

## ***Bruton Parish Shop Talk***

***April 2010***

**Williamsburg, VA.**

**Phone: 220-1489**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!** Easter is early this year! Praise be to God! After the winter we've all suffered, what a gift to have daffodils and gentle rains and warm days for Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday. While every Feast Day (i.e., Sunday) at Bruton is joyful, Easter Sunday at Bruton is truly special. It seems to me that most of our Easters recently have been warm and sun-filled. The pews are filled to overflowing with family members come home, visitors on holiday, and a few new to our church and faith. The wire cross outside the tower fills up with flowers. The children laugh and run through the churchyard hunting for eggs. The bells ring peals and Alleluias and He Is Risen outside the Tower Door. Bruton is not just a church on Easter; it is a festival of faith and celebration! Bring a friend to see this Easter at Bruton.

**And Thanks Be to You!** Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Lenten Soup & Salad supper for the March 18<sup>th</sup> Thursdays @ Bruton lecture. The tables looked lovely trimmed out with bouquets from the Garden Shop. The display table of Lenten books and materials for the Sam Portara seminar also looked great. The birdhouses that Bessie put out on the display were perfect! The service was impeccable, too. Everyone was chopping and dicing, stirring and slicing, tossing and tasting, and thanks to you, a lovely meal of fellowship and good food was had by all. Thank you for making it happen.

**New and Noticeable!** If you have not had a chance to get into the Shop yet this Spring, you really **MUST** make a point of it. Carol has outdone herself with her picks for the Shop and the Garden Shop! The school groups are loving the "Initials & More" necklaces and key chains. The colored ribbons seem to be the favorites for the girls. The boys really like the woven leather laces and the chains for hanging their letter charms. They are our **BIG** sellers right now. Some other "easy on the pocket book" items you want to be sure to point out are the purse holders (yes, I know that was a terrible pun, but I had to do it!). We have different styles and sizes, as well as colors in them and one style even has a little mirror to use before you pop it back in your bag for your next dinner out. For that baby baptized earlier this year, we have a wonderful dish set with baby's first grace on it. They come in pink or blue so all the bases are covered. We also have some lovely hardanger embroidered cross linen bib and booties sets that will make the perfect christening gift. If you're looking for something for yourself, ask the volunteer at the jewelry counter to show you the new beaded crosses from "down under." They are exquisite. Ask them to play the new CD - He Has Heard My Voice - for you. It's a beautiful collection of psalms sung by Glorie

dei Cantore. It will positively transport you and fill you with the Spirit when you hear this recording.

**Oops! Ask Laura!** Some of you may have noticed on the last couple of shift calendars that we have "fleeted up" to three people per shift now instead of two. "Why?" You may be wondering. Well, there is indeed a reason. Is it so you can get to meet and know more of your fellow volunteers? Actually, while that's certainly an added benefit, that is not THE reason. Is it so the Register Person can have a full-time "Bag Lady" to help at the checkout counter? No, not that either. Actually, the reason we add a third person is because the Garden Shop is open! Our Garden Shop is gorgeous and filled with wonderful things whose sale will mean wonderful things for our ability to transfer money to the Vestry for Outreach. No one volunteer certainly needs to stand in the Garden Shop all shift long, but each shift team of volunteers needs to be sure that someone is in there ***all the time*** to welcome our visitors into the Garden Shop and help them shop there. I bet you'll find a few things in there yourself that just have to go home with you, too.

**Feedback!** Do you ever think towards the end of your shift, after standing on your feet for four hours, greeting people and helping them buy the right cross or prayer book or baptism bib, about the difference you make. Each one of you! The other day a couple came in early in the day and browsed a bit and visited with the volunteers during a lull in the morning shoppers. They left without buying anything, but with a card about the times of services during the week they were to be in Williamsburg and some suggestions of things to do here. Later in the day they returned - and, this time, to shop! They told us they had been to every store on Merchants Square and came back to the Bruton Parish Shop to shop because we were the ONLY place where anyone had taken the time to speak to them. Thank you for making the time to be friendly and welcoming to our visitors. You are a big part of the reason our customers return again and again and year after year. You are the Bruton Parish Shop!

**Keep In Your Prayers:** All those who have yet to find the meaning of the passion and the resurrection. May this be the Easter the Risen Lord touches their hearts and lives.

Blair Turrentine

.....

**Shop Prayer:** Almighty God, we give thanks for your loving care. Grant us strength and courage as we seek to do your work through the mission and ministry of the Bruton Parish Shop in reaching out to the visitors, our community, and the world. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*