

The Evangel

April 1, 2014

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

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Time and talent campaign is underway

Judy Bryan is in the narthex most Sundays, warmly greeting parishioners by name as they move through to the nave. She cheerfully greets those who have been coming to Saint Luke's for many a Sunday, and is watchful for the newest in the crowded space, ready to introduce the newcomer to Saint Luke's and extend a warm welcome. Judy and other members of the Invitation Committee are the first parishioners that a newcomer will meet. She and her colleagues are making sure everyone is welcomed into God's house, and they are there to ensure the welcome is sincere and heartfelt. Judy and others on the Invitation Committee call upon their talents in the areas of hospitality, empathy, and love of their fellow neighbor to carry out this important ministry of welcoming the stranger.

Carol Bloom and other members of the Altar Guild have been behind-the-scenes arranging flowers, polishing brass candlesticks, and setting the altar for the Eucharist for

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Adele dePolo is cooking up a storm

Michael Moore's sermon from Feb. 9 struck a responsive chord with Adele dePolo. Mike said, "Ministry is an act of service offered to God." She had not really considered how her actions might in fact be a ministry.

Here is the truth about Adele dePolo: she can cook up a storm. (Count yourself lucky if she's in your fish group)! She's never met a stranger, connecting instantly with people. Adele's heart is as huge as her compassion for relieving the suffering of those in need. And on the



night after the huge earthquake shook Haiti in 2010, devastating that country, she had an urgent desire to raise funds for the victims of the disaster. She suddenly realized that she knew how to raise a meaningful amount of money rather quickly. Harking back to memories from her youth, Adele recalled the spaghetti dinners that her parents, Mary and Taber dePolo, organized for the Truro parish in Fairfax. She vividly remembered cutting up the onions, browning the meat, and boiling the water for the spaghetti. She knew that the dinners had been beneficial

to the community as well as the church. She had committed the recipe for her grandmother's famously delicious spaghetti sauce to memory. Channeling the energy that she saw her parents put into their effort, Adele called Ketlen that January evening and proposed that Saint Luke's host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Earlier this month, Adele marshaled a large contingent of volunteers who cooked, set-up and served more than 200 spaghetti dinners.

Preparation began in advance of that Friday night – she had already collected a myriad of items for door prizes.

The spaghetti dinner fundraiser is an example of how one person's idea requires many helping hands and feet to move from a concept to reality. Preparation for the dinner, including cooking the sauce and spaghetti itself, making salad and salad dressing, are done well in advance of the 5:30 pm start time, sometimes days before. Adele relies upon many volunteers to make the dinner a success, and she understands the need to ask for help directly, but persuasively. Volunteers contribute his or her specific talent to the joint effort as their time allows. Members of the Outreach Committee are usually among the first responders, and Adele has built up a cadre of willing

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Spotlight on Sunday school activities



In Sunday school many of the children are learning more about faith through a series of five to seven week workshop cycles. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade Sunday school class, as well as the 4th and 5th grade class, have recently been learning more about the country of Haiti. While the focus of the story has been the plight of Haiti after the devastating earthquake that the country suffered on that fateful January day a few years ago, the children have also been learning

more about Haitian culture. They have learned how to sing a song in Haitian Creole, and they have become aware of the fact that Haiti is renowned for its art.

As an act of active ministry the children have made the effort to raise some funds to benefit a Haitian organization that ministers to children in Haiti – the Haiti Micah Project. It has been a joy for me to have the opportunity to speak to our Sunday school classes on two different occasions during this cycle of lessons. – *Ketlen Solak*

WORDS OF WISDOM

“Do something nice for someone everyday.” – Barbara, age 85

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volunteers among family members and her Kirkside neighbors. For example, Emily Wild, her next-door neighbor, helps cook spaghetti and serve at the dinner. Emily is an experienced volunteer, as she is in charge of the “Care & Share” program at Hollin Meadows Elementary School. Her husband and four children contribute their talents, too. Brian made the sign that will hang above the doorway at Saint Luke’s announcing the dinner, and the kids are servers. Adele’s brother-in-law will provide music (it’s great to have a DJ in the family!) and her sister-in-law pitches in, too. Everyone who helps has fun doing his or her part. The food and company of fellow volunteers is great, and seeing our neighbors, new and old, at the dinner creates a congenial event. Also, if they’re

lucky, there may be extra sauce they can buy to take home! Adele’s spark of inspiration to help others created an opportunity to enrich our community in a myriad of ways. She’s very gifted at reaching out

In 2010, proceeds from the dinner were designated for Haiti Earthquake relief. The next year, funds were sent to agencies aiding victims of the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan. This year, as has been done the past two years, the Outreach Committee will decide which local agencies will receive funds. There’s still time to volunteer to help at the dinner, buy tickets for door prizes, and mark your calendar for March 21 to attend the dinner. And, if you’d like to participate in the Outreach ministry, touch base with Adele. She’ll draw you in. – *Marjy Jones*

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Meanwhile, upstairs in the Parish Hall, Kathy and Bob McPeck and other members of the Fellowship Committee have set out coffee and goodies for coffee hour. Each committee member has participated in a ministry, using his or her God-given talents and precious time to further His mission.

In 2013, Saint Luke’s adopted EPIC as a way to make stewardship a part of our lives all year long. This approach allows us to focus on four aspects, concentrating on one each season. In this season we focus on our gifts of Time and Talent. As a reminder, the summer is devoted to our personal journey and this fall we discern our annual giving commitment. Winter is the time to contemplate the plans we make for the future, for example, by including Saint Luke’s in our estate planning.

This spring we will explore how our talents can be used to further His kingdom on earth. It’s the season to reflect and take action in a ministry of your choice. You’ll be hearing from members of the Time & Talent committee about programs that will help you discern your gifts and vocations. You’ll learn more about the many ministry opportunities available to employ your talents as Jesus taught us to do.

Serving on the invitation committee is just one example of an area of ministry that you might enjoy. We have organized committees that ensure crucial ministries are faithfully and purposefully performed. Within each committee are a host of specific ministries that await your time and talent. You’ll most certainly find an area of ministry that allows you to practice your faith to its fullest. – *Marjy Jones*