

Little Fork Episcopal Church

September 2019 Newsletter

“Using Our Gifts to Spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ”

Dear Little Fork Family,

Have you heard the saying, “Everyone has a story”? Here at Little Fork we are a group of diverse and wondrous people. There are those who have been all over the world serving as missionaries, others serving locally at the Food Pantry, Transitional Housing, teaching children in school or scouts, working to heal racial injustice or were themselves given the hope and healing of God’s loving-kindness. This is where the “Stories of Faith” project comes in.

Telling one’s own story can call up a lot of fear and anxiety. We think that our story is unimportant or that we may be criticized. Our hope, here at Little Fork, is that by sharing our stories we will get to know each other at a deeper level. But more importantly, your story could make a tremendous difference in someone else’s life! Many non-Christians dismiss their need for God because they don’t see how God is relevant to their daily life. Some people may feel an emotional void, or anger because they lack a relationship with God. They just don’t realize what they are missing.

Randy Ruffin wrote about her and Dick’s story in the July Newsletter. This month Frank Laimbeer is sharing his story. Please, if you can, let us know what brought you to Little Fork Church. Why do you like coming here? What is it about Little Fork that is important to you? And maybe, how has God worked in your life? We will not publish anything without your permission. We will not be putting these stories necessarily in the Newsletter, but they would be on the website. It need not be long. If you would like, someone could interview you.

Remember, there are those people in our community who do not yet know that Little Fork will be their church family too.

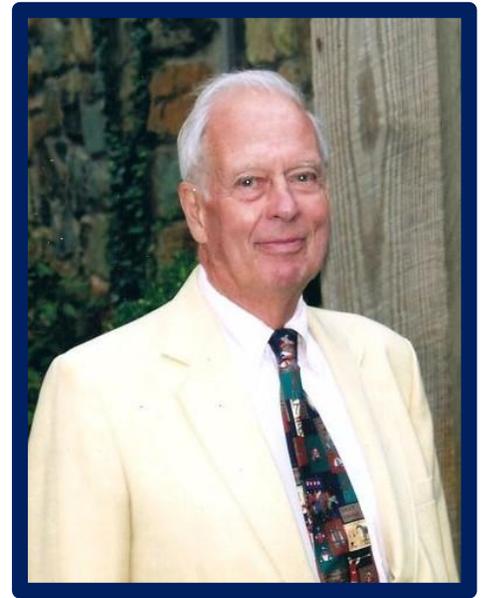
Thank you and May God Bless you all!

Gaylene Laimbeer
Sr. Warden

My Story of Faith (as told by Frank Laimbeer)

Can you tell us a little bit about your journey?

I am very blessed in that God has led me ever since I was very young. At the age of six my parents were divorced. I was devastated. When I was about 10 years old my mother, brother and I moved to a farm in Maryland. The lane going to the house was about 2 miles long and there was a small church at the other end next to the main road. I would walk that lane every Sunday to go to church. I don't remember what denomination or whether it was non-denominational, but it was at that church that I was introduced to God. Not long after that I struggled with illness over three years, including Scarlet Fever and ending with Polio. God proceeded to give me the faith to recover from illness and eventually marry a wonderful girl, raise four children and now enjoy six grandchildren.



What brought you to Little Fork Church?

We found Little Fork after moving to the area from upstate New York. At first, we attended St. James in Warrenton, but soon looked for a smaller more intimate church. The Little Fork Church family embraced us with open arms. I've been attending now for about 35 years.

What does Little Fork mean to you?

The ministry and loving family of Little Fork Church aided and supported my family for years, and helped my faith when my wife was taken by cancer. An amazing addition has been the faith development and belief in God that our children and grandchildren have developed with the help of the Little Fork family and ministry.

I hope that all of you are able to receive the same support from God with the help of Little Fork Church. It makes a tremendous difference in one's life and especially with interactions with others.





Two weeks ago, I mentioned in my homily how we pick the art for the cover of our bulletins on Wednesday. The Parish Secretary and I go on line, enter the readings for Sunday, or some seasonal theme, and then Google Search images. We try to pick an image that contributes something to our understanding of one of the readings. Sometimes, when I see a particular picture, I know what direction I'm going to go with my homily the following Sunday. It's just "in the picture." That was the case with today's picture. We Googled our passage from Luke and there was a ton of pictures. The hunched over women and Jesus reaching over and touching her with the congregation and temple leaders watching is a

popular theme with artists. And in all of the pictures there was a very erect, kind of grand Jesus standing above a hunched over old woman putting this hand on her shoulder to heal her. From picture to picture the clothing was different, the setting was different, the bystanders were different but Jesus was always up over the woman. And then we found today's picture and I knew it was "the one" and I sort of knew what I was going to say this morning. This was the only picture where Jesus is bending over, down to the woman's level, eye to eye. It is such a simple picture, but it says something that none of the others said. I tend to be a fairly disorganized person in my personal life. And to deal with that, I set some pretty rigid standards for myself. I have my little routines to which I try to stick. I get to the office on time or early. I pay my bills the day they come in the mail. I return telephone calls as quickly as possible. There's a whole list of little standards that I impose on myself to give my disorderly life some organization. Now having said that, there are many parts of my life that bypass that order. Those things happen, as they happen. I go to bed when I'm tired. I eat when it's convenient or when I get hungry. I get a haircut when I look in the mirror and jump. There are whole compartments of my life that are not orderly and sometimes easily neglected. One of those is my prayer life. I know, clergy are supposed to have beautifully disciplined spiritual lives. I have clergy friends who wake up in the morning and immediately open the Bible or the Prayer Book and go through a morning devotion before they even get out of bed. That is not me. I have dogs and cats climbing all over me wanting to go out and wanting to be fed as soon as they know I'm awake. When I get through that and get a cup of coffee and take my pills the morning chaos has started and Bible study and prayer are long "out of mind." And by the end of the day when I finally throw myself into the bed I might make it to "Our Father who...." and I'm gone. I am blessed with the gift of being able to fall asleep as soon as I hit the bed. And I sometimes feel really badly about this. My spiritual life should be "over there" in that disciplined side of my life. If I can get to the office on time why can't I say my prayers on a schedule. But I don't, and I'll bet you don't either. And every once in a while, something clicks for me. I'll be in sort of a "dead moment" and I'll realize that I haven't reached out to the divine in perhaps a long time. Oh, I've said my prayers in church but I haven't sat down and talked to God. I haven't said, "Here God is what's going on in my life and I praise you and I give you thanks for the wonderful blessings you have bestowed upon me. "And here's what I've been doing lately, God." "And here's what I'm trying to do better." Etc. Every once in a while, at some weird moment I'll reach out to God. And I'll catch myself apologizing to God or Jesus or the Spirit. "I haven't forgotten you. "I'm here. "And I know you're there. "I just haven't "checked in." And sometimes I feel like the old woman in the Gospel who is stooped over and can't look up. And here's where the picture comes in. Often I'll have a sense of Jesus or God or the Spirit stooping down to me eye to eye and saying "I'm here. "I know you're there. "I'm with you. "Don't feel guilty. "We're still walking hand in hand." Jesus' purpose was to come down to human level walk with us understand us and show us a better way to live out our lives with each other and in partnership with the divine. That's what the Christ is all about. When I saw that picture on Google, I thought "This is the Jesus I know." A Jesus who seeks me out, finds me sometimes all stooped over worrying about other things, comes down to my level, face to face, touches me and sends me on my way until next time. You and I don't have to go looking for the divine. The divine, in whatever form seeks us out, finds us, heals us and sends us on our way. "When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God." Amen

Author: The Rev. Richard O. Bridgford

Upcoming Events



**Little Fork Day
September 21
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Please join us for a fun-filled family day! Take a colonial tour of the church, play on the inflatable 75-foot obstacle course/rock climb slide, and shop the white elephant sale. Enjoy a lunch of bratwurst or hotdogs and sides, then pick up some goodies at our bake sale. It's going to be awesome!

Please contact Renae at administrator@littleforkchurch.org for more information.



Visit from the Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick will visit Little Fork Church on September 15, 2019. Please join us for Sunday Service at 10:00 AM and fellowship hour immediately following the service.

White Elephant Sale at Little Fork Day.

Donations of gently used items to be placed in the sale would be greatly appreciated. Please no clothing, computer items, electrical devices, large furniture or damaged items. Please contact Molly at tallmol44@yahoo.com or Karen at Mccauley12@comcast.net with questions regarding donations. Donated items should be placed in the high school room in the upstairs Parish Hall. Follow the signs. All proceeds from the sale will go to the church.



Join Us!

**Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 AM**

**Fellowship Hour
Immediately following
morning service.**

Little Fork Church Ministries

Women's Ministry



The Little Fork Ladies' Ministry will resume our regular schedule in September at 9 AM. on the Second and Fourth Saturday of each month in the Parish Hall. We will begin with a study of the Book of Ruth from the Old Testament. In our group we study the Scriptures and pray for one another as we grow in our faith together. Through our discussions we learn how we can apply Scripture to our daily lives. All women are warmly welcome to join us!

Fellowship Dinner Group



The Fellowship Dinner Group meets once a month, except during the summer, for a potluck supper and the study of a book or video. This provides a wonderful opportunity for sharing, fellowship, praying and learning together. The group meets at various parishioner's homes. Molly Lewis (tallmol44@yahoo.com) coordinates the group and newcomers are welcome.

Men's Ministry



Little Fork Men's Ministry aka "St. Brigid's Brigade" will resume its regular schedule in September. We meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month in the Parish Hall, from 7:30 AM to 9:00. Our topics include Bible studies, biblical character studies, men's issues, and more. During September we will study the life and legacy of Mary Magdalene. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast followed by discussion and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Outreach

Our September Outreach Offering goes to



SAFE was established in Culpeper in June of 1980 as the Women's Abuse Shelter by a group of local concerned citizens who recognized the need for services to abused women. Their mission is to provide shelter, support and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. SAFE provides free and confidential services around the clock.

P.O. Box 402, Culpeper, VA 22701
info@safejourneys.org
[24-Hour Hotline: 800-825-8876](tel:800-825-8876)

Pastoral Care



We would like to ensure visitation for our homebound, hospitalized, or families in need. We will be only too pleased to coordinate activities required for people in need. Please call or email the church office with your requests for pastoral care, 540-937-4306 or aministrator@littleforkchurch.org.

In addition to pastoral visits from the The Rev. Jenks Hobson, lay Eucharistic ministers are available to take communion to shut ins. Please let the church administrator know if you would like to have communion brought to your home.

Farm Tour



Culpeper Harvest Days Farm Tour
September 21 & 22 10:00-4:00

After you've joined us for Little Fork Day take a drive through the countryside on the Farm Tour.

Visit <http://culpeperfarmtour.com/> for more information.

Happy September Birthdays!



September 7 Leigha Beres
September 11 Dayna Dillon
September 12 Lexi van der Woude
September 14 Karen McCauley
September 15 Bobbie Cabibbo
September 20 Bill Laimbeer



The Preservation Foundation completes ground penetrating radar.

In August, Matthew Turner from GeoModel performed a ground penetrating radar scan of Little Fork's grounds. Three likely unmarked graves were discerned as well as the original site of the Confederate War Memorial.

Stories of Faith

Beginning this fall, we would like to focus on Little Fork Church's parishioners and share their stories. How did you come to Little Fork? Why did you stay? What is your story of faith? What experiences do you have that you would be willing to share with everyone? If you would be willing to share your story in future newsletters, please contact Renae at administrator@littleforkchurch.org.

SCHEDULES

Thank you for serving at Little Fork Church

Sunday

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer
11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time

Friday

6:30 p.m. Parish Supper Group
(3rd Friday)

Saturday

7:30 a.m. Men's Group
(1st and 3rd Sat.)
9:00 a.m. Women's Group
(2nd and 4th Sat.)
10:00 a.m. Vestry Meeting (2nd Sat.)
9:00 a.m. 1776 Preservation Foundation Meeting
(3rd Sat.)

Celebrant

September 1 Morning Prayer
September 8 The Rev. Jenks Hobson
September 15 The Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick
September 22 The Rev. Michael Gray
September 29 The Rev. Jenks Hobson

Altar

September 1 Gaylene Laimbeer
September 8 Bobbie Cabibbo
September 15 Beth Turner
September 22
September 29 Gaylene Laimbeer

Lector

September 1 Ed Dodd
September 8 Jim Rutledge
September 15 Chris Stockton
September 22 Bob Lee
September 29 Jon Perry

Musician

September 1 Mike Vinson
September 8 Jon Perry
September 15 Otto Pebworth
September 22 Mike Vinson
September 29 Mike Vinson

Usher

1st Sunday each month Rollin Rosser & Eric Brown
2nd Sunday each month Roy Cabibbo & Brian Beres
3rd Sunday each month Bob Lee & John Turner
4th Sunday each month Mike McCarthy
& Jim Rutledge
5th Sunday Don Stockton & Bill Laimbeer

Sunday School

September 8 Becca Isaac
September 15 Daphrie van der Woude
September 22 Sara Hogan
September 29 Mandi Dillon

Refreshments

September 1 Perry
September 8 Laimbeer
September 15 Provided by church
September 22 Lewis
September 29 Rosser

Acolyte

September 8 Rachel Dillon
September 15 Lexi van der Woude
September 22 Riley Hogan
September 29 Dayna Dillon

*Please continue to pray for:

Avery Anderson and her family, The Beane family, Richard Brown, Bill Chadduck and his family, Miki Chilton, Scott Chilton, Nancy Clark, Charlene Cook, Carl Crist, Harry Crusenberry, Kirtlin Doyle, Jo Ann Emerson, Harvey & Carol Fox, Shirley Gaston and her family, Rich Gowe, Ben, Linnie & Bruce Graybill, Sandy Hurst, Mary C. Matthews, Steven & Karen McCauley, John Navin, Tolu O'Brian and his family, Mary Perry, Ricky Rosser, The Rosser family, Joe Wysocki and family

