

THE BRANCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Here comes Advent, Christmas & Epiphany,
another junction on our journey.**

Listen like Mary through Advent so that Christ might be birthed into our everyday lives through Christmas only to be made known to the world through Epiphany.

Journey with us as we try
to become a church who listens.

with Advent we
begin again

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." *John 15:5,8 NIV*

Our Mission

We are a family of believers (kingdom community), on a journey to the fulfillment of our God-given purpose.

Our mission is:

- 1) To bring people to know Jesus Christ;
- 2) To provide clear and life-changing discipleship training;
- 3) To help people discern their life's purpose and provide opportunities for them to fulfill that purpose in ministry and mission. The fruit of our endeavor is that God be glorified in all the world (worship).



St. Bartholomew's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Staff

Clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith, *Rector*

The Rev. Dixon Kinser, *Assistant Rector for
Youth & Young Adult Formation*

The Rev. David Wilson, *Pastoral Associate*

The Rev. Ian Morgan Cron, *Liturgical Associate*

Office:

Pam White, *Director of Operations*

Jane Long, *Office Manager*

Annie Heyward, *Administrative Assistant*

Teresa Robinson, *Childcare Coordinator*

Parish Ministry:

Carla Schober, *Director for Family & Children's
Formation*

Sally Chambers, *Director of Communications*

Bev Mahan, *Verger & Assistant to the Rector for Liturgy*

Robert Smith, *Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care*

Shelby Hoggard, *Children's Formation Assistant*

Gaylene Latham, *Nursery Coordinator*

Elizabeth Madeira, *Elementary Coordinator*

Matt Rhea, *Preschool Coordinator*

Shari Smyth, *Catechist Coordinator*

St. B's Bookstore:

Allison Hardwick, *Manager*

Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

Suzy Floyd, *Preschool Director*

Music:

Eric Wyse, *Director of Music*

David Madeira, *Associate Director of Music*

Teresa Robinson, *Administrative Assistant*

Vestry

Dorman Burtch, *Sr Warden*; Trey Myatt, *Jr. Warden*.

Judson Abernathy, Carmen Hall, Matt Hardy, Vanessa Hardy, Dennis Holt, Ashley MacLachlan, Kay Morreale, Larissa Root, Rachel Sefton, Whitney Stone, Adam Wirdzek

Dan Cleary, *Treasurer*; Gary Mumme, *clerk*.

4800 Belmont Park Terrace
Nashville, TN 37215
phone: 615.377.4750
email: churchoffice@stbs.net

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Trinity Dental Clinic in Liberia, registered their 10,000th patient in October with less than three years of operation! Cheers to the Chapman Family and their faithful service. Thank you to the St. B's family who helped make it happen!

The Chapmans have also "officially" become a clan of 6! The adoption paperwork for Stephen went through and he is now theirs!

For more information, go to
www.trinitydental.org.

Please continue to pray for the Chapman's and Trinity Dental Clinic as they enter this year of significant transition.



Learning to Listen, Again

Advent at St. B's.

One of the themes that keeps being repeated in our community is that we need to be learning to listen to God and one another. It does make sense that if His goal is to make us into the people He wants us to be, then we need to be learning to listen.

Maybe more bluntly, we are being called to listen with ears to hear not with filters to pick up only what we are interested in.

Counseling rooms are overflowing with people who have lost the ability to hear.

In a culture that celebrates multi-tasking, we seem to have compromised the direct attentiveness necessary to pick up the nuance of body language in intonation.

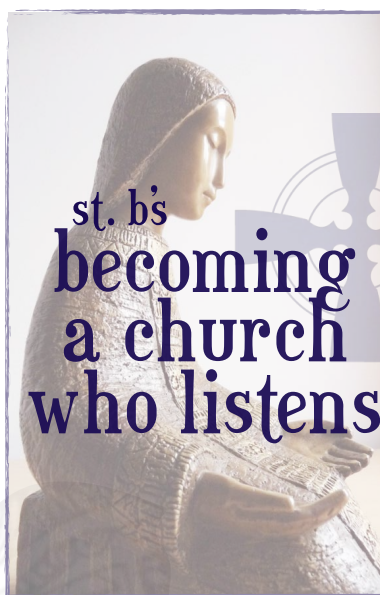
There is certainly evidence that we struggle with the "inner" ears necessary to hear the voice of the Spirit of God, as He directs us through the pathway of life.

Week after week we hear the phrase "Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church" and week after week we automatically respond with our "thanks be to God". The resounding question that needs to be asked is "what has the Spirit actually been saying?" Do we have ears to hear? And, if we have ears to hear, are we actually willing to respond?

Throughout the scriptural narrative we see God anxious to talk with His creation. From the first of Genesis through the end of the book of the Revelation, He is engaging with the intent of developing an intimate relationship with His own.

Time and time again Genesis chapter three is repeated. God communicates clearly but His words get reinterpreted which leads to bad behavioral patterns (known affectionately as sin). Over and over God seeks to generate this intimacy and over and over we don't seem to have ears that will actually hear so as to understand which leaves room for bad interpretation.

This Advent season we will be focusing on what it means to "hear" from God. This is risky because to want ears to hear means that we have wills that want to obey once



His word is heard. I have wondered if we keep our ears closed because we don't want to have to obey!

It might be helpful to understand that hearing has to do with the discipline of internal transformation (taught about during the Lenten season this past year), because hearing from God is precipitated by an internal desire to be formed into the image of Christ.



KINGDOM TALK
by Fr. Jerry Smith
Rector

Had Mary not had ears to hear from God she might never have made herself available to conceive the Christ. She is our model this season as to make Christ known in the world today, we need to be as willing to hear and respond.

The psalmist put it this way "Today, if you would hear His voice, harden not your hearts..." (Ps 95:8) I invite you to 'with soft hearts' to listen to how God wants to speak to the church that we might make the incarnation real in this age.

Today, if you
would hear
His voice,
harden
not your
hearts
Ps 95:8



Advent: A Holy Rest

The Changing of the Seasons

I love Fall...cooler air, vibrant colors and the smells of pumpkin bread and vanilla candles. Then comes the onset of Winter. The leaves fall, the sky is most often overcast and the days shorter. There's a sense that nature has grown tired and dull. But what we see isn't necessarily how things really are.

Nature needs rest to gain energy and protection for the growing season. Depending on the species of plant, tender leaves may freeze in winter so they let go and rely on the tough branches until the fresh buds are safe to reawaken in the Spring. It's a time for the tree to focus on protection through rest and building up inner strength for new growth. What we think is dull, tired and appears dead is actually full of life to come.

As we enter the season of Advent the temptation is to jump from our busy family Summer and Fall schedule into the fast pace toward Christmas day. Sometimes it may

appear easier to keep going strong and not stop to rest until everything is done. But is that what Advent is all about? Advent

May this
Advent be
one that
helps you
rest and not
be weary

is about preparation for the coming of Christ. It's a time to refocus on what should be most important in our lives. Advent is time to drop our leaves, gain inner strength and protection for the



THE WONDER OF IT ALL

by Carla Schober

Director of Family & Children's Formation

new life Jesus brings us in Him, if we let Him.

This year, Children's Formation will once again offer various guides to help you and your family prepare for this season of beginnings. If you've never celebrated Advent with an Advent Wreath, then why not start this year? We'll have information free downstairs and the St. B's bookstore will have candles available to purchase. If you've never had a time for devotions as a family, now is a good time to start and we'll make sure we have a few options available. If you are unfamiliar with church traditions and the beautiful imagery surrounding Advent, we will also be more than happy to have that information available to read and ponder.

May this Advent be one that helps you rest and not be weary in all our Savior has for you.

The Children's Offering in Advent at the 8:30 Service



During Advent at the 8:30 service, the children will present each week different figurines for the creche with a short reading that corresponds to the Advent Wreath. To learn more about the Advent Wreath please see the Children's Formation Advent Listening Guide.

Advent 1 (November 27) – Prophet & Animals presented. The first candle on the Advent Wreath is Hope

Advent 2 (Dec. 4th) – Mary, Joseph & donkey presented The second candle on the Advent Wreath is Faith

Advent 3 (Dec. 11th) - Angels presented. The third candle on the Advent wreath is joy.

Advent 4 (Dec. 18th) -Shepherds presented The fourth candle of the Advent wreath is love.



New Plans for a New Year

From the Warden

THE BUTCH-ER'S BLOCK

by Dorman
"Butch" Burtch



Senior Warden

butchburtch@comcast.net

Time and again, throughout our lives, we are reminded that each dawn brings a new day, an opportunity to start over: every morning a fresh start, a do-over, a Mulligan from the day before if you will. The same also seems true of the seasons of the year with each one marking both an ending and a new beginning. Now, our church calendar year is ending, and we look forward once more to the Church's first season, its new year, Advent.

Advent is a season of anticipation, a chance again to marvel that God has been and still is mindful of our existence, that he actually still loves us (despite our need for fresh starts), that his intention is to fix the world (with our help), and that he offered and sacrificed his son to continue that process. If we try to get our minds at all around those truths, then we cannot help but look seriously at ourselves in that bright light. Therefore, Advent is also a season for penitence: a short season for self-examination; a chance to repent of our short-comings, and another opportunity for a fresh start in the practice of our Faith and our church life.

We believe in fresh starts, and I believe with God's grace and

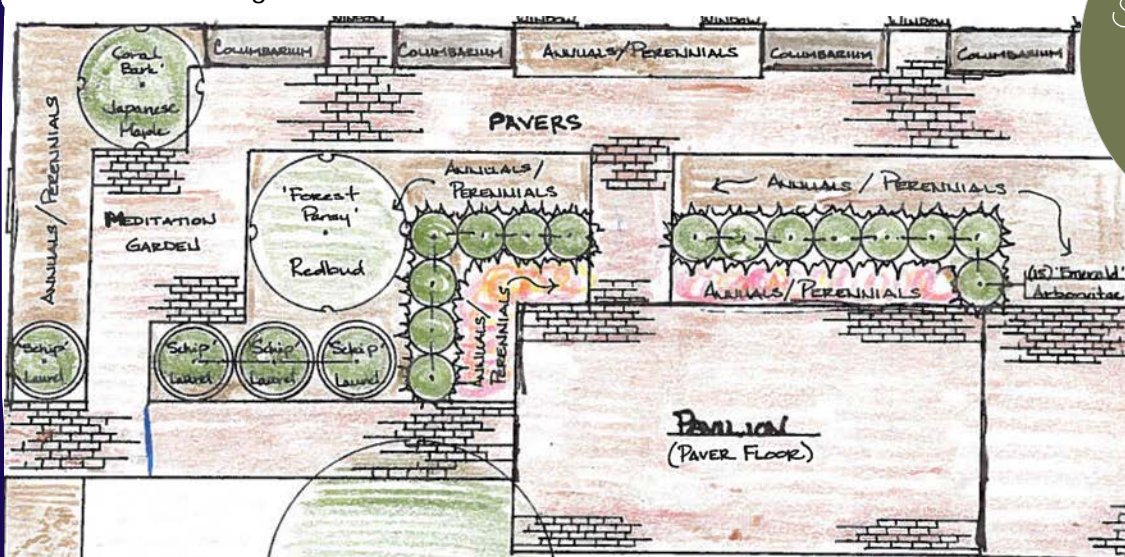
forgiveness, and with practice, that each of us has an important role to play in God's Kingdom and in the life of St. Bartholomew's Church. If you haven't yet found your role here, or are looking for a new one, find it (we can help), whatever it may be, and continue practicing your faith in that role.

The columbarium is already about 50% funded. If you are interested in information about this, please contact the church office, Kathy Edwards or me.



Most of you received a flier in the mail earlier this month describing plans for the Outdoor Sanctuary, a landscaping project from the east side of the church building, going

out past the bell tower and arbor to beyond the end of the sacristy wing. A drawing of this 3-phased plan is on display in the parish hall. This undertaking will be self-funded through individual contributions and the sale of memorial pavers. The pavers will replace the asphalt walkway along the side of the church building and continue to the sacristy porch. Examples of pavers are on display and now for sale for \$60 each, with space for up to three lines and 15 characters per line on each brick. We challenge all the ministry groups to compile lists of church members, family, friends (even pets) to honor in this way. As the annual gift-giving season approaches, instead of "stuff," memorial pavers can be thoughtful gifts to honor friends and relatives, with certificates naming the honoree and donor included with each one. Who would be on your list to remember and honor?



the outdoor
sanctuary
at st. b.'s

More
information can
be found at
www.stbs.net



An Advent Tradition

Lessons and Carols

Our morning services on December 11 will include the Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols. The music will include advent carols sung by the congregation, as well as anthems offered by the Parish Choir and the Choristers (Children's Choir). St. Bartholomew's first presented

Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve in 1994, and has incorporated into the morning services the second Sunday of Advent since, 2003. While the traditional service on Christmas Eve includes 9 lessons (reading from Holy Scripture), our Advent service will have six.

MUSICIAN'S CORNER

by Eric Wyse

Director of Music
ericwyse@stbs.net



MARK THE
ADVENT SEASON
WITH THE
CHOIRS AND
MUSICIANS
FOR
A FESTIVAL OF
LESSONS & CAROLS,
DECEMBER 11
AT BOTH SERVICES.

The Story Behind this Advent Tradition

Courtesy of Kings College, Cambridge Univ.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College (Cambridge) after experience as an army chaplain had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city'. In almost every year some carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive Organists. [But] the backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 pm on Christmas Eve 1880. AC Benson recalled: 'My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop.'

Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also

all heat) had been removed from the Chapel and the name of King's could not be broadcast for security reasons. Sometime in the early 1930s the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programmes.

In these and other ways the service has become public property. From time to time the College receives copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies or the Far East and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge. One correspondent writes that he heard the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy about their own preparations for Christmas. Visitors from all over

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Finding Sanctuary | Coming Home

by Kathryn Wright

Written on September 11, 2011. . .

What an amazing day! We mourned with those who mourn . . . we were convicted to allow God to work through us on a constant path of forgiveness. . . and music filled the air. What a powerful experience!! Our first Sunday with the chamber singers and my heart is overflowing with joy and gratitude! A few short days ago, self-doubt was the driving force in my thinking and in my singing. I allowed everyone and everything to intimidate me. I am very confident in some of my life skills (for example, nursing, creative baking, flower arranging, or killing any living indoor plant). However, I am not as confident in my singing. I have a lifetime of experience in music and acapella singing, but my official choral singing is limited. I hear the chords in my head, but are they going to come out of my mouth as I have envisioned?!

Coming into Sunday, I was nervous. My younger son, Carter, said, "Mom, I hope your hands don't sweat"! (He knows that's what I do when I am feeling anxious). In spite of all of these feelings I have described, I was actually excited! The presentation song "How Long" was so beautiful – both in message and in melody! We were prepared as a unique collection of voices and religious backgrounds. It was hard to believe that this was a song unfamiliar to all of us just a few weeks ago. I was also touched by the Anglican chant that we shared. We arrived early for a final "run through." I am uncharacteristically calm. Until. . . Eric asks to share music with me so he can quickly move to the organ. Really God?! Not just anyone in the group, but the minister of music who has perfect pitch. Not to mention

standing next to a certain music teacher on my left who has the vocal range of an entire keyboard! I tell myself to calm down. There is nothing more I can do at this point. Then we sing. . . not just the presentation piece but also the whole musical service. It is a beautiful time of praise and prayer! Being in the loft is such a comforting place to be. No pressure from being in the front – just lifting our voices and music to God! Music touches a place in our souls where words alone cannot reach. . . and I was moved that morning! Thank you God!

If the morning service wasn't enough to encourage and convict me, the hymn sing was yet to come. As praise / worship style music has become more "popular" in many churches, I have missed the "old hymns". . . like the ones written in the 1800's! These are not songs that I necessarily sang in my childhood, but ones that I learned from groups such as "2nd Chapter of Acts", listening to my grandmother play on the piano in her home, or various hymn cassettes. Through the years these songs have become an



integral part of my spiritual growth. We came to a brief rehearsal at 5:30, and I am so excited to see the songs selected for the evening (including my ballot box "stuffing selection". . . "Just as I Am"). We are rapidly moving through the songs when Eric says, "On this song I want you to file down the stairs and join me on the stage." Really?! I am not ready for this!! I can't hide in some back corner. I am actually on the front row . . . how could this happen?! But then we begin to sing and God whispers "courage in my ear." I have done this before. I know these songs, and we are even singing some acapella. These harmonies are ingrained on a cellular level.

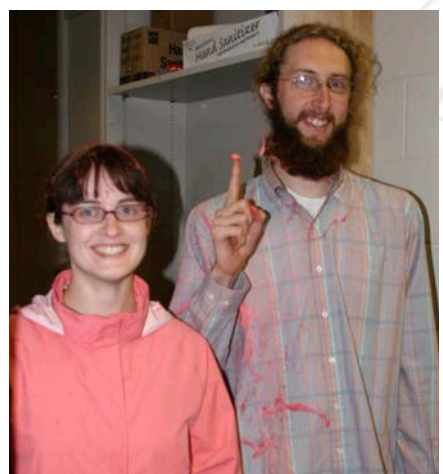
Then during the service, I am able to look at the faces of my new church family in the audience. Some tears, some smiles, hands raised in praise. Joy and peace are permeating this place. I hear a familiar tenor in my ear and we have some "good 'ole" acapella harmonies flowing. I have a sense of calm. I am right where I need to be. I can bring something to this collective worship that is my unique journey to bring. Thank you God for an experience I would never have dreamed possible just a few weeks ago. Thank you God that as I look out at this church family I know that I am home. . . I have found sanctuary and I am at peace!



Think Family this Holiday Season

Stories of outreach and family for the holidays

St. Bartholomew's members were a HUGE part of helping St. Luke's Halloween Party on October 27th such a huge success. Twenty five St. B's members-helped run games, craft stations, and the very popular



cotton candy machine. St. Luke's Volunteer Coordinator Christie Bearden said they thought there were over 350 West Nashville residents in attendance. The event wouldn't have run as smoothly without the cheerful and capable number of St. B's volunteers. A very heartfelt thanks for being part of an event that made children smile. I especially loved that there were such a great representation of our church from young professionals to families. Annie Jiang commented "I had so much fun at St. Luke's halloween event, it became the highlight of my



week. I look forward to doing it again next year!"

There are three more upcoming opportunities to get involved and share the love of Christ with others over the holiday season. First, is the Thanksgiving Luncheon for St. Luke's senior residents in West Nashville on November 19th from 11a.m.-1p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of the luncheon from set up to clean up. If interested in helping please email Brooke at stbswomen@stbs.net.

Second, is the St. Luke's Adopt a Family Holiday program where families and seniors are matched with donors to complete their wish-lists. It's a wonderful way to provide a Christmas for those who couldn't afford it themselves. If interested in participating, email Christie Bearden christie.bearden@stlukescommunityhouse.org to receive a donor form where you can request a senior or specific family size. Once you return your form St. Luke's will match you and send you the family or seniors wish list. St. Luke's still has over 200 families that need to be matched. It's a wonderful opportunity to do as a group as well. Consider getting your office, Bible study or play group together to adopt a family. All gifts should be delivered by December 9th.

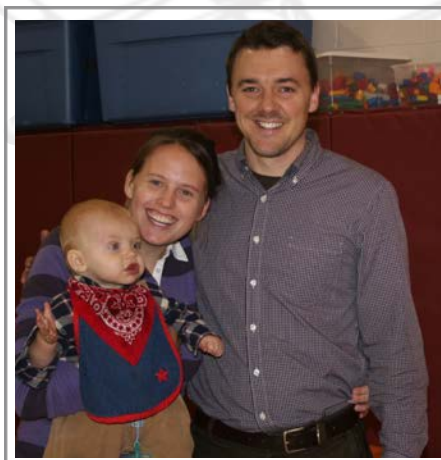
Third, you can help spread the gospel this holiday season to children abroad by packing a "shoebox" filled with hygiene items, school supplies, candy and small toys as part of Operation Christmas Child (OCC). The boxes are shipped overseas to needy boys and girls in over 100 countries where local ministry partners hand deliver the boxes. Pre-made boxes are available at

st. bartholomew's

ECW
episcopal church women

by Brooke Schroeder
ECW Outreach Coordinator
stbswomen@stbs.net

St. Bartholomew's during Sunday services. Packed boxes can be dropped back off at church on Sundays through November 20th.



Matthew West in his online video says "Operation Christmas Child is going to Great Lengths to reach these children, find these children and show them love through the shoeboxes. To me I felt like God was saying that's just a glimpse of the great lengths that I go to to search out each and every heart each and very soul to let them know that they are loved." The shoeboxes are planting a seed and are just the first step to sharing the good news. For more information on the program including what to include and additional drop off locations visit <http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/index.php/occ/>.

I hope we will all be encouraged to help others this holiday season, one person, one family or one shoebox at a time. You can make a difference!





The Vergers' Guild

This entry in the Walk This Way column is by Roger McCoy, a member of St. B's since 1998. Roger is a botanist for the state of Tennessee, responsible for identifying and protecting the State's rare species. He was raised in the Baptist Church and served as a chalice bearer at St. B's for a decade before becoming a verger in March, 2011.

Earlier this autumn, I had the opportunity to attend the 23rd annual conference of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio. Seventy-nine members of the guild met for training, fellowship and worship. The conference began with a choral evensong, setting the tone for a worshipful atmosphere that included Morning Eucharist, Morning Prayer, and an amazing choral Eucharist and procession of vergers on Sunday.

Judging from questions and comments I've received, many in our parish may be uncertain as to just what a verger is and does. In fact, other than a character who is either a suspect or a victim in a British mystery, you may have never even heard of a verger before.

The history of the Office of Verger goes back to the early days of the Church of England, and possibly even pre-dates the Reformation. Vergers likely performed similar duties as they do today but also served to protect the procession and the money collection from thieves and roving livestock, hence the verge, a rod or staff used by some vergers (sometimes spelled "virge" from the Latin *virga* for a twig, rod, or stick). In fact, in one workshop, we covered the all-important topic of how to properly carry the verge. Having assisted my dad with moving cows, I fully understand the need of a good verge to control livestock.

In short, a verger is a lay person, usually a volunteer, who assists clergy members with the order of service. Historically, and in some parishes today, a verger may act as a church warden seeing that the building is opened daily and – with the rector's instruction – organizing virtually all aspects of the service. At the conference, a verger explained that in his parish, a symbolic exchange of the keys from the verger to a new priest occurs prior to his or her installment. At least one member of the guild still digs graves because the parish graveyard has a number of large trees that may be otherwise damaged by a tractor and back-hoe. Another member of the guild from a very large parish is a verger by

WALK THIS WAY

by Roger McCoy

Assistant Verger

roger.mccoy@state.tn.us



vocation. Some vergers escort readers to the lectern, something we've done on special occasions such as weddings. A few vergers shared what now are funny anecdotes of having to remove unruly – even naked – people from worship services.

The "Verger 101" workshop covered topics such as hospitality to newcomers, training others on the worship team, and special services such as funerals and weddings. Although I'm a new member of the Vergers' Guild, I think I had much insight during our discussions of how to effectively communicate with the Altar Guild; you marry one of the members.

One workshop also provided clues as to the oft-asked question of the black cassock. The use of the black cassock, like that of an academic gown, dates from the time when

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Lessons & Carols History continued from pg. 6

the world are heard to identify the Chapel as 'the place where the Carols are sung'.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive

from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible'. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the bidding prayer, and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took

part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light'. The centre of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads.



One Stab at Getting the Soul *in* Shape



ONE
by Marjie Smith
msscibbler@comcast.net

It being pre-Christmas, I should be writing something spiritual about what the Magi would bring Mary and Joseph, today. Chances are a bunch of unknown scholars from perhaps Iraq or Iran might not make it across the border to Bethlehem. If they did, maybe they'd bring sun screen, hand sanitizer and a pair of Robeez. But, being of significant maturity and in a squabble with the aging process, I'm rather interested in what people back then did when they eldedered up.

How would a carpenter deal with arthritis in the hands? How did Mary walk everywhere, especially when she wanted to see her son, if she had plantar fasciitis? I don't expect her sandals had arches. What did they actually die of? How was life when she was almost 60? On and on goes my irrelevant little mind.

This I have figured about aging: there's a reason to keep your soul in good shape; it's the only part of you not on an inevitable decline.

When you were born, the operating manual you came with – that imbedded genome – never translated this little truth: some day you will need to retire, not because it is mandatory, but because it becomes a full day's work fixing your soul's little armature.

Teenagers, they don't get it. Those easy brains, that great hair and those knees that bend and unbend without incident – they think that it'll be that way forever. I

did. I knew people got old – in their thirties. But I never thought about it happening to me. I never thought, stretched out as a baked offering to the sun, that skin cancer might be a worry; never thought when I went flying on ski hills or landed on my knees in a broomball game that I'd pay for it someday. Who ever does?

There's a reason
to keep your
soul in good
shape; it's the
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decline.

Well, maybe it's different, today. Kids are dipped in so much sun block that they probably skid when they fall.

In those days of youthful ignorance, you went to a medical facility for a check-up or because the second-base man didn't catch the softball – your nose did. Now, you're meeting specialists with names that sound better attached to a hurricane when they run out of Alices and Hazels: Hurricane Orthopedic is stepping it up along the Gulf Coast, while tropical storm Thoracic is getting chesty over the Atlantic.

A while back, I was at my orthopedic guy's office – no, I don't have a thoracic doc – because my toe was doing this weird thing. It was making like a mini Mt. Rainier, without the ashes. "Hammer toe," was the diagnosis. So, that's what that means. What causes it? Well, stuff like badly fitting shoes, or arthritis, but it's also something that is more prevalent with old age. Other than a brain with instant recall, what isn't more prevalent with age?

So, here you have it – everything is in a race against gravity and your toe decides to defy it. Not all is lost – you can get these little toe straighteners. Now, His Collarship and I look like we're in a football locker room just getting ready for bed. He puts on his wrist brace and I have in my arsenal a foot archer, knee brace and toe straightener to use as needed. If we get any older and any more broken-down, it'll take us all night to get ready for it. Why don't we just put on body armor and have done with it? I've already figured out that time does most of its sabotage at night.

Anyway, like all these peculiarities, there are little exercises you can do to slow or even reverse the process. You can't just watch a movie anymore. You have to watch a movie and do tummy crunches, knee bends, foot stretches and toe scrunches. The face is beyond hope. I stopped doing exaggerated AEIOUs years ago. The wrinkles just kept coming and I was afraid it would crack.

I've finally reached the point where I acknowledge that there are other benefits to aging. I'm not going to wear out that overused word, experience, but patience is something we finally learn.

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Celebrating Christmas @ St. B's.

Please join us as we celebrate the beauty of the Word Made Flesh

Join us for Christmas Caroling, Wednesday, Dec, 21 from 6:30 to 9 PM. We'll meet at St. B's in the Parish hall at 6:30, and split up into groups to go out and carol to shut-ins, and those who may be sick during the holiday season.

We'll meet back at the church for snacks and hot cocoa and be finished by 9 p.m.

Music and words are provided. Dress warmly, and bring a heart full of love, and a voice to join in singing.

No special skill in singing is required - if you make it through "Happy Birthday" you can sing with us!



Dec. 21 | 6:30 - 9 p.m.



Journey With Us To Bethlehem Again
st. b's annual christmas pageant
christmas eve, 4:30 p.m. service

Christmas Eve is coming around soon so if your family has plans to stay in town, hopefully those plans also include celebrating Jesus' birth with your St. B's family on Christmas Eve. The children's Christmas Eve pageant is a St. B's tradition unlike any you've probably been involved in. This pageant gives opportunity for the children to act out the Christmas story

continued on pg. 14

A St. B's tradition and always a great event! Come join us for this year's Family Christmas Concert & Carol Sing. The concert will feature a wide variety of talents from members of the St. B's community, from songwriters to choirs, kids to adults, showing the diverse range of abilities right here in our own parish family. This year's event will also feature a "carol sing" -- a large section of the program devoted to a favorite holiday pastime, singing Christmas Carols. Don't miss it!



St. B's Family Christmas Concert & Carol Sing

Sunday, Dec. 18
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Childcare for under 4 yrs.
RSVP to churchoffice@stbs.net by Dec. 14



Glimpses of Our Life Together This Fall

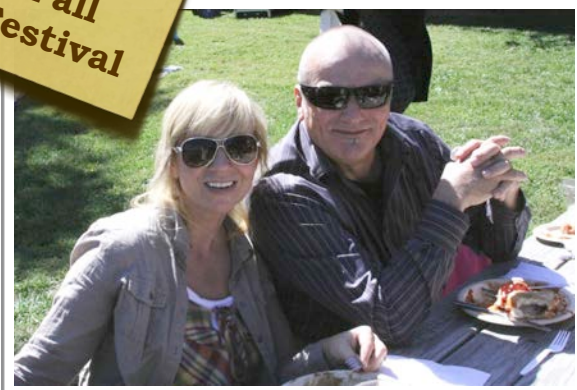
What story are we telling?



The Master of the Pig Roast: Robert Smith



The Pig Roast & Fall Festival



Thistle Farms had a booth.



The Jump Houses were a hit!



Face Painting!

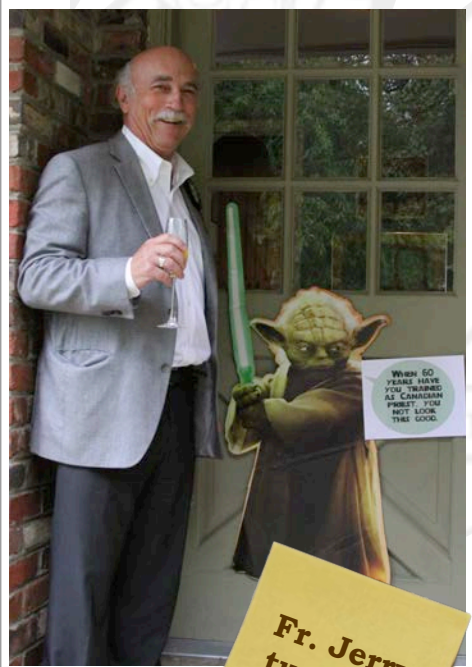


Glimpses of Our Life Together This Fall

What story are we telling?



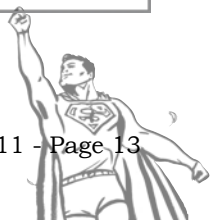
**STBSYM
pilgrims
to the Abbey
of
Gethesamani**



**Fr. Jerry
turns 60**



**The choir
helps lead
the hymn
sing**



Celebrating Christmas @ St. B's.

Please join us as we celebrate the beauty of the Word Made Flesh

from their prospective not an adult's. There aren't any lengthy lines to memorize or solo auditions. The plot hasn't even changed for over 2,000 years! However, each year the profound simplicity of the birth of our Savior as portrayed by the children is a delight for everyone who attends.

As many of our church family know, the St. B's children look forward each year to **their** opportunity to share the story of Jesus' birth to the

parish. This is not a big production from an adult prospective but it is a big opportunity for a child. The children, with limited help from their parents, make their own costumes with the supplies we have on site. The children take their parts seriously and through this opportunity gain a very real sense of the wonder of the night as well as their own ability to lead and serve. A child does not have to be a part of our parish to participate. Please feel

free to invite friend's, neighbor's and visiting relative's children to the rehearsal.

It's been said that this night is organized chaos. We can just imagine and wonder about that same innocent chaos on the hills above Bethlehem as shepherds prepared to leave their sheep and see a baby in a manger that was Christ the Savior.

Rehearsal 1: Saturday, December 17 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Drop your children off in the parish hall between 9:15 & 9:30. Join your child and help with their costume(s) at 11:00 downstairs in the designated rooms.

Rehearsal 2: Sunday, December 18 from 10:30-11:30 a.m., downstairs in room 110.

If your child is unable to attend the rehearsal on either day but still wants to participate on Christmas Eve, please contact Carla. Please note that 2 & 3 year olds are invited to participate in the pageant but do not need to be at the rehearsal on Saturday- watch for addt'l information in the week's ahead.

PAGEANT REHEARSALS

Are You Interested In Helping – We Need You!

Please join us for an information meeting and sign-up on Sunday, Dec. 4 and 11 from 10 to 10:20 in the children's formation office. If you've helped in years past, no need to be at one of the meetings. Email Carla with how you'd like to help.

If you have any questions about this year's pageant, or to help, please contact Carla Schober at 512-1969 or cschober@stbs.net.



christmas service times

Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24

4:30 p.m. Family Eucharist with Pageant

8:00 p.m. Eucharist Celebrating the Nativity

10:00 p.m. Carol Sing

10:30 p.m. Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1, 10:30 a.m.

Nursery for 4 yrs. and under on Christmas & New Year's Days.



I Don't Know What To Say

Ten Questions You Can Ask a Homeless Person

The Open Table gets questions all the time about our friends who are homeless. "How does it happen?", "What can I do?", "I would talk to them, but I don't know what to say."

So this holiday season, instead of looking away from someone who is homeless, perhaps we might make eye contact, say "hi," and begin a conversation.

10 QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK A HOMELESS PERSON

1. What's Your Name? Treat the person as you would anyone else. Introduce yourself and learn his/her name.
2. Are You Homeless? Don't automatically assume that a panhandler or person sitting on the sidewalk is homeless. They may have a place to stay, but choose

The Homeless in Nashville:

There are approximately 5,000 homeless adults in Nashville on any given night, but only about 1,500 shelter and transitional housing beds. This year, Metro Nashville reported that there were 2,500 homeless school children in Nashville.

There are over 80 homeless encampments in Nashville, most which are small in size. Before Tent City flooded, about 140 homeless individuals were living there.

More information on the Nashville Homeless can be found at www.stbs.net in the last edition of the Branch.

to panhandle due to lack of finances. Even if they're not homeless, they could have a significant need.

3. Where Are You From? A natural bridge into learning someone's story is to find out where they're from, where they've been, how they got here and how long they've lived in the area. If they are new to the area, you might be able to give them helpful information about resources they could use.
4. Are you a Veteran? A lot of our friends are veterans. That can be good news. Why? There are a lot of resources out there for veterans.
5. What Do You Need Most Right Now? The best way to help is to find the point of greatest need. Is it food? Shelter? Medical Attention? Transportation? Clothing? Addiction treatment?
6. Would You Like to Grab Something To Eat Or Drink? Offer to buy a meal or a cup of coffee and eat together. A meal can ease the flow of conversation.
7. How Long Have You Been Out On The Streets? The answers will vary widely. Be prepared to hear some painful stories.
8. How Do You Survive? You might be surprised to find out where people sleep, how they make money and where they get food.
9. What Would You Want Other People To Know About You? A question like this gives the opportunity



MISSION AND OUTREACH

by *Ingrid McIntyre*
Executive Director
and Co-founder of
the Open Table

ingrid@opentablenashville.org

to go deeper.

10. What Are Your Hopes and Dreams For The Future? Our friends can often be short on hope. Envision a brighter future with them.

In my experience, if you get this far, you won't need any further help. People love to share their stories once they know you care. And it will make their day (and yours) that you cared enough to take the time.

Hang out with the homeless here at St. B's through RITI.

Every Saturday night, November through March, St. B's hosts 12 carefully screened homeless guests.

Volunteers are needed for everything from staying over night to transportation to food preparation to laundry.

To learn more or to volunteer with Room In the Inn, please contact Jim Pichert at 356-0464 or jpichert@yahoo.com.



Perhaps by learning it with our new old selves, we finally learn it with others.

And so, I come full circle and wonder why any of this is really important. Just like I wonder sometimes what difference it would make if I didn't decorate the house at Christmas. There will come a time when I don't. Will the world slow on its axis?

Why does aging bother us so much when even Methuselah bit the dust? I'm always interested in archaeological probes into what killed guys like King

Tut. I have no idea why. And why can I remember that he may have had malaria or a foot infection and deformity when it took me five years to learn my American Social Security number and never did learn my Canadian one?

I hope I am as interested in preventing decay of my attitudes and opinions as I am in other people's demises or in preserving my armature.

Because, the soul moves on, and the packaging doesn't.

A Pig Roast Thank You.

There is no way to adequately thank all of those who participated in the Parish-wide Celebration the first of the month. The event has continued to grow and exhibit the Love and Fellowship that makes St B's what it is!

Sally Chambers, and all of her work to create a communication package that reaches across demographics, along with her stepping in with the Youth, cannot begin to be "Thanked" loudly enough! Bill Bowlby, Heinrich Tischler, Chuck and Gail Richey, Kirk Smith (conscript), David Logan, Richard Courtney, Manaen Hall and many others for their steadfast cooking and food prep assistance. They were truly magical in their craft! Fr Jerry and Fr Dixon again braved all manner of ferocious and excited "Beasts" on Saturday afternoon as they "drove the evil spirits" from our beloved pets!

Sean Root, again, pulled a rabbit out of his hat with the astounding calendar of events on Saturday. The gathering in fellowship for dinner, followed by JanaRuth Ford's Stargazing crisply started the evening. As the bonfire burned, the surrounding company grew. Music from our talented Parish was intertwined with the Vesper Service. A truly Kingdom point in time. The tents for sleeping were spread across the fields, and many stories and camaraderie were shared around the ever-burning fire until the wee hours of the morning. Dawn peaked out to find preparations for the Fair Booths, Music and luncheon well under way! The Youth of St B's, again, turned out in droves to help make their day a success! Set-up, Bounce House monitoring, Face-painting, Serving, clean-up and tear-down, all were accomplished with our Youth! Adam Wirdzek and his music team enrolled us all in song, ably assisted by Jason Latham on the sound board.

While the Event itself was again successful in raising funds for the Youth and their ministry, most important was the Grace and Fellowship enjoyed by all. Thank YOU! St B's Parish Family, for making the day what it was! We raised \$1477 for the Youth Ministry!

-Robert Smith

St. B's Women

Spiritual Formation

**Advent 1/2 Day
Retreat Saturday,
December 3
8:30 a.m. - Noon
Parish Hall**

As we enter into the Advent season, join us for this meditation retreat. Come expectant. Come casual. Bring a Bible and journal.

Please RSVP by
November 28 to
stbswomen@stbs.net.

Fellowship

**Christmas Party
Monday, December 5
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
at The Cason's House**

Celebrate the season at our annual holiday open house. Please bring a favorite finger food to share. Punch will be provided.

RSVP to
stbswomen@stbs.net.

ecw

Changing Christmas

The critique of our modern consumption-driven Christmas is nothing new; it's become a cliché. Every year many of us lament the 'commercialization' of Christmas and pine for a simpler celebration from the past. In truth, that nostalgic Christmas may have never existed. Our current celebration of Christmas (piles of gifts, a decorated Christmas tree, Santa Claus coming down the chimney) has been criticized almost from its beginning for being too commercial, and leading to greed and selfishness. An innovation of the early 19th century, Christmas as we know it was primarily a reaction to the

rowdy riots that defined earlier celebrations. While the change to a more family-oriented Christmas was probably an improvement over drunken revelry and violence in the streets, this new celebration has brought its own share of problems.

The new Christmas was crucially important in the formation of our current consumer capitalism in that it trained us to buy things we didn't need: to splurge a little (or a lot). Christmas remains the pinnacle of consumerism in a consumer culture. This time of year we hear all about the important 'economic boost' of the holiday shopping season and how we need this year's sales numbers

CREATION CARE

by Justin Cole

creationcare@stbs.net



to exceed the previous years. This ever increasing level of consumption has its consequences. Currently, we in America consume far more than our share of the earth's resources. If everyone in the world consumed as much as we do, we'd need 5 planet earths. We are abusing the gift of creation as we worship the idol of material

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Verger continued from pg. 9

vergers mainly assisted the dean of a cathedral. It may have also served as a way to prevent one from dirtying his clothes while working in a parish or cathedral. A black cassock also allowed a vergers to remain hidden in the shadows of dark, unlit churches so he could perform his duties without notice.

In addition to worship and training, the conference provided a number of social opportunities and saw to the smallest detail allowing those attending to interact with each other in a variety of informative, yet entertaining settings. I learned very quickly that vergers are a light-hearted and fun group, yet perhaps the most punctual bunch I've encountered. When an instructional or leisure activity was scheduled, it began and ended on time, down to the minute. Perhaps something we St. B's parishioners can learn in order to avoid the "10:45 miracle" where the

sanctuary suddenly and mysteriously fills with congregants.

Many of the vergers with whom I spoke are from small parishes and oversee and train acolytes and lay Eucharistic ministers, as well as make assignments of ushers and lay readers. In meeting and speaking with these servants from all parts of the Episcopal Church, it became clear to me that we are blessed at St. Bartholomew's for so many of us are involved in organizing worship.

At St. Bartholomew's Bev Mahan and I are your vergers. During the week, Bev is in regular communication with Fr. Jerry and the Altar Guild regarding upcoming services including weddings and funerals. Bev and I then discuss any plans or changes that we may need to follow during a Sunday service. For example, we may assist visiting clergy, meet with baptismal parties prior to the service, work with readers when

there are last-minute changes in the prayers, determine the amount of consecrated elements in the aumbry, and assist the acolytes and the Eucharistic ministers (i.e. chalice bearers) with their assignments. A major goal in all of this is to free the priests during Sunday mornings so they can focus on spiritual tasks. We strive to provide a hospitable environment where long-time members and newcomers alike can worship without distraction.

Although the vergers who I've met might joke about using the verge or poke fun of themselves about their adherence to order, in truth, I was moved by their attitude of service. Whether from large California cathedrals, urban parishes in the Bronx, or rural parishes in the South and New England, the conference attendees see their role in Sunday and special services as a way to serve Christ in worship and worship Christ through service.



Pastoral Care for Kingdom People

I was listening to Jerry the other morning speak of a commitment that a Diocese outside London had made to a 15 year plan, on becoming "Distinctive Christians" and living "Distinctively Christian" lives. It was as if I had been, as the term goes, "hit with a 2x4 between the eyes."

The concept of being "Distinctive Christians," not by our outward accoutrements, but by our thoughts, prayers and daily actions, is one that I fly toward, like a moth toward the porch light. Our willingness to abandon the everyday milieu of "What should I wear?" and "What will think?" has never been so called up before us. I think back on my time of tailored suits and shirts, designer ties and exotic personal items. My how shallow I was at that time! And maybe still am in comparison to being "Distinctively Christian."

I am excited about the challenges ahead of us as we, a Parish, delve deeper into our Monday through Saturday lives as Christians. One area that is to experience this expansion of Sunday will be our commitment to Pastoral Care.

I often hear the query of, "What is Pastoral Care, what does it encompass?" I guess that it can be summed up in our being "Distinctive Christians." It is that reaching out to those around us

We know the holidays can be a hard time for some people. You're not alone. We're family here at St. B's. If we can support you in some fashion, please contact Robert Smith at 615.406.3152 or pastoralcare@stbs.net.

that are in need, Spiritual, Physical, Mental... of need. That grasping for that which always seems beyond our reach. We all experience this to a certain extent. And sometimes all that is needed is a soft touch, a gentle word, a hug of reinforcement. His Joy and Grace leaps back into our lives and we are reinvigorated! We are ready to "tilt windmills!" Those few things are a touch of Pastoral Care. But to some, the absence of personal interaction, the antiseptic environs of a hospital or nursing home/ assisted living facility are overwhelming. Then the opportunity for us to bring that "Joy" and "Grace" back into someone's life manifests itself.

The visits to those that cannot, by reason of infirmity (physical or mental), injury, lack of transportation, or whatever, join us on Sunday encompass a wide range of opportunities to share ourselves with these that so need our presence. Several things come into play, not the least of which is just the presence that is afforded by the visit. Conversation in a non-hurried, relaxed atmosphere is therapeutic and reinforcing to those visited. The sharing of news, activities and the general life within the Parish fills a void inherent in the lives of many. Reading of the Daily and sharing the scripture readings for the day and the reflections therein are a welcome inclusion in the life of the Church that is missing in their lives. They miss being included in the everyday life of the Parish! The visit brings that all back into being.

When invited, the Celebration of the Eucharist through the Holy Eucharist Reserve Sacrament service, is another inclusive event that is cherished by those unable to physically be present on Sunday. And we all need to be reminded of their need. We have begun to

PASTORAL CARE

by Robert Smith

Assistant to the
Rector for
Pastoral Care

pastoralcare@stbs.net



"Commission" Eucharistic Visitors at the end of the Eucharist. Their presence in the Recessional is their symbolic journey from the Altar out to those in need!

But there are many other "Touches" within the body that are available and are experienced within the Church. Manna Ministry where those that have been through a disabling experience are afforded temporary meals. You cannot imagine the impact that this has on those in need. Bereavement Ministry offers opportunities to assist in facilitating hospitality for funeral services at the church. The Prayer Ministries through Prayer Chain notifications and Prayer Desk intercessions and support during Communion are other outward evidences of our support and care for our fellow followers. These are opportunities for us to participate as "Distinctive Christians" in the Kingdom.

It is our commitment to daily living what we soak in on Sunday, and that we reinforce by our Daily Readings, prayers and actions. From the time we arise in the morning until we lay our heads upon the pillow in the evening, the recurrent thought throughout the day must be "How am I differentiating myself this moment from ignoring the charge of living in Christ?" It is not easy. But in reality is very simple: Love God. Love Neighbor.

May we all become "Distinctive Christians" in the Kingdom!



Changing Christmas continued from pg. 17

things.

Obviously something has to change.

But if you're like me, you don't quite know how to make that happen, or if it's even possible. How can you change Christmas? This might sound crazy and it certainly won't be easy, but slowly scaling down the amount spent on presents is a good start. How much of the stuff we get for Christmas do we really need? And whose birthday is it, anyway? Putting limits on gifts can be a hard sell to family and friends, but focus on the joy that will come with a simpler celebration, with more time spent together, more time for contemplation and worship. Also, consider making your own gifts. This could be a food item or a craft. Keep in mind: it doesn't have to be a masterpiece. A simple homemade gift is almost always cherished more than a store-bought gift and my wife and I have found making presents at home a much better way to spend the Advent season than shopping for presents in a mall. For the gifts that you do buy, try shopping fair-trade. Ten Thousand Villages in Green Hills has a great selection and shopping there helps support artisans in developing countries. Another gift alternative is to give someone a 'voucher' for a trip to the zoo, a

concert, or maybe just a meal prepared by you. Giving the gift of your time is so meaningful in our current culture of busyness.

One other simple step you can take to lessen the environmental impact of Christmas is to change your gift wrapping habits. I know my family always has a full trash bag of nothing but wrapping paper (that often can't be recycled) and packaging. Try to avoid excessive packaging and instead of traditional wrapping paper repurpose newspaper or extra wallpaper for your gift wrap. Reusable bags or boxes are another alternative and you can even use fabric as gift wrap (scraps from a sewing project, old curtains, that shirt that doesn't fit anymore, etc.). Some members of my family don't use any wrapping paper at all: only some pretty (and reusable) bows.

It is also important to remember that there's a lot that is good about our current celebration of Christmas. It's the only time of year my whole family gets together and this is true for many families. So whatever changes you do make should not cause divisions among family and friends. Remember: changing Christmas is a slow process. My wife and I are a few years into 'the switch' and still not quite where we'd like to be. With time though, maybe we can create a new celebration that

reminds us the source of true joy is not the stuff we buy. If we can remember this at Christmas, maybe we can the rest of the year, too.

Much of this article was based on the book 'Hundred Dollar Holiday' by Bill McKibben. It's a very quick read (less than 100 pages) that I highly recommend.

More tips:

For more on changing Christmas go to www.adventconspiracy.org, www.buynothingchristmas.org and www.newcelebrations.com.

To recycle your Christmas lights go to www.christmas-light-source.com/Christmas-Lights-Recycling-Program_c_210.html

For more gift wrap alternatives try www.eartheasy.com/gift_wrapping.htm

For home made gift ideas peruse pinterest.com and etsy.com or just use your imagination!



"It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we would have a holy Christmas. But we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God—the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people—kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people—no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush..."

. Fr. Andrew Greeley, Woman's Day, 12-22-81



The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Christmas tree in my family went up at varying times during the Advent weeks. Mum, though, was so very particular about the day that the tree came down: Twelfth Night. Our tree, "religiously" came down after the 12th day of Christmas every year!

Go back another generation and my Grandma tells me the story of how Father Christmas would annually bring the tree on Christmas Eve, after they had all gone to bed. No celebrating Christmas until the Day. But, man, did they live into all 12 days. Being poor, celebrating had very little to do with the packages that were wrapped under the tree. A dozen mince pies, a dozen lemon curd and jam tarts, christmas cake, plum pudding and two trifles, one with sherry: And that was just the pudding line-up. I could listen for hours to my Grandma telling me the stories of Christmases long ago. I really believe that during those 12 days, they tasted a little bit of heaven here on earth - the Incarnation, the word made flesh in a very real and tangible way.

A few years later, Christmas is a little different in Nashville, TN. In so many ways I love my Tennessee Christmas. But in other ways, it drives me batty.

Here's the thing: I can coexist with the commercial side of Christmas that often begins before Halloween. I can dismiss the naming of things "Christmas" that are really of "Advent." I can reframe the "christmas season" that seems to begin officially on "black friday" as the modern attempt to cry and prepare for the hope that does reside somewhere deep (and often hidden) below all the packages and bows. Now I know we try to buy that hope. We avoid the Advent waiting because we don't do delayed gratification well and we avoid the quiet because we don't like the longings we find there.

THE PILGRIM'S WAY

by Sally Chambers

Director of Communications



But all that being said, what drives me bananas - annually? Christmas being over on December 26th. I confess, I'm one of those Nashvillians that listens to 92.9 the mix beginning the day after Thanksgiving because they play non-stop Christmas music. And Christmas music, though it's technically out of liturgical "season," helps me prepare for the Feast of the Nativity. But even on "the mix," the music is always gone by the 26th.

Aggravated, I say the same thing to my radio, year after year on Boxing Day, Dec 26th: *"Peeps, Christmas has only just begun and you've quit playing her song."*

And then with a heavy sigh, I turn off the radio, plug in my ipod and continue to play her song and celebrate for 12 days the wonder, the joy and the hope of the Incarnation of our God found in Jesus. Why? *Because it's just too beautiful to take it all in, in just one day.*

So may we as a body celebrate Christmas - all of it - well this year. May the Spirit show us ways to remember the twelve days of this joyous feast. And may we be disciplined enough to rest in the hope and beauty, that is born again at Christmas, until Epiphany.

Grace & Peace, Sally

We want to know how you mark the twelve days of Christmas. Tell us your stories: schambers@stbs.net

Upcoming

Open House St. B's Preschool & M.D.O.

Dec 7 at 10 a.m.

Interested in learning more about our preschool and mother's day out programs? Then join us for our open house. Come tour the school and receive information at the prospective parent's meeting.

Please RSVP to 373-4633 or stbspreschool@stbs.net.



Christmas Day & New Years Day Nursery Help Infants - 3 yrs.

Please consider helping during the 10:30 service on Christmas Day and New Years Day. Note that only one service on each day is being offered.

Please email Gaylene to sign up at nursery@stbs.net.



Looking Forward to Epiphany

Chalking the Door

In the Jewish Bible, the Hebrew people are encouraged to teach their children the ways of God by, "talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deut 11:19).

I love this description of spiritual formation because it reminds me that Christian living is an "all the time" kind of practice. Spiritual development does not just happen in religious places like church buildings, but rather along the road while we are walking, sitting at home and even going to bed at night. These are not special times, but instead, the most ordinary. And that's the point. The people of God are in the business of making sacramental connections (the outward signs of our culture that point to inward and invisible kingdom realities) in the most common of places, times and activities and one of the tools we have to assist us in this good work are the festivals of the church.

January 6 is a festival commemorating the visitation of Jesus by the Magi called Epiphany. The event is worth celebrating for a number of

reasons not the least of which being the way it is a picture of all the nations of the world being drawn to Jesus (that's good news for all us non-Jews).

January is usually considered a "down month" in the empire's Christmas season. The shopping and gift giving are over as life finally returns to normal, right? Not for the Church. For the Church the party continues with the feast of Epiphany.

During Epiphany the people of God both tell the story of the Magi worshipping the Christ child and pray that our homes would be beacons of Gospel light much like the star that brought them. In Epiphany Christians are encouraged to connect their ordinary home life to the Gospel of God and there is even a liturgy called **Chalking the Door** to help us do it.

Developed in the middle ages, this liturgy draws on the portion of the Deuteronomy text where God says to, "Write (His laws) on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." (Dt 18:20) by literally directing worshippers to write on their doorposts with chalk! It is a celebration to be undertaken with

A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Assistant Rector for
Youth & Young Adult Formation



family and friends and is a tangible way of saying "yes" to God's invitation to us all to be redemption in our neighborhoods.

Though there are some apocryphal references to the 9th century names given to the Magi kings (remember, there were probably more than three of them. It was only the gifts that came in threes!) this still makes a great ritual and one that my family will practice again this Epiphany. I've included the text of it below so you can use it in your home, apartment or community center this year.

May God meet you this Advent,
bless you this Christmas and
anoint you to shone Gospel light
this Epiphany,
D+



**A Chalking the Door
Liturgy found on page
22 of the Branch.
Download this also
from www.stbs.net**

Chalking the Door

On the Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6, family and friends (C for "community") gather at the main entrances to homes or apartments (nursing home quarters, extended care facility, hospital rooms!), and ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live or visit there. Leadership may be shared with a change of voice at each Leader's part (L).

L Peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

L A reading from Proverbs: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

L Let us pray: Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus, so enable those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.

C Amen.

Using chalk (hence, "Chalking the Door"), people are invited to inscribe the lintel of the home (the horizontal frame above the door) with the inscription shown below. The letters C M B come from the traditional (9th century) names for the "three kings" -- Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar. Some also suggest "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means, "May Christ bless this dwelling!" The numbers are the calendar year, split in two.

Each person is afforded a turn to make one or more of the marks:

20 + C + M + B + 12

L A reading from Isaiah: "The effect of righteousness is peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and quiet places."

People may join hands or extend their hands outward and upward (orans) for the prayers.

L Let us pray: Sovereign God, we pray that you will bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Jesus Christ we pray.

C Amen.

L Lord, remember your children and teach us to pray:

C Our Father...

People may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

L May the Lord watch + over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C Amen.

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Authors: Paul F. Bosch [pbosch@golden.net] and André Lavergne [editor@worship.ca]

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From Glory to Glory

Being transformed into his likeness
with ever-increasing glory.

Celebrating the glory that grows within us and among our community.

Anniversaries

John & Kendra Allen	11/20
Dane & Maggie Anthony	11/05
Barbara & Bill Ewin	11/25
Heather & Stephen James	12/16
Brian & Natalie Langlinais	11/30
Lindsay (Mahan) & Josh Lee	11/17
John & Kathy Leo	11/15
Elizabeth & David Madeira	12/29
Gary & Minday Mumme	12/16
David & Nancy Pollitt	12/26
Jill & Robert Pullen	11/25
Andrea & Matthew Sullivan	11/27
Jerry & Mimi Verner	12/27
Evelyn & Marshall Weems	12/27

November Birthdays

Abernathy, Mrs Gretchen	11/10
Allen, Mr John	11/02
Andrade, Mrs Michelle	11/28
Andrews, Hunter	11/08
Arnold, Mr Rocky	11/25
Chapman, Taylor	11/06
Cleary, Keon	11/24
Clements, Mr George	11/23
Clinton, Ms Cynthia	11/16
Corlew, Mr Donald	11/18
Daniel, Paul Damien (Damien)	11/04
Deal, Katherine	11/30
Deal, Lynn H. (Lynn)	11/07
Dunaway, Tommy	11/06
Ferguson, Mr Jay	11/22
Hall, Elena Sinead	11/16
Hardwick, Mrs Allison	11/13
Hayden, John Collier (Collier)	11/20
Hindalong, Mr Steve	11/29
Holmes, Mrs Christie	11/16
Justiss, Ms Alice	11/03
Kammerer, Nathaniel	11/29
Kelly, Maleah	11/07
Kelly, William	11/04
Kinzig, Mrs Emily	11/22
Kinzig, Wilder	11/09
Ward, Melissa	11/27
Mahan, Dr Beverly	11/02
Martin, Lindsay	11/11
McFadden, Ms Belle	11/09
McGown, Knox	11/30
Merkh, Mr Jonathan	11/17
Miller, Drew	11/10
Moreno, Jackson Aurelio	11/18
Myatt, Rachel	11/22
Nguyen, Ms Mai Phuong	11/16
Parker, Ms Mary Alice	11/15
Penney, Tabor	11/13
Puckett, Ruby Susan	11/02
Pullen, Will	11/30

Rainey, Nathan	11/20
Rhea, Dr Robert	11/06
Ries, Ms Jenina	11/10
Robinson, Teresa	11/19
Simpson, Mrs Kim	11/19
Stone, Dmitri	11/26
Swihart, Mrs Miriam	11/06
Thorpe, Kendall James (Kendall)	11/11
Walker, Carolyn	11/13
Wilhoite, Mr Jamie	11/23
Woolbright, Grace	11/30
Xanthopoulos, Mrs Phyllis	11/24
Zadick, Mr Jon	11/20
Zadick, Sarah	11/05

December Birthdays

Alcott, Sam	12/23
Andrade, Cameron	12/08
Anthony, Mr Dane	12/18
Anthony, Mrs Maggie	12/08
Brown, Paul Kent	12/01
Brown, Seth	12/14
Burns, Emma Grace	12/01
Carruthers-Thorne, Sam	12/26
Clements, George Hughes	12/16
Clements, Townes Holwegner	12/17
Collins, Willo	12/23
Corlew, Mrs Tommye	12/21
Craig, Paige	12/21
Deane, Nicole	12/13
Droman, Mr Greg	12/03
Earley, Clara	12/16
Earley, Mrs Sarah Bell	12/18
Edwards, Mrs Kathy	12/16
Edwards, Polly	12/29
Ennis, Brandon	12/12
Fenton, Jordan	12/26
Ferguson, Mrs Michelle	12/23
Flynn, Mrs Meredith	12/01
Garner, Corinne	12/24
Garth, Stephen	12/11
Granbery, Will	12/28
Gustafson, Mrs Himmie	12/06
Hall, Avian	12/20
Hall, Kyrie	12/25
Hampton, Mr Brian	12/28
Harrop, Ms Mavis	12/16
Houston, Ms Susan	12/03
Lauer, Mrs Angela	12/27
MacLachlan, Hannah	12/09
MacMillan, Charlotte	12/16
MacMillan, Duncan	12/04
MacMillan, Linley	12/02
Maxwell, Wyatt	12/25
Mennen, Nathan	12/28
Miller, Lauren Day	12/28
Muckala, Liam	12/29
Olson, Ms Michelle	12/09
Penney, Judah	12/07
Petillo, Mr Thomas	12/15
Powell, Mr Mark	12/05
Price, Hudson	12/18

Prichard, Conner Thomas	12/24
Ramsey, Jenny	12/20
Ramsey, Marc	12/09
Richey, Mrs Gail	12/11
Scholes, Ms Peggy	12/09
Simpson, Mr Dan	12/08
Stranch, Ethan	12/08
Thorne, Mr Steve	12/02
Tomlin, Mrs Carol	12/10
Vialdores, Mrs Sonza	12/25
Vialdores, Mr Walwin	12/06
Villager, Cora Claire	12/27
White, Mr Malcolm	12/16
Wyse, John	12/23
Xanthopoulos, Damon	12/13
Xanthopoulos, Mr Harry	12/11
Xanthopoulos, Jason	12/21
Zaher, Ben	12/08

Weddings

James Ward and Melissa Leite	10/29
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Baptisms

Emma Catherine Roberts <i>parents Damien and Carmen</i>	9/18
Finn Everett Lowell <i>parents Charlie and Sonja</i>	10/2
Kendall James Thorpe <i>parents Chris and Kendra</i>	11/11

Birth:

Morgan Elizabeth Miller <i>parents, Carolyn and Russ</i>	9/21
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Adoption:

Lena Ward, 9 months <i>parents, Rachel and Barrett Ward</i>	7/25
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Death:

Lou Cornelius	9/1
Rt. Rev. Bertram Herlong	10/21

St. B's Annual EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Sunday, January 8
5:15 - 7:30 p.m.

chili cook-off
& bonfire

It's Back!!!! After a year off, due to hosting the Diocesan Convention, St. B's Annual Epiphany Celebration is back! In some parts of the world, Epiphany - Three Kings Day - is bigger than Christmas!

We began Christmas together in the sanctuary and around The Table, so let's finish it together in the gym and around the fire.

So begin Epiphany by inviting the neighbors. Bringing a friend. This celebration is for all: young and old, married and single, parents and grandparents, friends and family.

Gather around the tables for a feast of chili, salad and dessert. Chili participants battle for bragging rights of having the best chili at St. B's. We will have "kid friendly" macaroni and cheese and all the toppings to go along with the chili!

We have available 10 high chairs and 10 booster chair seats for infants and toddlers which are on a first come first serve basis (Hint..so get there early if you need one!)

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR: Best Mild Chili, Best Medium Chili, Best Hot Chili, and Best Presentation.

Contestants are encouraged to decorate their table area prior to Sunday at 5:15pm- this is a great way to include children in the chili cook-off contest.

At the conclusion of dinner, everyone heads outside for the traditional Christmas tree bonfire. **Please save your Christmas trees** and bring them to the designated area between the church and parish hall building for the bonfire beginning 12/26/11-1/8/12.

Volunteers are needed for the night of the event to help with chili judging, clean up, bonfire safety, and best presentation judging. See sign-up sheets in the narthex if you are able to serve in any of these areas or contact Pam White at pwhite@stbs.net.

Sign up sheets to bring chili will begin on Sunday, November 27th.

