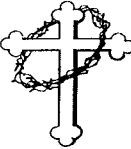


*The  
Grapevine*  
Ware Episcopal Church  
Gloucester, Virginia

*March 2010*

## 2010 Lenten Suppers & Programs

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*April Grapevine  
Deadline  
March 15<sup>th</sup>*

*Office Hours  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
M - F*

Every Wednesday in March Ware presents the annual Lenten Suppers and Program. A simple supper will be served at 6 p.m. followed by a short worship service and program. This year the programs are geared for the whole parish; that is, both children and adults.

### The Programs

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** David Lee presents Native American Stories, Music and Movement

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** Virginia Living Museum's "Mother Nature's Traveling Road Show"

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** Theatre Games and a visit from Brittany Simmons, an instructor and leader at the Christian Youth Theatre

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** The Ware Church Talent Show with presentations by all ages

Volunteers are needed to prepare suppers for each of these evenings. Be adventurous—it might be sandwich night with a bowl of soup or soup, salad and bread or even the famous Ware Church Lasagna, salad and bread, or it can be a covered dish supper. Because we are expecting some eighty people or so, Ware Church will provide the ingredients and beverages. We just need people to get things ready. Interested? Just sign up! See page 6 for more about the programs.

# *The First Article*

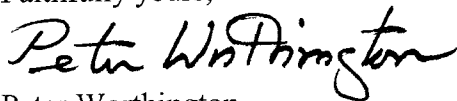
Dear Friends,

Newton DeShazo, Ware's Lay Delegate, and I just returned from the second session of the Council of the Diocese of Virginia which was held at the Virginia Seminary on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Of the most interest was a resolution addressing the issue of same gender relationships. In more than thirty years of attending Diocesan Council, I have found that a majority of these meetings have struggled with the issue of sexuality in the life of the church. Many of you have expressed your concerns and views and your thoughts and feelings have been echoed on the floor of Council. With the election of the current Bishop of New Hampshire, this issue has been at the center of our common life.

In past years resolutions have been presented to Council on this subject with resulting recommendations for study or a report to be prepared for the next Council. Actions at last summer's General Convention have again brought these questions to the church's attention. The Diocesan resolution that was adopted is printed in its entirety for your study and response.

I am interested in your response to the resolution and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration of the actions of Council.

Faithfully yours,



Peter Worthington

## **The Resolution**

**Whereas**, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston stated in his pastoral address to the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia:

"I do regret that, in this address, some important matters in our common life will seem to be slighted while others are omitted, such as the several topics arising from the debate on sexuality. But I look for us to address these issues thoroughly in regional forums in 2010. It is unfortunate that some of the weightiest deliberations that come before us cannot be adequately and justly dealt with in the very short time allowed by Annual Council," [verbatim transcript of the bishop's pastoral address], and

**Whereas**, the necessary process will involve both the bishop's regional forums, which will allow for broad individual contributions on these issues, and the drafting of proposed canons for the effective and consistent exercise of pastoral ministry should same-gender blessings be authorized; be it therefore

**Resolved**, the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia recognizes that:

1. Our clergy and people remain divided over the wisdom and theology of blessing same gender relationships, as well as how much weight to give to the views of others in the Anglican Communion about these issues, particularly to views from those with whom we are in mission partnership;
2. The growing differences between Christian and Civil understanding of marriage and relationships create immediate pastoral issues for our clergy and congregations;
3. There are numerous same-gender couples in our diocese engaged in long-term monogamous relationships who have engaged in productive and vital ministries for the proclamation of the Gospel. Many of these couples strongly desire the church's blessing of their relationships;
4. These issues deserve to be collectively addressed in an orderly, careful, and deliberate way assisted by appropriate legal and canonical experts; and

**Recommends** that:

1. Our Bishop is asked to empanel a group of clergy and lay people, including attorneys admitted to practice in Virginia and recognized experts on canon law, as well as knowledgeable clergy and lay representatives of a variety of theological perspectives on the issue of blessing same-gender relationships.
2. Such panel shall recommend consistent standards to be written into diocesan canons so that, if services of blessing same-gender unions are authorized, our clergy and people have a clearly understood and enforceable set of rules to guide the application of clergy discretion in providing pastoral care to same-gender couples seeking such blessings.
3. In formulating these recommendations, the following issues may be addressed (based in part on General Convention Canon I.1.18 and I.1.19):
  - (a) Whether individual members of the clergy have the right, as a matter of theological principle, to decline to conduct any such service, without adverse disciplinary consequences or personnel action;
  - (b) Whether individual members of the clergy have the right to decline to conduct such a service for a particular same-gender couple, without adverse disciplinary consequences or personnel action, similar to the current rule for clergy asked to conduct weddings;
  - (c) The age, capacity and degree of kinship, if any, of the parties;
  - (d) The effect of prior marriages or unions blessed by a licensed clergy person or registered with civil authorities, the responsibility to any former spouse or partner in such union, and responsibility to minor children of any prior marriage or union;
  - (e) The appropriateness of advance medical screening, if any;
  - (f) The effect of any legal union or marriage entered into between the parties in another jurisdiction;
  - (g) The appropriate role of the Bishop for advanced review of any proposed blessing of a specific same-gender couple;

- (h) Review of financial arrangements to protect the parties in the absence of state law presumptions governing married couples, presumptions intended to protect the weaker party from potential exploitation, oppression, or improvident action by the other party in the relationship;
  - (i) Other factors listed in the General Convention canons for marriage, Canons I.1.18 and I.1.19, including the baptismal status of the parties, the commitment to lifelong union, the voluntariness of consent, the absence of coercion, fraud, mistake of identity of the other party;
  - (j) The minimum time line between notification of the clergy of a desire to obtain such a blessing and the performance of the ceremony;
  - (k) The number of witnesses and the record-keeping requirements for the clergy and any congregation involved;
  - (l) Any requirement for written affirmation by the couple that the commitment is to be a lifelong union;
  - (m) Any statement of the theological basis for the union to which the partners are to subscribe;
  - (n) Provision to address possible dissolution of a blessed same-gender relationship, including the considerations of factors enumerated in Canon I.1.19 to address marriages which are in distress or which have been terminated by a civil court, as well as the circumstances, if any, under which another same-gender relationship may be blessed where both partners to an earlier such relationship remain living;
  - (o) The restriction in the General Convention canon on marriage in the church to heterosexual couples;
  - (p) Whether any blessing service for same-gender union may be used in lieu of marriage for heterosexual couples under any circumstances, and if so, what those circumstances are;
  - (q) How these might apply to all members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans-gendered community,
  - (r) Any other factor deemed important by the panel.
4. If the Bishop appoints such a panel, the panel shall strive to deliver its report (including proposed canonical language) to the Executive Board by All Saints Day, 2010, in time for careful and orderly consideration of its recommendations by the 216<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese. The panel is not to opine on whether the blessings of same-gender unions should be authorized, but it is to set forth its canonical recommendations to govern blessing such relationships if such services of blessing are authorized.
5. The consideration of any authorization for Virginia clergy to enter same gender unions should be deferred until after consideration of the preceding process.

*Adopted by the Council of the Diocese of Virginia on February 20<sup>th</sup>.*

# **M**usic Notes



## ***Junior Choir Takes On A New Project***

The Junior Choir is spending part of their rehearsals during Lent making craft items. These items will then be sold at a “mini-fair” on Easter Sunday during Coffee Hour. Proceeds from the sale of these items will go to UNICEF and their efforts in helping the children of Haiti. Kim Ward and Dee Johnston have teamed up to develop an assortment of crafts: note cards, picture frames, refrigerator magnets, sun catchers, painted vases and snack mixes.

## ***Talent Show Participants Needed***

The final program in the Lenten Supper Series will be a church “talent” show on March 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be a fun-filled variety show with all ages welcome. We welcome any kind of “talent” from singing, dancing, miming, juggling, story-telling, instrument playing to yo-yoing. Please consider sharing your special “talent” with a very friendly and forgiving audience. To sign up, just contact Dee Johnston.

## ***Summer Music Camp News***

A summer musical has been selected for our Music Camp. It’s “*Rescue in the Night—the Story of Daniel in the Lions’ Den*” by Tom Long and Allen Pote. If this sounds vaguely familiar, it’s because we are re-visiting a musical we performed about ten years ago. It is a hilariously funny musical with a dim-witted King and his sneaky advisors, hungry lions, and the hero, Daniel. In the words of Tom Long and Allen Pote, “Sometimes laughter has a way of opening people to experience the presence of God. With this in mind we offer the . . . musical about Daniel—a light-hearted, but faithful rendition of the Biblical story of courage and obedience.” Music Camp is a not-to-miss experience for children ages 5 through teen. Children 4 years old may attend with a parent or guardian present during the entire camp. Music Camp starts July 19<sup>th</sup> and runs through July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1-5 p.m. each day. The production will take place on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 service. In addition to producing the musical, children will play games, do craft activities, win prizes, have a pool party, and have a wonderful week-long experience. Jacque Kilduff will be our acting coach again this year. Kim Ward will lead craft activities. Heather Morgan will join Dee Johnston in teaching the music to the children. Reserve a spot for your child NOW by contacting Dee Johnston.

## ***About that word “talent”***

If you want to upset a musician, just say this: “You’re so lucky because you’re so talented.” Musicians are able to do what they do because of hard work—it’s called “practice.” Artists, actors, chefs, teachers, writers—the list goes on and on—all excel at their craft because they work at it. It’s that simple. “Talent” is nothing more than the pursuit of that which makes you happy and brings fulfillment in your life. We are all talented. We all have something in our lives that we are passionate enough about to devote time, energy and hard work to accomplish. Whatever makes time stand still for you—that’s your “talent”. Embrace your particular “talent.” It is, after all, what makes you special.

## **C**hristian Education

Our Lenten Suppers and Programs began on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and are in full swing. Wendy Marshall from the Bay School for the Arts was our first program speaker. She led our group in a quilt making project. Each participant created a quilt block and was able to take it home or let it become a part of a Ware Church quilt. Everyone enjoyed Wendy's presentation and making a quilt block.



The programs for the Wednesdays in March are listed below.

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

David Lee presents Native American Stories, Music and Movement

David Lee will present a few Native American stories or legends that share the themes of Lent. The stories involve individuals that make a sacrifice for God which then creates a positive effect on their people. David will also play the Native flute. David plans to sacrifice his honorarium for the evening by giving it to the Laurel Shelter.

David will also briefly speak about the military, teachers, police and firefighters sacrificing every day towards our freedom and safety and how selfless service benefits our community and our "people". He hopes that the stories will leave the audience with the inspiration to do good works in our community.

Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

The Virginia Living Museum will bring Mother Nature's Traveling Road Show to Ware Church.

Wednesday, March 17

Brittany Simmons and Theatre Games

Brittany Simmons, a recent graduate of Belmont University's Musical Theatre Program in Nashville, will perform a few comic monologues and help Jacque Kilduff lead the group in some fun theatre games or perhaps even a few music theatre dance steps. Brittany grew up attending Christian Youth Theatre (CYT) camps and after-school programs and now teaches with the organization. She will have information about CYT available at the supper. She hopes more young people will consider a life in the performing arts. Brittany is the daughter of a career Army Chaplain.

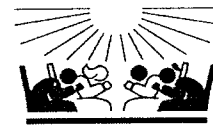
Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

Ware Church Talent Show

This is a fun-filled variety show for all ages. If you want to showcase your talent to a very friendly audience, contact Dee Johnston as soon as possible.



## **W**are's Prayer Group Meets March 10<sup>th</sup>



There are times when it is nice to know someone is praying for you, your family or a friend. The Prayer Group seeks to provide a this ministry on your behalf. If you have a prayer request, call either Nell Jones at 693-5632 or Bruce Forsberg at 776-7734. The next meeting is March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

## **C**offee Hour Hosts and Hostesses Needed



There is a sign-up sheet on the church porch for Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses for March - May. Sign up early to choose the Sunday that best fits your schedule. You provide cookies. The lemonade and coffee supplies are in the kitchen. One or two people are needed each week.

## **F**amily Room News



A big thank you goes to **Charity Scouten** for her time with the Family Room as President of the Advisory Board and Database Coordinator. Charity resigned in order to focus more on 'home-schooling' her children. We do so appreciate all she has done for us. In Charity's words... "**There is no other group like the Family Room in our area.** We don't have to pay for it. Ware Episcopal doesn't charge us rent. **We just have to use it, love it, and spread the word about it. It does require one other thing...our attention and our time.** I am saddened by the fact that my family circumstances require that I leave the Family Room behind. For me Family Room was the stability and the family that I did not have before I was blessed with it. I met many of my closest friends at the Family Room. Mom's Night Out became a lifesaver for me. **It helped me feel less like a shut-in and more like a mom who was connected to the world outside my window.**" We will miss Charity but hold onto those memories we've made together!

**Sister Colleen Magill** celebrated her **10-year anniversary** at the Family Room February 1<sup>st</sup>. What a blessing it's been to her to be able to continue meeting such wonderful, caring, and loving families!

## **S**pecial Worship Services



Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Chapel of the Christ Child  
Good Friday Service, Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Noon in the Church

# Mission Commission



## First Sunday Food Offering, March 7<sup>th</sup>

On the first Sunday of every month, Ware Church receives gifts of food and other personal items to restock the shelves at the Salvation Army Food Closet. Items particularly in need this month include canned meat, cereals, oatmeal, canned juice (46 oz. cans), Jello, pasta, condiments (mayonnaise, mustard, catsup in plastic containers, no larger than 16 oz.), paper towels and toilet paper. You may bring your donations to the church or take them directly to the Salvation Army. Thank you!

# Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time begins in March again this year. Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday night, March 13<sup>th</sup>. That way you won't be embarrassed by being late for church on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, the first day that Daylight Savings Time is in effect.

# Women of Ware



**WHAT:** **WoW Book Club**  
**WHERE:** Parish Hall  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at Noon  
**HOSTESSES:** Cecil Cary Cunningham & Barbara Morris  
**BRING:** A sandwich; desserts & drinks will be provided  
**BOOK:** *The Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown  
**CALL:** Cecil Cary, 693-4333 or Barbara, 642-6022 by Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>  
All ladies are invited to join us.

# Parish Register

The Burial Office      Thomas Jefferson Noble  
February 4, 2010

## THE PARISH CALENDAR

April 1	Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist	10 a.m. & 7 p.m.
April 2	Good Friday Holy Eucharist	Noon at Ware Church
April 4	Easter Sunday, The Day of Resurrection	
	Festive Holy Eucharists	8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
	Flowering of the Cross	9:30 a.m.
April 14	Prayer Group	10:30 a.m.
April 15	May <i>Grapevine</i> Deadline	
May 2	United Thank Offering Ingathering	
May 9	Mother's Day Breakfast	9 a.m.
May 12	Prayer Group	10:30 a.m.
May 15	June <i>Grapevine</i> Deadline	
May 23	Pentecost Sunday & Closing Sunday School Exercises	9:30 a.m.
May 30	Trinity Sunday	
June 9	Prayer Group	10:30 a.m.
June 12	Family Room Yard Sale	7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
June 15	July-August <i>Grapevine</i> Deadline	
July 14	Prayer Group	10:30 a.m.
July 19-23	Children's Music Camp	1 - 5 p.m. each day

### **T**ablecloth Round-up

Some tablecloths have left the building again. If one of them has followed you home, please return it as soon as possible.



### **S**pring Clean-up Day

A Spring Clean-up Day is in the works for April after Easter. A date will be published as soon as it is selected.

