

the st. james



August 2009

Volume 9 Number 7

\* \* \* \* \*

**Sunday Schedule**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship

**St. James Episcopal Church**  
4515 Delray Street  
Roanoke, VA 24012  
Phone: 540-366-4157  
Fax: 540-366-2851  
E-mail: [stjames@rev.net](mailto:stjames@rev.net)  
[www.stjamesroanoke.org](http://www.stjamesroanoke.org)

## Rector's Message

Dear Saints of James,

Each Sunday in our Prayers of the People we pray for the Diocese of Bradford, in the United Kingdom, and for the Province of Sudan. Often times my attention focuses on the pronunciation of place names or clergy names and I really do not have an image or an experience to make the prayer concrete. We have been praying for the Diocese of Bradford since 1977 when we became companion dioceses. In 1988 our retired Bishop, Heath Light was instrumental in forming a companion relationship with the Province of Sudan; then there were 4 dioceses and it has now grown to 24 dioceses in the whole of Sudan.

The word *companion* is from the Latin words *com + panis*, meaning "with bread". A companion is one who keeps company with another and shares bread. So to strengthen our companion relationships in Bradford and Sudan, we must keep company and share our bread.

We at St. James had a unique experience last Thursday evening, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gathered in our parish were the Archbishop of Sudan, the most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, a number of adults and children who had left Sudan during the civil war and have taken refuge here in Roanoke, as well as our British seminarian, Jonathan Nicholas, and many of the Saints of James. What an amazing coming together of our three-way companionship, an opportunity to keep company as companions, and to share some "food for our minds and souls through conversation.

Archbishop Daniel invited us to come to Sudan to see for ourselves, what the country is like, what the joys and struggles might be and to share in the experience of keeping company and breaking bread together. There is no substitute for actually seeing with our own eyes and being with another. For those of us who were present last Thursday with Archbishop Daniel, we will see in our mind's eye the one whom we are praying for each week. The same is true for our companion parish link that we have with St. Alkelda's in the diocese of Bradford, England. In 2007 we had Vicar Peter Yorkstone visit us with 10 lay people from St. Alkelda's. In 2004, I did a pulpit exchange with the Rev. Peter Yorkstone, so I experienced Giggleswick with 6 St. Jimmies companions. We have kept company with both our British and Sudanese global neighbors and in the sharing of worship and bread we have strengthened our bonds of affection and indeed increased our understanding of being united as Christians in the Body of Christ.

May we continue to be blessed with opportunities to connect with our companion partners in Bradford and Sudan. SEB+

**Clergy:**

The Rev. Susan E. Bentley, Rector  
[seb@rev.net](mailto:seb@rev.net)

**Staff:**

Mrs. Connie Bierly, Secretary  
 Mrs. Sharon Capps, Choir Director & Organist  
 Mrs. Donna Park & Mr. Marshall Hudson, Sextons

**The Connection:**

Send copy to: [stjames@rev.net](mailto:stjames@rev.net)

**Internet Web Page:**

[www.stjamesroanoke.org](http://www.stjamesroanoke.org)  
 Butch Eanes, Webmaster  
[weanes@rev.net](mailto:weanes@rev.net)

**The St. James Vestry:**

Senior Warden, Donna Frost, 989-3050  
 Junior Warden, Tim Buchholtz, 366-5779  
 † Clerk, Sam Campbell, 489-4536  
 † Treasurer, Matt Cordani, 362-3016  
 † Ass't. Treasurer, Avis Aheron, 774-0010  
 † Rec. Treasurer, Bob Bird, 366-0996  
 Helen Campbell, 489-4536  
 Jed Doak, 354-4164  
 Maile Armstrong, 947-5016  
 Chuck Cohen, 366-3178  
 Tricia Champion, 563-9554  
 Renee Toth, 334-2060  
 Michael Kennedy, 389-1003  
 ( † - Not Vestry members)

**Standing Committees & Chairs**

**Christian Education:** Vacant

**Finance:** Glen Lake, 345-7550  
 Gail Fields, 265-0786

**Liturgy:** Helen Campbell, 489-4536

**Membership:** Pat Ball, 725-8730

**Outreach:** Ray Kasey, 562-1956

**Parish Life:** Tricia Champion, 563-9554

**Pastoral Care:** Donna Frost, 989-3050

**Property:** Tim Buchholtz, 366-5779

**Stewardship:** Avis Aheron, 774-0010

**Episcopal Church Women:** Pam Reilly  
 362-9742

**Daughters of the King:** Sandra Maxwell  
 389-3373

**Youth Advisor:** Beth Wiegandt  
 966-3108

**Little Church Social Club:** Betty Harnsburger  
 966-5803

**St. James Cycle of Prayer**

In August, we give thanks for all those who participate in the St. James communication ministries – the newsletter, the web page and the telephone committee. We pray that their ministries will continue to spread the word about parish events, worship services, and parish news to all the Saints of James and others interested in our parish.

**The Stewardship Corner**

All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own have we given you.

		+		
		+	+	
<b>Time</b>	+		+	<b>Talent</b>
	+		+	
	+	+	+	+
		<b>Treasure</b>		

**Pledged and Unpledged Support:** In May, St. James received \$14,534.50 in pledged and unpledged support. The monthly budgeted income amount was \$9,371.12. In June, St. James received \$8,196.50 in pledged and unpledged support. The monthly budgeted income amount was \$8,827.79. The year-to-date income totals are currently running ahead of the year-to-date budgeted expenses. Thank you for keeping current on your support of God's work being done here at St. James!

**Kroger Gift Cards:** The Kroger gift card fundraising program has proven to be an easy way to supplement St. James' monthly income. We have received a total of **\$2,784.18** through July. By using the Kroger gift cards purchased through St. James, we receive 5% of the total monthly gift card purchases. Simply load your gift card before you begin your grocery shopping and use it to pay for groceries and gas. Thank you for using your Kroger cards so faithfully. Kroger cards make great gifts. If you would like to purchase a gift card for \$5, please see Mother Sue, Dorothy Herndon or Connie Bierly.

**Adopt-a-Day:** In 2009, you can Adopt-a-Day for \$60.00 or Adopt-a-Half Day for \$30.00. By adopting a day, you are reducing the annual deficit by a day. If all 365 days are adopted, the budget

deficit would be erased. You can celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one on their special day (birthday, anniversary, retirement, etc.). Forms can be found on the table outside the secretary's office. Forms will also be emailed during the first week of each month and can be filled out and returned to the parish secretary via email. Please consider "adopting" a day or a half day in 2009. 2009 Adopt-a-Day contributions are published below:

### **2009 Adopt-a-Day**

(Donations shown in bold were received after publication of June/July newsletter.)

Jan. 12 adopted by Denise & Randy Smerecki in memory of Casimer Smerecki

Jan. 30 adopted by Mimi & Bob Copenhaver in celebration of their wedding anniversary

Feb. 13 adopted by Larry & Doris Mattox in celebration of Joyce Brown on her 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**March 7 adopted by Susan and Michael Bentley in celebration of Alex's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

March 17 adopted by Doris and James Champion, Sr. In memory of our beloved son, James R. Champion, Jr.

March 20 adopted by Sharon Capps in memory of William O. Capps, Jr.

**April 7 adopted by Anonymous in celebration of Gwen Lawrence's birthday.**

April 10 adopted by Sharon Capps in Thanksgiving for Joanna Baker Capps on her birthday.

May 8 adopted by the EFM class in celebration of Tim Buchholtz's birthday and to thank him for his consistent preparation of coffee and snacks for our weekly meetings.

**May 27 adopted by Fran Gayle in thanksgiving for her son, Rob Gayle.**

June 6 adopted by Avis, Sarah & Grace Aheron in celebration of Beth Magill's ordination to the priesthood at Christ Church, Alexandria, VA.

June 12 adopted by Avis Aheron in celebration of Grace's graduation from Patrick Henry High School.

**June 20 adopted by Jerry & Jean Schaefer in celebration of their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.**

**June 21 adopted by Anonymous.**

**June 30 adopted by Susan and Michael Bentley in celebration of Matthew's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

July 8 adopted by Brian & Jeanne Counihan in celebration of our 20th wedding anniversary.

July 12 adopted by Mike Kennedy in celebration of the birth date of Katie Kennedy Rucker.

**July 22 adopted by Susan and Michael Bentley in celebration of Sarah's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

Aug. 4 adopted by Sharon Capps in thanksgiving for Mary Leigh Capps on her birthday.

Aug. 5 adopted by Anonymous in honor of Mother Sue's birthday.

Aug. 9 adopted by his friend Cathie Cook in honor of Jerry Hughes' birthday.

Aug. 14 adopted by Sharon Miller in memory of her father, Robert Dugan's birthday.

Aug. 14 adopted by Judy D. Mason in memory of her son, Chip Mason's birthday.

Aug. 15 adopted by Robert & Carol Killinger in celebration of Lonnie Bower's birthday.

**Sept. 18 adopted by Pam Reilly in honor of son, Stephen's, and daughter-in-law's, Lucy's wedding anniversary.**

Sept. 28 adopted by Doris Mattox in celebration of husband Larry's 60th birthday.

**Oct. 13 adopted by Pam Reilly in honor of son, Peter's, and daughter-in-law's, Vicki's wedding anniversary.**

**Treat of the Week:** Each Sunday, we will be "giving away" a treat during coffee hour following the 10 o'clock service. Approximately **\$821** has been collected for the Treat of the Week. Donations will be accepted for each treat. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund. Don't miss an opportunity to receive a treat and contribute to the Building Fund. If you would like to donate a treat, please contact Helen Campbell.

### **Jimmie Jars Return! "Coins for Camp"**

**Campaign:** Jimmie Jars were collected on July 25, St. James Day, and the proceeds were offered to glory of God to be used to help defray the cost of camps, retreats and the like for the youth of St. James. After counting and wrapping coins for hours, the current total stands at **\$827.01** with a few more jars still outstanding. As Sam Campbell remarked, "Wow!! That's heavy money...a worthwhile event." Thank you to everyone who participated.

**Some Thoughts on Tithing . . .** Tom Mollegen, Deputy from the Diocese of Connecticut, addressed delegates about Resolution D055 on tithing at the recent General Convention in Anaheim, CA. He has granted permission to reprint his remarks. He offers a simple solution to tithing that leads to great rewards.

"When I had my first really serious encounter with the tithe, I nearly panicked.

Mentally I went through the classic resistance ideas like - is it before-tax or after tax, does it include the part of my income taxes that goes to help the needy, does it include gifts to the United Way, and so on.

Then I got a piece of paper and started making a list of things we could do without, but I quickly saw that my list consisted mostly of things that my wife and kids could do without -- and that wasn't right..

Then I mentally searched for a way to do tithing painlessly. To my surprise, I found a way. Each year at raise time, I would take part of my raise and give it to God.

When I said to myself: "I can do this - I will do this," the strangest thing happened. I didn't feel poorer, I felt richer. That doesn't work numerically, but it sure works spiritually.

In my mind's eye, I suddenly could see a little bag of money and I now had to figure out how best to use it for God's purposes. What a glorious feeling!

That decision to tithe has enriched my life ever

since.

Looking ahead, I have a vision. I hope that the Deputies here will take this resolution and present it back home at their next Diocesan Convention. Further, I hope that when they do, they will ask the people there to present the resolution at their next parish meeting.

It only takes a spark to get a fire going..."

### **From the Legacy Committee . . .**

**Does your will reflect your faith? Does it include a bequest to the Church?**

### **News from the Outreach Committee**

Each month when the Outreach Committee meets, the list of requests for assistance from non-profit service organizations both in and outside of Roanoke grows. Most rely on the generosity of individual donors; many have seen federal and state assistance shrink or completely cut from their budgets and individual donations reduced. While financial assistance is always appreciated, some organizations also have "wish lists" of items that can be donated as well.

The **Rescue Mission's** wish list includes: bus passes, baby wipes, AA batteries, peanut butter, jelly or jam, juice boxes, fruit cups, quart and gallon zip-loc bags, diapers, Nix shampoo, women's underwear, white cotton socks for men and women, and compact florescent light bulbs (100 watt).

The **Boys' Home** wish list includes: batteries (all sizes), phone cards, art supplies, sports equipment, personal care items, towels, work gloves, hand tools, alarm clocks and socks.

If you are able to help these organizations with a donation of the requested items, you may bring them to church and the Outreach Committee will see that they get delivered. If you have any questions, please contact the committee chair, Ray Kasey.

### **Benevolence Sunday: August 16**

The Benevolence Sunday offering received on August 16 will go to **RAM (Roanoke Area Ministries)**.

Out of a deep conviction that the role of the church today is to concern itself with the good of all

people, and that the greatest good can be achieved through cooperative action, in 1968 the leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish congregations joined together to create **RAM (Roanoke Area Ministries)**. RAM is an ecumenical, urban ministry that serves the Roanoke Valley by providing safe shelter for the homeless, a nutritious lunch, and emergency financial aid to those in need. The doors are open 365 days a year from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Please give generously to support the work of this worthy program.

**Lunch is served...@ RAM House . . .** Did you know that on August 15 (and every other month on the third Saturday), a group of St. James faithful serve lunch at RAM House? Just a couple of hours of your time are all that is required. If you would like to participate in this outreach ministry, please contact Jean Schaefer for details. Volunteers are always welcome and much appreciated.

### **Williamson Road Fun Day is a Success for ECW**

On June 13 in the front of Breckenridge Middle School, St. James was among five other Williamson Road churches that participated in the *Fun Day* activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. headed up by Father Dean of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Our ECW bake sale along with Linda Bryant's pottery made **\$192.25**, which will go towards defraying costs for the Emergency Assistance Ministry that helps to feed, provide medications, gasoline, and rent to the less fortunate of this community on behalf of the Williamson Road Ministerial Association. Many thanks to all St. James' volunteers for their help on June 13!

### **From the Liturgy Committee . . .**

Evening Prayer will be read at 5:30 pm on August 12. Come and join us for this short but meaningful office. It lasts only about ½ hour and is a wonderful way to close out a busy and hectic day.

### **Youth News . . .**

Summer has been full with camps, mission trips, and service, but it isn't too early to start thinking about the Fall! New dates for diocesan youth events including Mass on the Mountain and FYE are posted at [www.dioswva.org](http://www.dioswva.org). Take a look at what is being offered!

On a more local level, the St. James Youth are growing by leaps and bounds! This year we will have a potential 15 youth (grades 7-12) for Sunday School. This means that we are having a hard time fitting into our cave behind the atrium and need to expand. If anyone has an old couch, bean bag chairs (this is a favorite youth request), or coffee table they can donate to the cave, the youth would truly appreciate it! A painting and flooring session for the rest of the cave will take place in August - let Beth know if you can help out! 556-2594

### **News from the Daughters of the King**

Please let me know your thoughts about the best time and frequency for our DOK chapter meetings - weekdays, Sundays, evenings, day times . . . At our last meeting on a Sunday following the service, we did not have a quorum and could not approve business items. I appreciate your suggestions!

Sandy Maxwell, 389-3373

[lakotawarriorstm@gmail.com](mailto:lakotawarriorstm@gmail.com)

St. James Shepherdeses President.

### **News from the Property Committee . . .**

**Tree Removal** -- Around the first of June we had to have arborist come and do some tests on our Tulip Poplar tree in the front of the church. One of the trees checked was the one in the center between the small one near the drive way and the large one nearest the door to the Nave. While this tree may look healthy it was found that the whole base of the trunk is decayed making the tree unsafe. The vestry was left with no choice but to have this tree removed. Bids were taken and the vestry decided to have Paul Bunyon tree service remove the tree and have some of the dead wood taken out of the poplar tree nearest the Nave entrance which is also a hazard. This will be done in the next couple of weeks.

Tim Buchholtz, Jr. Warden

### **Sanctuary Air Conditioning And The Building Fund**

-- Last year, in 2008, the Vestry authorized a study of critical church systems and equipment to project their remaining life expectancy and to propose a plan to pay the cost of replacing those items. That study resulted in a "Life Cycle Property Replacement Plan", including a funding proposal, which was approved by the Vestry in January of this year. At the time, it was noted that it was a matter of when, and not if, these systems and

equipment would fail and that quick action would be required to maintain critical church functions.

As many of us witnessed during Sanctuary events over the last week of July, the AC system for the Sanctuary “died”. We tried to maintain it on “life support” (multiple refrigerant charges) for significant Church events that week, but the effort was less than successful. The “Life Cycle Replacement Plan” authorized and funded, from the Building Fund, the “like-kind” replacement for this system. However, the existing 4-ton system used the (now) obsolete R-22 refrigerant and was never adequate to maintain the temperature in the Sanctuary during a service, so the Vestry voted to upgrade the system to a 5-ton, R-410a system. This refrigerant changeover is similar to when car AC systems changed from R-12 to R134a - it is more environmentally friendly. With the new, upgraded system, we can expect increased cooling capacity and the start of a new “life cycle” for air conditioning in the Sanctuary.

In this case, the “Plan” had projected the failure of the Sanctuary AC in 2010, based on life cycle averages for this type of equipment – and estimated the cost at \$6418.00. Upgrading the system to 5 tons required vent duct modifications and replacement of the refrigerant lines, in addition to replacing both the indoor and the outdoor units – and the Vestry voted to upgrade to a more efficient fan motor – for a total cost of \$8000.00. Because we had identified and funded the expense for a “like-kind” replacement in the “Plan”, the Vestry only had to consider the additional cost (\$1582.00) as being an “unbudgeted” expense. This is a successful example of how planning for major, critical expenses benefits the church but it only works if we continue to fund the Building Fund. For this to work, we must continue to grow the Building Fund to cover future expenses, as there are many other systems (including other AC systems) and equipment that are at, or near, the projected end of their useful lives and will need to be replaced quickly when they fail.

Contributions may be made to the Building Fund by noting “Building Fund” on the memo line of your check, by participating in the “Treat of the Week” program and by designating the “St. James Building Fund” as a memorial gift.

Carl Ball, Property Committee

### From the Parish Register . . .

#### Burials:

Bobbie Flagg, July 1, 2009  
Bill Cook, July 10, 2009  
Tom Hassell, July 27, 2009

### August Birthdays . . .

August 1	Brooke Frost
August 2	Matt Cordani Taylor Shonhor
August 3	Sharon Capps
August 4	Mary Leigh Capps
August 5	Susan Bentley
August 7	Betty Harnsberger Natalie Gardner
August 8	Margaret Williamson Karen Villarini
August 9	Jennifer Champion Hanson Jerry Hughes Jordyn Rae Price
August 10	Cathy Cohen
August 11	Melissa Hays-Smith
August 12	Demian Kovac Ann Perrin
August 13	Kirin Lynne Johnstone
August 14	Debbie Hassell George Repa
August 15	Lonnie Bower Julia Felts
August 17	Betty Jo Magee Lisa Williamson Hillstrom JoAnn Criscone
August 18	Mark Curley
August 19	Butch Eanes Steve Wiegandt
August 21	Tom Fields Clay Kasey
August 22	Katie Cordani
August 29	Avis Aheron
August 30	Dustin Hassell

### Anniversaries . . .

August 4	Ray & Lawton Kasey
August 8	James & Linda Kyle
August 10	Michael & Sue Bentley
August 18	Arby & Donna Frost
August 21	Tom & Barbara Hassell
August 23	Kevin & Maggie Costello
August 26	George & Donna Repa

Thank You . . .

We thank everyone for the cards, the kind words and the reassurances you gave following Bobbie Flagg's recent passing. We're also appreciative of those who were with us at her funeral. She specifically requested that the service be here at St. James Church, for reasons obvious to all of us who belong to this wonderfully nurturing parish family.

Mike Kennedy & Katie Rucker

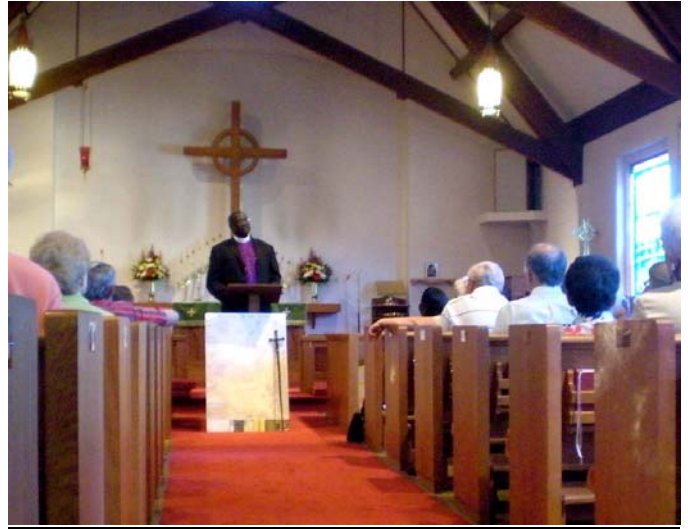
Upcoming Events**Safeguarding God's Children - August 16--**

Safeguarding God's Children is a program of the Episcopal Church that provides training on the recognition and prevention of child abuse in the church setting. In 2003, the House of Bishops mandated this training and the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia requires that all adults and teens who work with children and youth participate in this session. This program is for Sunday School teachers, youth group workers, nursery workers and other volunteers working with our kids. Parents are also invited and encouraged to attend as well as any teens who work with children. **Plan to attend on Sunday, August 16 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at St James.** For questions or confirmation of your attendance, contact Maile Armstrong by phone at 540-947-5016 or by e-mail at [mailearmstrong@verizon.net](mailto:mailearmstrong@verizon.net)

**2009 Fall Camp** - The 2009 Fall Camp will be held October 26 to 29 at Shrine Mont. Our keynote speaker will be The Rev. Margaret Guenther. Rev. Guenther is currently the Associate Rector, St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC. In addition to being an Episcopal priest, Rev. Guenther tells us she is a wife, mother of three, grandmother, spiritual director, mentor of spiritual directors, retreat leader, administrator, lay medical practitioner, scrubber of floors, washer of clothes, author, retired professor of Ascetical Theology and Director of the Center for Christian Spirituality at the General Theological Seminary in New York. In addition, we will be joined by Chaplin David Jones, the Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia and by Ed Kilborune, Folk Theologian, singer, storyteller, and musician. Mark your calendars now to attend.

Archbishop of Sudan Speaks at St. James

By Michael Bentley



I don't know about you but I've always had trouble understanding the tribal politics and the continual violence that for decades has plagued the African nation of the Republic of Sudan – a country larger than all of Western Europe. However, Thursday night it all came into focus for me. Our parish church of St. James in Roanoke hosted one of the major players of that war-torn and poverty stricken land, and his visit was in part due to the friendship of his son, Peter, and my daughter, Sarah, both students at Guilford College in Greensboro.

What I heard, of course, was one man's perspective, but his passion and sincerity came across, and he is very well informed. That man is The Most Revd Daniel Deng Bul Yak, fourth primate of the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS). Like his son, Bp Daniel is no stranger to our part of the world either, having earned his theological degree at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria.

As reported by the Archbishop, Sudan is now in an interim period following twenty-one years of civil war in which the Muslim-dominated north of the country tried to impose its will on the mainly Christian and oil-rich south. The southern portion of the country (as well as the Darfur region, which is not in the south) consists of black, non-Arab populations while the northern part is Arab-dominated. The UN says the long war was responsible for more than two million lives and the displacement four million people – including the 150-200 Sudanese people living in the Roanoke area.

Despite the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, conflict continues in the Darfur region, whose population is Muslim, but black. Arab militias here, known as Janjaweed, frequently attack civilians and refugee camps. Peace has generally prevailed in southern Sudan however, until recent actions by the Khartoum government threaten to reignite the civil war. It was to alert us of that possibility that the Archbishop came to Roanoke.

He called upon the American church to increase its support and political action in safeguarding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. He said that the Khartoum government has not kept its part of the agreement, which included determining the north-south border, conducting a census, and holding an election. The north has attempted to draw the border so as to retain oil-rich territories of the south in the north, and has conducted a census without collecting data about ethnic background and religious preferences, acts, he said, intended to support Khartoum's claim that Sudan is a Muslim country.

According to the CPA, elections are to be held in February 2010 and a referendum in 2011 for the south to decide whether to remain as part of the country or become totally independent. Because of the border dispute and questions of who will get to vote, the elections and the referendum may be postponed. The Archbishop said this will lead to further insecurity and if the southerners do opt for independence, the north may once more try to impose its will, rekindling the civil war.

The Archbishop said that the fair implementation of the CPA by Khartoum is the biggest problem in Sudan today, preventing desperately needed material and economic development, as well as the referendum on Southern secession. The countries which have the greatest presence in Southern Sudan and are guarantor signatories of the CPA are the UK, the US, and the Netherlands. In Archbp Daniel's words, "If the CPA is not guaranteed now, war can start again all too quickly, during which a return to peace will be incredibly difficult, the Sudanese people will be further devastated and the whole region will be destabilized."

Archbp Daniel is the fourth primate of the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS) and also Bishop of Juba. Earlier on July 23 he met with a group of his country's expats at St. James and shared an authentic Sudanese meal that they prepared. I was part of the audience of church people he addressed later that evening. Episcopalians from throughout the Diocese of

Southwestern Virginia have an interest in that part of the world because the Diocese has a special companion relationship with that in the Sudan, and both are linked with the Diocese of Bradford, England. St. James was the venue for the event because that group of Sudanese expatriates have been meeting every Sunday evening at St. James for a native language service. This group of about 35 represents roughly 20 percent of the Sudanese living in the Roanoke area.

Retired Bishop Heath Light, who was instrumental in establishing the companion relationship, introduced Archbp Daniel. The Archbishop asked for the American church to contact our government officials so that they will help him see that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is enforced.

Anglican involvement in Sudan began in the mid-1800s as part of the drive to end slavery in Africa. Archbp Daniel's province includes 24 dioceses with 4 million Anglicans. The Roman Catholic Church claims a membership of 5-6 million in Sudan. Christians make up over 80 percent of the 12 million population of southern Sudan - definitely not a minority as claimed by the Khartoum government.

To learn more about southern Sudan's situation of ever-increasing insecurity and to support the church in Sudan, see <http://sudan.anglican.org/> or get a copy of *Emma's War: Love, betrayal and death in the Sudan* by Deborah Scroggins (2004, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd; New Ed edition), an excellent account of the conflict.

### **Social Justice Weekend at St. Francis Springs**

By Michael L. Bentley, EdD

June 15, 2009

In early June I participated in a remarkable ecumenical weekend workshop on social justice led by a Franciscan priest and a Franciscan lay minister at their Stoneville, North Carolina Saint Francis Springs Prayer Center (<http://www.stfrancissprings.com/>). The 3-day program focused on three issues – poverty, immigration, and the integrity of Creation, using the lenses of Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching (CST). We had 12 participants in our group but previous iterations of the program had up to 25 participants.

The format for the program consisted of whole-group and small-group sessions of 60-90 minutes with breaks and access to coffee and tea. To stimulate reflection and discussion we were provided handouts with selections from scripture,

Papal encyclicals, church council documents, and even letters from regional bishops conferences, and magazine articles on social justice issues. I had forgotten many of the Vatican II texts on social justice that I had studied back in the '60s when I was still a Catholic and I was surprised at how really radical CST is, properly understood.

Saint Francis Springs bills itself as "interfaith" retreat center and there were as many Presbyterians among the participants at our session as there were Roman Catholics. In an evening session we viewed the PBS documentary film, *Enemies of War*, which is about the murder of the six Jesuits and four religious women in El Salvador during the civil war there from 1980-1992. It is estimated that over 75,000 people died in that conflict, during which an oppressive right-wing government was bankrolled with some \$6 billion of U.S. aid. Watching this movie was a powerful experience and I felt ashamed that our government had been so deceptive about its role in the civil war and had condoned and financed criminal acts committed by the El Salvadoran army.

I was impressed that Fr Louis included the non-Catholics as lectors in Sunday's mass and welcomed everyone to the table for communion. I was also impressed by what I learned of the worldwide Franciscan commitment to justice and peace and to preserving the integrity of creation. They have begun an action network and a movement in the church (<http://www.franciscanaction.org/>) to address social justice issues such as the ones we addressed in the retreat.

Overall the weekend was a wonderful experience and I highly recommend the site for retreats and particularly the social justice weekend program. St. Francis Springs Prayer Center is a 25,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility and is located just over the VA-NC line near Stoneville, NC, about 30 miles north of Greensboro, NC, or just over an hour's drive from Roanoke. The retreat center itself is beautiful, done in Craftsman-style, and not as Spartan as other places I've been on retreats. The atmosphere is very calming, serene, and there are a couple miles of trails in the forest on their 140 acres. I can imagine being there on a winter day with a fire in the fireplace. The Center is situated amid peaceful fields and woods that offers a natural setting for prayer and reflection, and brookside trails are a great setting for meditation. Spiritual direction is available on request. Even if you can't make it to the October social justice workshop, retreatants are welcome to spend a day, several

days, or a week and enjoy the gift of silence in a prayerful environment. The chapel has large windows facing the outdoors, allowing the beauty of nature to enhance the service. You can get a good idea of what the place is like online, check out the video of the facility available at <http://www.stfrancissprings.com/video.html>.

The last of the 2009 justice and peace weekend workshops will be held October 30th - November 1st and I highly recommend participation for anyone wishing to take the social justice message of the Gospel and the church's social teaching to heart. The program begins with dinner at 6:00 pm on Friday, Oct. 30th and ends with lunch on Sunday, Nov. 1st. The cost of \$60, is subsidized by scholarship funding from the Franciscan Holy Name Province Benevolence Trust, includes accommodations (\$80 for a private room) and 6 meals, as well as wine and hors d'œuvres both evenings— a real deal as the meals were excellent.

Fr. Louis Canino, OFM directs the Center, assisted by Ann Bauer who takes reservations for programs and retreats. Contact her at 336-573-3751, extension 101 or by email: [ann@stfrancissprings.com](mailto:ann@stfrancissprings.com). The address of the Center is 477 Grogan Road • Stoneville, North Carolina 27048



## SERVER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

**Aug 2****8 AM** Lector – Susan Tolliver, Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Nick Simmons	Ushers	Michael & Matthew Bentley
	Acolyte	Kirin Johnstone	Coffee	Larry & Doris Mattox
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	Bob & Sara Ostrom
		-----	Tellers	Ron Toth, Michael Kennedy
	Chalcist	Donna Repa	Altar Guild	Betsy Briggs, Jo Schultz, Susan Tolliver, Kathryn Tully, Lonnie Bower (10 AM cleanup only)
	Lector 1	Ron Taylor		
	Lector 2	Kate Perry		
	Prayers	Donna Frost		

**Aug 9****8 AM** Lector – Susan Tolliver, Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Aaron Taylor	Ushers	Ron & Renee Toth
	Acolyte	Ryan Kovac	Coffee	Linda Bryant, Denise Smerecki
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	Julia Felts, Lisa Gardner, Butch Johnstone
		-----	Tellers	Arby Frost, Kristen Johnstone
	Chalcist	Matt Cordani	Altar Guild	Joyce Brown, Kate St.Clair
	Lector 1	Chuck Cohen		
	Lector 2	Butch Eanes		
	Prayers	Lynn wright		

**Aug 16****8 AM** Lector – Tim Buchholtz, Chalcist – Jo Schultz

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Alex Bentley	Ushers	Chuck Cohen, Ryan Kovac, Ashley Nelson
	Acolyte	Sarah Perry	Coffee	Ron & Renee Toth
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	Shannon Flynt, Machele Huff
		-----	Tellers	Larry Mattox, Jackie Leonard
	Chalcist	Avis Aheron	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, Lawton Kasey, Sharon Miller, Pam Reilly
	Lector 1	Sam Campbell		
	Lector 2	Kristen Johnstone		
	Prayers	Michael Bentley		

**Aug 23****8 AM** Lector – Tom Orville, Chalcist – James Kyle

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Rachel Ostrom	Ushers	Michael Kenndy, Jackie Leonard
	Acolyte	Marjorie Price	Coffee	Cathy Cohen, Terri Curley, Ryan Kovac, Ashley Nelson
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	Matt & Katie Cordani
		-----	Tellers	Steve Wiegandt, Maile Armstrong
	Chalcist	Butch Eanes	Altar Guild	Lonnie Bower, Joyce Brown, Jean Schaefer, Esther Williamson
	Lector 1	Joseph Repa		
	Lector 2	Sandy Maxwell		
	Prayers	Betsy Briggs		

**Aug 30****8 AM** Lector and Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	William Ostrom	Ushers	Chuck & Cathy Cohen
	Acolyte	Ashley Nelson	Coffee	Nan Mallen, Sharon Miller
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	Ann Bird, Elizabeth Witz
		-----	Tellers	The Wardens
	Chalcist	Donna Repa	Altar Guild	Helen Campbell, Boots Ingram, Odell James
	Lector 1	Alex Bentley		
	Lector 2	Michael Repa		
	Prayers	Jackie Leonard		

**Sep 6****8 AM** Lector – Susan Tolliver, Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Hunter Hart	Ushers	Carl Ball, Larry Mattox
	Acolyte	Josie Wiegandt	Coffee	Tricia Champion, Lawton Kasey
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	Bob & Sara Ostrom
		-----	Tellers	Ron Toth, Michael Kennedy
	Chalcist	Avis Aheron	Altar Guild	Betsy Briggs, Jo Schultz, Susan Tolliver, Kathryn Tully, Lonnie Bower (10 AM cleanup only)
	Lector 1	Maile Armstrong		
	Lector 2	Donna Frost		
	Prayers	Helen Campbell		

**DOK Gift Bag Preparation: Gail Fields and Donna Frost****Note:** If you can't meet your scheduled time please find a substitute and let the Office know.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 AM AA 10:00 AM First Aid/CPR 12 to 1 PM SHARE Sign Up
2 3:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Sudanese Worship	3 6:30 PM Vestry	4 10:00 AM Prayer Group 8:00 PM AA	5	6 8:00 PM AA	7	8 10:00 AM AA
9 9:00 AM Outreach Committee 3:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Sudanese Worship	10 1:00 PM Spirituality and Ecology	11 10:00 AM Prayer Group 8:00 PM AA	12 5:00 PM Steering Committee 5:30 PM Evening Prayer 7:30 PM Choir	13 8:00 PM AA	14	15 10:00 AM AA
16 1 to 4 PM Safeguarding God's Children 1:00 PM Shawl Ministry 3:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Sudanese Worship	17 6:30 PM Vestry	18 10:00 AM Prayer Group 1:00 PM AGO Board Meeting 8:00 PM AA	19	20 8:00 PM AA	21	22 10:00 to 1 PM SHARE Distribution 10:00 AM AA (Downstairs)
23 3:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Sudanese Worship	24	25	26 6:45 PM Little Church Social Club	27 8:00 PM AA	28	29 10:00 AM AA
30 3:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Sudanese Worship	31					