When one Googles “Episcopalian” and “evangelism” it doesn’t take long to bump into a picture of the Most Rev. Michael Curry, flashing a joyous smile and giving a thumb-up sign, under a caption proclaiming that “Episcopalians are passionate about proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ” to others. While I would never doubt Bishop Curry’s passion for the mission of evangelizing—or anything involving the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement, for that matter—I have often wondered about our collective zeal for the task.

Episcopalians, while a people of towering and enduring faith, are almost legendarily shy about explicitly professing that faith to their non-practicing friends and neighbors. Talking to people in the modern world about religion can be profoundly and deceptively hard. Even when one is closely connected to God and the Church, we often face deep-seated fears: How would I know what to say? What if people reject me when I talk about faith? Will people view me as being disrespectful of non-Christians? Will I be misinterpreted as irrational or, even worse, unfairly associated with extreme views that are sometimes advanced in the name of Christ?

Fortunately, while we work to overcome these obstacles, we know there is another, perhaps even more powerful and effective, way to profess our faith to others: by sharing ourselves and our actions.

This year, the Christ Church Stewardship Committee has decided to put this concept of evangelism through action at the core of the 2020 Pledge Campaign, which begins Sunday, September 8. Working together with Mission and Outreach; the Welcome Committee; the History Committee; Children, Youth & Family and many others, we are seeking to expand our traditional Welcome Sunday festivities to include members of our surrounding community.

The idea is a simple one: by inviting our neighbors to participate with us in the kick-off of the church year, we have an opportunity to show them the many and wonderful ways in which Christ Church lives the faith of its members.

They will have a chance to see us in fellowship (thanks to the work of the Welcome Sunday team, it is going to be a great party), to learn a little about our many ministries and activities, or perhaps take a tour of our historic church. Most of all, they will have a chance to meet us, a vibrant and diverse group who are also passionate Christians. We hope that as a result of seeing this community in action, they will ultimately be moved to join us in worship and ministry.

It is fair to describe this year’s “evangelistic expansion” of Welcome Sunday as a modest effort. We have started spreading the word in a low-key and limited fashion. But we hope the effort will grow in significant ways next year and in the future. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, please keep a lookout for new faces on September 8, and make sure to welcome them. And please prayerfully consider inviting a friend, neighbor or colleague to church that day. Your handshake or a friendly smile, extended to a newcomer, is in itself a powerful and perhaps life-changing evangelical act.

Welcome Sunday, September 8

Welcome Sunday is a fun and festive day for everyone. First in worship, which will feature the return of the choir, a brass quintet, and after the 10:00 a.m. service in the churchyard with games, a hot dog bar, live music, and a face painter. Invite a friend for fellowship, fun, and good food!
Gift Shop Sidewalk Sale

September is here and that means the kids are back to school, and fall is on its way. Along with cooler weather, which promises to come, there will be fun-filled fall events; Labor Day, Welcome Sunday, and end-of-summer sales! Once again, the Gift Shop will have a sidewalk sale during Welcome Sunday. Napkins, birdcages, select jewelry, and much more will all be at least half-price! What a great way to snatch up bargains while having fun with your friends.

The best thing about the Sidewalk Sale is that it clears room for all the great merchandise that has started to pour into the shop. A huge shipment of our delicious jams, jellies and sauces is on the way, and we have already received the cuddliest puppets and stuffed animals you’ve ever seen. (You’ll want to come by just to pet them!) This year we have a new brand of (dare I say it) Christmas cards, which we will be putting out this month for early purchase in September. Be sure to make the Gift Shop your first stop when looking for cards and hostess gifts during the coming holiday season.

Fowler House Update: New Ideas, Possible New Partners

By Chris McMurray, Fowler House Committee

Our broker has been in talks this summer with some possible partners for redevelopment/reuse of the Fowler House building. The summer months have somewhat slowed the process, but we are hopeful that in the next several weeks we will be able to report on viable candidates.

Meanwhile, the Campus Planning Committee is conducting a study, aided by our architect, John Cole, of how we use our current space for our programs and ministries, how we might use our space more effectively, and possible future improvements.

Buying Fowler House continues to be one of the smartest things this congregation has done, and we are confident that it will continue to be an asset for the church in whatever new form it takes. We are committed to make sure the property continues to offer important benefits, both spiritual and financial for the parish, so Christ Church will keep active and growing. It will take a lot of work and a lot of prayer. Please keep us in your prayers.
Share The Gifts of a Second New Year Celebration This Fall, Beginning September 8

By The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons, Rector

On January 1 year after year, we all celebrate a new start. There’s a shiny new calendar on the wall and a new date to remember to write. Those of us inclined to make resolutions do it in January with the intention of building new habits to be better people in the coming 12 months.

But the culture of the United States has the benefit of a second re-start in the fall. Whether you are someone starting school, or if you have children in your life starting school, or even if you haven’t been to school in 30 years, there’s a feeling in the air that we are starting something new each fall. Summer travel is behind us, the air is thinking of starting to cool down and we are thinking about how we will calendar our fall and winter events.

This is a great gift to us, to be given yet another opportunity to re-set. It gives us a chance to use our imaginations to see how we might be better, to see how we might become more creative or patient, to think about healthier living or deeper loving.

We have these opportunities at Christ Church, too. In addition to new programs, like a Eucharist class for our Kindergarteners, new adult classes online, a November preaching series, and a new outlook on stewardship, we also have the opportunity to live out our faith more fully in a world that grows increasingly skeptical of goodness and faithfulness.

Welcome Sunday is September 8! We will kick off our new program year with a bang, with the fellowship and joy that Christ Church does so well. It’s a wonderful day to bring a friend and introduce them to our parish community. It’s also a wonderful day to re-commit yourself to the work of our church and the work of God in the world. How will you engage the people close to you? How will you engage the people you’ve never met? How will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

What a gift it is to be able to reset, to recommit, to renew ourselves in the love of God and in the growing loving community of Christ Church. See you this fall!

Refugee Ministry Receives the September Loose Plate

During the month of September, eighty percent of the loose plate offering will go to the Christ Church Refugee Ministry. The Refugee Ministry began in 2016 in response to the needs of newly arrived refugee families in the Alexandria community. As of 2019, Christ Church has been joined by six local churches and numerous supporters to help us provide financial assistance and friendship to refugee families who are here seeking safety and freedom.

August has historically meant intense financial hardship for the 31 refugee families our ministry has supported. We saw the new arrival of Afghan interpreters for U.S. forces who are recovering from grievous injuries and hardship. We supported a family who returned to commemorate the death of a relative in Afghanistan and survived an IED blast intended for an American convoy. We learned of the joyous news of three new expected babies as well as the fears of families who face precarious financial situations. Many of our refugees have yet to recover from the income disruption and debt incurred during the government shutdown last winter. The reverberations from that interrupted income only become more apparent when families are faced with back-to-school shopping needs for their children.

Our Refugee Ministry operates on a month-to-month basis and must prioritize needs when faced with requests from families who struggle to pay for rent, food, baby formula, and car insurance. Our first priority is always preventing homelessness. Our biggest financial expenditures are keeping these families safely housed. This balancing act often means that other needs such as chronic dental pain, long-term PTSD and anxiety issues from living in a war zone, and educational aspirations are put on hold, both for families and for our Ministry. Our wonderful volunteers act as front-line caseworkers for these families in coordination with the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services. However, we are limited in what we can accomplish in the face of such overwhelming needs.

We ask that you consider supporting our Refugee Ministry through your loose plate giving to allow us to continue to prevent homelessness, coordinate essential medical, dental, and psychosocial care, and continue the friendship and welcome we offer for this refugee community.

If you would like more information or want to get involved, please contact Melanie Gray at mgray@ccalex.org or Kathryn McNamara kathryn.w.mcnamara@gmail.com
Every day in our outreach ministries, we experience the abiding truth of God’s abundant Grace. Our Lazarus Ministry volunteers respond to situations that may have no clear solutions but by their presence and ingenuity save the day. Often the larger community gets involved to work on bigger problems.

While summer is ending, many Alexandria residents have not yet fully recovered from the 34-day Federal Government shutdown that occurred from December 22, 2018 until January 25, 2019, the longest U.S. government shutdown in history.

I saw firsthand the ripple effect the shutdown had on our community: restaurant, retail, and hospitality workers whose shifts were reduced or eliminated because business was down; home improvement contractors whose jobs dried up as workers waited out the shutdown; ride service providers whose client lists dwindled as people stayed home.

We also saw frightened federal workers, people who never thought they would need to visit a food pantry or seek help to pay their bills. There are contractors who will never be paid. The shutdown swelled the ranks of those who needed our help, a population that regularly includes refugees and the working poor.

In the midst of this challenging time, I saw a great deal of caring and a rapid response.

The City of Alexandria promptly collaborated with ACT for Alexandria and Virginia Theological Seminary to create a fund to support our work with these residents.

Eight churches and nonprofits were awarded grants from this fund. We tackled the immediate crisis; and together we helped our neighbors avoid eviction, keep the lights on, and pay medical bills. We offered $56,322.58 in assistance beyond what we normally distribute to pay 248 bills, distributed 26,000 pounds of supplemental food, and added to the operating funds of organizations that relied on Combined Federal Campaign donations.

I am grateful to the City of Alexandria, ACT for Alexandria, Virginia Theological Seminary, and our outreach partners for mobilizing so quickly last winter. We continue to see people who feel the impact of this shutdown. Just last week we encountered two families who were greatly impacted by the shutdown, a husband and wife who own a catering company that saw a huge decline in business and a woman whose hours were dramatically cut back at TGI Fridays. We were able to help both keep their housing because of the generosity of Christ Church parishioners and the funds we received from the ACT grants.

There are hundreds of vulnerable residents whose financial cushion is even thinner. As we enjoy the end of summer, please remember that this work is not done.

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**SEPTEMBER 2019**

- **Sunday, September 1** - Back to School Blessings at morning services
- **Monday, September 2** - Labor Day—Office Closed
- **Sunday, September 8** - Welcome Sunday Baptisms at the 10:00 a.m. service
- **Wednesday, September 11** - Covenant Class Begins Way of Love
- **Thursday, September 12** - Choirs Begin Weekly Rehearsals
- **Sunday, September 15** - September All Parish Breakfast
- **Sunday, September 15** - First Day of Sunday School
- **Thursday, September 19** - Fall Gathering, 11:00 a.m.
- **Sunday, September 29** - Chalice Bearer training, 11:30 a.m.

**OCTOBER 2019**

- **Wednesday, October 2** - October Dinner Church
- **Saturday, October 5** - Quiet Day Walk the Labyrinth
- **Sunday, October 6** - Blessing of the Animals, 3:00 p.m. October Choral Evensong
- **Monday, October 7** - Columbus Day—Office Closed
- **Saturday, October 12** - National Acolyte Festival
- **Sunday, October 20** - October All-Parish Breakfast Thanksgiving shopping bag kickoff Fall Youth Sunday
- **Saturday, October 26** - Wilkes St. Cemetery clean up
- **Sunday, October 27** - Pumpkin & Bonfire Extravaganza at Immanuel Church on the Hill
Win Football Tickets and Benefit Mengo Hospital

By Bill Chen and Raymond Gilpin, Co-Chairs of the Mengo Committee

Our generous donors, Reverend Mark & Peggy Anschutz, have once again offered two tickets to a Washington Redskins home game this season in a raffle to help support our outreach efforts at Mengo Hospital, Kampala Uganda.

It is the December 22, 2019 game against the New York Giants at FedEx Field at 1:00 p.m. Raffle tickets will be on sale beginning Welcome Sunday, September 8, and continue through month. The winner will be announced on September 29.

The Mengo Committee has had several discussions with Drs. Rose and Edith at the hospital, both during our mission trip to Kampala in January, and our Skype interchange in April. Among the key prioritized needs are medical equipment, particularly hemodialysis, and hospital beds for the children and adult patients in the wards.

In addition, there is also continued desire to receive aid for the hospital’s educational mission focused on nurses and medical technology students. The proceeds of the raffle will help to support some of these activities.

Plans for a New Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Mengo Hospital

An important need articulated by Dr. Rose, and confirmed by our mission trip visit, is a new neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Through a number of fortuitous contacts first initiated by Bob Hunter, we connected Dr. Rose with a group at the Connecticut Children’s Hospital, which is expert in the care of neonates. It is now actively developing plans to establish a new NICU at Mengo, in which we hope that we and others will be able to help.

Sickle Cell Anemia at Mengo Hospital

There is a high number of patients in Uganda, mostly children, with sickle cell anemia, a very debilitating disease often associated with painful crises and other problems. The pediatricians at Mengo are working hard to treat the disease with few available therapies. In this effort, they have asked for contacts with doctors in the U.S. and Europe who can provide advice about current treatment approaches. We have begun the process of connecting Mengo with key leaders in sickle cell anemia at Howard University, National Institutes of Health, and others.

If you are interested in joining the Mengo Committee, please contact one of us.

Bill Chin wchin81690@gmail.com and Raymond Gilpin rgil05@me.com, Co-Chairs, Mengo Committee.

Rites of Passage

Deaths:
- Joyce Berry
- Larry Roberts
- Bradley Cox
- Michael Mazzoni
- The Rev. Jack Wilson
- Margaretti McDonald
- David Kelly Faircloth
- John Heffernan
- Mary Margaret Schmidt
- Shirley Sheffey
- Bill Grill
- Jim Barbee
- Mary Grace Albritton
- Robert Thomson

Births:
- Harris Banks Killelea, son of Lauren & Amy Killelea
- Tuva Reinprecht, daughter of Sarah & Steve Reinprecht, granddaughter of Steve & Laura Humphrey

Baptisms:
- Abigail Katerina Kwan Westrum
- Benjamin Oskar Kwan Westrum
- Elisabeth Thora Kwan Westrum
On Love, Acceptance and Seeing God in Honduras

By Sarah DeCamps, OLR Mission Team Leader, and John Wyatt, new OLR Team Member

As Mission Team Leader, I want to share a few words on why the historic Our Little Roses Ministry is such a wonderful part of our church. This ministry has unquestionably evolved over 25 years. One constant has remained: Christ Church’s open arms are always extended to both the girls of OLR and to anyone who wants to travel to Honduras and open their hearts to these girls.

On the front gates of Christ Church sits a banner that has always meant something to me. All are welcome. No exceptions. This very idea has allowed the Our Little Roses Ministry to blossom over many years—bringing people into the lives of the girls. One such person is a 16-year-old named John, who joined our mission team this year. He writes about his experience below. It is powerful beyond measure and perhaps the very reason why our banner, and our church mission, is so important. And why OLR changes lives. When we live out the idea of a radical welcome to others, we change lives.

My name is John Wyatt and I am a rising sophomore at Landon, an independent school in Bethesda, Maryland. I am a member of the congregation at Saint Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac, Maryland. Recently, I was lucky enough to visit the beautiful country of Honduras along with many members of Christ Church. I came to be part of this team because I knew others who had participated in the mission. It came at just the right time for me. I want to tell you why this trip changed my life and why I am so grateful to have been welcomed into the mission.

I am only 16 years old but the year leading up to this trip was the hardest year of my life thus far. In the fall of 2018, I lost my father to an unexpected heart attack. His death caused me to think about how I want to be remembered and the impact I am going to leave on others. Since that day, I have constantly been thinking about the ways in which I spend my time and what I want to accomplish throughout the course of my life. One of the things I knew I wanted to do was to see the world. My dad grew up poor and was not afforded the ability to travel. He worked hard to provide me with that ability and thought of travel as a greater gift than anything material. So, when I heard about the opportunity to go on this trip, it seemed to be the perfect chance to do just that.
It is cliché to say, but what I ultimately gained from this experience was so much more than what I could have ever expected. The trip challenged much of what I thought I knew about myself, how I live my life, and how I see God. I have the amazing people at Our Little Roses to thank for that. Prior to arriving at the home, I was incredibly nervous to meet all of these girls and was desperately hoping that they would accept me. I came to learn that love and trust are things that might sometimes seem hard to do but they allow us to open up to others. The OLR girls do these things naturally and their example has helped me grow and see God in unexpected places.

Currently, OLR has 64 girls. There are also “tias,” who are the adults that care for them day in and day out. I was one of only two newcomers to the trip. I wanted to share in some of their same incredible experiences. I recall our first morning, when I found myself seated in a chapel pew having my first introduction to the girls inside of the chapel at Our Little Roses. As soon as the girls entered the room, I could feel their infectious happiness.

We would spend the next nine days with the girls. And I was constantly taken aback by the love they showed to everyone, even someone like me who they didn’t really know. Their acceptance and ability to trust became real when I met one little girl while walking with her around the OLR campus. At one moment during the week, she told me why she came to OLR. Like her, I have lost a parent and I could relate. However, I was shocked when she started talking, not just because she trusted me enough to tell me this story but also because she seemed so strong. She taught me a new definition of what it means to be resilient. Learning this, I felt truly amazed that a girl that had endured so much at such a young age could still be so strong. This same strength was evident in all the girls at OLR and is surely founded in their strong faith.

Each night, Rev. Seldon, who helped to lead the trip, posed a question to our group in the chapel at the hotel: “Where did you see God today?” At other times in my life there were certainly days where this question would have been hard to answer, but not on this first day. On this day, God was evident everywhere. I recall being the first to speak up. God shines brightest in the smiles of the 64 girls who had nothing more than the love of one another. Their love and faith were so strong and sincere that it would have been impossible to know the hardships they had faced in their lives before coming to Our Little Roses. The amazing love they show to one another and even to complete strangers, despite all that they have had to endure, is truly a work of God. Looking back, I can truthfully say that the trip itself and the people I met on it have changed my life forever. I will not forget any of the memories – from playing cards to painting the walls of the school, to a lot of intense soccer games, to furiously writing letters the last night so that every girl would know I would miss her. They did the same for me. My experience in Honduras exposed me to the most authentic and loving people that I have ever met. Living in a place where everyone seems to be in a constant rush and only have their self-interest at heart, the feeling I got at OLR of true love and compassion for one another is one I will never forget.

Lastly, as a new member of this mission team, I want to thank Sarah DeCamps and Seldon Walker and all the people inside and outside of Christ Church for organizing and running this trip. I also want to thank everyone on the mission team for making me feel so welcome. I will always remember the memories from my first time in Honduras and cannot wait to make more in the years to come.
Celebrating Ten Years of Music by the Sea—
RSCM-America Summer Course in Rhode Island

By Joanna Reams, Choir Member

The music was sublime. The kids were superstars.

On July 22, a team of two choristers and six adult singers from Christ Church set off for a week’s retreat of singing at the Royal School of Church Music-America summer course in Newport, Rhode Island, co-managed by Jason Abel and Brent Erstad.

Similar groups arrived from all over the country to make a choir of some 60 treble choristers, ages 9 to 14, and 30 adults who sang alto, tenor, and bass. The course provides choral training and experience to these young people in singing sacred music in liturgical or concert settings. In addition to the daily rehearsals, there were classes in conducting, composition, handbells, vocal technique, and even folk dancing.

The young choristers enjoyed an evening at a baseball game where they were asked to sing the national anthem. The schedule included time to practice for the Saturday evening talent show—handbells, folk dancing, various musical offerings, a talented juggler with piano duet accompaniment, and the masterful Led Zeppelin-esque guitarist assisted by his dancing pal in a rubber unicorn mask.

Adults enjoyed singing with experienced colleagues (that big guy in the tee shirt and flip flops, singing bass in the back row, might be the distinguished music director and composer who wrote a beautiful anthem to celebrate the tenth anniversary this year of RSCM-RI) as well as the talented youngsters all around them.

Other pleasures for the adults included the gorgeous setting of Salve Regine University, right next to The Breakers and the Cliff Walk; a seminar on the Gilded Age in Newport, which produced so many of the stately historic mansions; time to explore charming Newport; and evening fellowship on the porch of one of the original “cottages,” now a dorm.

Morning Prayer and Compline bookend each day’s activities, so that children and adults were spiritually enriched.

The course’s music directors are renowned in their field, and this year the course was led by Scott Hanoian, from Christ Church, Grosse Point, Michigan, and the organist was Janet Yieh, from Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York. Evensong was sung at Trinity Church, Newport, and St George’s School, Middletown, Rhode Island, and Sunday’s Choral Eucharist was sung at Grace Church, Providence.

I enjoyed learning glorious new music. It was all new to me because I sang alto, not soprano, with such experienced voices filling the air around me. I enjoyed the walks around the campus and vicinity, admiring the houses and gardens with so many majestic trees that must surely date to colonial times. I even enjoyed the food in the dining hall! I especially enjoyed deepening the bonds with my Christ Church fellows and forming new friendships with musicians from all over. I loved the magnificent music that a choir of that size produced in the three services we sang.

Most of all, I will take away the memory of all those wonderful kids. The sound of them soaring on the high notes should have been heard by the whole world! These young folks are serious musicians, who were always attentive to Scott Hanoian’s directions. This was not dumbed down music; there were several chestnuts from English cathedrals, and all the music was of the highest standard. These kids clearly love music and love singing together. In a world of some dark corners of isolation, rage, and pain, these kids showed forth like lanterns. I felt truly inspired and hope to go again.
Before our church was consecrated as Christ Church, Episcopal in 1814 we were known as “Church in The Woods” of the Protestant Episcopal Church, United States. This name reflected the location of the church, originally in a forested area well outside the original city limits. Prior to that early name, following the American Revolution, we had been known as the Anglican “Church in The Woods nigh Alexandria.” George Washington’s signed 1786 commitment with seven other pewholders to pay five pounds in annual rent, referred to it as the Episcopal Church of Alexandria.

Even before the completion of our brick “Church in The Woods” in 1773, the Anglicans in Alexandria and the surrounding countryside had a smaller, more modest house of worship. A wooden building had been erected as a “Chapel of Ease” to celebrate Mass without having to travel the distance to the Truro Parish Church.

Truro Vestry Minutes from 1746 mention the need for seats and a desk for “the church in Alexandria.” Minutes from 1753 state: “On the petition of Cap. John West that the Reverend Mr. Charles Green do preach every third Sunday at the Town of Alexandria.”

There have been scattered proposals about the location of this Anglican chapel. The Alexandria Gazette of May 15, 1871 (p. 3), noting that remains of at least thirty people had been found near Christ Church, observed, “Near the present site of Christ Church a framed church once stood, embosomed in the primitive forest.” Another author refers to “a well-worn legend” that placed a “Chapel of Ease” on North Pitt Street near Princess Street (Voges 1975:152). Another reference plots the location at “west of Royal Street, that is, outside the town limits of the time.” (Greenly 1996: 17). At issue here might be that the city map was less well defined on the outer edges in those early years.

More interesting perhaps is the story of the Anglican Chapel of Ease after we moved into our brick church in 1776. It would appear that squatters came in and took possession, other Alexandrians in need of a sacred space.

Roman Catholics had been forbidden to practice their faith in the Commonwealth of Virginia for most of the 18th century. This only changed in 1785 when Thomas Jefferson issued the Act for Establishing Religious Freedom, allowing people of all faiths, including Roman Catholics, to worship openly in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It was championed by James Madison in the Virginia General Assembly, which passed it on January 16, 1786, and it was signed into law three days later. [A summary and timeline of the events is at https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/virginia_statute_for_establishing_religious_freedom_1786].

Starting in that year, 1785, our local Basilica of St. Mary records in its history that “A log cabin located at the corner of North Royal and Princess Streets was used for the celebration of Holy Mass. This was believed to be an Anglican “Chapel of Ease” which was abandoned after the opening of Christ Church on South Washington Street.” Basilica of St. Mary’s, Old Town

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Diana Butler Bass is Featured Speaker at the Gathering Luncheon

Book signing included following speaker’s remarks

By Kristen J. Amundson, Special to Rejoice

Noted author Diana Butler Bass will be the inaugural speaker at The Gathering’s September meeting. Bass, an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture, will read from her newest book, Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks. The meeting and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 26 in the Auditorium.

“Many of our members have expressed an interest in hearing from Virginia authors,” said Gathering co-chair Betsy Hahn. “We are thrilled that an author of Diana Bass’s national reputation can join us in September.”

Diana Bass holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and is the award-winning author of ten books, including Grounded: Finding God in the World—A Spiritual Revolution (2015), Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening (2012), and Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith (2006).

She regularly speaks at conferences, consults with religious organizations, leads educational events, and teaches and preaches in a variety of venues in the United States and internationally. Her bylines include The Washington Post, The New York Times Syndicate, and The Huffington Post. She has commented widely on religion, politics, and culture widely in the media including USA TODAY, Time, Newsweek, CBS, CNN, FOX, PBS, NPR, Sirius XM, and CBC.

Diana Butler Bass is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including the Wilbur Award, the Nautilus Gold Medal, the Book of the Year from Religion News Service, and the Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize of the American Society of Church History. She holds an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from The General Theological Seminary in New York. She also serves on the board of Public Religion Research and is an advisor on the project for a National Museum of American Religion in Washington, D.C.

A question-and-answer session and a book signing will follow Dr. Bass’s talk. Copies of Grateful will be available for sale at the lunch or in the Christ Church gift shop.

The Gathering is a Christ Church group that meets regularly for lunch and fellowship. Many, but not all, of the members of the group are age 50 or older. For more information on the Gathering, or on the September meeting, contact Gathering co-chair Fran Usher, franusher2011@gmail.com or at 703.470.8131.

To RSVP for the lunch, please contact Cindi Bartol (cindibartol@comcast.net or at 703.370.3355). There is no cost for the lunch, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Consider Being Open to the Gift of Love by Offering the Chalice for Holy Eucharist

By Virginia Amos, Chalice Bearer Ministry

Have you ever wondered about the members of our congregation who robe, process, and ultimately join clergy at the altar to assist with Holy Communion?

Referred to as chalice bearers in the Christ Church vernacular, the Episcopal Dictionary of the Church uses the term “lay Eucharistic minister” and gives the following definition:

Lay person licensed by the bishop to administer the consecrated elements of the Holy Eucharist. Lay Eucharistic ministers may be licensed to administer the consecrated bread and wine at any celebration of the Eucharist in the absence of a sufficient number of priests and deacons to assist the celebrant . . . This ministry is understood to be an extraordinary ministry, and is not to take the place of the ministry of priests and deacons concerning the administration of the Eucharist. Prior to the current lay ministry canons, specially licensed lay readers administered the chalice at the Eucharist and were known as “chalice bearers.”

An extraordinary ministry! Although I know the author means “extraordinary” in another way, I believe it the perfect description of what we do and what we receive in turn.

Personally, I have come to know chalice bearing as the most intimate and vulnerable of ministries.

continued on page 11
Youth Welcome
By the Rev. Seldon M. Walker, Curate and Youth Minister

On behalf of the Christ Church Youth Ministry program, welcome to the 2019–2020 program year! If you are new to Christ Church, welcome! If you are a long-time member of Christ Church, welcome! If you have been at Christ Church for many years but haven’t had time for Youth ministry, welcome! All are welcome and we would love for you to be a part of the Youth Ministry program here at Christ Church! Myself, along with our Youth Leaders: Eileen Adenan, Darrin Hostetler, Jessica Hughes, Tillman Finley, Kitty Dillon, Nancy Marsden, Sara Gray, and Libby Maynard, have been working hard to plan and prep for this new program year and we certainly have some exciting things in-store. Some things to stay excited for this year include:

• Sunday Lunch with the High School Youth—Free lunch!
  Come join us for fun, fellowship, and lunch in Old Town on the first Sunday of each month following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The first Sunday Lunch will be on October 6.

• Youth Table at All Parish Breakfasts±Join me, along with our Youth leaders for breakfast each month at our designated Youth table. All Youth are welcome!

• Youth & Family Ministry Projects – Be on the lookout for our ministry opportunities. We will be participating in several ministry projects this year, some long-standing, and some brand new!

• Mission Trips±OLR? Asheville? South Carolina? The possibilities are endless! Keep your eyes and ears open for more information about our Youth mission trip opportunities.

• Advent Lock-in—Yes that’s right! It’s back and bigger and better than ever before! Tentatively scheduled for December 21. All youth welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Other fun things to plan for include: the Youth ski trip, PYM Shrine Mont weekends, and other Youth outings. Remember that we also have 6th/7th grade Sunday School and 8th grade confirmation class each week (unless otherwise noted) in the Fowler House at 9:00 a.m. Our Youth calendar can be found at https://www.historicchristchurch.org/children-and-youth/youth/. Please be certain to check it weekly for updates. Parents and others interested in Youth ministry—we can always use your help! From chaperoning trips, to cooking meals, to hanging out with us at Youth meetings, there is something for everyone so please just ask how you can be involved and we will make it happen!

I’m so excited to spend another year with such amazing people!

Adults and children alike come to the communion rail with all their insecurities, their burdens, their joys, their fears, their hopes for life renewed. In sharing the chalice, we share in hard journeys, happy rewards, good news, angst, and pain. As faces turn upward to receive, often with a smile but just as often with a tear, giver and receiver release themselves to the freely given grace that is the Body and Blood of Christ. It is indeed an extraordinary ministry. I invite you to consider being a part of it.

Please join us on Sunday, September 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the church to learn more. Rather than being scared about spilling wine, getting dressed, not knowing where to stand or what to say, be open to the possibility that offering the chalice and sharing in one of the most intimate moments possible is a gift of love into which you will grow and flourish.

For more information, especially about practicalities—time commitments, scheduling, last minute emergencies, etc.—please call Virginia Amos, at 703.859.6362.
The Kids of Note mentoring initiative has been one of my biggest blessings. The mentoring initiative was created by those who saw potential in us, both musically and academically. Our mentors, who have become a village, have been there every step of the way. They have helped us obtain our own musical instruments, and facilitated our journey through high school and the college selection process. Each of our mentors stepped out of their way to help in academic opportunity, and they have also done everything in their power to support us in our lives. The Kids Of Note program has opened doors in our future, and we will forever be grateful for all that has been given to us.

Throughout the years, my mentors have been supportive and have taught me many things about reaching out and helping others; however, I have learned more in the summer than I have in my four years of high school. Working with Melanie Gray and the Lazarus Ministries provided by Christ Church has been a big part of my life that makes me get up eager every Wednesday and Thursday morning, ready to meet someone new.

It all started as a weeklong internship, required for me to graduate with IB diploma candidacy. I never thought much of it; I just knew I would be interacting with many different people.

I remember the day it hit me…when I knew I wanted to keep coming back over the summer. It was the week of senior prom and I wanted everything to be perfect. I vividly remember complaining to my mom that I WANTED new prom shoes because the ones I had were not “perfect.” Up until this point in my life, I had always been sheltered from the reality of life. My parents had always given me the very best they could, and I was living a comfortable life, only now realizing the struggles that were being faced by those in my community. The morning I sat down and began translating for one of the counselors, I realized that there was a world past my bubble. I have returned every week to help as much as I can with both the Lazarus Financial Ministries and the Lazarus Food Pantry.

I too have been facing a coming change to my life: college. I am going to have to be independent, but interning at Christ Church has made me a bit more prepared for what is to come. I now know how to fill out a check, which I did not know before! I have also learned that to learn something you have to get in there and do it yourself. After graduation, when I returned to help at the church, we were short on Lazarus financial counselors in the morning. I did not yet feel ready to help someone on my own; however, Melanie came in the volunteer room and said that since we were short on counselors I had to jump in and ask questions. I will never forget how scared I was to make a mistake and ruin something. Ultimately, at the end of the day, you learn through mistakes.

In short, I have had one of the busiest and most rewarding summers of my life. I would not change a thing about it. I am passionate about helping others, and by simply being allowed to do just that, I have been taught so much about being an adult. I will always be thankful for the chances given to me and everyone involved in my journey. I will be starting at The College of William and Mary this fall.