

# InSpire

## The Fellowship at the Table

### Inside this issue

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Rev. Susan Lukens | 1 |
| Betsy Faga        | 2 |
| Linda Goff        | 3 |
| Coral Childs      | 4 |
| Eleonora Gafton   | 5 |

In the midst of life’s journey, when we from time to time, leave the comfort of the familiar, friends we meet along the way become our family. These encounters deepen and grow from camaraderie to love. You know, the kind of friend that after a long absence, you text them, “can you talk now?” And in just a moment, your ringing phone brings you together.

This summer, I was reminded of the preciousness of relationships across the globe, and I admit not taking time to reach out and thank those who have journeyed with me in moments of despair, delight and given me solace when I most needed it. One such friend rented a house near my son’s cabin on Lake Megunticook and a morning walk brought us together a few weeks ago- it had been years since our sons had their high school shenanigans. We mothers held our breath that graduation would happen, and college doors would receive them. Encountering my friend on the shores of the lake once again brought

laughter tears and worried tears between us.

But even now as I write of this encounter, I am reminded that Jesus too might have felt this same way when he arrived at the Mount of Olive summit overlooking the walls of the Old city and entered the sanctuary of Martha and Mary’s house. Jesus could not have called them on his cell phone to ask for a welcoming; but rather I think



those traveling on foot with him from the four to five day journey from Galilee, would have gone on ahead and knocked on their door.

Imagine then the conversation at the table. “Is Lazarus back to make pottery?” “Mary your garden delights, has the well given you enough water this Spring?” “Your bread brings me memories of Nazareth,” and bending to his mother, Jesus shares the pita bread with her.

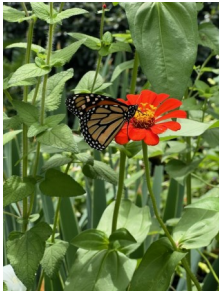
Ah yes, the fellowship of the meal wherein those sitting at the table become our friends who welcome conversation, banter of politics, praise of thanksgiving for a good growing season, and news of this and that in our lives.

Ruth, Jane, and Ebony shared such fellowship of the table with me on our journey together nearly two years ago in Dodoma Tanzania. It was the daily encounter before teaching Wagogo women gathered together from far away villages - at chai time- eating bowls of rice and vegetables- lingering over these meals that real friendships were made.

Like Jesus, Martha and Mary, the warmth of the table conversation with the Wagogo women deepened bonds of love between them at their home perched high on the Mount of Olives and for us in the village of Dodoma.



*Continued on page 3*



## 2022 Vestry

### Senior Warden

Linda Goff

### Junior Warden

Coral Childs

### Treasurer

Ken Gay

### Register (ex officio)

Kim Hildred

### Creating Community

Betsy Faga

Kim Hildred

Kathy Parnell

Barbara Langford

### Healing Community

Coral Childs

Barbara Eversman

Bea Taylor

Peggy Tiedemann

### Learning Community

Linda Goff

Cynthia Bullard-Perez

Ken Gay

Dennis Jones

Ken Payne

Halfway through the year, I would like to share some of the major accomplishments of the ministries that fall under "Creating Community." I particularly want to thank all those parishioners who give their time to The Spire Community, outreach, and the Memorial Garden. I am saying a general thank you because I know if I try to name everyone, I'll forget someone(s)! You all are a blessing to our community. See just a smattering of what they've done:

#### The Spire

- Held successful Easter Egg Hunt
- Reviewed AHC Resident's Survey that gleaned little information
- Welcomed Tatiana Campos, AHC Resident Services Manager
- Presented by Eleonora Gafton - Summer Eating nutrition class
- Provided backpacks to students in grades 6-12

#### Outreach

- At Hammond School Market - Distributed over 2,100 diapers, 106 pairs of socks, 28

## Creating Community

### An Update to the Parish

- gift cards to staff
- Prepared and served Carpenter's Shelter Sunday dinner in January, March, May, July
- Served 1,849 guests with 6,739 family members at the food pantry by the end of July after 29 weeks
- Created compost bin at the food pantry
- Participated in Christ Church financial ministry

#### Memorial Garden

Maintained well-groomed garden

Welcomed gardeners from Goodwin House Alexandria

Welcomed residents of The Spire who use the garden

Created "rooms" - "St. Francis" corner, central patio, upper right patio

Evolving garden to native, drought resistant plantings including wildflower seeds, bee balm, spiderwort....

Created bird sanctuary with 2 birdhouses occupied by wrens and sparrows & 1 birdbath

Created "Frontier" in upper right woods with rustic fence border and used for

yard waste compost

Removed 2 trees with financial assistance of GHA

Got Irrigation system working and hand watering system

Donated 12'x12' canopy for use in interments (and other outdoor activities) in bad weather

#### Coming Up

- Distribution of Back-to-School treats to The Spire children
- AHC Resident Services Manager conducting focus groups at The Spire
- Work with Resident Services Manager on needs of residents and collaboration
- Continuation of the many current activities of outreach
- Planting of fall shrubs in the Memorial Garden
- Decision on type of hand type of handrails to use for garden paths



Betsy Faga

## A Hymn to God

One Sunday this summer I was surprised by a gift of God. All of the hymns that day were my favorites! Resurrection's exceptional music ministry presented them beautifully which enhanced the gift.

Why was this so important? Because during the height of Covid (before a vaccine) I could not bear to listen to music. I did not even listen to Christmas Carols. The sorrow of that time overwhelmed my sense of joy and blocked any gladness I received from music. The Sunday of July 17th was one of several turning points in bringing music back into my life in a meaningful way.

I am sure many of us have experienced a point where we turn from sorrow to hope. From looking back to looking forward. A place and time where God gifts us with wonderful surprises.

An important part of Resurrection Community's looking forward is its Memorial Garden. When I have some time to go there, I enjoy reflecting on the gifts and works of the Lord in creation.

In her book, *I Hear a Seed Growing*, Edwina Gateley writes, "In my garden I feel

like an integral part of the whole of creation....I want to love and care for it because everything created is for my good and my joy. I stop to talk to the birds and the flowers.... I fly with the butterflies... I delight in the garden God has put before me...Everything I see praises God just where it is, and I walk and run by it all-enjoying it all. This is my prayer, my hymn to God."

As our summer fades into a memory, I pray that each person in Resurrection Community is "surprised" by the gift of a hymn from God - whether at a worship service, in listening to your favorite music at home, or in visiting a garden.

Peace, Linda

~ Linda Goff



### Fellowship: Continued from pg. 1

And these same kinds of friendships happen here within our Resurrection community when we can linger long enough to share our lives. Online Bible study grounded in the weekly liturgy more times than not is when we can talk of our struggles, a recent

loss, or celebrate a recovery. Garden time kneeling over to weed amongst the flower beds, sharing antidotes about a grandchild, these sharing births loving camaraderie.

When I leave my familiar routine of morning tea at home, and make my way to our church, the friends who I will linger with in conversation welcome me like Martha and Mary welcomed Jesus and grow fellowship and love between us. Resurrection church becomes our home. Thanks be to God. As I have often spoken to you, let us be blessed.

*Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us.*

*So be swift to love and make haste to be kind.*

*And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.*



Rev. Susan Lukens  
Our Sabbatical Priest



Linda Goff  
Senior Warden

*O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. Psalm*

*98:1*

### 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*:

- Jimena Amurio, Design
- The Rev. Jo Belser
- Cynthia Bullard-Perez, Acquisitions
- Tom Conroy
- Betsy Faga
- Lea Fowlie, editing
- Lenore Funkhouser, photos
- Linda Goff
- Susie Jones
- Kat Turner

## FROM FRANKLIN AND ARMFIELD TO FREEDOM: A brief history of 1315 Duke Street

*The Freedom House Museum seeks to reframe white supremacist history by restoring African American history erased by slavery, race-based laws, and racial terror.*

If you are like me, you drive down Duke Street without a second thought. Which is a shame, because like many parts of Alexandria, it is full of history. This is especially true of the 1300 block. Let me tell you more...

The building at 1315 Duke Street was built around 1812. It was originally the home of Brigadier General Robert Young. He was a member of the District of Columbia militia as well as a businessman in Alexandria. Remember, Alexandria was part of the District of Columbia until 1846. The brick house had 3 stories and a mansard roof which increased the available space in the attic.

While Brigadier General Young was a businessman, he apparently was not a very good one. In 1820, he sold his home to Charles Chapin who was the trustee of a local bank. This implies Young "sold" the home to pay a debt.

Eventually Chapin leased the building to Isaac Franklin and John Armfield, and this is where our story takes a dark turn. In the 1820's Alexandria was the center of slave trading in the United States. While the Transatlantic Slave Trade was banned in 1808, the domestic slave trade,

focused on enslaved people already in the country, continued to flourish.

Franklin & Armfield were one of the largest domestic slave trading firm, "exporting" over 3,750 enslaved to Louisiana and Mississippi.

Isaac Franklin (1789-1846) was born in Tennessee. He began slave trading in 1810 but was interrupted by the War of 1812. Following the war Franklin resumed slave trading and became partners with his nephew, John Armfield in 1828.

John Armfield (1797-1871) was born in North Carolina. He began slave trading in the 1820's before forming a partnership with his uncle. Franklin & Armfield purchased enslaved people from other slave traders, unclaimed runaways in local jails, enslaved people forfeited for debt payment or estate settlement, placed ads in newspapers, and went door-to-door to purchase enslaved people. They even offered a money back guarantee to customers.

Franklin & Armfield converted the home on Duke Street into the main office for their business. They created a "slave jail" by enclosing the side yards with a high brick wall and fencing the rest of the property.

Armfield lived on the upper floor of the building, which could hold up to 400 enslaved people.

Sadly, this was not the only slave jail in Alexandria. The Bruin & Hill slave jail was located at 1701 Duke Street (that is another article). The "Negro Prison" was on the corner of King and St. Asaph Streets, and there were others. In addition, while slave auctions did occur at slave jails, Market Square (in front of City Hall) was also a slave auction site.

Franklin & Armfield sold most of their enslaved people south, mostly to Louisiana and Mississippi, where they received higher prices than in Virginia. While their office was located blocks from the railroad, they used the "coffle" to transport enslaved peoples as well as steam ships. A coffle is a group of enslaved people chained together and marched from one place to another.

In 1835, Franklin retired from the slave trade and Franklin & Armfield was dissolved. They sold the building to a former employee, George Kephart, who continued to use the building as a slave jail.

**Continued on page 5**

## Freedom House Museum continued

Kephart sold the property to another slave trading firm, Price & Cook, in 1858. By the time of the Civil War, Price, Birch & Co. occupied the site.

In May 1861, the Union Army occupied Alexandria and liberated the slave jail. Charles Price had already left with several enslaved people. The Union Army used the former slave jail as a military prison and added the L'Ouverture Hospital and Contraband Barracks to the property. The barracks housed the African American troops and contraband civilians served by the hospital. (Because the forced labor of freed and fugitive enslaved people had supported the Confederacy, they were considered war contraband by the Union Army.)

These military buildings were dismantled by 1867 and after the Civil War most of the buildings on the block were demolished. A private developer built townhouses on the site, but the house at 1315 Duke Street was preserved. It was a boarding house or apartments for the rest of the 19th century and most of the 20th century as well.

An early 20th century renovation added a 4th story to the building along with new windows. Another renovation in the 1980's enclosed the backyard and

reconfigured the interior so it could be used as office space.

The Northern Virginia Urban League purchased the property in 1997 and 23 years later sold it to the City of Alexandria. 1315 Duke Street is now the Freedom House Museum which seeks to reframe white supremacist history by restoring African American history erased by slavery, race-based laws, and racial terror.

The Freedom House Museum is now open to the public, with exhibits on Alexandria's African American history and the African American experience in the United States. Due to high demand and limited capacity, it is highly recommended that guests reserve tickets in advance, online. If you are interested in touring the Freedom House sometime after Labor Day please email Coral Childs at [cjchilds63@gmail.com](mailto:cjchilds63@gmail.com). Perhaps we can go as a group.

### Additional Reading:

- ◇ The Ledger and the Chain: How Domestic Slave Traders Shaped America by Joshua D. Rothman
- ◇ The American Slave Trade: An Account of its Origin, Growth, and

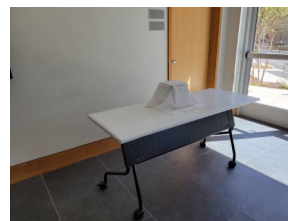
Suppression by John R. Spears

- ◇ Through the Eyes of a Slave: Written Accounts of American Slavery by Various Authors
- ◇ A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose by Paula Tarnapol Whitacre
- ◇ Escape on the Pearl: The Heroic Bid for Freedom on the Underground Railroad by Mary Kay Ricks
- ◇ Many other books are available from the public library and from book sellers

~ Coral Childs



Coral Childs Jr. Warden




---

*FHM has exhibits on Alexandria's African American history & the A/A experience in the U. S.*

---

## Feeding Bodies and Souls!



Our own nutrition expert Eleonora Gafton presented an educational program on summer fruits and vegetables and the nutritional values of herbs to several Resurrection parishioners on August 6. They were joined by a resident of The Spire and her son, who were also interested in learning more about our church and the programs for children. Everyone found the program very interesting and went home with a recipe for a healthful cherry smoothie.

### Clergy & Staff

#### Rector

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

#### Priest Associate

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

#### Seminarian Intern

[Reggie Hayes](#)

#### Director of Music

Deena Jaworski

#### Organist

Dr. Thomas Conroy

#### Bookkeeper

MaryEllen Tibbs

#### Parish Communicator

[Jimena Amurio](#)

#### Sexton

Zewdi Taddese

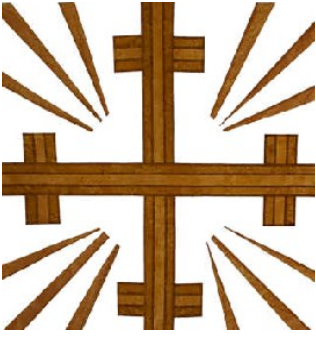
Welcome back Rev. Jo!



**xxx**

xxx.

~ xxx



**Church of the Resurrection**

2800 Hope Way  
Alexandria 22311-2220

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.

---

**xxx**

xxx

~ xxx