucharist @ 3pm
Holy Eucharist @ 4:30, 6:30, 8:30 & 10:30 pm

We will have two lines to bring worshippers into the church. Parishioners are asked to form a line from the Palace Green Gate down the walk toward the Governor's Palace. As always, wearing your parish nametag is helpful. Ushers will help form this line. The ushers will be sensitive to health and fitness of those members of the parish in line, and do their best to offer comfort and expedience. Visitors will form a line down Duke of Gloucester Street and will be admitted once parishioners have entered the church.

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

Holy Eucharist @ 7:30 & 11:15am

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Come & Pray: Women's Lenten Retreat

Fellowship & Formation

Brown-Bag Bible Study
Wednesdays @ noon
Bruton Singles (page 10)
Evening Book Group
Monday, November 28 @ 7pm
A Holiday Handbell & Organ Concert
Thursday, December 1 @ 8 pm
Salvation Army Angel Tree Donations
Return by Friday, December 2
First Friday Recovery Eucharist
Friday, December 2 @ 5:30pm
Poinsettias for Christmas Altar
Due Friday, December 2
St. Nicholas' Toy Collection for FISH
Sunday, December 4 @ 9:15 am
Newcomers' Corner
Sunday, December 4 @ 10:30am
Canterbury Grand Illumination Fundraiser
Sunday, December 4, 2 - 6 pm
ECW Advent Tea *
Wednesday, December 7 @ 4pm
Heritage Humane Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 10, 9 am - 4 pm
Living the Gospel Bible Study
Sunday, December 11 @ 11am
High School Christmas Party
Sunday, December 11 @ 5-8pm
Latisha's House Annual Christmas Gala
Sunday, December 11 @ 5-9pm
Women's Evening Potluck
Monday, December 12 @ 6:30pm
A Winter's Night & Gloria
Bruton Holiday Choral Concert
Tuesday, December 13 @ 8pm
Ordination of The Rev'd Josh Stephens
& The Rev'd Charles Bauer
Saturday, December 17 @ 11am
The Greening of the Church
Friday & Saturday, December 16 & 17
8 am through noontime
Children's Pageant Rehearsal
Sunday, December 18 @ 2 pm
Women's Theological Book Group *
Thursday, January 12, 1-2:30pm
Bruton Youth Ski Trip - February 3-5
Winter Shelter Ministry - February 5-12
125th Annual Diocesan Council
February 10-11



By the Grace of God
and with the consent of the people,
The Rt. Rev'd Herman Hollerith IV,
Bishop of Southern Virginia, will ordain
The Rev'd Joshua Paul Stephens
The Rev'd Charles Henry Arthur Bauer
to the Sacred Order of Priests in Christ's
One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on
Saturday, December 17, at 11am
in Hickory Neck Episcopal Church
in Toano, Virginia.
Your prayers and presence are requested.
A reception will follow.

Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 4

Holy Eucharist @ 7:30, 9:15 & 11:15 am
No Children's Church in St. Mary's Chapel as
St. Nicholas visits Bruton @ 9:15 am
No 5:30 pm service because of
Grand Illumination.

Sunday, December 11

Holy Eucharist @ 7:30, 9:15 & 11:15 am
Evening Prayer @ 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 18

Holy Eucharist @ 7:30, 9:15 & 11:15 am
Children's Church @ 9:15 am *
Evening Prayer @ 5:30 pm

Please see the front page of this issue
for the worship schedule for
Christmas Eve & Day.

Noonday Prayer @ Church
Monday - Saturday

Holy Eucharist - St. Mary's Chapel
Tuesdays @ 7:30 am

Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers
Wednesdays @ 11 am (Church)

Canterbury Evening Prayer
Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm in Wren Chapel
when college is in session

* Held in St. Mary's Chapel in the Parish House.

* Child care may be available for babies through elementary-aged children by reservation only.
Contact Meghan Brewer at 757-345-6489 or childcare@brutonparish.org.

Evening Book Group

This co-ed book group meets monthly from September through May from 7-9pm. The book selected for Monday, November 28, is *Wait for Signs* by Craig Johnson. If you're interested in joining the group or just want to try it for a month, contact Susie Morrison at 757-846-6863.

Salvation Army Angel Tree Donations

If you have taken a Salvation Army Angel Tree Tag, please remember to return your purchased gifts to the Parish House or to the Salvation Army directly by Friday, December 2.

Canterbury Grand Illumination Fundraiser

Once again this year, our Canterburians and Bruton Parish friends, find ourselves hoping and praying for a clear cold night for our Concessions Sale on Sunday, December 4!

We will be open for business from 2-6pm having worked all the previous day to prepare our completely excellent offering of ham biscuits, corn dogs, chocolate chip cookies and much more — ALL prepared by our own fair (and scrupulously clean) hands.

We will be selling water, soda, coffee, hot chocolate, and hot cider — perfect for sipping while you watch the fireworks. We will shut up shop and clean up the church hall, then come along to view the spectacle ourselves.

Just a reminder, we do this sale of food and drink every year to build up funds to subsidize our activities: our retreat at Camp Chanco, the sunrise Eucharist in the state park at Virginia Beach, and our service/mission trip during spring break. We hope you may find this an attractive and appealing good cause to support. We long to see your smiling faces and to sell you some of the best-value food and drinks available during the Grand Illumination!

Toy Collection for FISH

By Meghan Brewer

St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, will be making his annual visit to Bruton Parish to collect the toys we bring to the 9:15 service for delivery to FISH where they will be distributed to families in need.

To participate, please bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child of any age to the 9:15am service on Sunday, December 4.

This is a great opportunity for our children and families to be involved in community mission this month. Take your children shopping with you so that they can help you select a toy they believe another child will love to receive.

There will be no Children's Church that day so that our younger members can bring their toys to St. Nicholas themselves.



Newcomers' Corner

On the first Sunday of each month, new members of Bruton Parish are invited to join clergy, vestry and Newcomers Committee members for coffee in the Custis House at 10:30 am. This is a great opportunity to become more acquainted with the parish and learn of the many ministries here at Bruton. Join us on Sunday, December 4.

Heritage Humane Society Christmas Bazaar

Items include soup, baked goods, gift baskets, gift trees, pet apparel, crafts, jewelry, pet toys, pet treats, scarves, handmade purses, picture frames, Christmas decor and more! All proceeds benefit the Heritage Humane Society. For details, please visit the shelter's website at www.heritagehumanesociety.org. This year's bazaar will be held Saturday, December 10, from 9am to 3pm in the Parish Hall. There's something for everyone on your list!



ECW Advent Tea

By Jane Filz

The Advent season is soon upon us, and we hope you will join us at the ECW Advent Tea on Wednesday, December 7, at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Please RSVP by Friday, December 2, and, together, we will make fun and fellowship following the theme of the afternoon. Parents, friends and family are welcome too! Please rsvp by either calling the church at 757-229-2891 or emailing ECWAdventTea@brutonparish.org.

The Christmas Parlor is Pure Christmas Joy

By Leith Merrow Mullaly

Avoid the mad, rushed, crowded and frantic pace of December shopping. Instead of the often crass materialistic world around us, you can actually enjoy the peaceful and pleasant environment of your own Bruton Christmas Parlor. Because we have a smaller tree this year, it is much easier to walk around and easier to see all the lovely items. Here is just a sampling of the many, many things you can purchase for gifts or for yourself:



Christmas Cards

We have two original Bruton Christmas cards designed for 2016. Both have their own view of our lovely church building. Both are seen in the snow: one focused on the tower, and the other a new angle from the Duke of Gloucester Street. There are also Christmas cards available from such esteemed companies

as Caspari, Pumpnickel, and Franvessi. We have a wide assortment of sacred and religious cards as well as whimsical and very traditional ones. We also offer flat wooden ornaments that come in envelopes as a very unique card.

Soaps

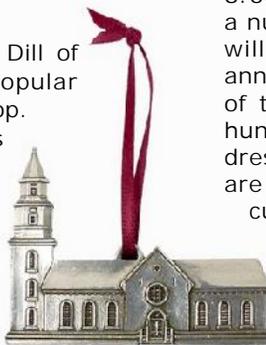
There are beautifully wrapped Christmas soaps with a hidden jewel inside. These come in several different fragrances such as "Deck the Halls" (cranberry), "Tis the Season" (cinnamon) and more. Additionally, there are lovely "Bruton Soaps" made by parishioners. They come in molded designs with fragrances including "Autumn Spice", "Balsam Fir" and "Cranberry Moss".

Headbands

We have outrageous, FUN Christmas headbands. These make a great happy, silly gift or you can buy one for yourself to wear to a party or to greet your guests! They will be a hit at any gathering! You can bring laughter with you with a decorated Tree or a Mistletoe branch on your head!

"SilverWares"

Handmade products by Emily Dill of Lanexa, a well-known and popular artist, are available in the Shop. She has Christmas-oriented gifts made from old silver spoons. There are beautiful lapel pins with sprigs of holly, and small stately bud vases with Christmas greens. Both can have different flowers after Christmas.



Poinsettias for the Christmas Altar

By Dianne Spence

Contributions are now being accepted for the poinsettias that will decorate the Christmas altar. The deadline is Friday, December 2, for receiving the names to be included in the bulletin as a memorial, a thank offering, or in honor of someone special.



Please make checks payable to Bruton Parish Church Altar Guild and send to Dianne Spence at 102 Walnut Hills Drive, 23185-3427. Please do not send the checks to the church office. Include your telephone number on the correspondence or check. Contact me at poinsettias@brutonparish.org or 757-229-4915.

The Greening of the Church

Volunteers are needed, both ladies and gentlemen, to assist in the annual two-day holiday event traditionally referred to as The Greening of the Church. Simply put, it's time to start planning the project to prepare and hang the Christmas decorations in the church.

Friday, December 16, at 8 am through noon in Lewis Hall, all the fruit will be wired and placed on the wreaths. Please bring with you wire cutters, scissors or shears that will cut pine branches and bunched pine needles. Your help will be needed even if you do not have these tools! No experience needed!



Saturday, December 17, at 8 am through noon in Lewis Hall and the Church, drivers of pick-up trucks, station wagons, and vans are asked to be at the Parish House at 8 am to load the completed wreaths, roping and baby's breath for transportation to the church. Volunteers not assisting with transporting the greens are asked to be at the church between 8:30 and 8:45 am. Volunteers will be performing a number of duties. The Baby's Breath Society will convene in the Governor's Pew for the annual stemming of the flowers that adorn many of the wreaths. Garlands and wreaths will be hung both inside and outside the church, so dress warmly. If you have a ladder (all lengths are needed), please bring it. Shears and wire cutters will also be needed. If you have any questions, please send an email to greens@brutonparish.org or call Sarah Darling at 757-871-7259.

Thank you, Thank you!

Heartfelt thanks to all the Bruton volunteers who helped process clothing at FISH during October. It is wonderful to have such reliable and willing hands come forward to help each October.

Thank you also to those who have donated to the Thanksgiving Food Drive and those preparing to bring new, unwrapped toys for St. Nicholas to bring to FISH for children in need. The Bruton Family supports FISH on so very many levels.

Thank you also to those donating to the Salvation Army Angel Tree. Please remember to bring your donations to the Parish House by Friday, December 2.

Providing Warmth to Children in Need

By Alta Cassidy

"Thank you to Bruton Parish for the incredible donation of winter coats and clothing for our students at Matthew Whaley. As the days and nights get colder, they will bring 'warmth' to our kids," stated Kendall Almasian upon the delivery of the items collected and purchased with donations. Almasian, who serves as school guidance counselor, added, "Beth Wells, our school nurse, is grateful for the generous donation to Matthey's Closet since children often need a change of clothes during the school day."

Thirty-seven pairs of sweat pants, twenty-one sweat shirts and seven miscellaneous clothing items were donated by members of the church. Twenty-four puffer jackets with hoods were purchased with monies donated to the recent clothing drive. Diane Abdo and Kathy Richardson coordinated the effort, and Kathy was among those making the delivery in early November.

Reflecting on her experience as one of the original members of the Matthew 25 task force, Diane Abdo stated, "Our dream was to create two gifts: one for our community in need and one for our parishioners. Our hope was that we could experience joy and blessing as we helped the children in our church neighborhood. This winter we know that they will be dressed with warm clothes and coats and that should make us all feel God's smile."

Ready for Volunteers to be the Hands and Feet of Christ

By Leith & Chuck Mullaly

We welcome your support for Bruton's week hosting the homeless shelter, part of the Community of Faith Mission (COFM), to be held at Bruton Parish's Lewis Hall from February 5-12, 2017. Here's how you can help!

Please sign up for the areas and times where you feel you can be of service. The areas for which we need volunteers are:

CHECK-IN (5:30-9pm): Volunteers will set up the check-in area for the guests, who will begin arriving at 6:30pm. Volunteers will greet guests, store bags, share the evening meal, and distribute bedding.

DINNER (5:30-9pm): Volunteers will assist in preparing and serving the evening meal, cleaning up, and are encouraged to share the evening meal with our guests.

OVERNIGHT (Two shifts of 9pm-1am, and 1-5am): Volunteers will spend the night in four-hour shifts, remaining awake for their shift (at least one male and female volunteer each shift).

BREAKFAST (5-8am): Volunteers will assist in preparing and serving breakfast, and cleaning up.

CHECK-OUT (5:30-8am): Volunteers will assist in storing the bedding, retrieving guests' bags and cleaning up the check-out area.

The primary means for signing-up will be online at <http://bit.ly/cofmbpc2017> although there will be an alternative option for those without internet access. If you have questions about the shelter mission, please contact the co-chairs of the shelter working group: Chuck & Leith Mullaly (757-345-6538).

If you have technical difficulty, or if you do not have access to a computer, please contact David Hurt at 757-229-4904 (h) or 757-897-4110 (c) or Sue Spooner at 757-288-9726 (c) or email sheltersignup@brutonparish.org.



We look forward to hearing from you and your participation in Our Lord's work!



(l to r):
Principal Robin Ford
Kathy Richardson
Janet Estes
Johanna Thompson
Nurse Beth Wells
and Guidance
Counselor Kendall
Almasian at Matthew
Whaley School.

Needlepoint Committee Update: What's next?

By Marty Jones & Isabel Burch

The last of the altar needlepoint kneelers, the Wedding Kneeler which was stitched by our own Mollie Douglas Turner, will be arriving soon. This will bring to a close our initial three-year Altar Kneeler project in celebration of Bruton's 300th Anniversary.



The next step in the needlepoint project will focus on the four chairs in the Rector's Pew, and eventually we plan to have needlepoint chair seats for the other chairs in the chancel. The four chair seats in the Rector's Pew will have colorful designs representing the Gospel evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each of these saints has a symbol which will be the focus of the design for each chair seat. Matthew's symbol is an angel because the first story he tells in his gospel describes an angel appearing

to Joseph in a dream. Mark's symbol is a lion because his gospel begins with John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness. Luke's symbol pictures him with an ox because his gospel begins with Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, offering a sacrifice in the temple at Jerusalem. John's symbol contains an eagle because his writing soars to mystical heights of heavenly things.

Your generous donations enabled us to complete the original kneeler project, and we thank the members who have already donated to this next phase. Nancy Lukoskie of Fancywork Finishing, who designed the kneelers, will design these chair seats so that they will coordinate with our kneelers.

There are various options to fund this project. If you want to honor or memorialize someone or simply support the project, your

gift or pledge made before December 31, 2016 will be included in your gift to the Capital Campaign.

Simply complete the pledge form and drop it in the offering plate on a Sunday, mail it or bring it to the Parish House. To make your pledge online, please visit <http://bit.ly/needlepointbpc>. You can also make a gift online through Tithely (information about using Tithely is on the last page of this Chronicle or contact Dudley Hoyle or Hilary Cooley).

Of course your gift or pledge at any time will be gratefully received. The total cost for design, materials and finishing for each seat is approximately \$900 but gifts of any amount are welcomed. We are also inspired by members who have again expressed an interest in being one of the stitchers. We hope you will want to support this next phase of our needlepoint project.

125th Annual Diocesan Council & Nominations

Nominations for elections at our 125th Annual Council are now being accepted. The nomination form can be found on our diocesan website at www.diosova.org or <http://bit.ly/2017DIOSOVACOUNCIL>. Forms must be printed, filled out and mailed. Nominations must be received by mail since an original signature and photo are required. You'll also find information and requirements for each position open for election.

Stewardship: It's not about money...
It's about relationships

February 10-11, 2017

Online registration to attend 2017 Council at the Williamsburg Lodge Convention Center begins November 28. This year's keynote speaker will be The Rev'd Canon Timothy Dombek, Canon for Stewardship in the Diocese of Arizona, and Priest in Charge of Church of the Advent in Sun City West, AZ.



Dombek serves as an officer of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and has created an online Stewardship University called "Stew U." He will give three presentations at Council: Building Relationships = Increased Giving; How to Talk About Money & Pledges; and The Most Overlooked Aspect of Congregational Stewardship.

Materials for Annual Council will be posted at www.diosova.org as they are available.

Needlepoint Pledge Card

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I/We pledge a total of _____ I/We wish to remain anonymous
\$ _____

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ (paid in full)

Enclosed is the first gift installment of \$ _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Campus Ministries of Southern Virginia Fall Retreat

The Canterbury Associations of Southern Virginia hosted the second annual Fall Retreat for College Students in our Diocese. On November 4th, forty-five students gathered at our Diocesan Retreat Center, Chanco-on-the-James, for an overnight retreat of prayers, formation, and discussion. Twenty-three students from William & Mary and Bruton joined twenty-two students from Old Dominion, Christopher Newport, Virginia Commonwealth, Longwood, and Hampden-Sydney Universities. This is the only opportunity that our college students from around the Diocese have to gather together throughout the year, and it seems to be growing, which is Good News!



Gala & Silent Auction Planning Has Begun!

Planning for the 10th Annual Gala and Silent Auction has begun! This year the gala will take place on Saturday, April 22, 2017, and will be held in William & Mary's Wren Building.

At this time, we are asking for and would appreciate donations from parishioners of high-quality auction items, as well as gift certificates from local businesses (restaurants, home décor stores, etc.). Items can be dropped off at the front office in the Parish House. If possible, please leave your name and number with the donation, along with a brief description. We want to advertise everything correctly and give credit where due.

If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to gala@brutonparish.org or tmontgomery@brutonparish.org. Thank you so much for your continuous support of Canterbury and our outreach mission!



Newcomers' Welcome Reception

By Bob Magnusson

Twenty-nine newcomer adults and seven children attended a Welcome Reception hosted by the Newcomer's Committee on October 5 in Lewis Hall. Also attending were Fr. Epperson and the other members of the clergy and most of the Vestry. The program included a tour of the Parish House, a visit to the Parish Shop, heavy hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, and an opportunity for newcomers to meet and be welcomed by clergy, vestry, and committee members in an unstructured gathering. A good time was had by all!



- 1 Nancy Keane & Francis Obidowski
- 2 Children enjoying activities during the reception.
- 3 Mark & Clara Pierson
- 4 Steve Hibbitts & Glen Stebens
- 5 Elaine Diehl & Rev'd Josh Stephens
- 6 Ted Maslin & Rev'd Jan Brown
- 7 Elizabeth & Bill Grief, Leslie Skinner, Ned & Joyce Haines
- 8 Cassie & Jaymie Cook with Rev'd Lauren McDonald

Hennage Library News

By Debbie Rinner

The James C. Livingston Guild of Bruton Authors has accepted three new members. In the class of 2015, we welcome Dr. Jared Jobe, author of *The Science of Self-Report, Implications for Research and Practice*. In the class of 2016, we welcome Professor Dale Hoak, the author of *The King's Council in the Reign of Edward VI*, and also The Rev'd Peter Stimpson, author of *Map to Happiness, Straightford Advice on Everyday Issues*.

They were recognized at the 11:15 service on Sunday, November 20, and their names have been added to the plaque on the wall in the Library. A copy of Stimpson's book is available for check-out and was reviewed by Sally Riley in the October issue of *The Chronicle*.

Two new acquisitions honoring Russ Sheldon, who chaired the Library Committee and the Adult Christian Education and Formation Committee, are worthy of attention and study. Both books are on the New Acquisitions shelf in the Library (unless checked out!).

First, *Becoming Wise, An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*, by Krista Tippett, is a compilation of many luminous conversations the author had with scientists, poets, theologians and other activists to whom she "listened for a living" on her public radio program called "On Being."

Second, *Armenian Golgotha, A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1918*, by Grigoris Balakian, is an eyewitness account of the first modern genocide. The book puts this event into political, historical and cultural context, which the Turkish government to this day (according to the book jacket) denies and about which many are unaware. This book was chosen because Russ has Armenian ancestors.

As Advent is fast approaching, the Committee encourages you to consider checking out one of the selections specifically related to the season. Look in the Subject Section of the Catalog Notebook under Advent for suggestions. You can also access the Library Catalog online by visiting our website at www.brutonparish.org/library.

The Library is one of Bruton's treasures, and we hope you will find something of interest in our wide-ranging collection.



Children & Youth Formation in December

By Meghan Brewer

Nursery is available each Sunday on the first floor of the Parish House from 8:30am to 12:30pm for newborns through 4-year-olds.

Children's Church is age-appropriate worship held at 9:15am in St. Mary's Chapel, tailored for children K-5th grade. Drop them off at 9am, then head to the church. Save a seat, as the children join the congregation at the Peace. We will continue holding an age-appropriate service for 3-4 year olds in the room next to the nursery in the Parish House during this time frame.

Sunday School is held from 10:30-11am for children through 5th grade in the Parish House, and in the Custis House for middle and high school youth. We meet in the church tower after communion and then walk to classes together.

Joyful Noise, Choristers & Cantores Youth Choirs typically rehearse in the Parish House at 11am (unless there is no Sunday School).

If you have any questions regarding the formation for our children and youth here at Bruton, please either email mbrewer@brutonparish.org or call me at 757-345-6489.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

St. Nicholas will be visiting Bruton Parish during the 9:15am service in the church to gather new, unwrapped Christmas toys for donation to FISH for local children. There will be no Children's Church. After communion; there'll be a Nativity Activity in the Parish House followed by Choir Rehearsal at 11am.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Children's Church will NOT be held this Sunday since our children's and youth choirs will be singing in the "big" church at 9:15am. After communion, we'll meet for our Cookie Making & Decorating Advent Activity in the Parish House. Along with these cookies, we'll be donating dozens more to the next project of our Matthew-25 Ministry, filling holiday boxes for those children less fortunate. A High School Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 11, from 5-8pm for our high school students and their parents at the Gaston's house. Come for some good times and to prepare Christmas cards for patients at Eastern State Hospital. Please rsvp online at <http://bit.ly/2016christmas> by Wednesday, December 7.



Rev'd Josh Stephens, Meghan & Davis Brewer attend a production of Bye Bye Birdie.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

& CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL

There will be Children's Church at 9:15, and then after communion in the church, a Story Advent Activity in the Parish House. There will only be ONE dress rehearsal for our Pageant. We will meet at the church at 2pm, where everyone will have their costumes, and the stage will be set up. We will run through the pageant about three times so that everyone gets an idea of what to do. I realize this is a busy time of the year, but we really need everyone to make it for this hour to be prepared for the pageant.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT & HOLY EUCHARIST

For those participating in the Pageant, please meet in the Custis House at 2pm (the white house across from the church). This will be our time to get dressed and prepare to walk across Duke of Gloucester Street to share the amazing story of Jesus' birth. Please note that nursery will be available ONLY during the 3pm service on Christmas Eve.

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 25, JANUARY 1 & 8

Nursery will NOT be available on Sunday, December 25, but will be available on January 1. There will be no formation for children or youth these Sundays. Children's Church, Sunday School and Choir Rehearsal will resume next year on Sunday, January 8, 2017.



BRUTON YOUTH SKI TRIP TO WINTERGREEN FEBRUARY 3-5, 2017

By The Rev'd Josh Stephens

Bruton Parish Youth and their friends are hitting the slopes with a super fun overnight trip to Wintergreen. Regardless of the conditions, we'll have an awesome time in the mountains. Grades 6-12 are welcome.

You can ski or snowboard, ice-tube or just chill. The cost is \$150 for your first kid, \$100 for each one thereafter. What a deal! Let's shred the gnar!

Please rsvp by January 18, 2017 at <http://bit.ly/brutonskitrip2017> and complete the online form. If you RSVP in 2016, I'll treat you to icecream, a burger, a movie, or something awesome because you make planning SO much easier!



Living the Gospel Bible Study

This Lectionary-based Bible study is typically held at 11am every 2nd & 4th Sunday in the Custis House and looks at the impact of the Gospel message on our everyday lives. Join us this month only on December 11. It will not be held on Christmas Day.



Latisha's House Annual Christmas Gala

Celebrate the Christmas Holiday at the Latisha's House fourth annual Christmas gala (semi-formal or black tie optional) Sunday, December 11, from 5-9pm at the Doubletree Hotel Ballroom in Kingsmill. Latisha's House runs the only trauma-informed safe house in Virginia for victims of sex trafficking and offers young women the opportunity to receive counseling, complete high-school or attend college, and become contributing members of society.

Enjoy a silent and live auction, fine dining (provided by the Doubletree Hotel -- including the full marketplace spread, chicken, filet mignon, or a vegetarian option all served with complimentary wine and champagne), and music by the Hullabaloo's. Sponsored tables for seating of eight can be purchased for \$2,000, half-tables for \$1,000, and individual tickets at \$150. A portion of all these sponsorships and tickets are tax deductible.

Tickets can be purchased online by visiting latishashouse.com or by checks made payable to Latisha's House Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 5817, Williamsburg, Virginia 23188. Once your check and/or donation online is received, the tickets will be held at the Doubletree Hotel for you to pick up. For questions, please go online to latishashouse@gmail.com or call Elizabeth Ameling at 757-603-2255 for more information.

Wednesdays' Brown-Bag Bible Study

Bring your lunch and gather each Wednesday in the Coffee, Tea & Thee room upstairs in the Parish House at noon. This Lectionary-based Bible study is centered upon the Gospel for the coming Sunday. The preacher for the week will facilitate these sessions where those in attendance will be able to reflect upon the scriptures that will be the focus of the Sunday sermon. The studies may provide increased insight into the sermon or explore aspects of the passages beyond the scope of the sermon, or both. Take time out of your day and try this exploration!

Women's Theological Book Group

The Women's Theological Book Group will be meeting on Thursday, January 12, from 1-2:30pm in the Coffee, Tea, and Thee room of the Parish House. We will be discussing Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. From the book jacket: "With rare insight, Rohr takes us on a journey to give us an understanding of how the heartbreaks, disappointments, and first loves of life are actually stepping stones to the spiritual joys that the second half of life has in store for us." Child care is available by reservation by contacting Meghan Brewer (childcare@brutonparish.org or 757-229-2891).

Bruton Singles

By Heidi Elam, Ruth Mullaney, Eda Martin & Donna Dodenhoff

Bruton Singles is a fellowship ministry tailored towards parishioners and members of the wider community who are single. We typically get together once each week to attend various events in the parish and the larger community. Each event is accompanied by a meal and/or dessert (paid separately) at which we enjoy fellowship and discussion. To participate in any event, please procure tickets to the function and call the listed coordinator.



Saturday, December 3, 7:30pm

Winter Choral Concert @ W&M Phi Beta Kappa Hall
Join us at 5pm at Chop Sticks Vietnamese Restaurant in Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center. Then we will attend the concert at William & Mary's Phi Beta Kappa Hall at 7:30pm (\$10 ticket + meal). Please RSVP to Donna Dodenhoff at singles@brutonparish.org.

Sunday, December 4, 5:30pm

Canterbury's Grand Illumination Fundraiser
Help support our Canterburians by joining us at the Parish House for ham biscuits and cider, followed by musical performances on the Palace Green, culminating with the fireworks display at 7pm (free + meal). Call Eda Martin (757-532-8721).

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30pm

Christmas Concert: Parish Choirs & Orchestra
Meet us at the church entrance at 7:30pm and support the Bruton Choirs & Orchestra for their annual Christmas concert (voluntary contribution + meal). Afterwards we'll enjoy refreshments at Sweet Tea & Barley, Williamsburg Lodge's Garden Room. Call Heidi Elam (757-897-5012).

Saturday, December 17, 7pm

York River Symphony Holiday Spectacular
Join us at Blue Talon Restaurant on Prince George Street at 5pm. Bruton Singles' member and Cellist Sharon Reed will be performing with the York River Symphony concert, supported by Williamsburg Community Youth Choir, Bruton High School Chorus, and First Baptist Church Concert Choir at the Kimball Theatre (free event sponsored by CW plus cost of meal). Call Ruth Mullaney (757-229-6961).

Saturday, December 24, 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Service @ Bruton
Join us at 6pm for the 6:30pm service at the church. We will be looking for you in the church Tower. After the service, we will conclude the evening at a nearby restaurant or a member's home. Please rsvp to Donna Dodenhoff at singles@brutonparish.org.

Wednesday, December 31, 6:30pm

First Night & New Year's Celebration at Clai & Fritz's House
Meet us inside the Methodist Church lobby on Jamestown Road at 6:30pm. We'll choose entertainment venues and eat as we go. Visit www.firstnightwilliamsburg.org to purchase your First Night Button online for \$20. Afterwards, we'll ring in the New Year with champagne and sparkling cider at Clai & Fritz's house in Kingsmill. Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert (ticket + meal). Call Heidi Elam (757-897-5012).

Stephen Ministry: Preparation & Training in the New Year

By Laurie Krebs



In January, 2017, a new group of members from area churches will begin classes that will prepare them to become Stephen Ministers.

They will meet weekly at Wellspring United Methodist Church until April, completing 50 hours of study and training. Bruton Parish has some folks who will be participating in the sessions — some as potential new Stephen Ministers and some as Program Instructors.

Stephen Ministers are lay people – Christian men and women – trained to provide one-on-one care to people experiencing a difficult time, such as grief, aging, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation or separation due to military deployment. Stephen Ministers touch the lives of these people, but as they do, they find it a blessing to themselves.

A doctor says, "Stephen Ministry is a priority in my life. I use the tools in all kinds of situations ... I've learned to hear each patient's story and know the patient's heart ... I see each as a divine appointment God has provided for me that day."

From a floral designer, "In Stephen Ministry, we are the care-givers and Christ is the cure-giver – and that is the amazing thing, because it allows me to be His vessel. All I have to do is show up, be there, listen, and care. And pray beforehand. 'Okay, Lord. I'm going into the trenches here. You have to be with me and help me.' And He never fails. Stephen Ministry has deepened my faith....and made my life so much more."

A flight instructor admits, "I tell people what to do in the airplane. But when I'm a Stephen Minister, I don't have to do that - my role is just to be there....and watch God work in my care receiver's life."

From a former firefighter, "Pastors are very much like firemen. They are called in a crisis, do their best to put out the fire and take care of immediate needs. But before long, they need to rush off to another fire. Pastors are indispensable, but they can't always provide the follow-up care people need. That's my role as a Stephen Minister - to be there week after week ... I feel that God definitely has a use for me – to walk alongside someone and help make their load a little lighter."

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. What they have in common is a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. If you wish to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister or know of someone who might benefit from the care of one, please contact Charlie Clapper at 757-564-6191 or Mary Jean Hurst at 757-810-5112. Your call will be strictly confidential.

First Friday Recovery Eucharist

SpiritWorks Foundation, a community recovery center in Williamsburg that works with people healing from addiction, trauma and abuse, hosts a monthly Recovery Eucharist at Bruton on the first Friday of each month. The next service will be held in the church at 5:30pm on Friday, December 2.

This service is designed with prayers and readings that focus on helping people find ways to live faithfully in the midst of any kind of suffering, especially individuals and their loved ones who are living with addiction, co-dependence, mental illness, and trauma. We pray for those who are continuing to struggle, mourn those who have died, and celebrate with those who are experiencing the joy of recovery.

Women's Evening Potluck

The group will meet Monday, December 12, at the home of Joan Lovegren O'Brien at 6:30pm. Please rsvp to Joan directly at 757-784-2599 or email Women'sEveningGroup@brutonparish.org for directions. All are welcome! Please bring a dish to share.

DOK Intercessory Prayers

Part of our rule of life as The Order of the Daughters of the King® is consistent intercessory prayer. Prayers are said for four weeks and may be repeated. Anyone who wishes to have prayers said for them or for others, please fill out a blue request card at the church tower and drop it in the DOK prayer box. The prayer below, offered this month by Mary Kafes, is from Guerillas of Grace written by Ted Loder.

Gentle me,
Holy One,
into an unclenched moment,
a deep breath,
a letting go
of heavy expectancies,
of shriveling anxieties,
of dead certainties,
that, softened by the silence
surrounded by the light,
and open to the mystery,
I may be found by wholeness,
upheld by the unfathomable,
entranced by the simple,
and filled with the joy
that is you.



Vestry 2017

Congratulations to our new vestry members Douglas Boller, Terri Cordle, Dick Estes and Johanna Thompson, who were elected during the Annual Parish Meeting on November 20 to a three-year term ending January 2020. Our thanks for their service also go to outgoing vestry members: Bill Brauer, Marty Easton (completing Lynn Blankman's term), Laura Geddy, and George Wilson.

Candlelight Concerts Offered by Our Music Ministry to the Parish & Community

HOLIDAY HANDBELL & ORGAN CONCERT

Thursday, December 1 at 8 pm

Bruton Parish Tarpley Ringers with Rebecca Davy, Director joined by the Handbell Choir from First Baptist Church, Scotland Street, Reggie Fox, Director & Dr. JanEl Will, Organist



Saturday, December 3
Holiday Choral Concert - Emulate Ensemble from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA - Ryan Keebaugh, Director

Tuesday, December 6
Holiday Handbell Concert
Vesper Bells from Second Baptist Church in Richmond, VA - Bill Miller Director

Thursday, December 8
Holiday Choral Concert
Manassas Community Chorale, from Manassas, VA - Becky Verner, Director

Friday, December 9
Holiday Choral Concert - Douglas Freeman High School Festival Choir from Richmond, VA
Christen Christopherson, Director

Saturday, December 10
Holiday Choral Concert
New Dominion Choraliers Community Choir from Prince William County, VA
Katherine Nelson-Tracey, Director

Thursday, December 15
Holiday Choral Concert - One Accord Choir from First Baptist Church in Richmond, VA
Philip Mitchell, Director

Saturday, December 17
Holiday Choral Concert - Tabernacle Baptist Church Choir from Richmond, VA
Judy Fiske, Director

Tuesday, December 20
Holiday Choral Concert - Salisbury Presbyterian Church Choir from Midlothian, VA
Mark Patterson, Director

Thursday, December 22
Holiday Organ Recital - David Leahy, Organist from Christ Church in New Bern, NC

Tuesday, December 27
Christmas Duo Recital - Spencer & Beanne, Matthew Spencer & Mei-Li Beanne, violin, viola, guitar, & voice

Thursday, December 29
Christmas Caroling Recital
Williamsburg Waites

Saturday, December 31
Holiday Organ Recital
Rebecca Davy, Music Director & Organist at Bruton Parish

Sunday, January 1, 2017
@ 9:15 & 11:15 am
Nine Lessons & Carols
Bruton Parish Choirs, Rebecca Davy, Director & Dr. JanEl Will, Organist

Historical Organ Recitals

William & Mary's Wren Chapel
Saturdays @ 10am

Thursday, December 1	Thomas Marshall
Friday, December 2	Rebecca Davy
Saturday, December 3	Rebecca Davy
Monday, December 5	Norman Elton
Tuesday, December 6	Rebecca Davy
Thursday, December 8	Thomas Marshall
Friday, December 9	Rebecca Davy
Saturday, December 10	Rebecca Davy
Monday, December 12	Norman Elton
Thursday, December 15	Rebecca Davy
Friday, December 16	Rebecca Davy
Saturday, December 17	Rebecca Davy
Monday, December 19	Norman Elton
Thursday, December 22	Rebecca Davy
Friday, December 23	Rebecca Davy
Saturday, December 24	Rebecca Davy
Monday, December 26	Norman Elton
Tuesday, December 27	Rebecca Davy
Wednesday, December 28	Rebecca Davy
Thursday, December 29	Thomas Marshall
Friday, December 30	Rebecca Davy
Saturday, December 31	Rebecca Davy

Concerts are held in the church at 8pm unless otherwise noted. Parking is permitted on Duke of Gloucester Street in front of the church during the recitals.



A Winter's Night & Gloria

By Cecilia McDowall

By John Rutter

HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 8PM

Bruton Parish Choirs & Orchestra ~ Rebecca Davy, Director & Dr. JanEl Will, Organist



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Contributions Due by Year-End

By Dudley Hoyle, Comptroller

In order for your contribution to be counted as a 2016 contribution for tax purposes, it must be either physically in the Parish House by close of business on Friday, December 30, or postmarked no later than midnight on Saturday, December 31. Please do not wait to put your 2016 offering in the plate on January 1, 2017. Payments made outside of these parameters will be posted to your 2016 pledge payment but will appear on the first quarter 2017 contributions statement and will count for tax purposes as a 2017 contribution. If you have any questions, please contact me at 757-229-2891 or email dhoyle@brutonparish.org directly.

MOBILE GIVING ONLINE

Very simple ways you can give, particularly by year-end!

Visit <http://bit.ly/GIVE2BPC>

Text "Give" to (804) 742-4209

Scan the QR Code below.



Give one-time with or without an account.

Schedule automated giving.

View giving history.

Manage account and payment information.



If you currently use Access ACS through our website, please note this function will no longer be available very soon. Contact Hilary Cooley or Dudley Hoyle, and we will work to help you transition.

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

Pastoral Care Coordinators
Wednesdays & Fridays, 10am-2pm
PCM@brutonparish.org
757-645-2050

Stephen Ministry
Charlie Clapper & Mary Jean Hurst
757-220-2087 confidential

Parish Nurse
Sylvia Saba
parishnurse@brutonparish.org
757-258-4503

Pastoral Emergencies
Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm
Call 757-345-2250 directly
or call the church office at
757-229-2891

After 5pm and on weekends, call the church office and choose Option 6. If necessary, please leave your name, telephone number and brief message, and the clergy-on-call will return your call as soon as possible.

The Most Rev^d
Michael Bruce Curry
Presiding Bishop & Primate
pboffice@episcopalchurch.org

The Rt. Rev^d Herman Hollerith IV
Bishop, Diocese of Southern Virginia
bishop@diosova.org

The Rev^d Christopher L. Epperson
Rector, cepperson@brutonparish.org

The Rev^d Tyler L. Montgomery
Associate Rector & College Chaplain
tmontgomery@brutonparish.org

The Rev^d Lauren M. McDonald
Associate Rector - Outreach
& Women's Ministries
lmcdonald@brutonparish.org

The Rev^d Joshua P. Stephens
Associate Rector - Family Ministry
jstephens@brutonparish.org

The Rev^d Jan M. Brown, Deacon
jbrown@brutonparish.org

Meghan Brewer
Coordinator of Children's & Youth
Formation, mbrewer@brutonparish.org

Rebecca Davy, Music Director & Organist
bdavy@brutonparish.org

Dr. JanEl B. Will, Organist
jwill@brutonparish.org

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Ronald Cotman, Parish House Sexton

Ike Turner, Weekend Sexton

Roy St. Amour, Church Sexton

Carol Weaver, Shop Manager
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Laura Paolicelli, Shop Assistant

Nancy Nelson, Shop Financial Assistant
nnelson@brutonparish.org

Article submissions are due the 10th of each month and may be edited for length and content.

Bruton Parish Church, P.O. Box 3520, Williamsburg, VA 23187-3520 757-229-2891 Fax: 757-221-0290



Come Away and Pray: Lenten Retreat for Women

Chanco on the James - March 3-4, 2017

Jesus said to his disciples, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile." Even those first disciples got tired from all that they were doing!

You are invited to join the women of Bruton at an overnight retreat at Camp Chanco for rest and prayer, fellowship and spiritual growth during the season of Lent. The Reverends Jan Brown and Lauren McDonald will be our retreat facilitators.

The Plan

The Reverends Jan Brown and Lauren McDonald are putting together a program that will be very meaningful and helpful to all who attend.

Space for up to 50 women has been reserved at Chanco, which will also provide our meals (\$100 per person covers food and lodging). If you prefer a single room, it would be \$125. Please make checks payable to Bruton Parish. If the cost is prohibitive, please contact Lauren regarding the possibility of a scholarship at 757-229-2891 or lmcdonald@brutonparish.org.

The bedrooms will all have two beds plus bath. Think of whom you would like for a roommate. Linens are provided.

We will gather at 6pm for dinner on Friday, March 3 and end by 4pm on Saturday, March 4. An optional quiet time will be available from 4-6pm on Friday.

The Retreat will be alcohol-free.

Registration Deadline is January 16, 2017, unless we fill our 50 slots sooner. Don't wait too long to register in case we fill up!

I plan to attend the Retreat: _____
Name

I can be reached at: _____ Cell Phone _____ Email

My roommate preference: _____
Name _____ Phone Number

Name of someone you know is attending or indicate if you want to be assigned to share with someone else.

I will need a special diet: _____
Type (i.e. vegetarian, gluten-free, low sodium, food allergy, etc.)

Emergency Contact: _____
Name _____ Phone Number

Registration Forms may be dropped off at the Parish Receptionist's desk
(or visit our website for an online registration form).

