



Christ Church
900 Glendower Road
Scottsville, VA 24590
ca 1832



St. John's Church
410 Harrison Street
Scottsville, VA 24590
ca 1878



St. Stephen's Church
7484 Esmont Road
Esmont, VA 22937
ca 1914

communities of faith worshipping God

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION by Deidre Dickens

I've always had a propensity to live with one foot planted in the present and the other ready to jump into the future. I would make a great Boy Scout, following the motto to "be prepared." I suppose I like being in control, a human frailty many of us share. Being quiet, still, and living in the moment is something I've never excelled at either. I continue to work on these things. But God has a way of slowing us down sometimes, forcing us "to be still and know that I am God..." Psalm 46:10. Having had recent hip replacement surgery, I've had ample opportunity to be quiet and reflect on my life's journey so far. And one of the things I pondered was my level of spiritual maturity.

I believe, as many do, that we are holistic, complex human beings made up of three parts: physical, mental and spiritual. I'm of the age that I am considered by society's standards to be a mature (senior) citizen. Physically, I am healthy. I am also considered mentally healthy because I haven't been diagnosed with a mental illness. But, how do I determine if I am spiritually mature? There is no test that I am aware of to measure my spiritual maturity, nor is there a definitive answer.

I know what spiritual maturity is not. It's not just my standing with God. When I first put my trust in God, His righteousness and His Grace covered me for life, with no expiration date. Being spiritually mature does not mean that I have read and studied the Bible from front to back. There are Biblical scholars that may not be spiritually mature either. Is the Holy Bible our instruction manual for life? I surely seek it for wisdom, but it doesn't exactly read like any textbook or reference book I'm used to. How about if I could check off all the boxes of being "churched": to attend church, be involved in a Bible Study, volunteer, witness to others, tithe, etc. No, I don't believe that qualifies me either.

At what age does spiritual maturity happen? As infants we are born total dependent on others for sustenance. As children, we have adults to guide us. As teenagers, we first discover we must mature and eventually become independent. It's an "all-too-quick" realization. Then before we know it, we are parents and have little ones looking to us for safety and protection.

I've always been independent and mature for my age. According to my elementary school teachers, I sought the title with great fervor! I wanted to do things my way. As an adult, I even sought to be independent of God without realizing it. I wrongly felt I shouldn't go to God with the minutiae of my everyday life. You only bother God with the big stuff, when things are dire. I don't know where I learned this. How foolish I was. Did I believe this was spiritual maturity?

This is what I now know for sure about my spiritual maturity. God wants a close, every day relationship with me. He wants me to depend on Him for everything, not just my sustenance. Nothing is too trivial. He wants me to surrender daily my own importance (ego, independence) and seek Him FIRST for guidance. He expects my gratitude, not just my petitioning Him in my prayers. My daily prayers include, "Thank you God for taking the wheel in my life and steering me in the direction you would have me go." "Thank you for giving me 'enough' of what I need for today and for reminding me to stay in the moment," and "Help me to be a blessing to others."

My life has taken a "village"--my parents, teachers, spouse, friends, siblings, and church family. I will continue to need others. But the stronger my relationship with God, the less guidance and approval I will require of others. And as far as I can see, there is no rite of passage to spiritual maturity and no pinnacle you reach. No prize. You just keep SEEKING to be more Christlike, to be in prayer and to be more spiritually mature.

May God grant you the knowledge of what it means for you to be spiritually mature on your life journey!

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts. May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy. May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with us this day and remain with us forever. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes will take place on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Church with the Rev. Grace Cangialosi presiding.

The Women's Group will meet at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, March 9 at St. John's. The discussion will follow a podcast/interview with Eugene Peterson that was aired on the radio program On Being, called "The Bible, Poetry, and Active Imagination."

Second Sunday Soup is next week, March 10. All members of the parish are invited to come together to share a communal meal of soup, bread and dessert. Meet in the Parish House at noon. Please help out by bringing food to share.

Movie Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, March 13 in the home of Alan and Cyndra Van Clief (5975 Alberene Rd., Esmont) at 6:45 p.m. for a viewing and discussion of "Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood." For more information, 295-0466.

The Vestry will meet on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Church.

Bread of Life Ministry: Volunteers are needed on Friday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m. to help with setting up grocery bags and on Saturday, March 16 at 8:00 a.m. to help with distributing food. Meet at the Scottsville Community Center rear entrance. For more information, please contact Bill Hyson at 286-2892.

Mobile Food Pantry needs volunteers on Tuesday, March 26. The Mobile Food Pantry distributes food to families in need the fourth Tuesday of the month. Meet at the Scottsville Farmer's Market Pavilion at 9:00 a.m. For more information contact Eileen Pillar at 286-2563.

Questors will meet on Friday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of David and Tracy Kaminer (7530 Damon Road, Schuyler, VA) for fellowship and discussion of life's perplexing questions. Please join us! Email for directions, kaminertracy@gmail.com.

Weekday Eucharist A simple, short Eucharist is offered at St. John's Church at 8:00 a.m. every Thursday (please enter at the side door on Bird Street). Those who are able, and wish to, may gather at Baine's Coffee and Books following the service.

Centering Prayer Group meets Thursday evenings from 6:45 -8:15 p.m. for centering and discussion in the home of Eleanor Winsor, ewwinsor@embarqmail.com.

CRITICAL NEED

We have a critical need in our St. Anne's community. One of our Parish family members is facing another cancer surgery and has some outstanding financial challenges. If you can help, please contact the church office. Thank you! Here are some of the needs:

Plumbing repair for kitchen sink.

Groceries (veggies and meat—food allergies to gluten, soy, corn, beans)

A home for a horse

Financial assistance with power, propane, and phone bills.

Prayers for the surgery to go well March 15.



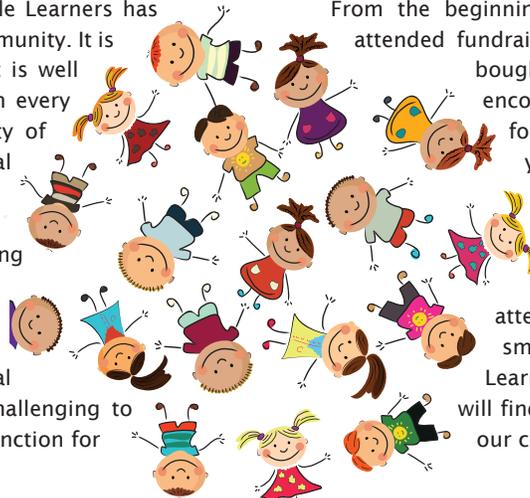
EMERGENCIES

If you need support from the church, please reach out. You can call Brenda Hyson, the church secretary, at the office during the day on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, 434-286-3437. If an urgent matter arises, we want to help. If you have a medical emergency, contact Eleanor Winsor at ewwinsor@embarqmail.com, 434-286-4730, or Tracy Kaminer at 434-831-1043, or kaminertracy@gmail.com. We will find a parishioner or, if appropriate, a priest to help you.

LITTLE LEARNERS

On August 22, 2018 Little Learners began its third year of operation. In that seemingly short period Little Learners has become a fixture in the greater Scottsville Community. It is known for its quality of care and a staff that is well trained, supervised, energetic and engaged in every child's well being and education. This quality of care is noted by the Department of Social Services in their regular monitoring visits. One of those visits took place on February 11. It was an unannounced visit by our licensing specialist, Carol Troxell who observed "the staff/child interactions were positive and individual needs of the children were met."

I note this because a Department of Social Services license is difficult to achieve and challenging to maintain, and Little Learners has had that distinction for the entire time of its operation.



St. Anne's Parish's generosity has been a critical part of this success. From the beginning most of you have made individual donations, attended fundraising events, volunteered your time and expertise, bought greeting cards the staff printed, and offered your encouragement and well wishes. This is a point of pride for the Parish family. Please continue all of the work you are doing. Tuition alone will never cover all the costs of keeping a Child Development Center open 57 ½ hours a week. Our hardworking families know this and appreciate the support that keeps the tuition costs affordable. If you are able to attend a fundraising event, seek out a family with a small child and ask them if their child attends Little Learners. Tell them you are a member of St. Anne's. You will find a grateful parent. We will have done good work in our community.

Chris Yates

St. Anne's Annual Parish Meeting Report

At our annual meeting last month, Jim Campbell, senior warden, reported that our parish is enthusiastic, involved, and committed to moving forward, especially now that St. John's repairs have been made. Weekly services at Christ Church and St. Stephen's are led by supply priests, and a small group gathers at St. John's on Thursday mornings for Eucharist or morning prayer. In the absence of an Interim priest, we have found new strengths among ourselves in communication and leadership. Jim noted that we had been in serious talks with the Rev. Tom Hughes about serving as our Interim. For positive personal reasons, Rev. Hughes has decided against moving forward with us, but we are grateful that he will be with us for the month of April, including Easter, and welcome back the Rev. Grace Cangiolosi for the rest of March, including Ash Wednesday. As we continue with supply priests until we secure an Interim, we are grateful for the inspirational and dedicated priests who continue to lead us on Sundays.

Parish members elected Alan Van Clief and Jim Wilson to the Vestry and reappointed Jim Campbell to serve for another year as Senior Warden to help with this time of transition.

John Dickens is serving as our Construction Manager, working with our Junior Warden, Jim Wilson. His objective is to perform high quality, durable work, in a cost effective way. Here are a few of the projects he has already taken on. John's dedication and service to the church are greatly appreciated.

Christ Church

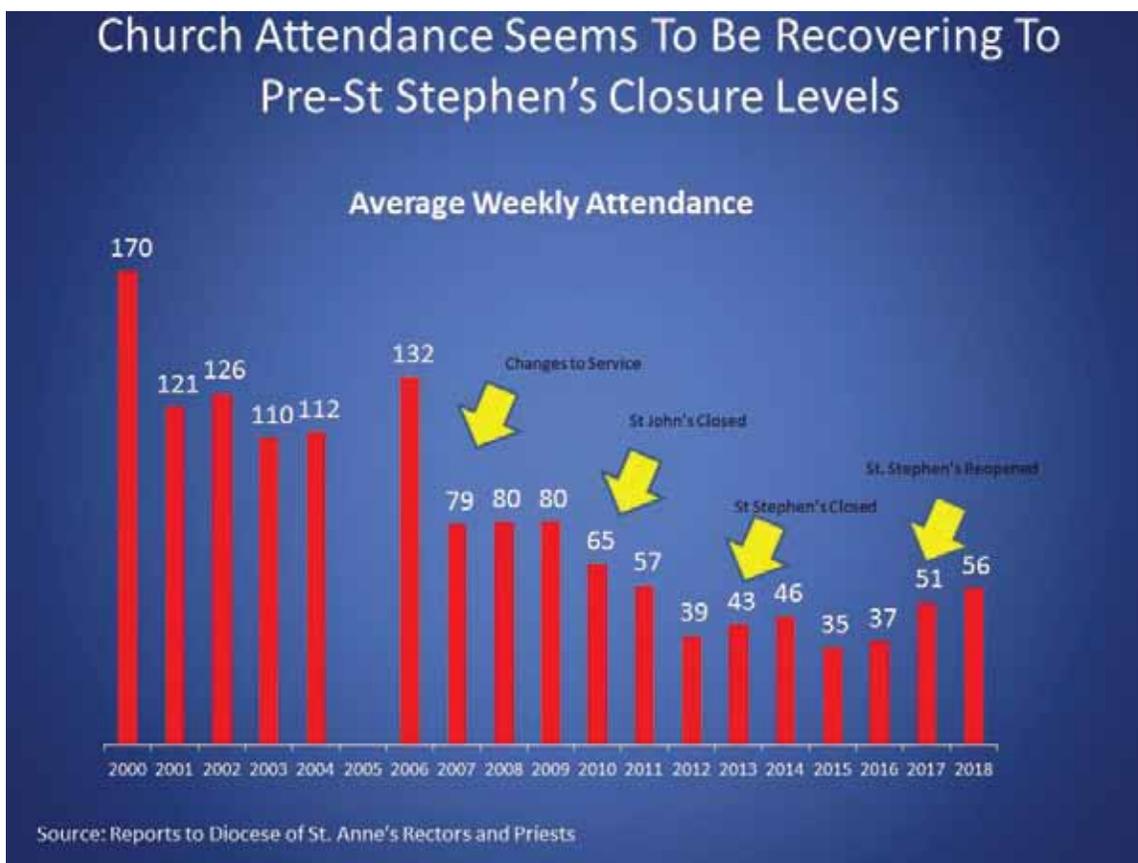
- Temporary freeze proof barrier placed around bottom of sacristy
- Mortar work in church a priority and funding requested from Carter Foundation; serpentine wall a less important priority
- Parish hall roof repaired. Getting quote on durable paint
- John is planning repairs inside church including trim, sacristy ceiling, permanent freeze barrier, gutters, woodwork, etc.

St. Johns

- Foundation repairs completed in 2018
- Drainage still to be done

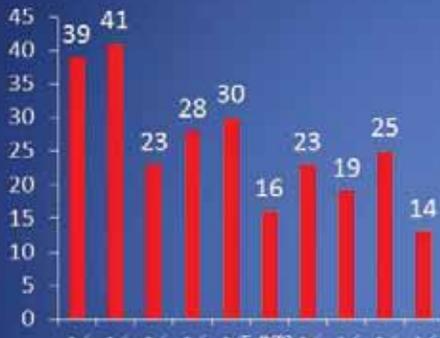
Jim reported on the budget, noting that the giving last year was good, but we had an unexpected \$11,000 catch up expense related to the pension fund. That was a one-time expense, and if we can attain the same level of giving this year, we may have a small surplus at the end, if we don't have any unexpected repair issues, he said. We are currently behind in our needs for this year. Pledging so far this year totals only half of our projected budget, he reported. Thank you if you have already pledged this year. If you have not, please consider making a pledge.

"To paraphrase the Rev. Mary Thorpe, Diocesan Director of Transitions, there seems to be a lot of love coming from St. Anne's right now," said Jim. The love was evident at the parish meeting, with many positive comments and plenty of thanks to go around. Jim reminded us of our mission: "We help spread the Gospel and the Word of the Lord, as we are Christ's body on earth."



Final 2018 pledges were healthy but 2019 pledges look incomplete

Number of Pledges



Pledged \$



Average Pledged \$



The Balance in the Trust Funds Fell With Market Fluctuation in 2018, And As We Repaired St. John's, Drew on the Cemetery & General Endowment Funds

Trust Fund \$ Balances



- The Ending Balance each year equals the opening balance, plus fund income and growth, less any withdrawals
- Investment professionals generally consider a withdrawal of 3% to be possible without eroding the long term growth of the fund over time
- The income from the funds almost always exceed 3%, and have been closer to 4% since 2013

Income From All Funds	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	\$25,103	\$24,373	\$21,852	\$20,730	\$22,344	\$25,916

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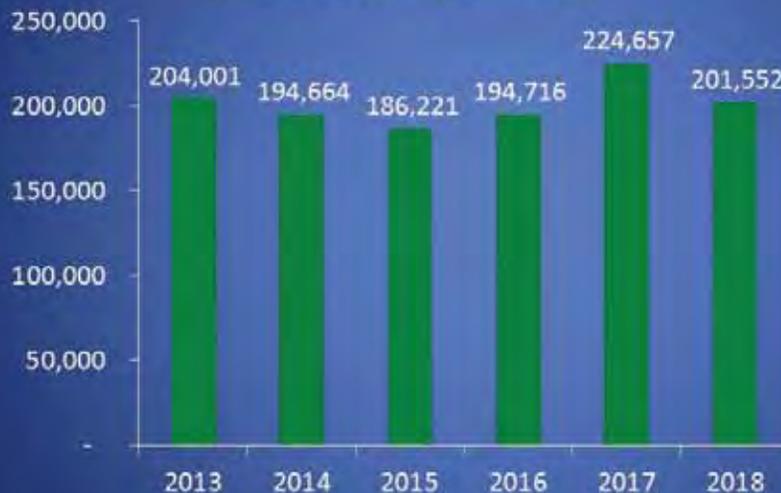


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In 2017, the Vestry voted to Have the Cemetery Fund Cover More Grounds Maintenance Costs

Cemetery Fund \$ Balances



2018 Was Tight Against Budget, With The Exception of Unanticipated Clergy Pension Costs*

	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	Variance
Income	\$119,900	\$117,880	\$2,020
Expenses	\$125,185	\$116,952	(\$8,233)
Surplus (Deficit)	\$(5,285)	\$928	(\$6,213)

*The excess clergy pension costs was an unanticipated true-up for prior years, totalling \$11,293. This is a non-recurring catch-up expense and will not repeat

Given Uncertain Timing of an Interim Appointment, Our 2019 Budget Reflects Continuation of the Current State

	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Income	\$119,900	\$120,000
Expenses	\$125,185	\$115,000
Surplus (Deficit)	\$(5,285)	\$5,000

- Extra income from the rectory rental will help mitigate the need for trust draw down, although pledges, repair costs, and compensation for a part time interim priest are risks to this budget