

*The
Grapevine*
Ware Episcopal Church
Gloucester, Virginia

October 2008

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<i>November Grapevine Deadline</i> <i>Wednesday, October 15th</i>	
<i>Office Hours</i> <i>Monday - Friday</i> <i>9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</i>	

Blessing of the Animals on Saint Francis' Day
Sunday the 5TH of October

Bring your dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, horses, fish, frogs and iguanas to Ware Church on Sunday, October 5th at 9:30 a.m. for the annual Blessing of the Animals. The service will be outside the Parish House. In addition to a special worship service, all animals will receive their own blessing. Can't get your pet here? Please bring a picture and your pet will be included in the service. If you are attending the 10:30 service, have plenty of water for your pet and open your car windows. Please make sure it's not too warm for them.

This Sunday is a good time to remember the dogs and cats that do not have homes or families. The Gloucester Mathews Humane Society takes these animals and cares for them until homes can be found. If each of us brought one or more bags or cans of pet food we can give a big gift to the shelter.

Parish Halloween Party Set For October 26th

Calling all ghosts, goblins, princesses, knights and assorted other creatures. Join us for fun, games, prizes and refreshments in the Parish House on Sunday afternoon October 26th beginning at 5 o'clock. No one's too young to come and no one's too old to attend! Ware's Youth Group is decorating for the party after church. Please invite your friends to come! As always there will be lots of prizes for the kids. Parents, come as you are or feel free to wear your best Halloween costume.

The First Article

Dear Friends,

It's the season of the Every Member Canvas or in other words the annual stewardship program for this and most every other Episcopal Church. In the summer, the Diocese hosts annual workshops on giving, stewardship, and the all important 'ask'. At these meetings resources are shared and 'war stories' told about what has worked in a nearby parish. When it's over, an inspired team returns home to begin the annual task of raising funds for parish.

Stephen B. McSwain in *The Giving Myths* reports some disturbing trends across the board for American congregations. "In spite of record contributions, the state of giving in the American church is anything but healthy... The lion's share of the resources given in and through churches last year was given by a relatively small percentage of people." Conventional wisdom says that 80% of total gifts come from 20% of the people. It is now closer to 90% of the total coming from just 10% of the congregation. McSwain says, "In mainline denominational churches, the majority of giving is done by an even smaller percentage of members over fifty." The reasons for these changes in giving are complex, but at its heart - it is the church's lack of teaching about the joy of giving.

Teaching people, that is, teaching families, children and even one's friends about giving is a learned art. After Thanksgiving and extending to Christmas one can find the Salvation Army red kettles in a number of locations. It's a humbling experience to watch a family stop and give money to their children and then all of them give to the kettle. Another generation is learning about giving in a season of sharing.

McSwain continues: "The happiest people are those who have learned (or are learning) to give away themselves and their resources. Some of them have a significant portion of this world's material wealth to give... They are busy finding ways to give and, as a result, are experiencing an infectious kind of joy. Consider following the simple advice I give: give, then get the life you've always wanted. Risk believing that it just might be true, try it for yourself and you will find what you've been looking for. You will find the life you've always wanted."

Ware's Every Member Canvas is an opportunity to share one's time, talent and treasure. One's pledge card may well be a perfunctory response to a letter requesting support for the church or it can be a time to experience the joy of giving. What a great time to stretch and discover that it can be done. The next few weeks these cards will assist the Vestry in planning for an exciting year of mission and ministry. Thank you for sharing your lives and gifts with us.

Faithfully yours,

***C*hristian Education**

In celebration of the commencement of the Christian Education classes on Sunday, September 14th, Archaeologist Robert Harper provided an in depth look at the construction of colonial churches with his topic, “The Brick of Our Foundation.” A continental breakfast was served.

Our Rector, Peter Worthington, accompanied by Virginia Laise, organist, welcomed children into the chapel at 9:30 a.m. Classes followed for children between the ages of nursery and high school under the instruction of Mr. Lewie Lawrence, Mrs. Kim Ward, Mrs. Lindsey South, and Miss Ashley Sjostrom. This year’s new curriculum “Seasons of the Spirit” stresses faith through liturgy and imagination. The curriculum encourages Christian growth through worshiping, learning and serving together. The focus scripture for the day was Matthew 18:21-35.

***Y*outh**

There will be a youth group get-together on one of the latter Sundays in October, with the exact date and time to be determined. For more information on our October plans, please contact Caroline Parker (693-7069; girlygirl93xoxo@aol.com). We will also publicize these details as soon as we know them. Please also invite a friend to come with you. Youth group participation is not just confined to Ware Church members; anyone is invited to join us! All who attended the pool party on Sunday, September 14th had a great time! Thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Radcliffe for providing their pool for this event. We hope to see all of you in October!

***P*rayer Group**

The Prayer Group meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 8th. If you have a request, call Anne Clark (693-4026), Jane Van Leeuwen (693-3500) or Bruce Forsberg (776-7734).

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

Coffee Hour after the late service is a time to visit with our members and to welcome new people who are attending Ware Church. A sign-up sheet is on the church porch for hosts and hostesses through 2008. You provide the goodies. The lemonade and coffee supplies are in the kitchen.

Music at Ware Church

Gymnastics, Karate or . . . Junior Choir!

In our over-scheduled world, parents walk a tight-rope trying to decide what activities are best for their children. Should they be taking karate, gymnastics, swimming, or do they need help with homework, or should they take music lessons? One of the over-looked answers to this problem, and one that's available at no cost to parents, is Junior Choir. It affords children many of the physical, mental, developmental, and social skills that parents are looking for in extra-curricula activities.

1 – *Physical activity* – Junior Choir members engage in outdoor free-play, weather permitting. Every week they play a physically active game, such as relay races and other games designed to challenge their coordination skills. New this choir season is the opportunity to incorporate show-choir like moves with their songs—another opportunity for physical movement and exercise.

2 – *Vocabulary and reading skills* - In learning new songs, children learn new words, discuss the meanings of those words, and learn how to use new words. Younger, new or non-readers are encouraged to “follow along” with the songs, affording them the opportunity to learn words by “osmosis”.

3 - *Responsibility and team work* - Junior Choir members learn at their first rehearsal that work comes first and play comes second. They know that they are a part of a team having a unique function in the life of the church—they are responsible for singing an offertory anthem once a month. This fosters their ability to be active church and community leaders when they become adults.

4 - *Social skills* - The age of Junior Choir members varies from 4 years to early teens. This wide age span allows children of different ages to interact. Older children assume roles of guardianship of younger children. The supper meal is an opportunity for the Junior Choir to function as a large “family”. Children joke freely with one another, share stories, talk about homework, laugh and carry on just as in a family setting.

5 – *Life lessons* - Junior Choir members play games and win door prizes each week. They learn that not everyone wins every week. That's a tough lesson and one that some people have tried to shield children from learning. Junior Choir members understand that there's “always next week” and develop a positive attitude. They congratulate the winners and look forward to the next week hoping that their turn is right around the corner.

Junior Choir members learn about saving money. Yes! Who would have thought that? Every week they receive \$1 in “Ware money” for attending rehearsal. They save that money in their personal folder. At the end of each choir semester, in December and again in May, they spend their money at “WareMart”. They can decide what to spend their hard-earned money on, and some even share their money with other choir members who don't have quite enough for a special purchase. What a great life lesson this affords them!

For all parents who are looking for a meaningful, productive way for their child to spend one hour each week, Junior Choir is the answer to a prayer!

M*en of Ware*

The Men of Ware will meet Saturday, October 18th at 8:00 a.m. at Olivia's in the Village for a good breakfast, comradery and a short program. Men, mark your calendars!

W*omen of Ware*

The Women of Ware will meet at the home of Martha Morton Tuesday, October 28th at 10:00 a.m. Or Rector, Peter Worthington, will be speaking on "The Holy Eucharist".

The Women of Ware are having a catered supper Wednesday, November 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish House. The meal is provided by Kelsick Gardens. Beth Haskell will present "Easy Holiday Entertaining with a Flair". Tickets are \$20 and can be obtained at Coffee Hour or by calling Shot Tabb, 693-3893. Ticket deadline is Thursday, November 1st.

Women of Ware Book Club will meet Wednesday, November 12th at noon at Jean Johnson's home. The book for November is *Daughter of China* by Meihong Xu and Larry Engelmann. Call Jean Johnson, 693-5280 if you need a copy and to let her know you are coming.

M*ission Committee News*

First Sunday Food Offering

Sunday, October 5th, let's restock the Salvation Army Pantry with paper towels, toilet paper, coffee, tea, beef stew, Brunswick stew, spaghetti, canned spaghetti sauce, canned fruits and meats, macaroni and cheese, cake and cookie mixes, sugar, flour, oils, Vienna sausage, corned beef, and jelly.

The Family Room of Ware Church

The Family Room is in full swing for the school year and is now pleased to welcome home school families **with preschoolers** interested in activities offered. Older siblings can participate in parent guided activities while younger children are at play.

The Family Room annual Holiday Bazaar is Saturday, November 22nd. If interested in having a table at the Bazaar, please call Cindy Brownley at 695-1624. The Family Room cookbooks are \$4.00. They would be great for a Christmas gift!!!

For more information about anything in Family Room, please call Sister Colleen Magill at 693-3821.

***A*ll Saints' Day Remembrance Request**

Every All Saints' Day during the Prayers of the People, the names of the loved ones of our parish family are read. To have your loved ones included with "those who have gone ahead of us in faith", please list the names and return this form to the office in person or by mail by Tuesday, October 28th.

I wish the following people remembered on All Saints' Day. **Please list first and last names:**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

You may mail your request to Ware Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 616, Gloucester, VA 23061-0616.

***Q*uarterly Giving Statements**

Giving statements for the 3rd quarter will be mailed during the first week of October. If you have questions about yours, call Becky Morris at the church office, 693-3821.

***S*tewardship 2009**

Our Stewardship Campaign to fund next year's budget is underway. Letters with pledge cards were mailed to parishioners at the beginning of September. Please remember to return your pledge card. If you have misplaced your card and need another one, just call the church office, 693-3821.

***S*pruce up the Grounds - Fall Clean Up**

There will be a Parish Grounds and Church Clean-up Day Saturday, October 25th, 8:00 a.m.- noon. Bring a good pair of work gloves, your saw, loppers, clippers and a pick-up truck to help with the various jobs. Come, have fun and let's get Ware ready for winter.


PARISH CALENDAR, 4 MONTHS AT A GLANCE

October 5	The Blessing of the Animals	9:30 a.m.
October 6	Vestry Meeting	7:00 p.m.
October 8	Prayer Group	10:30 a.m.
October 14	Staff Meeting	12:30 p.m.
October 15	November <i>Grapevine</i> Deadline	
October 18	Men of Ware Breakfast at Olivia's	8:00 a.m.
October 25	Grounds Clean Up	8:00 a.m.
October 26	Parish Halloween Party	5:00 p.m.
October 28	Women of Ware	10:00 a.m.
November 2	All Saints' Day	
	Inter-generational Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
	United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering	
	African Ministries Jewelry Sale	
November 3	Vestry Meeting	7:00 p.m.
November 5	Women of Ware Catered Supper	6:00 p.m.
November 9	Annual Congregational Meeting	10:30 a.m.
November 11	Staff Meeting	12:30 p.m.
November 12	Prayer Group	10:30 a.m.
November 15	December <i>Grapevine</i> Deadline	
November 16	Bishop's Visit and Confirmation	10:30 a.m.
November 22	Family Room Craft Bazaar	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
November 23	Put Up Angel Tree	
November 26	Community Thanksgiving Service	7:00 p.m.
November 27	Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist	10:00 a.m.
November 30	Parish Breakfast & Advent Wreaths	9:00 a.m.
December 1	Vestry Meeting	7:00 p.m.
December 9	Staff Meeting	12:30 p.m.
December 10	Prayer Group	10:30 a.m.
December 14	Angel Tree Gifts Due	Noon
December 15	Women of Ware Chinese Auction	10:00 a.m.
	January <i>Grapevine</i> Deadline	
December 21	Christmas Pageant	5:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Services	5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Service	10:00 a. m.
January 5	Vestry Meeting	7:00 p.m.
January 11	Sunday School Begins	9:30 a.m.
January 13	Staff Meeting	12:30 p.m.
January 14	Prayer Group	10:30 a.m.
January 15	February <i>Grapevine</i> Deadline	

Bishop's Visit and Confirmation

Peter James Lee, Bishop of Virginia will be at Ware Church on Sunday November 16th for his annual visitation. If you wish to join Ware Church at that time, please speak with Peter Worthington so Inquirer's classes might be scheduled.

Vestry News

 At the September Vestry Meeting it was noted that at the end of August income was \$11,883.87 ahead of expenses. Also approved - proposed budget of \$310,592 for 2009, an increase of music fees for weddings. Topics discussed included reporting of the balances of the invested funds, visitation, the value of the timber behind Ware cottage. The Vestry affirmed its 10% giving to the Diocese of Virginia for 2009.

Parish Register Entries

Burial: James Willis Mott, Jr. on September 20, 2008

Newsletter Late Again or Non-existent?

The *Grapevine*, our church newsletter, is published 11 times each year with the months of July and August being one issue. The deadline is the 15th of the preceding month, i.e., October 15th for the November issue, November 15th for the December issue, etc. Please have your articles in the office by the 15th. When the newsletter is mailed, it goes to the post office in complete zip code order. Generally, the Gloucester letters are posted the next day. The others go to the postal distribution facility in Richmond for delivery to various post offices in Gloucester, Mathews, Middlesex, Williamsburg and other locations. The newsletter is mailed using the bulk mail rate at quite a savings to the church and bulk mail has different time parameters for delivery. Each facility that handles a piece of bulk mail has 48 hours to process it and send it on its way. Add into the equation the catalogue mailings that arrive in the beginning of each season. Toss in the fact that this year is an election year and all political mail, even if it is mailed at the slower bulk rate, has to go out basically first class. Therefore, you should be able to see the overwhelming job that our postal workers have at times. Our solution is to mail it earlier so that you receive it before the first of the month. The newsletter is also posted each month by Nancy Wilson on the church website, www.warechurch.org.

Hymnals for Ware Church

Ware Church currently uses The Hymnal 1982. Our copies of this hymnal are over 25 years old and are showing signs of wear and tear. The church is purchasing new copies of The Hymnal 1982. The congregation is invited to donate one or more copies of The Hymnal 1982 at a cost of \$20.00 each. The books will have book plates with space for a loved one's name, either in honor or in memory.

I wish to give _____ Hymnals at \$20.00
each and I have enclosed \$ _____

Please place the following loved ones names
on the book plate.

Your name

Please return to Ware Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 616. Gloucester, VA 23061-0616