



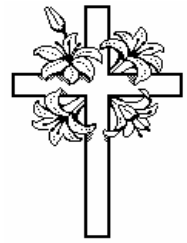
# Buck Mountain News

April-May 2010

The Newsletter of Buck Mountain Episcopal Church

In service since 1747

*The Reverend Connie Clark, Vicar*



## **Buck Mountain Vestry and Officers**

**Connie Clark**  
Vicar

**David Canoles** (Class of 2012)  
Senior Warden

**Dan Bauer** (Class of 2011)  
Junior Warden

**Ann Eddins** (Class of 2012)  
Register

**Lucia Bakewell** (Class of 2011)

**Bill Johnson** (Class of 2012)

**Joseph Oliver** (Class of 2010)

**Charles Bakewell**, Treasurer

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Buck Mountain  
Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 183  
Earlsville, VA 22936  
434-973-2054

**Rebecca Trexler**, newsletter editor, may be contacted at: [rebeccatrexler@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccatrexler@gmail.com)  
434-964-1930.

The church web site is:

<http://buckmountainchurch.org>

## ***From the Vicar***

### **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Some of you may have heard me mutter about the Episcopal custom of “burying the Alleluias” during Lent. This is supposed to reflect our gravity during a solemn season of penitence, but I have a hard time practicing it. I would argue that we will be more penitential the more we realize the greatness of God, and if saying “Alleluia” helps us realize that, then I’m all for it year-round. However, I have behaved myself and stuck to tradition, which is why I am so happy that Easter is here!



The French writer Léon Bloy said, “Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God,” and it is this principle which explains for me the praise and hymns coming from Haitian people in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. It explains, too, something that our final Lenten speaker, Helen Trainor, described: Women stacked in overcrowded cells in Virginia jails, women with seemingly no hope for their lives, singing hymns as they go to sleep at night. And it explains how Christians so often meet death with peace; as our Burial liturgy says, “Even at the grave we make our song/Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.”

God is always present, but we are often able to perceive God’s presence more clearly when we are in pain or trouble. It’s also possible that God is present to us in a more intimate way when we are in need. It’s clear to me that joy in the Christian life, and the expression and cultivation of joy in the Christian community, are vital.

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**Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and to each other in Christ.  
We are committed to knowing Christ, to making Him known, and to doing God’s work in the world.**

# From the Vestry

## February Meeting

**Treasurer's Report.** Charlie reported that account balances as of Jan. 31 totaled \$118,830. The Buck Mountain Episcopal Church Fund as of the end of January was \$773. The goal is to save it for future uses. All undirected memorial funds are to be transferred into this fund.

Charlie reported that tax letters have been mailed. Pledges for 2010 totaled \$105,272 from 47 pledges for an average of \$2,240. The revised budget submitted to the Diocese shows a deficit that will be funded from church savings. The vestry will try to reduce the deficit by increasing their pledges by ten percent and asking the congregation to do the same.

**Clergy Report from Connie.** Connie is continuing to launch Diane into her job, which now includes a calendar linked to the church website; planning Lenten programs and the Bishop's visit; pastoral visits; and attending the Diocesan Council. A group has been formed to decide whether the Wednesday healing services should continue since attendance has been low.

**Clergy Report from Anne.** Anne will conduct an end-of-life series and explore a training program, Walking the Mourner's Path, to help people turn grief into healthy mourning. We would need to have at least ten attendees to offer a three-day training program. The cost is about \$250 a person.

**Senior Warden's Report.** Dave said Ruth Gibson and Harry Austin are now trustees of Buck Mountain. He passed out a vestry checklist describing the responsibilities of vestry

duty at church services. Beverly suggested adding having someone check the answering service messages on the church phone.

**Junior Warden's Report.** Dan said we now have a maintenance agreement with Robertson Electric. The December snow damaged the copper gutters, which are insured. Dan will obtain prices for replacing the gutters; he may decide to use aluminum and perhaps recycle the copper for cash. There was flooding in the sacristy bathroom and some tiles need to be replaced. Dan will obtain a programmable thermostat for Deese Hall. As an Eagle Scout project, Jonathan Davis will work on the Parish Hall kitchen under the supervision of Dan, Chris Rembold, and Cliff Smith.

**Committee Reports.** Lucia reported for the Art Committee that Katie Tunis's exhibit of pastels and photography will be hung Feb. 12. In the spring Lucia and Janet Wiley are planning to work with the church teenagers on a possible exhibit.

Dan reported the Earth Stewardship Committee is monitoring utility usage and obtaining prices to insulate the Parish Hall. Some money was raised for this purpose by the Barbecue and Blues event, and an anonymous donor offered to match new contributions up to a certain amount. Susan Midland attended a meeting of Stewardship of Creation in Ashland.

The Cemetery Committee needs a new member, and Ann volunteered.

**New Business.** Bill Johnson, Connie and Ruth Gibson attended the Diocesan Council and heard that Bishop Johnston's five points for action are also Buck Mountain's: youth and young adults; outreach, both local and broader; evangelism; multi-cultural and ethnic ministries; and strength of the existing congregation. We are moving in the right direction.

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**Old Business.** Dave said the newly formed Communications Committee will figure out what resources they need to attract new members and make the church better known in the community. Co-chair Brent Camden set up a Facebook page for Buck Mountain. Connie is working on a mission/vision statement.

## **March Meeting**

Dan Bauer (as usual) has been very active over the past few months. He is negotiating to have our gutter repaired from the snow damage. It has failed in the corner where it intersects with Deese Hall and will probably be replaced with aluminum to keep costs at a minimum. Our insurance will pay for most, if not all, of the damage.

Dan contracted and oversaw repairs to the parking lot and had it widened by about 4 feet to provide more room for navigating vehicles.

Beverly Bivens, our liaison to the Diocese, responded to questions concerning a Mustard Seed Grant which is awarded by the Diocese each year. Using Beverly's input, Dan took the lead on preparing a letter requesting funding for improvements to the Parish Hall. The initial request to the Diocese is due the first week in April and will be followed with a detailed request later this spring.

Mustard Seed monies are being requested for insulation, installation of a second restroom, and construction of storage space for table and chair storage. If we receive the grant, it also will be used to help upgrade the kitchen, which is an ongoing project led by Jonathan Davis. Special thanks to Connie and Marigail Wynne who provided input for the grant request and to Dan and Beverly for making it happen.

**-Ann C. Eddins, Register  
and Dave Canoles, Senior Warden**

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It is that joy that arises from a sense of God's presence that allows us to be resilient in doing the work we are called to do. After I finished lining up the speakers for our Lenten series, I wondered if I had overdone it on the difficult social issues. Marit Gay's excellent presentation on her Appalachian Trail journey offered us a welcome respite, but surrounding her talk were sessions on the Haiti medical mission and Tanzania mission we support, alcoholism, and the (neglected) civil rights of incarcerated persons in Virginia. Was it too much?

I don't know; it might have been. But here's what I know about the people of Buck Mountain Church: You have hearts overflowing with the desire to help others, and you know how to celebrate. You know how to laugh and feast; you know how to work hard for the coming of the reign of God. As long as we are dancing and laughing together – with our laughter grounded in the goodness of God – we can face the pain of the world with confidence. The evidence of this is abundant in our lives together.

So this Easter, I look back on a Lenten season filled with joy – the Cajun Spice Cabaret, the visit of Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo, and many smaller moments of celebration – and filled with work and serious consideration of the plight of our brothers and sisters, near and far. I can't think of a better way to prepare for the great season of Easter, during which we can say and sing, without restraint, as many "Alleluias" as we need to express our joy in God. And that is a lot of "Alleluias!"

Love in Christ,

*Connie*

(The Rev.) Connie Clark

## Play and Rejoice at Shrine Mont 2010

It's time to sign up for our parish weekend at Shrine Mont! This year's theme, "Play and Rejoice," indicates the activities we'll be offering:

- Hikes and nature walks
- Just hanging out and relaxing
- Bonfire with marshmallows and singing
- Arts and crafts
- Music and dancing!
- Board games on the porches
- "Boule," also known as Bocce, on the lawn – plus badminton, volleyball, and more!

And of course, there's always the joy of being at beautiful Shrine Mont in May and worshipping on Sunday morning at the outdoor Cathedral.

Once again this year, *kids come free!* Cost for adults, including lodging and all (ample) meals, is \$142.50 for the week-

end. Financial aid is available, as are rides if you need one. Look for registration forms in the mail or in Deese Hall, and sign up soon! Questions? Contact Leslie Richard at 973-1494 or



## Bishop Shannon Makes First Visit To Buck Mountain



(l to r) Bishop Shannon, Nancy Bauer, Andrae Watson with baby Landon, Christina Watson, and Trina Nelson.

During Bishop Shannon's first visit to Buck Mountain on Feb. 14, he baptized Landon David Watson, son of Christina and Andrae; grandson of Trina Nelson; and great-grandson of Dan and Nancy Bauer (the proud great-grandfather is behind the camera capturing smiles).

The Bishop also confirmed Trina Nelson and received John Jones during this special Valentine's day service.

The entire congregation got to meet and chat with Bishop Shannon at a wonderful reception following the morning service.

## Time to Donate Treasures for Silent Auction

**O**n Friday evening, April 30, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the ECW will host a silent auction in the Parish Hall. While you survey and bid on the auction items you can munch on heavy appetizers and beverages. Final bids must be recorded by 7:45 p.m.

We need items to auction. Dinners! Brunches! Flowers! Foods! Gift Baskets! Garden produce! Antiques! Collectibles! Jewelry! Labor! Art! You get the picture. Look around your house, garden, garage, and attic. There are bound to be some priceless gems you no longer need but others may covet. Only, be sure whatever is donated is in good working order and has all its parts – no junk please. This isn't a yard sale, so we do want quality items. Something you just couldn't live without (up until now).

The proceeds from the Silent Auction will benefit the Outreach Mission and Ministries projects of the ECW. Just this year the ECW gave \$2,000 that was divided equally between Partners in Health and the Episcopal Relief and Development for medical and building aid in Haiti. The coffers need to be replenished in order for the ECW to continue to serve God in His world.

Please come. Please donate. Please open your wallets to this most worthy event – the ECW's primary fundraiser for the year.

Please use the donation form available for pick up in Deese Hall to describe your contribution (s). Watch for an announcement for drop off times and dates.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Gibson 978-1226 or Sally Hoehn 973-0227.

**-Ruth Gibson**

## My Dear Buck Mountain Friends,



My heartfelt thanks for your wonderful tributes to Dale's memory. I am grateful for your cards, emails, telephone calls, flowers, and special gifts in memory of Dale to Buck Mountain Church, the Leukemia Research Fund at UVA Cancer Center, Hospice of the Piedmont, and the planting of a memorial tree in my garden.

Dale's memorial service on February 27 was perfectly lovely with Connie's homily, Guy's solo, and Doug's music, and the beautiful reception by the ECW. Our family was touched that 156 friends attended, many of them from Buck Mountain.

You are a very special group of people who always extend your caring friendship to others. To me that is what makes Buck Mountain Church unique, its compassion to others.

With my loving thanks to each of you,

**-Fran Dickerson**



**Dale had a not-so-secret passion for classic cars. He was a beloved member of Buck Mountain for many years.**

## Buck Mountain Helps Carpenter's Kids in Tanganyika

**B**uck Mountain Church was honored March 21 by a visit from Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo of East Tanganyika. He came to express his gratitude for the partnership of Buck Mountain and Mapinduzi Parish in Tanzania for the Carpenter's Kids program. He preached at the 5 p.m. service and, after a covered-dish supper, presented a program on the Carpenter's Kids.



The Outreach Committee with Bishop Mdimi and Rev. Connie (center).

The Carpenter's Kids program provides shoes, school uniforms, school supplies, and breakfast for 50 of the most vulnerable AIDS orphans in a given parish in Tanganyika who otherwise would be unable to go to school. The cost of this is \$80 annually per child for a total of \$4,000 a year. This is a 5-year commitment for each partnering parish.

Carpenter's Kids was named for Jesus who was a carpenter. It was started 5 years ago. There are currently 6,000 children being served and 103 parishes contributing. A child in the program was quoted as saying, "We thought we were forgotten by the world but now we have a future."

Bishop Mdimi was accompanied by Brian Atkins of the U.K., a retired IBM executive who volunteers as a business consultant to the pro-

gram. They are asking private businesses for \$20 million for an endowment for higher education and for much-needed medical expenses for children in the Carpenter's Kids program. They are also looking for volunteers willing to work in Tanzania for 3 months.

**-Marigail Wynne**

## Sunday School Builds Jerusalem

In February, Lucia Bakewell led the primary Sunday School class in a wonderful activity to help them learn what the land, buildings and customs were like back in Jesus' time.

The children created a desert town using sand, packing materials, rocks, and animals. They talked about how people got water, what they did when they wanted to talk to each other, and how they stayed cool. The children then made clay items such as baskets of olives and animals to put into the town.

The children absolutely loved this activity! Thank you, Lucia.

**-Shelley Smith**



## Cajun Spice Was Everything Nice!



**T**he band was hot, the food fantastic, and conga lines were grooving at our Cajun Spice fundraiser for Haiti. Special thanks to Cajun Chef Cliff Smith and to John Jones and his large band for making this joyous night possible.



### Coming this Spring ...

**Keeping It Clean**—The highway clean-up will be Sunday, April 11, after the 10:30 a.m. service. Please wear work clothes and bring work gloves. Adults and teens are welcome! Vest and trash bags will be provided. We will sort recyclables as we collect rubbish. Questions? Call Marit Gay 987-0266 or 973-0666.

**Chili Dinner Rides Again**—The snows caused us to cancel our Shrove Tuesday chili dinner, but never fear – you can fulfill your chili dreams on Tues., April 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets are \$5 for adults and free for children younger than 8. See Ann and John Jacoby for tickets. No tickets at the door. Soft drinks will be provided. Doors open at 6 p.m.

**Art Trip Coming**— The ECW is planning an outing for anyone in our church who wants to join us for a trip to Richmond to visit the newly renovated Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The time and date TBA. We need a few more details from the museum before we can set a date in stone, so keep your ears peeled for more news!



**Watch for Watercolors**— Our Arts Ministry is pleased to announce a new exhibit by Judith Townsend, a local watercolor artist. Look for Townsend's work in Deese Hall April 25 through the end of May. Anyone interested in exhibiting on the east wall of Deese Hall should contact Lucia Bakewell, at 973-6697.

**Prayer in Quiet Time**

Each day, find some Quiet.  
Lay before God all that troubles you.  
God will know, but do it anyway.

Become still. *Listen* with all your heart,  
mind and soul for a bird, a certain leaf, or a  
soft whisper to surprise you.

Oh, and re-read Psalm 23, for  
more than solace only, perhaps  
also for wisdom, strength, courage.

Then if you can, if you dare,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
let Christ's loving presence  
speak through you.



**-Nancy F. Neighbors**

**Get Fit with Pilates at Parish Hall**

For the third year in a row, we are overjoyed to announce our summer Pilates class at the Buck Mountain Parish Hall, one of the oldest structures in the settlement. The Parish Hall has an accumulated air of spirituality that makes having class there a joy. Please consider adding us to your summer experience.

We begin the summer season on Wed., June 2, and continue until Wed., Sept. 8. All skill levels are welcome. The atmosphere is non-competitive. Each person is encouraged to improve according to his/her own ability. The fee is \$5 per class, pay-as-you-go. Twenty percent of all proceeds are tithed to the church. For information, contact Janet Pitt, 985-2189, [janet@townsendlandscape.com](mailto:janet@townsendlandscape.com) or leave a message with Susan Midland.

**-Janet W. Pitt**

**Buck Mountain Episcopal Church**  
P.O. Box 183  
Earlsville, Virginia 22936

