

# Redeeming Features

from

THE CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2010

## To Know Christ And Make Him Known In Word and Deed

### Church of Our Redeemer is:

A Christ-centered, family-oriented,  
multi-generational Episcopal  
congregation in the historic village of  
Aldie, Virginia.



### Church of Our Redeemer

A center of spiritual growth  
and Christian discipleship

... A place where God's living  
word is preached and prac-  
ticed day by day

... A light in our community,  
providing a place of faith and  
fellowship



THE REVEREND  
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### The Mysterious Impact of Prayer

Saint John Chrysostom wrote this about the power of prayer:

"Prayer is an all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by the clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings. . . . The potency of prayer hath subdued the strength of fire, it hath bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest; extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt."

Who can read that and not be tempted to exclaim, "Is that simple rhetoric?" No, not so. Each of the instances referred to by Chrysostom is drawn right out of the Scriptures.

In all of its expressions, whether halting and short or flowing in beautiful, well-structured phrases, prayer is simply a conversation with God. If we turn prayer into a monologue or use it as a way to showcase our gift with words or as a venue for informing or instructing others who may be listening, we defeat the very purpose of prayer. The Bible makes it clear that prayer is intended as the line of connection from the heart of the praying person directly to the heart of God. Jesus himself practiced a lifestyle of prayer and urged his disciples to imitate him by making it part of their daily existence. His prayers represented prayer at its best and most sincere.

I marvel at the impact of praying with a hurting person. I have prayed many times with someone who has claimed to be a skeptic and is living in a way that supports that claim, only to finish my prayer and open my eyes to see tears in his eyes. Although prayer remains a mystery to all of us, but especially to one who lives apart from God, again and again I have found that even the hardened heart still longs for the possibility of communicating with God.

Prayer can accomplish amazing things, reaching into hearts in a way that all the correct answers to questions that are honestly asked sometimes cannot do. Conversely, more certainly than anything else, sustained prayer that seems to bring nothing in response can result in a sense of futility with life and an erosion of faith. Like the myth of Sisyphus, who repeatedly rolled a huge rock up a mountain only to watch it roll down again, unanswered prayer may well be where most of those who have lost their faith began their journey into un-

(Continued on page 5)

## **Reflections and Revelations....from Worthy Caulk**

In 1998, our Junior Warden, Tom Yarbrough, was assigned a task: a complete inventory of church property for insurance purposes. "I can work on fences, driveways and plumbing," he said. "I will build, lift, tote, use a tractor or clean gutters, but I cannot count those little things you women use on the altar. I do not even know what you call them."

So, naturally, he could not decide on their value. It fell to the women of the Altar Guild to help, and although they knew what to call them, they also found it difficult to say what they were worth. How do you place a monetary value on a fragile linen cloth, carefully hemmed and embroidered by hand in memory of a beloved church member in the long ago? Used now only for Bishop's visits or holiest days, some of our fair linens are irreplaceable in their true value.

Church catalogs are filled with new things- silver chalices, brass crosses, crystal cruets, lovely altar linens for every purpose, priest's albs and chasubles, fine furnishing for God's house. Their cost is amazing, prohibitive to small or new churches, one would think. How lucky Redeemer is to have such beautiful things, most of them given as memorials throughout its life-time; things chosen with loving care by families and vestries, each to compliment the charm of the building itself.

The lustrous brass offering plates, the cross, altar vases and candlesticks, the chain-hung brass lanterns, all were given in the names of loved ones, all engraved with those names and those of their donors.

The gleaming communion silver, engraved in like manner. But the note the elegance of this style, simple, yet perfect for Redeemer's needs. Purchased a hundred years ago, it is now antique. Its value? Invaluable to this church. As are cut glass cruets and flagons.

Taking inventory of the Sacristy was not easy. It was a good time to check on the number and the condition of the church's worldly goods, but it was very eye-opening to realize how difficult it would be to replace those things which we so long have taken for granted.

The altar hangings made by Redeemer women are an example. A half century ago, this little country village church had used fine satin damask materials for its communion veils, burses and the rector's stoles. They complimented the heavy green velvet dossal curtain behind the altar, evidently all original church hangings – and appropriate to the era of its founding.

Then along came Dorita Masterson to live at nearby Sally Mill House. With Episcopal upbringing, an artist's eye and sewing-machine magic, Dorita changed the women of the church into an Altar Guild and the altar to more modern dress.

A young, just forming Episcopal church in the Diocese was delighted to have the old, still beautiful hangings. Velvet and damask were replaced with homespun-woven linen. Heavy woven crosses were relinquished for smaller church symbols sewn into place by hand. Suddenly, there were frontals, bible markers, stoles, veils and burses, all made by the Altar Guild in colors of the church seasons – white, green, purple and red. Dorita, Ellen Russell and Dede Kaylor stitched for weeks, creating lovely white linen and deep blue dossals (chosen to match the ceiling!) To bring down the colors from the stained glass memorial window above the altar, a new curtain of lighter blue was sewn by Jean Rich and became the background color for the needle pointed cushions and kneelers done by Redeemer women.

Through the years checks had come into the Memorial Fund, some marked to be used for the altar only. What better use than this!

How much are all those things worth? No value can be put on Redeemer's belongings – not even on prayer books and hymnals, given as they were "in loving memory" along with everything else – trees, shrubbery and the sacristy cupboard itself. We can only hope that they will always be there, seen with new eyes and greater appreciation, loved and taken care of in the future as they have been in the past. Insured - and assured - of the value of their place in our lives of worship.

## **On Prayer and Persistence**

In 1583, Richard Hakluyt, an Anglican priest, was a chaplain to the English ambassador in France. Pastor Hakluyt began to have a passion for Native Americans and began to pray for them.

He became one of the world's leading authorities on navigation and seafaring. Hakluyt began advocating to Queen Elizabeth I that England should have a permanent colony in the New World.

In his famous "Discourse on Western Planting" in which he presented 21 reasons why England should pursue the colonization of North America, Hakluyt gave evangelism as the primary reason to settle in America.

In 1603, King James ascended to the throne with the death of Queen Elizabeth. Hakluyt helped create the Virginia Company to make evangelism a key objective of this new colony.

In 1606, King James issued the "Virginia Charter" to evangelize Christianity "to such people as yet live in darkness." The Charter gave the Virginia Company authority to establish an English colony.

The following year, after more than 20 years of prayer, America's first permanent settlement, Jamestown, Virginia, was established.

We are called to pray without ceasing — let us not grow weary — let us not lose heart.



**Mrs. Prochaska's Sunday School class in front of Joseph's sheaf of wheat.  
Lizzie Elliehausen, Marie Hicks, Louise Hicks, Kayla West, Tommie West**

lief.

### **The Mysterious Impact of Prayer** (continued fro page 1)

It is not my intention to deny the great disappointments of unanswered prayer or even to attempt to provide answers to why our prayers are not answered. Rather, I want to take a good, hard look at what God intends prayer to be.

The most definitive passage on prayer is the Lord's Prayer. The highly significant first words carry the weight of all of prayer: "Our Father in heaven." This is a uniquely Christian utterance. In these two words alone —" Our Father" —we recognize, at least implicitly, two truths: the nearness of God as our heavenly Father, and the sovereignty of God as the one who controls everything. As soon as you cry out in prayer, "Heavenly Father," you are recognizing his sovereign rule over your life.

And on the heels of the Lord's Prayer and as his conclusion to it, Jesus tells us that God will give the Holy Spirit, his indwelling presence, to those who ask for it. That is the whole point of the prayer. It is not spoken in the form of a question — It ends with an exclamation point. God will give the gift of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to any who asks for it — this is an absolute certainty! You can count on it!

Sadly, we hear so little of this today. We have turned prayer into a means to our ends and seldom wait long enough for God's response to think about what he wants for us in that very moment. By reducing the evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to one particular gift, we have robbed people of the Holy Presence that prompts us in prayer, prays for us when we don't have the words to pray for ourselves, and comforts us in our times of need.

The overriding need in the church today and in the individual Christian is the indwelling presence of God. In this incredible twist, the indwelling presence of God, the Holy Spirit, makes God both the enabler of our prayers and the provider of answers to those prayers. More than anything else, this is what prayer is about — training one's hungers and longings to correspond with God's will for us — and it is what the Christian faith is all about. Paul reminds us of this numerous times. Jesus talks of the prompting from within and the provision that comes from without, which is the work of the Holy Spirit within us and the provision of God from without.





At Shrine Mont,  
You Pick  
The Blackberries.



You Don't Talk on Them.



**Our Redeemer's 3rd Family Retreat At Shrine Mont**

*November 12, 13, 14*

Don't miss Church of Our Redeemer's Family Retreat at Shrine Mont, the Diocese of Virginia's conference center in the Shenandoah Valley. A time for family and friends, for prayer and reflection, for rest and recreation. A time to turn your back on the daily rat race, to turn off your cell phones and BlackBerrys, to escape the petty tyranny of calendars and e-mails. A time to rediscover the peace that passes all understanding.

Our Weekend Retreat will also include ...

- \* Great food
- \* Lots of free time
- \* Children's Program and Nursery
- \* Super speaker
- \* Entertainment

**DEADLINE  
TO REGISTER:  
OCTOBER 29**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

*Registration includes two nights lodging and six meals.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Prices for the Retreat*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Adults – \$132 per person # \_\_\_\_ @ \$132 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth – Under 4 Free # \_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$36 Age 4-7 # \_\_\_\_ @ \$36 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Names for Name Tags

\$84 Age 8-12 # \_\_\_\_ @ \$84 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Adults: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Total \$ \_\_\_\_

Youth: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax (5.25%) \$ \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_

Deposit \$25 per Adult = \$ \_\_\_\_

Balance due October 29 \$ \_\_\_\_

## **Pray continually for your children**

*I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they are Yours. John 17:9 (NIV)*

Jesus reflected the father heart of God when he prayed for the disciples. As a father, or mother, you can pray that your children will focus on the five purposes of God. God's five purposes for your children are the same as God's five purposes for your life and the same as the five purposes for the church. Jesus prayed for all five purposes in the lives of those He was leading -- Jesus said, "I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given Me, for they are Yours." (John 17:9, NIV)

We can pray that our children will LIVE FOR CHRIST joyfully: "I pray these things while I'm still in the world so that they will have the same joy that I have." (John 17:13, GW) We can pray that our children will GROW STRONG spiritually: "I'm not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one." (John 17:15, NLT) We can pray that our children will SERVE CHRIST effectively: "Make them ready for Your service through your truth; Your teaching is truth." (John 17:17, NCV) We can pray that our children will EXPERIENCE FELLOWSHIP personally: "My prayer is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as You and I are one, Father ... and the world will believe You sent Me." (John 17:21, LB)

We can pray that our children will BRING OTHERS TO CHRIST regularly: "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in Me because of their message." (John 17:20, TEV) Even if you are not a father, or a mother, you will help others move toward the heart of God by praying for them and the purposes God planned for their lives.

## **You Ought to Be In Pictures**

Practice your best smile and save these dates to have your pictures taken for the new church directory

Thursday September 16,  
Friday September 17,  
Saturday September 18 .



Olan Mills will be contacting you to set up a time that is convenient to you.

Church contact person is Kay Skelton 703 753 3982.

## **Neighbor to Neighbor - Reaching Out**

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all peoples. . ." (Mat 28:19)*

In the past, in obedience to Jesus' call, we have gone out, inviting our neighbors to visit Church of Our Redeemer.

Studies of church membership show that most folks visit a church for the first time because they have been invited.

Therefore, on **Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>** we will once again venture out "two by two" inviting our neighbors living in Stone Ridge and South Riding, who are searching for a church home, to come and try Church of Our Redeemer.

Some of you may think that this is Father John's job, but it is not his alone. The Book of Common Prayer states that: "The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons." (p 855)

We will gather at 10:00 AM for prayer and instruction before we venture out.

Alexander Owusu-Gyawu, Vestry Outreach Liaison

# The ALPHA Course

## **What is ALPHA?**

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha course will meet once per week for 11 weeks, and includes an amazing one-day or weekend getaway. At each session, people enjoy great food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile...questions like—Is there a God? Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?

## **What's Involved?**

The Alpha course will last 11 weeks, with a Friday evening and Saturday getaway in the middle. We will meet on Wednesday evenings beginning on September 22 — each session will last about 2 hours.

Each session will begin with a meal - a chance to get to know others. Then there is a short talk which looks at a different aspect of the Christian faith each week.

This is followed by a time of discussion in small groups, where everyone is welcome to contribute their opinion and ask questions. We will stay in the same small groups for the duration of the course so we can get to know each other, continue discussions and deepen friendships.

The emphasis is upon exploration and discovery in a relaxed and informal environment.

## **Where is ALPHA?**

The Church of Our Redeemer, 39518 John Mosby Hwy., (Rt. 50) Aldie, VA 20105  
703-327-4060

## **REGISTRATION FORM**

Please complete this form and return it to the address above.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobil: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) for Name Tags: \_\_\_\_\_

**Coming Events — Mark your Calendar**

**Parish Picnic — Sunday September 12, 2010**

**ALPHA — Wednesday September 22, 2010  
Exploring the Christian Faith : Why, What, How**

**The Aldie Harvest Festival  
Church of Our Redeemer's Family Festival  
and  
Celebrate Aldie's 200th Birthday  
Saturday, October 16, 2010**

**Our Redeemer's Shrine Mont Family Retreat  
November 12-14, 2010**

**The Church of Our Redeemer**  
39518 John Mosby Hwy  
P.O. Box 217  
Aldie, VA 20105

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