

THE SAINT BRIDGET Bridge

January 2017

This February our community celebrates Monsignor Carr's 75th Birthday. Monsignor's first assignment as a priest was to Saint Bridget in 1969 and he came back to shepherd us again in 2005. In this edition of the Bridge, we highlight just a few of the ministries and events that our parish engages in thanks in large part to Monsignor's enthusiasm, compassion and guidance. Thank you and Happy Birthday Monsignor!

A PRAYER FOR MY 75TH BIRTHDAY

Monsignor William Carr



Thank you Good Lord for getting me to this birthday. You have been gracious, testing and loving to me all my life. You are my center and my hope. Everyone and everything I have comes from You and You have my thanks and adoration.

There were times when I thought I might come to You sooner. You had things for me to do so here I still am, longing to do Your will.

You have blessed me with so many great people. My family; the priests and Sisters of my childhood parishes and schools. Life long friends from the seminary years and priesthood. High among these blessings have been the Richmond Diocese where I have served all my life.

Thank you for the people of the parishes where I have served. Holy Spirit in Virginia Beach, Saint Augustine here in Richmond, Saint Bede in Williamsburg and dear Saint Bridget twice — people all who love the priesthood and who have been family for all these years.

And so, Dear Lord, onward. And, one day, hopefully upward!



Saint Bridget Parish Family
Cordially Invites You To Celebrate With Us

*The 75th Birthday of Our Pastor
Monsignor William H. Carr*

Sunday, February 12 From 2 Until 5pm
Mother Presentation Hall
Saint Bridget Church
6006 Three Chopt Road
Richmond, Virginia 23226



Welcome to
**THE NEW
EVANGELIZATION
TEAM**

LIVING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL *by Ann Gill*

The New Evangelization Team (NET) at Saint Bridget is enthusiastically working on energizing the community at Saint Bridget; answering the call from our Holy Fathers and Bishop DiLorenzo, Saint Bridget sets its sights on a bold, new proclamation of the Gospel!

The NET team is excited to announce the membership of Deacon VJ Petillo who brings an incredible spiritual depth and an enthusiasm for understanding what the Church is asking of the faithful - to live out the Gospel with joy! The team's focus is on moving our parish beyond "programmed evangelization" and into the joy of living and sharing the faith in everyday life with our families, friends, coworkers, and parish community.

Is "evangelize" a Catholic word? YES! Evangelization is sharing the good news of God's love with all people through our actions (most importantly) and our words, in hopes that we will help others to know and love God. As Pope Francis says, "A love that changes hearts."

What does NET do? In response to the call to evangelize, NET hosts coffee and donuts two ...continued on back cover.



SAINT BRIDGET COMMUNITY LIFE

Get involved at www.saintbridgetchurch.org/volunteer

1. Long time altar server, **Nicolas Ferree**, opens a window before lighting coals for incense during Mass.
2. Parishioner and Virginia State Senator, **Dr. Siobhan Dunnivant**, entertains infant, **Nora Harms** in the Commons.
3. Parishioners enjoy conversation and the crisp fall air during Saint Bridget Church's second annual Stew and Brew.
4. Voices of the faithful join together to create a vibrant and beautiful atmosphere of worship during Mass.
5. Confirmation candidates **Jay Swider** and **Bridget Patton** enjoyed organizing gifts and donations during Christmas Sharing Drop Off Day in December.
6. Middle School youth group member **Emma Burris** runs through an inflatable obstacle course at the Diocesan Middle School Rally this Fall, over 400 teens participated in the day long event!



New Children's Liturgy Library

by Michelle Sesny

Library Established in Memory of Nine Year Old Betsy Haas

On Sunday, December 11th at the 11:00am Mass, Cathy and Jay Haas and Children's Liturgy of the Word volunteers celebrated the blessing of books and dedication of the Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Haas Memorial Library. Cathy was a long time Children's Liturgy volunteer and Religious Education Catechist. Betsy, who was 9 years old and a student at Mary Munford Elementary when she passed away this summer, was also a part of both ministries. She lived every day of her nine years to the fullest. Spunky, funny and always up for adventure, Betsy was a bright light everywhere she went. Not long before she died, Betsy said, "I don't know why people are afraid of dying - you get to go be with Jesus." Her strong faith and vibrant personality will be remembered by everyone who knew her and we are happy that the witness of Betsy's love for God will continue to be remembered each time we use the library.

Volunteers from the Children's Liturgy committee donated the books and shelf to be used for the library. The books, which were chosen specifically in Betsy's memory, will be used during Children's Liturgy of the Word which takes place on Sunday mornings at the 9 am and 11 am Masses. If you are interested in donating a book to the library in memory of Betsy, please contact Michelle Sesny at m sesny@saintbridgetchurch.org for more information.



The Haas family - Jay, Betsy and Cathy.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Four to Eight year-olds at 9am and 11am Sunday Masses are invited to receive a special blessing and join their peers in the Church Hall for Children's Liturgy. They'll hear kid-versions of the readings and participate in age appropriate activities which reinforce the Gospel message. Volunteers are always needed for this worthwhile ministry. E-Mail: m sesny@saintbridgetchurch.org

In reading the bible it is hard to get around the fact that God has a special love for the poor. So much so that our relationship to God is measured by our concern for these special ones. “How you treat the least among us is how you treat me” to paraphrase Jesus in Matthew 25.

Bridget in the 60s and had lived on Maple Ave.

Even with the very best of beginnings in life we don't know what twist or turns life will bring us. The fact is we all lean on one another.

Pride, Community & God

Pride can make us believe “I made it on my own and I deserve what I have.” Some introspection would



By Paul Amrhein , Director of Human Concerns Ministries
paul@saintbridgetchurch.org

CARITAS

CONGREGATIONS AROUND RICHMOND INVLOVED TO ASSURE SHELTER

FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 4

SAINT BRIDGET WILL HOST 40 MEN FOR A WEEK

Saint Bridget - A Temporary Home

This February 25 to March 4 we will have the opportunity to show how much we love God by caring for 40 homeless men whom we will host in Mother Presentation Hall. We will try to make these men feel at home.

Who of us sleeps on the floor with 39 other men in our own homes? Who of us has a 6pm curfew and must be up and gone for the day by 5 in the morning? Some of these men have had hard lives, maybe an addiction, maybe a hard time keeping a job, a broken family but many of them work and some look like you and me.

Who Are Our Guests?

When I say they look like us I remember the year we had a young man staying with CARITAS who had graduated from Saint Bridget School; some of the teachers he had were still teaching at the school. Another year when I helped serve a CARITAS dinner at Saint Mike's I met a lady who was a guest who graduated from Saint

quickly dispel such prideful thoughts as we all rely on many others to make it through life from family to friends to teachers and mentors, it takes a community to make each of us who we are.

The poor seem to be most aware of this fact. They are here at our door with hands out, relying on us for a meal, a place to stay a kind word or deed. They have a deep reliance on God that many of us in our foolishness forget. We have the luxury of forgetting that our very breath and the Earth we walk on and sustains us comes from God. We need CARITAS to remind us of these things. We all too often take for granted and so often abuse what God gives us so freely. So come take part, remember who God created you to be - sister and brother to one another.

Be a thankful soul and share with our CARITAS guests. We will be collecting donations and sign-ups will start January 8, 2016.

THE SPIRIT
OF THE LORD
IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE
HAS ANOINTED ME
TO BRING
GLAD TIDINGS
TO THE POOR.
- LK 4:18

HOW TO HELP

Sign up on the volunteer page of the Saint Bridget website, or visit the paper sign up tables in the commons after Masses. A wide variety of help is needed, from cooks to nurses to security to donations.

SAINTBRIDGETCHURCH.ORG/
VOLUNTEER



by Paul Amrhein

This past November 30th the Human Concerns Ministry of Saint Bridget in collaboration with Crossover Health Care Ministry sponsored a Luncheon for Legislators at the clinic on Quiocasin Road across from Regency Mall.

Saint Bridget has two teams of volunteers that staff the clinic on a Saturday each month. The Human Concerns budget also provides the clinic with a grant each year.

Last fall Paul Amrhein, Director of Human Concerns Ministry attended a breakfast for church leaders when Crossover was considering an expansion project. Seeing the need and thinking our leaders in government should see it as well, Paul asked the executive director Julie Bilodeau if she would be willing to do something similar for legislators and an idea took shape.

Saint Bridget's two senators, Siobhan S. Dunnavant and Glen H. Sturtevant, Jr., attended along with delegate Betsy Carr and legislative aids for delegates Jennifer McClellan and Delores McQuinn. Staff from the Virginia Catho-

lic Conference, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Saint Mary and Saint Edward also attended.

Following a tour of the clinic Dr. Marie Giblin, former chair of the theology department at Xavier University spoke on the moral imperative of health care. She claimed the Christian motivation comes from the text in Matthew 25 where the crowds ask Jesus, "When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you, or when did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King-judge replies: "I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me."

She said in both of these parables and that of the Good Samaritan, Jesus was shaking out of their complacency those who saw themselves as good and upright. Jesus wanted them to expand their world to include those society wants to ignore. He was saying if you are not acting on behalf of those who are suffering, then you are not really on the side of God, who is merciful and compassionate.

A Saint Bridget parishioner then told his story of using the Crossover clinic in his ministry to refugees while at the same time becoming homeless as a result of an over \$100,000 debt he incurred for treatment of his mother in her terminal illness. He eventually was able to move from sleeping in his car to renting a room only to become homeless again due to falling into the Medicare donut hole as a result of all the medications he needs to treat his own ailments.

In an hour's time we did not come up with a fix for our healthcare system but we did come away with deep respect to those who volunteer their time to provide healthcare to the most vulnerable. We also came away wondering how we can provide better healthcare access to people that does not drive them into financial ruin and perhaps more importantly a desire to do something about it.

If you would like to volunteer at Crossover Ministry or become an advocate for better healthcare access contact Paul Amrhein, paul@saintbridgetchurch.org or call 525-7902.

LENTEN RETREAT AT SAINT BRIDGET

MARCH 18-24, 2017

Contact Saint Bridget

Dial 282.9511 to reach the main office then use 3-digit extensions or the direct line when provided.

Clergy

Rev. Msgr. William H. Carr:
Pastor,
parishmail@saintbridgetchurch.org

Father Francis "Boat" Boateng
Parochial Vicar,
gprado@saintbridgetchurch.org, 327

Rev. Mr. Robert Giovenco:
Permanent Deacon,
bobbygio@comcast.net, 316

Rev. Mr. V.J. Petillo:
Permanent Deacon,
vjpetillo@gmail.com

Rev. Mr. Patrick White:
Permanent Deacon,
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Pastoral Staff

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525.7902

Allen Bean:
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Dan Harms:
Youth Minister,
sbvayouth@gmail.com, 525.7901

George Sadler:
Saint Bridget School Principal,
gsadler@saintbridget.org, 288.1994

Councils & Committees

Building Committee: Rick Kastelberg,
wfkberg@gmail.com, 350.3951

Finance Council: John McCulla,
jkmcculla@comcast.net, 306.2488

Liturgy Committee: Bruce Slough,
bslough@hotmail.com, 288-4675

Parish Pastoral Council: Kerri Inge,
kerrible@verizon.net, 353.3140



Catholic Heart Work Camp

by Anne Marie Condlin



As I reflect over the past year's camps, the thing that resonates the most is community. Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC) is a national organization that sets up one-week faith based service camps for teens and adults. Over 50 camps happened last summer throughout the United States and abroad. What is unique about CHWC is the ability to grow in our faith while living that faith out. This approach serves to enrich the residents we serve, the parishes that participate and the individual campers.

Our parish has been blessed to send over 110 campers to Hartford, CT and Dover, DE. Saint Bridget has helped provide these opportunities by participating in fundraisers like the peanut sales, spaghetti dinner, Mother's Day cake sale and the second collection. Back at Saint Bridget, we also hosted a camp for 255 campers from Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. Saint Bridget parish helps to make this camp possible by setting up work sites, providing extra adults on worksites, helping the staff serve breakfast and dinner to campers, and prepping and cleaning the building before and after camp. Many of the worksites at the CHWC Richmond camp were

made possible through a generous grant from Bon Secours.

People often ask why we can't just do service work here in Richmond- what is the benefit of traveling to another place or combining the evening religious programming with the service days. By combining these two aspects, we are illustrating the way that our lives should reflect the beliefs we profess. When we share this experience as a community, a bond forms that transcends the week of camp. By expanding beyond our own community, we see the universal nature of our faith and purpose; we are part of a bigger plan than our own daily lives. So in just one week of camp, each teen or adult is part of multiple communities living out their faith: their work team comprised of teens and adults from around the country; their local parish; their particular camp; and the Catholic Heart Community as a whole; and in a very real way the Catholic Church itself. In the summer of 2017 Saint Bridget will send 107 campers to Roanoke, VA and Charleston, SC to serve in those communities. Additionally, we will host 275 campers from Virginia, Wisconsin, Michigan, Alabama, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Administration

Cheryl Peters:
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525-7894

William Buckley:
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Louise Gallagher:
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Joel Keith:
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Michelle Sesny:
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STEWARDSHIP: SHARING OUR GIFTS

by Kimberly Lapkin, Stewardship Director

Saint Bridget Parish 2017 Annual Financial Stewardship Appeal continues to thrive. Many parishioners are increasing their pledge to our parish! Thank you to every parishioner who has taken the time to fill out a pledge card. The parish is so grateful for the support and every pledge no matter the size is meaningful and appreciated. To make your pledge, complete and return your pledge card in the mail or collection basket. Extra pledge cards are in the parish office. Or, simply submit your online pledge form through www.saintbridgetchurch.org/pledge. Again, thank you! "For it is in giving that we receive." – Francis of Assisi

E-GIVING AND YOUR STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Join the 400+ families that contribute to Saint Bridget parish by using E-Giving. E-Giving is a convenient way to make your secure donations to Saint Bridget parish online. You may use debit cards, credit cards or electronic funds transfer recurring contributions to fulfill your stewardship pledge and make donations to the various funds and special collections. Use E-Giving to make payments for Religious Education registration for all ages and for event ticket purchases. Keep up with your stewardship pledge even when you are away! To get started, simply click on the E-Giving link found on our website at saintbridgetchurch.org. Thank you for this generous response to God's call to stewardship and your support of the parish!

2016 YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution Statements itemizing your 2016 contributions to Saint Bridget parish are mailed in January. Thank you for your contributions! Christmas and year-end contributions were most generous! Your gifts are helping to make a difference in the name of Christ throughout our parish, in our local community and all over the world.

LEAVING A LEGACY GIFT TO SAINT BRIDGET

Leaving a legacy gift to Saint Bridget Catholic Church can be tax efficient and beneficial to your heirs. Your legacy gift will lay the firm foundation to benefit our children and future generations to ensure that Saint Bridget parish continues to flourish. Prospective donors are urged to consult their personal tax and financial advisors concerning the specific consequences of making gifts to the parish. Your attorney, financial planner or tax consultant will help you determine a giving plan that can be tailored to your needs, desires and capabilities. Some of the gift arrangements are revocable and others cannot be changed once established. Some work better with cash and others with appreciated assets. Regardless of the method or the amount, we are grateful for your prayerful consideration of a gift in your will or living trust and of your commitment to the future well-being of Saint Bridget Catholic Church.

Contact Kimberly Lapkin, Director of Stewardship, for more information on any of the above topics at (804) 525-7888 or kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org

NOVAM VOCEM CHAMBER CHOIR



William Buckley, Assistant Music Minister at Saint Bridget, formed Novam Vocem in 2016 in order to let a "new voice" proclaim beauty ever ancient and ever new. This auditioned ensemble of eleven singers is made up of both professional and amateur musicians who live in and around Richmond, including several singers from the Saint Bridget community. In its inaugural concert, Novam Vocem will present a varied program of sacred choral music, here in our beautiful church.

Novam Vocem will perform at Saint Bridget on February 24, 2017, at 7:30 P.M.

Saint Bridget Catholic Church
Financial Report
 Year to Date - Fiscal Year 2016-2017



Memorials, Bequests, Endowment Earnings	\$16,000
Social Ministry/Human Concerns	\$39,000
Other Income & Event Fees	\$41,000
Religious Education & Youth Ministry	\$25,000
Offertory & Loose Plate Collections	\$955,000



Parish Life	\$29,000	Parish Office & Administration Costs	\$252,000
Liturgy & Music	\$120,000	School of Religion & Youth Ministry	\$82,000
Education Assessment	\$101,000	Physical Plant, Endowment, Church Building Fund	\$130,000
Clergy Costs	\$110,000	Diocesan and Regional Assessments	\$114,000
Fund Transfers	\$0	Social Ministry/Human Concerns	\$66,000

THE NEW EVANGELIZATION TEAM (continued from cover)

Sundays each month and organizes the annual Parish Lenten Retreat, but we are just getting started! This year the NET team has invited Rich Curran of the Parish Success Group to work with the Parish Staff, volunteers and community to identify strengths and weaknesses in our ministry and community life. The fruit of working with Parish Success Group will be a better approach to the New Evangelization across our Parish. Please come join the team; whatever your gifts, there are ways you can help, big and small! Consider volunteering with us, it's a great family activity and a wonderful way to meet other parishioners!

SIGN UP TO HELP

Through the website at www.saintbridgetchurch.org/volunteer, or for more info about NET please contact Kay Pangraze at kay@pangraze.com or Ann Gill at annsongil@comcast.net or we'd love to have you at our next meeting -Feb. 13 at 7 pm in PCMR.

Rich Curran of Parish Success Group will be working with our staff and community!



YOU ARE INVITED

shine
 an event to
 SPARK SPIRIT, FLAME FAITH & IGNITE GIVING
 Saint Bridget School Winter Fundraiser

02 | 11 | 2017
 6 - 10PM

6011 York Road
 drinks • dinner • live music • auction • raffle

Tickets:
 \$65 per person / \$120 per couple
 Tickets purchased after Feb. 6th are \$75 per person.
 Purchase online squareup.com/market/st-bridget-pta
 or by check made out to St. Bridget PTO

Allire: ski chalet chic.