



Celebration Times

Fairlington Presbyterian Church, 3846 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302 March 2006

Souper Bowl Sunday Was a Success!



The youth collected \$280 on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5. The special “**Souper Bowl**” collection will benefit ALIVE, Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically. The people who participated were: Libby, Jay and Ben Lyon, Genevieve Griffin, Emily Seman, Rhianna Shabsin, and Shannon and Susan Harvey. And many thanks to our generous congregation! For more information about the Souper Bowl of Caring, visit: www.souperbowl.org.



Lenten Dinner & Bible Study Class Begins March 7

Pastor Jan Edmiston will offer a new study opportunity, called “**Taste & See**” - **Lenten Dinner & Bible Study** on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8 pm, beginning Mar. 7 (the first Tuesday in March/first Tuesday of Lent). Enjoy a "simple" dinner (provided by Jan & her crockpot) from 6:30-7 pm, and Bible Study on the upcoming Sunday's sermon texts from 7-8 pm. Class materials will be the texts that will be preached the following Sunday. Please join us!

Enjoy Brunch with Betwixt 'n Between Group

Join the Betwixt 'n Between group for brunch on Sun., Mar. 12 at **Tempo Restaurant**, 4231 Duke St in Alexandria. Reservation is at 12:45 and is listed under Brown. Hopefully, we won't have a huge snowstorm this time! We look forward to seeing all of you—and encourage you to invite anyone you meet to join us!

Remembering Ruth Paulling

Ruth Paulling, our oldest member, died on Jan. 27 in Florida, surrounded by her family. She fell on Dec. 23 at her daughter's home, and died due to complications. We celebrated Ruth's 97th birthday with a surprise party on Dec. 13, 2005, and pictures of that event are still posted on the large bulletin board in the hall.

Ruth was a bright spot in our congregation, a lovely Christian sister who will be missed. A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at Fairlington Presbyterian the week after Easter — exact date and time to be announced. Please hold in her prayers her son Randy and wife Charlotte Paulling of California, her daughter Nancy and husband John Abernathy of Florida, and her sister Virginia Coddington of Florida.



Fairlington Welcomes New Members

Jennifer Lee Blakeney: Jennifer is married to David and has two children, David (4) and Brianna (5). She is a teacher for a non-profit organization here in Alexandria and is working on a Bachelor's Degree in Education at Trinity University.

Molly Sullivan: Molly is the Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney (prosecutor) for the City of Alexandria. She has lived in Alexandria for over 20 years. She likes reading, hiking, cooking and eating out.

To submit articles for Celebration Times: e-mail office@fpcusa.org or dellinger@virginia.edu

Celebrations

Birthdays

Matthew Seman (03/01)

Devon Seibert (03/04)

Pablo O. Nuesch (03/04)

Dirk Disper (03/05)

Michael Lempke (03/08)

Monica Glenn (03/09)

Patricia Guenther (03/10)

Nolan Reynolds (03/10)

Susan Berry (03/10)

Frances Kerns (03/11)

Beth McFarland (03/12)

Mike Maddox (03/12)

David McAdam (03/12)

Janice Edmiston (03/13)

Shannon Harvey (03/13)

Max Reinfried (03/18)

Darrin Allen (03/26)

Susan Harvey (03/27)

Ian Welfley (03/29)

Regina Allen (03/29)

Ellie Fiening (03/29)

Gloria Effiong (03/30)

Erik Eckerson (03/30)

Anniversaries

Mark and Rebecca Benner
(03/12)

Fairlington Happenings



The "Godly Play" children sang "This Little Light of Mine" before the Children's Sermon. Mackenzie Routh directed the group.



Carie and John Davidson's first Sunday at church after his return from Iraq. John is a U.S. Marine and spent six months in Iraq. They will welcome their first child in April.

Message from Rob Ross, Christian Educator

The wilderness is an important place in the Bible. It is a place of unmistakable danger—from other humans (robbers), from animals (lions and bears show up repeatedly in the Bible), from the elements (lack of food or water, too much heat or cold), and from supernatural beings (the devil's longest dialogue with Jesus happened in the wilderness). Even with that danger, people of God throughout Jewish and Christian history have sought out the wilderness at various times.

The wilderness lacks the comforts of the city. It also lacks the distractions. In the city, it is easy for us to go weeks and even months without having to be alone in silence for more than a moment. Cell phones, radios, televisions, computers, PDAs all keep our mind occupied and prevent us from having to bear being alone with ourselves. The wilderness lacks all those things. You cannot distract from yourself in the wilderness. Perhaps that is why people often hear God better in the wilderness. It is difficult to hear God's truth when we are dishonest with ourselves. It is difficult to hear God's call when we have so many other calls to take.

Lent is a time of spiritual wilderness in preparation for Easter, lasting 40 days. It recalls the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry and the 40 years that the Israelites spent in the wilderness after their escape from Egypt and before they reached the Promised Land. It too is a time of preparation, renewed faith, dedication and sense of call, and purification. It is a time of wilderness before the party of Easter. This Lent, I encourage you to consider how often you go to the wilderness in your life, and to find time in your day—5-10 minutes—to go into the wilderness. Turn off the phone, the radio, and the TV. Put down the book or the magazine. Quiet down and listen to what you hear. God is still speaking this Lent. What is God trying to say to you?

From the Pastor...

A Season of Stories

I love stories. I love a good plot line, strong characters, and beautiful words spun together. I love juicy novels, gripping television shows, and well done movies. March Madness is fun, first and foremost, because of the stories: the player who has overcome extraordinary odds, the coach who – like Sisyphus – has previously failed but still longs to reach the pinnacle, the game which pits two long-time rivals against each other.

On March 1, we begin a season of great stories. Lent is upon us and the suggested lessons for March – especially from the Old Testament – include some of the most memorable stories of the Bible: Noah builds an ark. Abram & Sarai get new names. Moses delivers the Ten Commandments.

Children learn these stories in Sunday School. Literate Westerners know these stories.

But there's a difference between these stories and other familiar tales in our Western treasury of

literature. *Romeo and Juliet* and *Aesop's Fables* are also stories that every person should know. Many of us grew up hearing *Daniel and the Lion's Den* one night and *The Boxcar Children* the next night.

As adults, do we realize that Bible stories have given us something more than interesting plots lines and memorable characters? The stories of Genesis through The Revelation teach us some Truth about eternal things, about God, about the Meaning of Life. Lent is all about uncovering these eternal things.

We are entering a new season of stories. But they are not merely for our entertainment. These stories teach us something about our relationship with God.

Give up chocolate if you must. Forsake coffee or red meat if so moved. But if you really want to be spiritually awakened, prayerfully read these stories. And ask, "What does this teach me about God?"
Blessings to you – Jan

It's a Winter Wonderland at Fairlington!



Photographer: Cameron Davidson

Worship in March

March 1

ASH WEDNESDAY

The Rev. Mitzi Manning preaching

Joint Worship Service at
Fairlington United Methodist Church
7:30 PM

March 5

1st Sunday in Lent

**Interim Christian Educator
Rob Ross preaching**

March 12

2nd Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Jan Edmiston preaching

Scripture Lessons:
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 &
Mark 8:31-38

March 19

3rd Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Jan Edmiston preaching

Scripture Lessons:
Exodus 20:1-17 & John 2:13-22

March 26

4th Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Jan Edmiston preaching

Scripture Lessons:
Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21

***Celebrating the Difference Christ Makes in Our Lives through
Ministry in Our Church, Our Community, and Our World***

Ways to Contact Fairlington Presbyterian Church

Phone: 703-931-7344

Email: office@fpcusa.org

Mail: 3846 King Street

Fax: 703-931-6062

Website: www.fpcusa.org

Alexandria, VA 22302

Ministers

The Congregation

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston

jan@fpcusa.org

Mondays are monastery days.

Day off is Saturday.

Office Manager

Gloria Garidel

office@fpcusa.org

Mon.-Fri., 9 AM - 1 PM

Sexton

Wesley Mitchell

Mon.-Fri., 6 AM - 1 PM

Director of Christian Education

Rob Ross

rob@fpcusa.org

Tue: 9 AM - 5 pm; Sun: 9 AM-1 PM

Building & Grounds

Coordinator

Karen Tokarsky

Membership Coordinator

Marnie Brown

Ceremonies Coordinator

Lisa Dockins

Elders

Joseph Andy

Brad Bennett

Jeannette Davis

Connie Hansen

Brooke Hatfield

David Hoover

Darlene Johnson

Elaine Marini

Mary Olsen

Will Painter

Alison Trimble

Trustees

Shannon Harvey

Michael Lempke

David Siegrist

Deacons

Darrin Allen

Gloria Effiong

Susan Fiscus

Pat Keene

Vernette Kukolich

James Njimbong

Helene Patterson

Charlotte Ross

Glenna Shields

Mission Coordinator

Beth McFarland

Music Coordinator

Chris Hatfield

Director of Choirs

Chris Hatfield

Organist

Michael Dennis

Worship Coordinator

Open

Nursery Staff

Debra Carroll & Zalika Cole

Fellowship Coordinator

Open

Stewardship Coordinator

Michael Lempke

Communications &

Outreach Coordinator

David Kim

Computer CORE Director

Deb Roepke, 703-931-7346

