

# The Crossing

Winter 2011 Edition

December 1, 2011

## From the Rector



When I was going to Seminary in Alexandria, I would sometimes take myself to downtown where there was this Christmas shop that had all the holiday trimmings every day of the year. There were exquisite crèche scenes from Germany, Italy, and Norway. There were elves and jolly old St. Nick, sleighs and reindeer of every size and description, bells and trees, lights and music boxes. There were nutcrackers and candles, angels, wise men and little drummer boys. The shop was bursting with Christmas even in the hottest part of the year. A loudspeaker broadcast a medley of Yuletide tunes. It was infectious. Down in the corner of the front door, where no one could miss it, was I think the neatest touch of all. It was a sign that said: "Christmas Spoken Here."

I can't imagine a better slogan for the church at this or any other time of the year. What could say better why we are here? God has entered human history to change its course forever. "The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us" (John 1:14). Emmanuel – God is with us. Nothing in this world could be more profound. We celebrate the event every year in song and pageant and decorations. "Christmas Spoken Here." It has to be spoken, for it is the basis of what we do and who we are as God's people in Christ.

When I was in Target not too long ago, I found myself in the Electronics Department where a number of televisions were tuned to one station. A little boy, taking advantage of his parent's preoccupation in another part of the store, was tuning all the TV's to different stations and turning up the sound on each of them as he went along. The result was a bedlam of words and messages all blaring into the department at the same time. For me, that cacophony of sound became a picture of modern life.....a lot of different words spoken, a lot of sound but little, if any, that makes sense or is worth a whole lot.

We all so love our game systems, our 65" 3D TV's, we drown in cell phone texts and instant messages and the internet has made physical human contact a thing of the past. And something can be said about instant contact and information at our disposal 24/7. But words are just that – words. They have no meaning if they are not backed up with something that is real, tangible, or felt. As we separate ourselves from each other, we separate and estrange ourselves for God. When all is said and done, and the electricity goes out, we are there sitting alone in darkness, no one and nothing to comfort us or give us a hug when life gets a little frightening.

This I think is the human predicament. We lock ourselves into systems and fantasies created by others, desperate to be in touch with someone else to tell our stories and to hear others, and to know we are not alone despite the darkness of our nights without power. But into the midst of this isolation has come the most important word of all, the Word of God, saying, "You are not alone, for I am with you even to the end of time." "Christmas Spoken Here." It is indeed an appropriate motto for us. The church ought always to speak Christmas. We ought always be reminded that the Word of God has spoken. For when we are present for another, send a word of encouragement, give someone a hug who feels isolated and alone, give food to those who are hungry, or sit with those who are ill and in distress, it is here that Christmas is Spoken not only this time of year, but everyday.



May the words of God's presence fill your life with hope and love.

Fr. Bill

## St. John's Calendar of Events

### Upcoming Events

*Save these Dates!*

- **Dec 4**—One service @ 10am, Parrish Meeting will take place during the service
- **Dec 7**—Advent Potluck & Program @ 6:15pm
- **Dec 11**—Sunday School Christmas Pageant during 10:30am service
- **Dec 14**—Advent Potluck & Program @ 6:15pm
- **Dec 18**—Service of Lessons and Carols @ 10:30am
- **Dec 21**—Advent Potluck and Greening of the Church @ 6:15pm
- **Dec 24**—Family Christmas Eve service at 5:30pm
- **Dec 24**—Music of Christmas @ 10:00pm and Traditional Christmas Eve service @ 10:30pm
- **Dec 25**—NO services
- **Jan 1**—One service @ 10am
- **Jan 6**—Feast of the Epiphany service @ 7pm

**NOTICE: In the event of inclement weather, service cancellation notices will be announced on TV station WWBT-12 on Sunday mornings.**

## Senior Warden's Report by Brian McDonald

**B**y now you have received the pledge package. I hope you all have taken it to heart.

The Ribble work continues. We are moving on the sink side of the kitchen. New windows have been installed and it should be warmer in there with the old storm windows gone. We continue to work on the sink layout. You will be happy to hear the wheelchair lift is finally on order with delivery scheduled for early January 2012.

The funding for the Ribble Modernization comes from many sources. The Lift has come mostly from three sources. One has been Memorial giving. Another large source has been from The Jean and Jim Micklem book sale. The remainder was voted by the Vestry to be borrowed from the sale of the rectory. Those funds will be replaced as Ribble giving continues. The remainder of the funding for the work done to date has come from Memorials, St Martha's Guild and giving from the Parish. It is important for you to know that NONE of the funds used for the Ribble Modernization or for the wheelchair lift comes from the budget that you pledge to. Those funds all go toward the Operating Budget.

Speaking of January 2012, that is when the new Vestry takes over and my three year term on the Vestry will be completed. I have enjoyed being Senior Warden the past two years. It sure has kept me off the streets. Working with Rev. Bill has been a joy and a pleasure. We are lucky to have him. The Vestry members are some of the most dedicated, hardest working people I have had the pleasure of serving with. It has been an honor to serve.

## Sunday School News by Lisa Sansone

### *It's Going to be a Great Christmas Charlie Brown*

**O**n December 11<sup>th</sup> you want to make sure you attend the 10:30 service and see the Sunday School Christmas Pageant. The children have been practicing their very own version of the popular Peanuts Christmas Story, by Charles Schulz. Remember how Charlie Brown thinks all he needs is the perfect Christmas tree; well come see what Charlie Brown brings back to the gang this year! And did you ever wonder what was wrapped up in Linus' blanket? Come find out. Following the service the Hospitality Committee is hosting a Christmas party.

### *The New Room In Sunday School*

**T**his fall the Sunday School hosted an open house during the coffee hour to show off our newly tiled and painted classroom. We are enjoying the room and want to again extend our thanks to the gentlemen that made this possible. We're having lots of fun and hope parishioners drop in again some day soon!



## Schedule of Services for Christmas

**St. John's will have two services on Christmas Eve:**

- **Family Service at 5:30 pm**
- **Traditional Service with the music of Christmas at 10:00 pm and the Eucharist service beginning at 10:30 pm**

**There will be NO services on Sunday, December 25.**

## St. Martha's Guild

by Carol Hayes

**O**nce again a very large thank you to all who helped in any way with the very successful Holiday Bazaar. Many parishioners stepped up and donated their time and talents to help us. It was very much appreciated.

St. Martha's will be having their annual Christmas party/brief December meeting on December 1st at 6:00 p.m. at the Cobblestone clubhouse. Members are reminded to bring a pair of socks for the sock exchange and items for the Food Pantries.

All women of St. John's are invited to join St. Martha's. We are growing, but would love to grow even more. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Eppes Hall.

## Parishioner Profiles by Pat Doherty

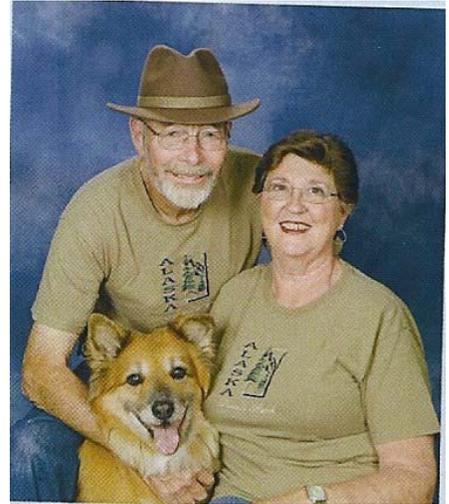
**M**et Irene and Conrad Cobb

Conrad grew up on a dairy farm in Pennsylvania. When he was eight, his family moved to upstate New York, where his father ran a John Deere dealership. After High School, Conrad moved to Florida to live with his grand-parents. Irene was born in Norfolk, England. She remembers having a "Mickey Mouse" gas mask during the war. They also had a bomb shelter close by where she remembers playing. So how did these two meet? When Irene was 14 her family moved to Florida! A few years later, Irene's friend was dating Conrad's cousin and she invited Irene to join them on a blind date. Her date was Conrad. Six months later they were married!

Conrad was in the Reserves and was recalled to active service during the Berlin Wall crisis. He was assigned to Fort Lee. After his tour they decided they really liked Virginia so it became their home. Conrad got a job with Firestone and trained as a millwright. Irene stayed home for several years raising their two sons, John and David. Then she went to work at the Quartermaster Museum, which she managed for 15 years.

They enjoy camping and fishing as does their beautiful eight-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth Rose.

Irene and Conrad have both served on the vestry at St. John's and have both been junior wardens. Irene is vice president of St. Martha's Guild and if anything goes wrong with the heating or air conditioning, Conrad is there working on it!



*Irene and Conrad Cobb*

## Outreach & Mission at St. John's by Carol Hopkins

**"...as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40) (RSV)**

**December**—ERD *Gifts for Life* catalogs for 2012 will be distributed on Sunday, November 27, and at the Annual Parish Meeting on December 4.

**Sunday, December 18, at 4:00 p.m.**—We will go "Caroling for Cans" for the Hopewell Food Pantry. This is a fun time for our children, youth, choir members, and all of us to make a joyful noise while singing carols and collecting canned goods. Plan to wear silly Santa hats, Christmas sweaters, jingle bells, or reindeer antlers to add to the merriment. Sign up (preferably by Dec. 11) in the Narthex or Eppes or call Lisa Sansone (530-0423).

Results of Fall outreach efforts:

**"Penny Power"** campaign in September for **Boys' Home** in Covington—We delivered checks for \$392.00 and a large number of **Wish List** items as well as used sports equipment.

**Jackson-Feild Home for Girls** in Jarratt—Sent them \$266.00 and delivered a LOT of "Wish List" items as well as "harvest" pictures colored by our Sunday School children.

**November 6**—**United Thank Offering**—Fall Ingathering. Collected \$280.00.

**Thanksgiving Food Baskets**—Delivered six food baskets to the **Salvation Army in Hopewell**.

**"We Care for Kasey" Campaign**—Our display at the church bazaar on Nov. 19 brought in donations of \$279 for the Kasey Crute Assistance Fund.

Thank you to all who gave so generously.

## Come "Caroling For Cans" With Us!

by Lisa Sansone

**W**hile "Caroling for Cans" last December we collected over 170 non perishable items for the Hopewell Food Bank. This year we will be caroling on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Come out and join us dressed in your Santa hat and jingle bells. Flyers are placed at City Point neighbor's doors the week before so they are ready and waiting to hear us sing and hand us their contributions to help needy community families. This event is sponsored by the combined efforts of the Outreach Committee and the Sunday School. Great voices are not a requirement as we spread the holiday cheer. See Carol Hopkins or Lisa Sansone for additional information.



*Last year's carolers hit a high note with the community and Hopewell Food Bank*

505 Cedar Lane  
Hopewell, Virginia 23860  
Phone—804-458-8142  
E-mail—stjohnshopewell@verizon.net

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



---

## *Schedule of Services, Meetings, & Events*

The following list gives the times for regularly scheduled monthly events.

Check Calendar on Page 1 for Special Events.

**Holy Eucharist Rite I—8:00 a.m. every Sunday**

**Holy Eucharist—10:30 a.m. every 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays**

**Morning Prayer—10:30 a.m. every 5th Sunday**

**Children & Youth Sunday School—10:30 a.m. most Sundays**

**Adult Choir Rehearsal—9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Ribble**

**Nursery—10:30 a.m. every Sunday**

**Bible Study—7:00 p.m. Wednesdays, Eppes Hall**

**Vestry Meeting—7:00 p.m. Thursday after the 3rd Sunday, Eppes**

**St. Martha's Guild—7:00 p.m. 2nd Thursday, Eppes**