



Coming Soon...

Bishop's Blend coffees and teas will be available for sale at the Mission & Outreach bake sales, scheduled for the fourth Sunday of each month between and after the services.

Your purchase will support St. John's Mission & Outreach programs as well as fair trade practices, and the environment.



About Bishop's Blend (from the Episcopal Relief & Development web site): "Episcopal Relief & Development has partnered with Pura Vida Coffee to offer Bishops Blend: a premium line of special-grade coffees from Central America, Indonesia and Africa, along with organic teas, available in Moroccan Mint and fair trade Earl Grey. Organic, shade grown and certified fair trade, Bishops Blend protects the earth while ensuring that coffee and tea growers are paid a living wage and have access to affordable credit."

Picture in your mind an expansive graduation ceremony on The Lawn at the University of Virginia. You sit in a crowd of several thousand people for hours. This is one day, one occasion, where you know you have something in common with those sitting near you. You are all there to support a graduate. The people in front of you are celebrating their son, who is receiving his doctorate in engineering. He has been a UVA student for nine years. The people beside you are celebrating a legacy graduation. The mother graduated from UVA thirty-four years ago, and is now proudly watching her son. The people behind you are watching their second child graduate from UVA. You are soaking this all in, proud of your graduate with a high GPA, who already has a job in these tough economic times, and really has the world as his/her oyster.

The picture I have painted is very realistic for most of us at St. John's. Most of us have raised our children with the automatic assumption that they will go to college and succeed in whatever they choose. We have fostered this since their birth, and as their lives have flashed before our eyes, dreams have come true.

'Children are more than our future, they are our responsibilities today.'

There is an assumption that children at risk, those from disadvantaged homes, do not even want to go to college. That they don't even think of it. This is false. All children want to succeed, and they learn early on that kids who go to college succeed. Go to any Title I school in Hampton Roads and ask a class of first or second graders who wants to go to college. Over 90% of the class will raise their hands—they are excited and sure. They will tell you they want to be doctors, lawyers, teachers, athletes, and all kinds of professions.

Sadly, what happens is that for many (not all), of these children the innocent and pure dreams of success will die. Not because they can't excel, not because they are unaware, but because their dreams are not encouraged through their childhood. They fall through society's cracks—either by their family, their school, their community, or all of the above. Many don't have music, dance, art, and sports lessons/practices scheduled on a routine basis. Many have broken homes, or have known nothing except single parenthood. Many have no college graduates in their families as role models. The sad truth is that wanting to go to college is not enough for most disadvantaged youth. They need us, you and I, to step in and help however we can. Children are more than our future, they are our responsibilities today.

For three years now St. John's has partnered with Tyler Elementary School here in Hampton. Tyler is a Title I School, which means it has many children who receive free and reduced lunch. We have a small group of dedicated weekly and monthly volunteers. We help the school financially as well. This is your chance to be involved, to add purpose and meaning to whatever you are already doing. You live a good life, maybe one similar to what I described earlier. Don't follow the easy path to complacency. Make a difference today. Please call me at the numbers listed below to see how you can help. St. John's needs you, **but more importantly, the children need you.**

Blessings, Greta Harrison

Do you have a favorite mission?

Would you like to see more St. John's folks helping you with it? Please contact the Mission & Outreach group with suggestions/comments.

Mission & Outreach Group

- Hampton Schools Faith Community Program Advocate: *Greta Harrison and supporting volunteers*
- Mission Trip Planning Advocate: *A handful of volunteers, but more are needed*
- Advocate for the Belize schools: *Sandy Smith*
- Jail Ministries Advocate: *Jane Price*
- St. Paul's, Newport News support Advocate: *Joe Drewry and a handful of volunteers, but more are needed*
- Publicity coordinator: *Sukey Stephens*
- Special Food Basket Events Advocate: *Jo-Ann Mahony*
- Virginia Peninsula Food Bank: *Stan Winarski*

Talk With... Whit McKinney, Stan Winarski, Greta Harrison, David Foster, Sandy Smith or Joe Drewry for details or to propose additional ministries. ■

Anonymous donors will match your gift to Holy Cross Education Foundation

Amount for Corporate Match: \$15,000 USD

Program: The matching program will give an equal amount for any donation received between May 10 & Sep 30, 2010 which is recorded as a 'Summer 2010 Matching Donation'.

Purpose: To raise \$30,000 to sustain Holy Cross Anglican School.

The children of Holy Cross Anglican School are counting on YOU! PLEASE make a donation NOW while your dollars will be doubled—wow! Without your support, we cannot be supportive of our children who are hungry, in need of uniforms, shoes, school supplies or sick.

Tax deductible contributions can be sent to:
Holy Cross Education Foundation
7550 Corporate Way
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Contact the Chair of the Foundation Board,
Brian Ostenson:
bostenso@aol.com
www.holycrossbelize.org

Update from Holy Cross School, Belize

Dear Friends,

Belize recently joined most of the world in observing Earth Day #40 [...] Of course, the students and staff at Holy Cross were engaged in many Earth friendly activities which included a community clean-up, preparing educational posters, planting trees and becoming more aware of the fragile home we all share (see the accompanying photos). And what better time to highlight the construction progress being made on our very green, environmentally sound, ecologically beneficial bathroom facility!



[...] With your help and support we will continue to improve and be able to offer a sound education, feeding program, dental care, school supplies, tennis shoes and tons of love to many disadvantaged children in San Pedro. Please celebrate Spring and another Earth Day by sending your contribution to: Holy Cross Anglican School; San Pedro Town; Ambergris Caye, Belize.

Many thanks and blessings! Francis

Holy Cross Goes 'State-of-the-Art'

The Holy Cross Anglican School is building a state of the art composting toilet system and water garden. The SABS building system incorporated in the building is 100% recyclable and the finished product produces a category 5 hurricane resistant building, which is also earthquake resistant and water proof.

The new toilet system and water garden will use UV lights to kill all bacteria and viruses, as well as plants and limestone to purify the gray water from the school. This water then will be recycled and used to flush the toilets.

The system has been designed by a volunteer in Minnesota who specializes in designing and installing water garden systems for the state of Minnesota. This will make Holy Cross School's septic system the most advanced system in Central America. Holy Cross will keep the public updated on the building progress.