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# The Episcopale News

Cople Episcopal Parish  
June 2009

Founded 1664  
www.copleparish.org

Westmoreland County, Virginia  
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## Rector's Reflection

Last week I was looking for a prayer with which to begin an up-coming Altar Guild meeting. I found the following on which I have prayed and reflected upon as my leaving Cople Parish for a three month Sabbatical draws near.

*Give me an open mind, O God, a mind ready to receive and to welcome such new light of knowledge as it is thy will to reveal to me. Let not the past ever be so dear to me as to set a limit to the future. Give me courage to change my mind, when that is needed. Let me be tolerant to the thoughts of others and hospitable to such light as may come to me through them.  
Amen*

I ask that you join me in praying this prayer over the next three months - not only because of the changes that come with each priest who comes to lead the services, but because of the changes that will be due to the long awaited renovation of St. James Church.

The Vestry voted at the May meeting to engage a contractor to put new siding on both the church and the parish house at St. James. New windows will be put in both buildings also. We were able to do this because of a very kind anonymous donor. In addition, the Vestry decided it is an opportune time to redo the inside walls and ceiling of the church. All of this will require closing St. James for several weeks. In fact, after speaking with the contractor, your Sr. Warden and I determined that St. James will be closed from Monday, June 8 until Saturday, August 15th. Additional time will be taken to work on the outside of the parish hall, but that will not interfere with our use of the church.

All this being said, reflecting on the situation and the prayer, I was reminded of a service I attended last fall at the Methodist Church in Heathsville where the congregation of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church has been worshipping. The service was in celebration of St. Stephen's ministry alongside of their new priest-in-charge, The Rev. Lucia Lloyd. At that service the preacher, the Rev. Sue Eaves, spoke of St. Stephen's being "the church without walls". Sue pointed out that it is the community built amongst the people that welcomes the power of the Holy Spirit to work within us. The walls of a building are not what makes us a church.

I hope you will keep this in mind in these months that St. James is closed because the community of St. James, Tidwells, is not closed and is blessed to be a part of a parish which has an abundance of buildings in which to worship. The community church of St. James, Tidwells, will temporarily be at worship in the building of Nomini just a few miles away. The supply priests have been notified of the change (sent along with easy directions for finding Nomini). So they will be there at 9:00 am on their appointed Sundays ready to worship with you. They will also be at Yeocomico at 11:00 am for the later worshippers of Cople Parish.

All of this means change and learning some new ways to do things in a different space. It means growth in letting go of "the way we have always done it". Eventually, for St. James, it will mean the joy of returning into our "old" space with a new look and bringing with us new ideas. All this comes with thanksgiving that at long last St. James will have had some work done on its buildings!

Another change that will be happening in the summer is that Julia Rock, our Nomini sexton for 19 years, is moving away. She has resigned her position as of July 1. In her letter to us, Julia said, "I will miss my 'extended family' that has come to mean so much to me. You have been friends and neighbors to us over the last 19 years and I will miss you all!"

It is my sincere hope that you will remember that each of you is an important part of the worshipping community that makes up Cople Parish and that you will make an effort to attend either the 9:00 am service at Nomini or the 11:00 am service at Yeocomico whenever possible. Why not invite a friend to join you!

I will hold you in my prayers while I am gone - no I cannot just go away and not think about you...but I will take some breaks. I will miss you, but I know this time away is important to my own well-being. I ask for your prayers as well. I will see you in September.

This Sabbatical is turning out to be more than you or I could have expected!!

May the Lord watch over us while we are absent one from another,

*Kaki*

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Nomini Church at Mt. Holly      St. James Church at Tidwells      Yeocomico Church at Tucker Hill  
Parish House and Offices - 72 Coles Point Road - Hague - 804-472-2593 - copleparish@rivnet.net  
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 110 - Hague, VA 22469

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### Fourth of July Celebration

Start your day with a dedication to the signers of our Declaration at Burnt House Field on Mount Pleasant Road off Coles Point Road! The program begins at **8:30 AM**. After the ceremony there, follow the crowd to Yeocomico Church for a short Memorial service from **9:30 – 10 AM**. Afterward some will want to head to one of the parades and celebration activities in the area or off to a picnic or reunion.

This annual event is fun. come join us!

### REGION 2 – DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA CHORAL EVENSONG:

June 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., Grace Church, Kilmarnock. The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, preacher. Everyone is welcome at the Service. Fried Chicken Picnic supper following the service - \$10. A wine reception will be available - \$5. Youth do not pay for the picnic, but reservations are required for all planning to picnic with the Bishop. Reservations for the Wine Reception are not required. Last Day for all Reservations – Sunday, May 31, 2009. Send Checks and Youth NAMES to: Dr. Barbara Allison-Bryan, Post Office Box 658, North, VA 23128.

**THE BLUEGRASS & BARBECUE AT ROANOKE FARM IN HEATHVILLE WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> FROM 5-8 PM.** This promises to be a great evening planned by St. Stephen's episcopal church. Bring a beach chair or blanket. Please join in supporting their ministry and have a terrific time -- great music and good eatin' as well.

**ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET: June 7, 10 AM,** St. James Church. Bring picnic fare for lunch buffet which follows the service. If you would like to have your vessel blessed, please email [copleparish@rivnet.net](mailto:copleparish@rivnet.net) or call the office at 472-2593 with its name and owner by June 1<sup>st</sup> to have it in the bulletin that day. This is the only service on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

### HISTORY and ARCHITECTURE of the COLONIAL CUURCH:

A two-day course will be taught by Robert Teagle, Education Director and Curator of Historic Christ Church on Thursdays June 11 and June 18 from 10 AM to noon at Ameslee Hall. Cople Parish and The NN of Virginia Historical Society will host this educational program. It is free and open to the public but advance registration is requested. Please call Steve Walker at 472-3291.

**KAKI'S SABATICAL:** Kaki will begin her Sabbatical on June 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be a time of rest, refreshment, study and reflection for her. We wish Kaki and Bob a safe and rewarding journey these next few months. She will be unavailable for priestly duties at Cople Parish but we will have supply priests for services each Sunday and those on call for pastoral care. You may call the office and you will be directed to the proper person.

**50<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** The Committee on Aging of the Diocese of Virginia requests the honor of your presence at the Eucharist celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your marriage on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 1 PM at Westminster Canterbury in Richmond. A reception will follow. Please RSVP to Anna Moncure at 1-800-DIOCESE x 31 or at [amoncure@thediocese.net](mailto:amoncure@thediocese.net)

**MARK THIS DATE:** A liturgy marking the silver jubilee of Bishop Lee's service in Virginia and commemorating his leave-taking will occur at 10:30 AM, Saturday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Church in Richmond. All members are invited to join in this celebration. Watch bulletins and next newsletter for more information.

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

#### Baptism

Catherine Carden Chavez

#### Burial

The Rev. Charles Richard deCourson Sanford

### BIRTHDAYS

June 1 Genevieve Morrow, Caroline Brown  
June 2 Nancy Mesick  
June 5 Lynn McFadden  
June 6 Gertelina Grimstead, Leon Hundley  
June 9 Marshall Davison, Bill Carden  
June 10 Starr Morrow, Maria Bradley  
June 11 Louise Sydnor  
June 12 Jason Morris  
June 15 Beth Green  
June 16 Ann Herbert  
June 20 Page Lees Knight  
June 22 Bob Harris, Marge Elfman  
June 23 Will Farino Elaine Neal  
June 25 Christopher Lewis Cralle  
June 26 Tina Kemp, Will Arnest  
June 27 Betty Ratliff  
June 29 Barbara Davison  
June 30 Winston Swann

### ANNIVERSARIES

June 7 Scott & Shelley Lingamfelter  
June 13 Buddy & Sue Green  
June 22 Tayloe & Helen Murphy  
June 23 Bill & Sue Taylor  
June 25 : Frank & Ann Jones

## BOOK REVIEW

by Starr Morrow

The Ragamuffin Gospel, by Brennan Manning, orig. pub.1990, new ed 2000 by Multnomah Publishers, Inc., OR.

Brennan Manning is a fascinating guy. He's a former Roman Catholic priest and was a long-time member of a Spanish religious order devoted to serving the poor, during which service he was a voluntary prisoner (incognito) in a Swiss jail providing pastoral care to his fellow inmates, and for six months a solitary contemplative in a cave in the Zaragoza desert.

Manning's been at various times a teacher, preacher and poet; a water-carrier and mason's assistant through the blistering heat of Spain, a shrimper and carpenter in Alabama, and a dishwasher in France. More recently he's married, living and ministering in Louisiana, and is a recovering alcoholic.

With all that life experience, he has, as you might imagine, a great deal to say, and he says it in numerous books, among the most popular of which is The Ragamuffin Gospel.

Manning writes to those of us who, way down in our secret heart of hearts, still have a lingering fear that we're not good enough to earn God's love; who labor under our inadequacies and wish we were better (holier, prettier, faster, smarter, richer) but can't quite seem to get it right.

Backing up his theme with quotes from the Gospels and theologians ranging from Augustine to Tillich, Manning insists that God's grace cannot be earned, only accepted God gives us love and perfect acceptance, in unlimited quantities; all He asks is that we open our hearts to receive it "When will we acknowledge that we need not and cannot buy God's favor?" And to those of us who think that diligent church attendance, service work or rigorous self-discipline will earn brownie points with God, he says, "How long will it be before we discover we cannot dazzle God with our accomplishments?"

Manning's book is a dance before the Lord, a rich rousing unbuttoned hymn of thanksgiving and pure joy in the presence of God's love for us He writes in a poetic, earthy, sometimes elliptical narrative that is read with the heart as much as the mind Perhaps Manning feels his topic is too enormous and wonderful to be squeezed into a logical thought-progression If so, he's right This is a joyous, joyful book, packed with great insights, and a rousing good read.

Ragamuffin Gospel and other books by Brennan Manning can be borrowed from the Newton Branch Library in Hague, 472-3820, on Rt202 adjacent to Cople Parish House.



### Cople Parish proudly presents its graduates!

In alphabetical order:

**Annie Arnest** has received her BA in Architectural History from the University of Virginia. Annie is the daughter of Alice Moore and the late Harry Lee Arnest III. Her paternal grandparents are Betty Arnest and the late Harry Lee Arnest, Jr. and maternal grandparents Ann Moore and the late A. Preston Moore.

**Tiffany Brownley**, previously a graduate of Mary Washington, has now completed her degree in nursing from RCC. She will become an RN as soon as her boards are complete. Tiffany is the daughter of Lynn Brownley and granddaughter of Sally Brownley.

**Elizabeth Headley** received her B.A in History at Randolph Macon Women's College (sic). Elizabeth is the daughter of H.T. and Elizabeth Headley and granddaughter of Betty Bailey and the late Frank Bailey, Florence Headley and the late H. Travers Headley. Elizabeth had received the honor of being the Judiciary Chair while there. She has been accepted for graduate school at Norwich University in Vermont working toward her master's degree in military history.

**James Daniel Neal**, son of Jim and Elaine Neal, has completed his doctorate at George Washington University in the School of Engineering.

**Christa Spears**, daughter of Tina and Sean Spears, has graduated with honors from West Virginia University School of Journalism, the career she plans to follow. Her grandparents are Bill and Helen King.

**Katrin Sydnor**, although having officially been a Junior in high school, has been accepted at Johnson Wales University, Charlotte, NC working toward a degree in the Art of Baking and Pastry. While there she will also complete the single course required for her high school graduation. Katrin is the daughter of Greg and JoAnn Sydnor. Her grandparents are Joyce and John Sydnor and Dorothy Woods. She will be leaving in late August.

All of these graduates deserve our many congratulations for their accomplishments and best wishes for their future endeavors. Cheers from Cople Parish!!

If we have missed anyone, please call the office so that they can be included in the next newsletter. We want to give accolades to all.

# SPOT- LIGHT ON...

The spotlight always seems to have its work cut out for it. Each month it pivots and pivots – in search of one upon whom to stop its shaft of light. Its quest would be easy were its list of those so worthy of its rays succinct; however, in our Cople Parish family this is not the case. Its bulb will soon need to be replaced because of its constant rotation and illumination.

This month its gleaming elucidation is upon a very gentle man/gentleman – either/both pertinently fitting. When you least expect him or when you need him, he's there! Whether it is a problem or a door to be opened it is he who turns the knob and holds it wide as you pass through. To be honest he has held the doors of many a project open and successfully closed them silently behind him. Let's take a look at just a few of these things:

For example, let's take a gander at the night the rains came cascading down the back steps at the Parish House creating a rather huge flood in the kitchen shortly before one of our dinners. It was he who garnered a pump in short order and made the inundation dissipate much like Sir Walter Raleigh who threw his coat over a puddle. Several of his "save the day" feats have involved the kitchen - the rebelling of the deep fryers when it was time to get them started - one quick call and they became disciplined just in time!

His efforts in behalf of our buildings and congregation have been instrumental in lightening the load of our budget. To drift down to the aperture of the stream from which his good deeds began would take quite awhile so we need to focus on the most recent. A dire situation in the septic system at St. James drastically endangered the life of its kitchen and

"necessary" room, to put it delicately. After talking with various health authorities, etc. the solution appeared to be a budget eater. With the stretching of the budgetary allotment to its capacity, it was evident another manner needed to be explored. It was soon that this gentleman found the "root" of the trouble. That portion that anchored the tree nearby continued to travel and grow through the years blocking the entrance/exit. With strong back and arms strengthened by some volunteer help coupled with shovels and saws, the tree anchor was at long last free as well as the draining problem. The budget remained intact.

His expertise was also called upon when we had "Live Nativity" on the lawn by the church and parish hall along the Machodoc. It was he who pulled a lighting and sound system together for what was a highlight of our season – the faces of the costumed children as they joyfully, yet seriously, followed the path to the new-born Christ, enhanced by the sometimes a bit distracted animals.

He has served as a Vestry member several times as well as Junior Warden probably just as many. He is treasurer of the Association for the Preservation of Yeocomico Church. He is a cancer survivor and does work with the American Cancer Society. In addition, you will find him volunteering with numerous community outreach projects.

At the present time, he is our Senior Warden and has his task set forth as our Rector begins her period of physical and spiritual refreshment on her sabbatical on June 9th. We will be in good hands!

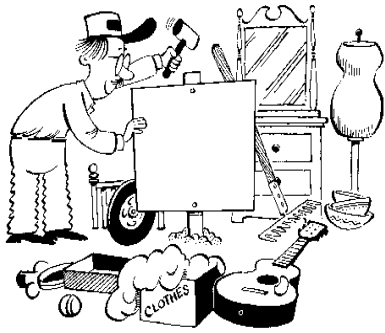
As I look back, I am tempted to include so many more things our Parish family

would be interested in, but time and space are limited though his acts of kindness are not!

He has been a pillar for the tent which covers the multitude of wonderful, gifted, and giving members of our Cople Parish family. With his family close by his side, he accomplished many tasks – all forging ahead to the next deed as if it were the natural thing to do - no fanfare, no thanks expected, just the pleasure of knowing it was done.

Thank you and God Bless  
JOHN SYDNOR

P.S. And don't think that those of you under the tent and helping to hold it up are hidden! Who knows when and where the "Spotlight" will stop its next revolution! If you have a special person to recommend, you're most welcome and encouraged to give the "EpisCople News" a whisper-- the breeze of which might spin the spotlight there.



## Barn Sale Drop-Offs

We have found a number of cartons and bags with what appear to be barn sale donations in the basement classrooms at the Parish House.

This is a reminder that while we are very happy to have donations to the sale, we need to have your cooperation in letting us know about it.

When things are left in the basement and we don't know about it, the items can just sit there for a long time. They might be in the way of someone who needs to use that space.

If you need to make a barn sale donation now, the right way to do it is to call Janice Woolley at 529-7841 and make arrangements for the drop-off. If possible, someone will meet you at the parish house and assist you with your things. If that isn't possible due to schedules, at least the barn sale people will know that donations have been made, and they can get them properly stored as quickly as possible.

Because our storage space is so limited, we ask that if at all possible, you hold your donations until August 25th and 26th, and September 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. On those dates, from 9AM until 1PM, we will have the drive-up and drop-off operation running at the parish house. Much less work than hauling things down into the basement!

We appreciate your cooperation.

The Ladies of the Barn Sale

## Who's Coming to Cople?

In the next three months there will be six priest and a bishop coming to share in worship with you. I know you will welcome them warmly. I believe they will each bring a message worth hearing. I believe you will enjoy the variety they will offer.

**The Rev. Dr. Chris Agnew**, PhD, was born in Santa Barbara, CA, and received degrees from Bucknell in PA, University of Delaware, and General Theological Seminary. Ordained Deacon in 1991, and Priest in 1992, Chris has served churches in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. He currently serves St. Paul's Church in Nomini Grove two Sundays a month. Chris is also Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Virginia and is an adjunct professor of Church History at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). Chris currently lives in King George.

Born in Richmond, **The Rev. Dr. Howard Hanchey**, PhD, attended Virginia Tech, University of North Carolina, VTS, and Union Theological Seminary, Richmond. Ordained Deacon in 1967 and Priest in 1968, Howard has served churches in Richmond (St. Paul's), Virginia Beach, and Connecticut. He retired from teaching at Virginia Seminary about 5 years ago (was a professor of Kaki's) and now makes his home in Lancaster County. Most recently he has served as Interim Rector at Grace, Kilmarnock, and Trinity, Portsmouth.

Ordained Deacon in 1962 and Priest in 1963, **The Rev. Dr. Harrison Simons**, D.D., was born in Massachusetts but educated at Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, and Bexley Hall (Seminary) in New York. He served churches in Richmond (St. Thomas) and North Carolina. Harrison runs an Episcopal Bookstore in Oxford and the bookstore at Shrine Mont in Virginia. He is a Christian Educator by nature. A resident of Oxford, Harrison and his wife have a summer home in Coles Point and have worshiped with us in Cople Parish from time to time.

**The Rev. Ted Tulis** celebrated 50 years of ordained ministry last fall with a great celebration at St. Mary's Church in

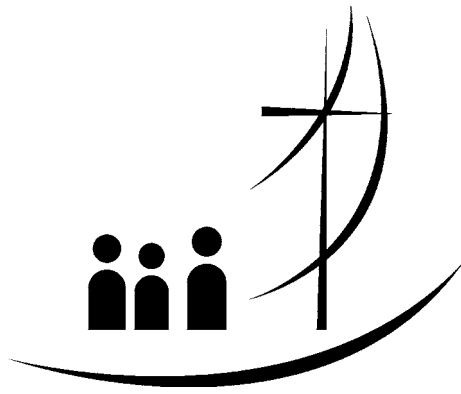
Fleeton where he was serving as Priest-in-Charge. He hails from the Diocese of New York and serves as a Chaplain to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Currently Ted and his wife, Judy, reside in White Stone where they are enjoying his retirement.

**The Rev. Dr. Hal White**, DMin, a resident of Wicomico Church, is no stranger to Cople Parish. He served as consultant to the Self Study Committee and has visited us twice this past year speaking at our Lenten Program. Hal and his wife, Sally, are volunteers for the Northern Neck Volunteer Hospice. Hal was ordained Deacon in 1965 and Priest in 1966 in Southern Virginia. He served Churches in Glen Allen (Christ), Danville, South Boston (VA), Albans, West VA, and Alexandria (St. Aidan's) retiring in 1997. He was adjunct professor at VTS while in Alexandria.

**The Rev. Karen Woodruff**, a native of Ohio, was educated at Whittenberg University and Berkley Divinity School at Yale University. Ordained Deacon and Priest in 1994, she served as Priest-in-Charge of Vauter's Church off Rt. 17 north of Tappahannock 1994-2001. Karen also served St. Peter's Church, Port Royal, 1994-2003. Currently she serves part time at Trinity Church, Lancaster, as Associate to the Rector with responsibility for Christian Education. You may remember Karen as she celebrated at Cople Parish in Kaki's absence last summer.

Karen will assist **The Rev. Charles Sydnor**, former rector of St. George's Church in Fredericksburg and a "son of Cople Parish", with any pastoral care needs requiring a priest. If you have any such need, please contact the office (472-2593), Sue Taylor, or John Sydnor, Sr. Warden, who will make the decision whom to contact. Your vestry members and Sue Green will be making regular calls on members of the parish who are unable to be in church. If you need such a visit, please call the office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Roanoke Farm, Heathsville <b>5-8 PM</b> , Blugrass & Barbeque, sponsored by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
7 <b>10 am</b> HC & Blessing of the Fleet St. James, Tidwell Bring a dish for lunch following. <b>No other service this day.</b>	8	9	10	11 <b>10am</b> Ameslee Hall History & Architecture of Colonial Churches Program <b>11am</b> ECW, PH Hostesses: Nancy Mesick, Carolyn Neal, Elaine Neal	12	13
14 <b>9 am</b> HC Nomini <b>11am</b> HC Yeocomico	15	16 <b>6:30pm</b> Vestry, PH	17	18 <b>10am</b> Ameslee Hall History & Architecture of Colonial Churches Program	19	20
21 <b>9 am</b> HC Nomini <b>11am</b> HC Yeocomico	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <b>9 am</b> HC Nomini <b>11am</b> HC Yeocomico	29	30				



# Annual "Blessing of the Fleet

Sunday, June 7, 2009

Service of Holy Eucharist 10:00 am,

St James Church, Tidwells

Vessels welcome at the pier next door, to the right as you face the church from the water. Please bring a dish to add to the buffet picnic lunch to follow in St James parish hall. If you would like to have your vessel among those blessed, please call the name to Sue at the office no later than June 2<sup>nd</sup> to be included.

All are invited!! Bring a friend! No Boat too small!

The EpisCople News is published by Cople Parish.

The Rev. Catherine W. Swann, Rector,

John Sydnor,, Sr. Warden, Mary Young Tracy, Jr. Warden, Stevenson Walker, Treasurer

**Cople Parish**  
**P.O. Box 110**  
**Hague, VA 22469**

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