

InSpire

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About our Bishop, who will visit us on March 5

*Our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, will visit Resurrection on Sunday, March 5. **We will have only two worship services that day, at 9:00 and 11:00 am.** Wesley McBeth and Will Schenck will be Confirmed at 9:00 am. At 11:00 am, Dan Parker will be Confirmed. Ted Culley of Grace Episcopal Church in Berryville will be Received, and Nick King will Reaffirm his faith as a path to official membership at Resurrection. We asked Kat Turner, who serves on the diocesan Transition Committee, to tell us about Bishop Stevenson.*

At a recent lunch meeting with the diocesan Transition Committee, our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, likened his days to “trying to drink from a fire hose.” He commented that he went home each night both exhausted and exhilarated.

Virginia might be one of the most complex dioceses in the church, with more than 160 parish churches, 6 continuing care communities, 6 church schools, 2 retreat centers (Shrine Mont and Roslyn), a summer camp, and a number of related organizations such as Virginia Diocesan Homes. Rather than being daunted by this array of responsibilities, Bishop Stevenson is excited. At one of the Meet & Greets this spring, he announced, “I eat complexity for breakfast!”

Prior to his ministry here Bishop Stevenson served the larger Episcopal Church, first as Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries, and then for more than four years as “Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Within the Episcopal Church.” He



Bishop Stevenson at his Consecration on December 3, 2022

has also served as a parish priest in Louisiana and Florida, and for eight years as Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Louisiana, taking up this post just days after Hurricane Katrina and working to put into place processes for effective relief and other ministry.

Bishop Stevenson is making a comprehensive review of diocesan staff and assignments, programs, and priorities, and has indicated he doesn’t want to rush in a raft of changes without

careful consideration. Although in recent years the diocese has had a Suffragan Bishop, his intention is to name assisting bishops at this time. Calling for a Suffragan Bishop requires the same lengthy and expensive process that the search for a Diocesan Bishop does, and he believes that it is better to not undertake this process immediately. He has named the Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris as Assistant Bishop and the Rt. Rev. Dabney

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Jo Belser, our Rector

“I invite you this Lent, after you meditate and pray and give alms (in the form of diapers?) to become even more inventive in your hospitality.”

Being “inventive in hospitality”

“Don’t burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don’t quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality. (Romans 12:11-13, The Message)”

Maybe you expected that I would talk about Lent in this month’s newsletter. If so, I won’t disappoint you, but you might have to look hard to see the connection between “being inventive in hospitality” and Lent.

See, when I came to Church of the Resurrection, I discovered you all are very flexible—more so than any other of the many churches I had attended as a U.S. Navy officer. It is one of our church’s more endearing and enduring traits.

I believe that God worked on the people of Resurrection over the entire 59 years of its history to make them flexible. Why? So that you all would be able to flex enough to do two major things: our redevelopment mission and thriving throughout a pandemic and beyond. Perhaps this flexibility will allow us to thrive long enough to discover why it is that God has given us this new life.

God not only worked on you, he sent you leaders (the Revs. Jim Green, Vance Johnson, and Anne Ritchie, and all of you) to help. God sent me, too, but not to teach you flexibility; you already had learned that. I got to

throw my inventiveness into your already great “pot” of invention. The thing you are teaching me is about hospitality.

Every single church I have ever attended has claimed to be welcoming and hospitable. They weren’t always. Some had confused being welcoming to their friends at church with welcoming strangers. However, You in our Resurrection Community *actually do* welcome newcomers, even homeless ones. You are color blind and inclusive, welcoming absolutely everyone.

I invite you this Lent, after you meditate and pray and give alms (in the form of diapers?) to become even more inventive in your hospitality. I’m thinking of three opportunities in March that could stretch you in new ways:

- First, on March 5, please engage Bishop Stevenson in conversation. He might do things differently than we do, things it will be excellent to learn about. He is outgoing and has a keen sense of humor. His dog’s name is Franklin if you get stuck for a topic of conversation. Make

your conversation about welcoming him rather than about us.

- Second, on March 12, we will have our first “Mission Church” worship service at 9:00 am. This is an occasional compliment to our quarterly Messy Church events. At Mission Church we will worship as we pack bags of diapers for our neighbors whose babies need them. How about you join us at 9:00 am that day—you could stay for the 11:00 am service, as well. Think of it as hospitality to the people who could be our new members.
- Third, on March 21, at 2:30 pm or so, we will have our second after-school fun time at The Spire for children after they get off their school bus. Ask [Chris Yeannakis](#) how you could help us extend our hospitality to our next-door neighbors.

Of course, you will have your own inventive ways of sharing the love Christ gives us with new people. My aim isn’t to get you to invite them to church, just to share the love that is in us.

~ Rev. Jo,

Moving forward with our 2023 goals

We all know the saying that starts with “It takes a village....” Well, it certainly does take a village to carry out the annual goals of our congregation, and I’m pleased to lay out the village that will lead the effort with your involvement.

There are two levels of goals. Please know they have more detail than can be presented here. The names in parentheses are those taking the lead on the goal. The dates in parentheses are targets for completion.

FIRST, there are five overarching goals that I mentioned last month (names with an asterisk are non-vestry members invited to provide their input into the discussion).

Goal One: Care for and enhance our church home (Kim Hildred, Betsy Faga, Peggy Tiedemann, Al Tiedemann*): identify by March 1, 2023, this year’s work projects and activities required to care for and enhance our church home, and complete those projects and activities as follows: acquire a twice-monthly cleaning service (February 28), assess the information technology needs of the church and propose needed updates (June 30), determine the feasibility of and conditions under which the church could operate a parking business (June 30), develop a proposal concerning the role of

Vestry or non-Vestry Building Administrator (June 30), install outside electrical outlets (June 30), determine storage options within the building (December 30).

Goal Two: Diversify the church’s financial management operations (Ken Gay*, Barbara Langford, Elta Wilson): add a Finance Vestry member who, with the Treasurer, will be knowledgeable about our financial procedures and payroll processes, as evidenced by processing the mid-November 2023 payroll by the Finance Vestry member.

Goal Three: Offer ourselves as “Beloved Community” (Coral Childs, Bea Taylor, Reggie Hayes*, Rev. Theresa*): continue to welcome and value absolutely everyone, have at least 30% of our members participate in activities in 2023 which address racial injustice and help us to grow as a community of reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers.

Goal Four: Bring our Resurrection Community closer together (Rev. Susan*, Gbehlee Savice, Deena Jaworski*, Kathy Parnell, Ken Payne): resume a robust schedule of ongoing fellowship opportunities with at least 30% of our members present at each. (See the list of

proposed events in the sidebar on the right.)

Goal Five: To refine the identity of our 9:00 am Sunday worship service (Rev. Jo, Louise Bennett, Tom Conroy*, Cheryl McBeth): commit to hold it through at least the end of the current liturgical year (November 26, 2023), continue to hold quarterly Messy Church services during the 9:00 am service, increase the involvement of our youth as worship leaders, and offer hands-on service opportunities during worship at least twice before this liturgical year. The future of the 9:00 am worship service beyond November 26, will be determined after a discussion about it in September/October 2023 with the Vestry and congregation.

SECOND, these are the goals of our continuing ministries this year.

Creating Community (Betsy Faga)_____

Community (Chris Yeannakis, Kat Turner): maintain and enhance relationship with Resident Service Managers at The Spire and St. James Plaza as well as Harbor Management staff at The Spire, assess success of after school program (March 31), assess interest in a Girl Scout Troop (June 30), determine



Betsy Faga

Proposed 2022 fellowship events:

- Shrove Saturday pancake supper (February 18),
- Easter Egg and Scavenger Hunt (April 8),
- A Eucharist with dinner at one of our Holy Week services
- An ice cream social (May 13),
- Shrine Mont weekend (June 16 -18) with Summer Movie Night at Resurrection (June 17)
- Bingo Night (August 12)
- Octoberfest/ Halloween event (October 28)
- Thanksgiving Day reception (November 23),
- Advent Dinner/ Congregational meeting (December 2)

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An introduction to our Racial Justice & Healing Ministry

The Racial Justice and Healing Ministry has held two Sunday Forums this year and its members appreciate the turnout at both. It is this ministry team's hope that you left each feeling slight discomfort (and not just from the audio issues). We hope that you felt the kind of discomfort that we image Jesus felt as he prayed "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42 NRSV). Having felt this slight discomfort, or annoyance, we invite you to continue to return as you are able, opening yourself to the possibilities of God.

We hope to begin to present a truer picture of the racial injustices done here in the United States, primarily against Americans who are Indigenous, African, Hispanic, and Asian, (more generically People of Color and/or People of African Descent). This is hard work; it is God's work.

Most of us remember and use the verse listed above, but fewer of us recall the verse prior, "Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed," (Luke 22:41 NRSV). We encourage you to join us in prayer as we discern the best resources, tools, and gatherings to share with the community. There is a wealth of information known and unknown to us and we pray that we will locate not just the right information, but that which will lead us to action.

We also, finally, invite you to believe in Luke 22:43, which says, "Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength." Believe that God is at work in and through **YOU!**

Celebrate the small accomplishment because this is work that is done inch by inch. Perhaps you walk past a Person of Color and clutch your purse/wallet a little less aggressively. Or you choose not to laugh at

the off color joke shared by a friend. Progress is made in the tiniest of steps forward.

We will write more for the *InSpire* and provide a list of upcoming events soon. In the meantime, please reach out to any member of our committee with questions/ comments. Bea Taylor is our faithful leader, Amanda Vann, Rev. Theresa Lewallen, Coral Childs, and myself.

~ Cynthia Bullard-Perez



Cynthia Bullard-Perez



(Right to left: Dr. Bea Taylor and the Rev. Theresa Lewallen)

You can watch the presentation on reparations given by Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton, Bishop of Maryland, at the 227th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia on November 18, 2022. We showed portions of this presentation at our Sunday Forum on February 19; The link is https://youtu.be/y_ONgMEjUyY?t=233

Moving forward with our 2023 goals

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additional programs with The Spire and St. James (December 31).

Outreach:

ALIVE! (Maureen Bryant): continue to attend ALIVE! meetings and support StepAlive!

Carpenter's Shelter (Maureen Bryant): prepare and serve dinner on the first Sunday of odd numbered months.

Drives/Hammond Community Market (David Ewing, Lori Thurgood): provide diapers, hygiene bags, gift cards, and baby furniture on scheduled dates.

Food Pantry (Emily Ewing): continue the Monday-night food pantry, continue diaper distribution on third Mondays, involve additional churches, reintroduce Manna baskets, apply for Capitol Area Food Bank grants, and construct a Little Free Food Pantry.

Memorial Garden (Carolyn McDonald): Install handrails (June 30), continue weekly garden maintenance sessions, continue developing native plants, add second water feature, assess additional needs for tree work.

Healing Community (Coral Childs)—————

Creation Care (Judy Isaacs): TBD

Racial Justice & Healing (Bea Taylor, Amanda Vann): continue to participate in multi-church Racial Justice Ministry at St. Martin de Porres Episcopal Church, hold a Sacred Ground “reunion” (June 30), start a new Sacred Ground Circle (December 31), host a minimum of 6 forums and 6 “movie and discussion” events (December 31), and make 1 contact with another Justice group in Alexandria to discuss potential partnerships (December 31).

Living Community (Gbehlee Savice)—————

Children and Youth (Ken Payne, Cheryl McBeth): retain the 9:00 am service through the end of the liturgical year, increase youth involvement at the 9:00 am service, continue one Messy Church per quarter.

Adult Education (Chris Yeannakis): plan in-person Forums for a majority of the Sunday's during the year.

Parish Care (Linda Goff): resume home communion visits, stay connected with parishioners who are home bound, continue the birthday and special occasions card ministry, deliver bulletins/scripture inserts to those who are home bound, have Parish Care meet quarterly with additional meetings as needed.

Special Events and Outings (Individual Volunteers): carry out events as listed in overarching goal 4 and any others as parishioners volunteer.

Communications (Kathy Parnell): assist Rev. Jo in coordinating Church communications (i.e., InSpire, e-notes).

Stewardship (Elta Wilson): help Rev. Jo run a successful stewardship campaign, support Rev. Jo in finding church administrator.

Treasurer (Ken Gay): oversee and carry out financial management of the church.

Finance (Barbara Langford): serve as “understudy” to the Treasurer.

Special Projects (Kim Hildred): —————

Coordinate any special projects that develop during the year.

This gives you an overview of breadth and depth of our proposed activities for the year and those who have stepped up to lead and coordinate. “We are the hands of the Lord” and there is much to do! We hope you find a place to help organize and participate that is meaningful for you.

Peace & Blessings,

~ Betsy Faga

Clergy & Staff

Rector

[The Rev. Jo J. Belser](#)

Deacon

[The Rev. Theresa Lewallen](#)

Priest Associate

[The Rev. Dr. Susan Ackley Lukens](#)

Seminarian Intern

[Reggie Hayes](#)

Director of Music

Deena Jaworski

Organist/Seminarian

Dr. Thomas Conroy

Bookkeeper

MaryEllen Tibbs

Parish Communicator

[Jimena Amurio](#)

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About our Bishop, who will visit us on March 5

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Smith as Visiting Bishop.
Bishop from April to June.

Bishop Stevenson has called the Rev. Deacon d'Rue Hazel as Canon to the Ordinary for congregational development and work with diocesan teams to identify

and embrace new opportunities for the church.

Bishop Stevenson has expressed his interest in housing programs on several occasions, and it may be that his early Episcopal visit to Resurrection is an indication of that interest. While we are, of course, pleased to show off The Spire and our new

church, we also want to be sure Bishop Stevenson leaves with the complete picture of who we are and what we are accomplishing as “our hands, voices, and hearts committed to our community and the world.”

~ Kat Turner



Kat Turner

Reggie Hayes says “thank you”

There is a beautiful passage (Matthew 16.24-25) where Jesus told his disciples, “If any person would come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever would save their lives will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” This passage held me close when I had Covid when the seminary was closed for its post-semester break. The Resurrection family poured out the love of God through its generosity and self-sacrifice.

Our church knows no poverty, because poverty means without family. When we follow Christ, poverty is a foreign word because we are each other’s family. Your outreach to me in my illness and isolation provided a spiritual safety net, a familial kinship, and community, for which I will always be grateful.

Community is a social

instinct that provides for the well-being of each other through love, belonging, and knitting our spiritual connection through shared mission. I am grateful for the food, prayers, and other outpouring of love I received from my Resurrection community.

On another note, there is much to process about my trip to Jerusalem and how following in the footsteps of the Messiah has renewed my inner sanctuary. I look forward to sharing my experience at Forum on March 12. I will be doing the Forum with the Rev. Dr. Susan Lukens, who I thank for her help in arranging my pilgrimage to Jerusalem. I am grateful for both her and Rev. Jo’s help in my journey of discernment and formation for the priesthood.

Mostly what I want to share is about Jesus having fallen three times on the way to his death. With purpose, he continued toward death on

his way back to God. Those images reminded me that I, too, can get up again and again and again to forsake my will for His. That’s what we as a Church do every time we sacrifice for others. Thank you for helping me.

~ Reggie Hayes

Beads and pancakes: Resurrection's pancake supper

Mardi Gras, the concept of America's Mardi Gras, first took place in 1699 when French explorers Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville and Sieur de Bienville landed near present day New Orleans. Mardi Gras is not, a season of the liturgical year. Rather, it is the celebration that ends on "Fat Tuesday," the day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

In New Orleans, there are a series of days celebrated by many parades leading up to Lent. The French words Mardi Gras mean "brazing torches," which originally led the night parades before the installation of lights. These parades last over several weeks before Mardi Gras. Each parade is run by members of a different Krewe. Each Mardi Gras Parade Krewe has a unique history and theme.

The colors of Mardi Gras are purple, green, and gold, represented by bead necklaces which are thrown out each night of the parades from floats by members of the Krewes.

Resurrection celebrates Shrove Tuesday with a pancake supper. Shrove Tuesday is the day on which people make pancakes to use up their eggs and butter before the fasting of Lent began the next day. At Resurrection, we have long blended the beads of Mardi Gras and the pancakes of



Wes McBeth, pancake chef



Edna and Bob Noé, with their Mardi Gras beads

Shrove Tuesday. However, we have moved the celebration to Saturday so more people can participate. This is how we came to have pancakes with our Resurrection Krewe on February 18.

A big thank you goes to Wesley McBeth, aided by his mother Cheryl McBeth, for being our pancake chef par excellence! Their culinary work was enjoyed by one and all. The pancakes were accompanied with

fruit, oatmeal, bacon, and sausage provided by other members of our Krewe, also known as fellow parishioners.

Another big thank you goes to Margaret Riccardelli and her crew, who made the room festive by decorating the room with lots of green, gold, and purple beads, napkins, and wall hangings.

A big thanks to all who made the dinner a festive occasion.

~ Kathy Parnell

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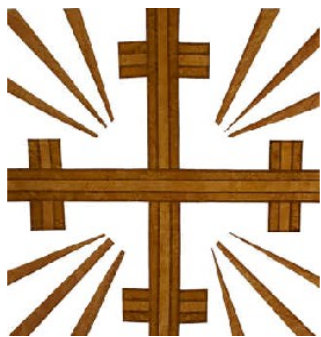
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About InSpire

InSpire is the monthly newsletter of the Church of the Resurrection, describing the people of our congregation and our faith journey together. The following individuals contributed to this issue of *InSpire*:

- The Rev. Jo Belser
- Cynthia Bullard-Perez
- Betsy Faga
- Lea Fowlie, editing
- Lenore Funkhouser, photos
- Reggie Hayes
- Kathy Parnell

Church of the Resurrection serves the people in the Beauregard Corridor of the City of Alexandria, home to many recent immigrants. In April 2021, Resurrection completed an eight-year mission to provide 113 units of affordable housing to its community.

Diaper blessings at “Mission Church” on March 12

Hammond Middle School holds a food fair for the needy in our community on the third Thursday of every month. In the odd-numbered months, David Ewing and I transport carloads of diapers donated by Resurrection members to Hammond for distribution. I purchase diaper sizes 1-3 as my own personal mission and count on other church members to contribute sizes 4-6.

Diaper collection for Hammond has evolved into a mission of our church as we saw the tremendous need. Diapers have gotten very expensive and our food pantry guests tell of trying to make a diaper last a day.

For the first several months, we had no idea of the total demand for diapers nor how many of each size were needed. We only knew that our supply ran out within the first 30-45 minutes of the two-hour distribution period, and that it seemed like the need was greatest for the larger sizes. Last July I finally wised up and recorded, by size, every bag of diapers given out, and also every unfulfilled request by size. What an eye opener! At this point, I began to set a target number of diapers to be collected for

each size, which you now see in every issue of e-Notes. We have bean counters for diapers that come into the church and e-Notes lets us know weekly how many diapers of each size we still need.

In January, I handed out 2,273 diapers to 151 of the 232 families who came to Hammond. The number still fell short, but not by much. So, David and I will be transporting 2,442 diapers (ranging from 12 bags of size 1 to 43 bags of size 6) to the Hammond Food Fair on March 16. There are 15 diapers in each bag.

This is where you come in. At the 9:00 service on March 12, we will bag diapers as part of our worship. There will be four “pauses” in our bagging for the various parts of the worship service. In the end, we will have 136 bags of diapers, sizes 3 through 6. All participants will share in blessing the diapers at the end of the service.

If you miss the smell and feel of diapers, come be a counter or bagger. Or come label the bags, put them in boxes, record the number of bags in each box, move the boxes to the nave for



blessing, or load them into my car after the service. There is a job for everyone as we worship.

I hope you will join our assembly line and feel the joy of serving our Alexandria community. On March 16 I will have the added joy of receiving smiles and thank yous from grateful parents, and of seeing the sweet faces of many of the babies we help keep dry.

Thank you for your generous hearts and pocketbooks. Diaper blessings to all!

~ Lori Thurgood