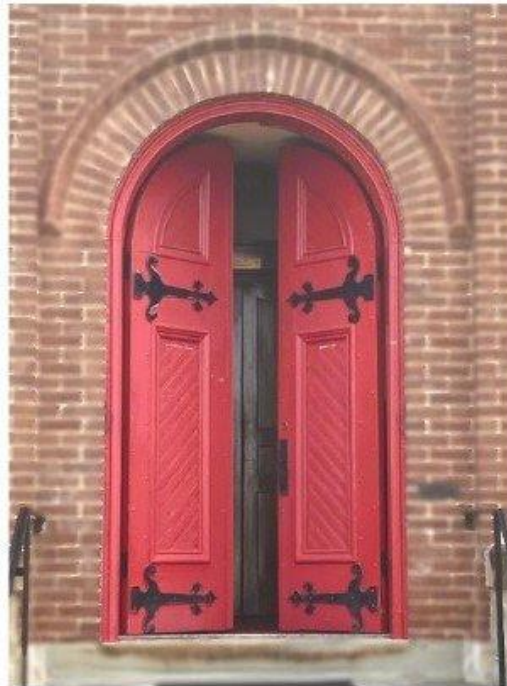


✠ ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Beyond ^{The} Red Door



DAUGHTERS AND BROTHERS —WE ARE FAMILY

By E. Ray Walker

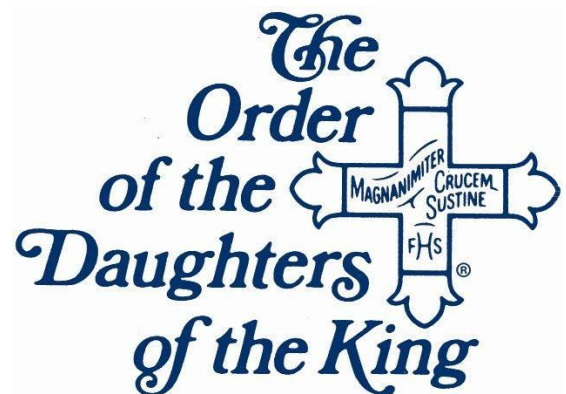
St. Stephen's is all about family. At the top, of course, are the Father and the Son, who art in Heaven. Countless theologians, scholars and writers have explored their natures exhaustively. Suffice it to say, there are unlimited possibilities for further discussion. For now, we'll add only: Where there is love, there is God.

But what about our Earthly church family, our daughters and brothers? Let's meet our ministry siblings, the Daughters of the King and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING: FOR HIS SAKE

First things first: About that name, The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK).

It comes from Psalm 45:13: "The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold." This verse is interpreted to mean that daughters of the King of Kings (God) possess inner beauty, righteousness and spiritual richness.



Its history, briefly: In 1885, 31-year-old Margaret Juliet Franklin, a wife and mother of two, led a women's Bible study in her church in New York. Margaret called a meeting of the group on the eve of Easter. The purpose of the meeting was to "arouse their interest and urge their cooperation as a class of definite workers for Christ and His church."

On that night, what would become known as "The Order of the Daughters of the King" was born.

The mission of the Order is the extension of Christ's kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism.

Unlike typical church organizations, the Daughters of the King is a spiritual sisterhood in which members take a lifelong vow to follow a specific "Rule of Life" that requires them to pray daily and perform service to spread Christ's kingdom.



At St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Culpeper, the Order's chapter is led by the indefatigable Kitty Whitman (president) and Terry Stein (treasurer).

Every DOK meeting begins with prayer and the recitation of the DOK motto, which most members recite daily. The motto:

*For His Sake...
I am but one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
Lord, what will you have me do?*

Beautiful, simply beautiful.

(Pictured left, Kitty Whitman reading at the 2024 Spring Assembly.)

DOK IN CULPEPER

The Culpeper chapter's roots go back to 2010 when then-St. Stephen's Rector Michael Gray had a conversation with Kitty.

"He had been at a church down in Florida, and it had a very active membership. And he was telling me about it," Kitty recalls. "And I thought, 'Gosh, wouldn't it be nice to have a chapter here.' And then a lady from Maryland, a Daughter of the King, came to this church, and Michael Gray persuaded her to mentor a small group. There were five of us. We started our discernment process in 2010 to begin the chapter."

St. Stephen's received its charter in 2011, and the members decided to name it St. Monnica Chapter. The framed charter is on the Parish Hall wall next to the Brotherhood of St. Andrew charter. Kitty had the DOK document double-framed so people could see the names of the five founding members on the back.

So, who is St. Monnica (the spelling in early historical records, but "Monica" is common today)?

According to an online encyclopedia, St. Monnica (c. 332–387) is a revered Christian saint known for

her unwavering patience and persistent prayer. She famously prayed for decades for the conversion of her pagan husband and her difficult son, Augustine.

The encyclopedia says St. Monnica is celebrated as the patron saint of mothers, wives and victims of adultery or abusive relationships.

Known for her immense patience and persistent prayer for her family's conversion — particularly her son, Augustine, who later became a saint — she is also recognized as the patron saint of alcoholics, widows and difficult marriages.

She was the dominant reason her husband and son converted to Christianity. "She was a remarkable woman who never gave up on her wayward son because she knows that Christ never gives up," Kitty says.



(St. Monnica)

The church honors her on May 4 with St. Monnica Day.

The order is for women 21 or older. They may be Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Lutherans (ECLA) or from any other church in the Anglican Communion.

The process of joining starts with a 12-week (at least) discernment, a period of concentrated study, training, prayer and service. The purpose is for the applicant to determine whether she is truly being called into this Order and its Rule of Life. "It's a big decision to make, and not everyone is called to it," Kitty says.



What is the "Rule of Life"? In short, it is a commitment to daily prayer, service and evangelism. "Primarily, it's prayer and service," Kitty says, "but when you do those two things, and by your presence, you are evangelizing."

According to "The National Handbook and Bylaws of The Order of The Daughters of the King," Rule of Life is considered a pattern of activities designed to embody and focus members' relationship with God. A Daughter's Rule of Life is not taken lightly but is developed prayerfully, with God's guidance. Each Daughter adapts her own personal Rule of Life as part of her spiritual journey. This rule may begin simply and is intended to be flexible, accommodating changing life circumstances and spiritual growth.

(Pictured left, Terry Stein talking about DOK at the 2025 Ministry Fair)

Members faithfully wear a Daughters of the King Cross daily. It is a modified silver Greek Fleury cross adopted in 1891, featuring the motto "FHS" ("For His Sake") at the base and the Latin words "Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine" ("With heart, mind, and spirit uphold and bear the cross"). It symbolizes members' lifetime vow of prayer, service and evangelism, and is worn over the heart.

Kitty, lifelong Episcopalian, says wearing the cross daily is a reminder that one cannot live a day

without Christ.

For girls and young women between the ages of 7 and 21, there is the Junior Order of the Daughters of the King. Through their promise of daily prayers and service, they have a special opportunity to grow in the Christian faith and commitment. Junior members must be baptized but may belong to any Anglican church. Junior members may transition to senior membership at age 16, with the permission of their Directress and parents.

The St. Monnica Chapter has nine members, with three being active. The others have either moved elsewhere or are have health issues that limit their activities

St. Stephen's rector, the Very Rev. Trent Moore, is the chaplain of St. Monnica Chapter.

So, what do the Daughters do?

Says Kitty, "Daughters serve the Lord, church, rector and community of St. Stephen's in several quiet ministries."

Every year on April 25, St. Mark's Day, they read responsively the Gospel of Mark, the shortest of the gospels, from the beginning to the end. The Gospel starts with John the Baptist baptizing Jesus. From that point, it's a fast-paced retelling of Jesus' amazing ministry.



(Fr. Trent reinstating a DOK daughter)

"He gets right to the point," Kitty says, "and takes us through a reading of the ministry of Christ."

The Gospel of Mark is significant to DOK sisters for its two intertwined daughter stories of healing: Jairus's 12-year-old daughter who is raised from the dead, and the woman with the 12-year hemorrhage, whom Jesus calls "Daughter." Both represent a "tale of two daughters" linked by faith, 12 years, and restoration by Jesus.

The women have a "Quiet Hour" on holy days, quietly contemplating what God is saying.

The Order maintains a confidential prayer list for those who may not want to be included in the public prayer list in the Sunday church bulletin. The Order sends sympathy and get-well cards as needed.

Chapter members each contribute \$50 annually to National DOK to maintain their active status in the Order. All money comes from donations. "We cannot and do not fundraise. All of our money comes from donations," Kitty says. Anyone can donate.

The Order sponsors the online study group Lectio Divina in which each person reads, reflects and prays on selected scripture, currently the Book of Esther. Women wishing to deepen their spiritual journey are welcome to join on Zoom every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Also on Zoom, the Daughters sponsor Compline (end-of-day prayers) on Thursdays. "It's a reminder of what God has done for us that day."

In addition, the Daughters will walk and pray 'The Stations of the Cross' with anyone who desires accompaniment and private devotions at any time.

The St. Monnica Chapter has helped launch sister chapters in Remington, Madison and Orange.

All chapter gatherings welcome women of the church to be present and participate in their fellowship.

Women interested in joining the St. Monnica Chapter of the Daughters of the King should contact Kitty Whitman at momeka@comcast.net or Terry Stein at ttstein22701@gmail.com.



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW: PRAYER, STUDY, SERVICE

As families worldwide can attest, siblings share some similarities, but there are also differences.

So it is with the Daughters of the King and the older (by two years) Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Both share an unshakable commitment to daily prayer and service. However, there are differences beyond the obvious gender issue.

Let's take a look at the Brotherhood.

Trice Gravatte, the director of the St. Stephen's BoSA, offers this Reader's Digest history lesson: "Two knucklehead fishermen were walking around the Sea of Galilee, and Andrew finds Christ and basically says to his brother, come and check it out."

With that model as a leader who brings his brother to Christ, the Brotherhood got its start.

A more expansive history lesson would note that Andrew was the first apostle chosen by Jesus and that his brother was Simon Peter, now commonly known as St. Peter. (A chunk of prime real estate in Vatican City is named for St. Peter.)

Advance 1,800-plus years to a modest church in Chicago. A bunch of guys were sitting around, talking, and it occurred to them that, even though the clergy were men, they thought the church was female dominated. They talked more, and decided to do something to get men more involved with the church.

The group was first organized on St. Andrew's Day, November 30, 1883, as a prayer and Bible study group at St. James Church. The national church endorsed the group's efforts, and it quickly spread to Philadelphia, then elsewhere.



(St. Andrew)

Its mission: To bring men and youth to Christ.

In the late 1990s, a Brotherhood chapter was established in Culpeper.

As the Brotherhood's director in Culpeper, Trice says, "We welcome folks from a variety of faiths. ... Even though we are an Anglican-Episcopalian entity, we welcome fellows who are not Anglo-Episcopalians but are Christians." (This differs from the DOK requirement that members be from an Anglican Church.)

To join, Trice says, “we simply ask that you follow our devotional book and its liturgy.” “If you are a believer in Christ — Catholic or Protestant — and you subscribe to the things that we say and do, we want to help you in your walk. For us, if you want to follow Christ, come with us.”

What are the responsibilities of Brotherhood members? “We have disciplines of daily prayer, study and service,” Trice says. “So, in that, we don’t hold them accountable; they have the opportunity to make themselves accountable to another brother or to a priest.”

The Brotherhood meets weekly in the St. Stephen’s Parish Hall. “What’s unique about our organization is that we enjoy a meal together. Every Wednesday morning, we take turns cooking a meal for each other,” Trice says.



“What has been gratifying about our fellowship is we have some folks ... who don’t have homes. They enjoy our fellowship. If any of them wants to come back, they get a meal, fellowship and their dues paid.”

Not long ago some homeless were living in the area across the railroad from the Depot where the new parking lot is now. “We worked with and welcomed some of the guys living there.”

Unlike the DOK, there is no age requirement to join the Brotherhood. “Any men, any boys are

welcome. That’s where we draw the line. They simply have to be a guy,” Trice says.

*(Trice Gravatte talking with guests
at the 2024 Roast Beef dinner)*

The Brotherhood is busy year round. From Shrove Tuesday pancake dinners to other dinners to helping with the church picnic to chopping down trees, to fulfilling any request from the rector, the Brothers are there. During the winter, they prepared and served dinners at the Culpeper Winter Heat Shelter.

Looking to the future, Trice sees outreach opportunities to mentor young men in their 20s and 30s, to bring them to Christ through prayer, study and service.

Men interested in joining the Brotherhood of St. Andrew should contact Trice Gravatte at tricegravatte4@gmail.com.

Though similar in many ways to the Daughters of the King, there is little collaboration between the two on church projects. “We look to support each other, but our target audiences are different,” Trice offers. “Respectfully, we operate in different worlds.”

Like brothers and sisters everywhere.