# TELLING THE STORIES OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Advent, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY 2012



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







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Dan Cleary, Treasurer; Gary Mumme, Clerk.

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Above: Stained glass from the sanctuary depicting the Holy Spirit coming to Mary. Cover: St. B's Youth acolyting at the Diocesan Youth Eucharist held at the Cathedral



## Prepare the Way Advent again

hose who have found themselves formed in the liturgical tradition for as many years as I have been will recognize these words from Isaiah as the central theme of the Advent season

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight int he desert a highway for our God."

Although the world is consumed with Christmas preparations, the church takes the four weeks before the celebration of Christ's birth to acknowledge that without Jesus, life is as a wilderness. Advent calls us to make way for Jesus to be known in our cultural communities in ways that will bring transformation.

If the church is to be the Body of Christ, or to put it another way, the sacramental reality of Jesus in the world today, then it is incumbent upon us to understand that if the church doesn't act, God's hands are voluntarily tied. We are the presence of Christ in our world. We are to be foraging into the wilderness and making the way of God known. We are the community through whom the Christ is born to bring new life where there is currently death!

I wonder what the practical implications of this might be?

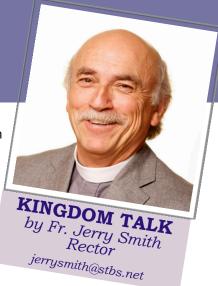
As we look around our neighborhoods, where are the wildernesses?

The women of St. B's are once again partnering with some straightforward outreaches that include shoeboxes full of things for kids who won't otherwise have a Christmas and a partnership with St Luke's community house to assist families that have fallen on hard times.

In truth, it doesn't take much rocket science to identify where God may want us to be putting our energies. It does take energy though, and often when we look at the enormous need we can come close to atrophy. Then the muscles of selfinterest take over and we can pretty much justify any reason for our failure to respond to the nudges of God.

Good job John the Baptist didn't sit idly by. Equally good that neither Mary nor Joseph chose their own comfort over the purposes of God!

Each of the above were instruments through whom God moved to bring renewal and refreshment (the lifegiving waters that result in



transformation) to the otherwise parched souls stuck in the desert.

Today we are the ones called. We are the ones that make God's way in the desert and become the channels of nourishment so that the lost might drink of the Living and Life-Giving Water.

The acclamation for the Nativity season is equally powerful.

"Behold the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they Continued on pg. 5

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

### ANOTHER NOTE OF INTEREST

Please take time to read the center pages in this issue of The Branch, devoted to the Women of St. B's. A few years ago Fr Dixon and I introduced six spiritual disciplines that we believe are significant aids to our walk with Christ. The Women of St. B's are encouraging these to be practiced in community in order to assist God in His transformation of our lives. We might think of these as aids that help bring Christ to the wildernesses of our lives! Be encouraged to put these into practice in your walk with God this new year! It is my hope to revisit these great "tools for the journey to wholeness" during the rector's forum in January.

## How Many People Does it Take? A safe & loving nursery at St. B's

ow many parishioners does it take to run a safe and loving nursery? It's not like babies are selfsufficient. If you think a one adult to one baby ratio seems best then your rationale is ours. However, at times we are 1 to 2 and sadly have had to stop accepting babies for their own safety and well-being. This is not good ... and more importantly, certainly not what our St. B's new parents and babies deserve. Imagine the faces of those parents with babies who had to be turned down over the last few months - heart strings definitely got pulled! Sadly, ministry is not being fulfilled as it should be.

Our St. B's nursery needs you! Maybe if you're single you can help with

friends? If married, help as a couple? Men, you too would be welcome and appreciated. Why not consider putting together a group of friends or supper club that could love on the babies and enjoy each other's company at the same time? The Sunday commitment is flexible. You can choose to either minister from 8:15-10:15 a.m. or 10:15-12:15 a.m. You could also commit to once a month, every other month or once a quarter in the new schedule. There are a lot of options for this easy and very special ministry.

Come join in the blessing. If you're available in some way, please contact Gaylene Latham, nursery director, at <u>nursery@stbs.net</u> to find out ministry time/date options.



THE WONDER OF IT ALL by Carla Schober Director of Family & Children's Formation Children@stbs.net





With gratitude for the many, many babies at St. B's and your prayerful consideration to serve.

### St. B's 2012 Baby Boom

Sonnie and Phil Shay: Ever Wynn; Anna and Josh Hayden: Caleb Michael; Claire and Danny Combs: Ellie Ann; Eleanor and Aaron Kipp: Evan Tayloe; April and Heath Attig: Raleigh Olivia; Corinne and Andy Michel: Jesse Foster, Towles and Andrew Kintz: Peter Charles; Amber and Rick Penney: Richard Woods; Margaret and Reb Buxton: John Daniel Bodie; Elizabeth & David Madeira: Nathaniel David; Jennifer &Michael Graziano : Celia Tess; Libby and Jim Johnson: Sam Jelks; Beth and Manuel Cruz: Xavier Manuel; Keelen and Adam Woods: Elliot Steven; Miriam and Seth Swihart: Grant Thomas Holland; Betsy and Daniel Collins: Bohannon Alexandra; Kate and Brent Ferrell: Owen McGinn; Kate and Yuri van der Heijden: Caleb Gabriel; Rachel and Aaron Sefton: Pax Robert

## Advent continued from pg. 3

shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God." (Rev 21:3)

God is dwelling with us for He is in us and wants to minister through us.

Whereever the church is, there the Christ is to be born. We are not partnering with God the way He has invited us to if we don't understand this.

I suspect that we will find ourselves in many 'stable-like' circumstances where our first response will be despair and disappointment. Frustrations abound and we are often tempted to turn and bolt in another direction. That is precisely where God wants us to be so rather than run, we need to recognize that the Lord of the universe wants us to present His Christ's hope and salvation into those very circumstances.

Gospel ministry is exactly where we are not in some exotic or romantic far away place. Right where we are!

#### Isaiah wrote

"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (49:6b)

Imagine God entrusting this great task to us. Exactly. Thousands may not trust us but our God does!

As we transition through Advent and Christmas to Epiphany, I would encourage you to recognize that the great celebrations of the season can continue to be the intimate and urgent reality for a whole new generation, not only because the story was lived once by the Jesus himself, but also because it is being renewed daily in the lives of those who follow him authentically even today.

## st. b's music ministry offers ADVENT Quietude

sunday, dec. 2 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

please join us for a creative and contemplative worship experienice in the style of Taize.



## A D V E N T Sermon Series

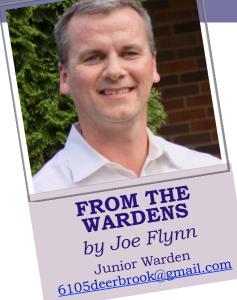
Four Storíes About the Baby

MEDITATIONS ON THE NATIVITY FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS

FOUR SUNDAYS DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 AT BOTH SERVICES

The Branch - Advent 2012 - Page 5

## God's Will for St. B's Junior Warden's Report



hat is God's Will for St. B's? | don't know. I suppose I should run to the safety of a good response like: "To love the Lord with all our heart and our neighbors as ourselves." Maybe no more need be said. Maybe God is not nearly as concerned about the specific out-workings of this love principle as we want to believe - especially when believing that we have figured out some of the specifics on which direction God is pointing us and others to, drives much of the opinions and perspectives we insert into this community. The vestry, in its charge to manage parish facilities and finances, is presented with a host of decisions. Discerning God's will for these decisions is rightly desired. Before offering an opinion or perspective, I am learning that uncertainty and humility is a good place to begin.

I am pleased to report to you that the vestry, at Fr. Jerry's recommendation and prompting, is in the early stages of reading Ruth Haley Barton's, *Pursuing God's Will Together*. I am struck by the connections this book is making with several other recent moves of the Spirit.

### **Silent Prayer**

Barton advocates for a season of deep personal and community reflection as a pre-requisite to discerning God's will. She describes a particular church with which she worked that was wrestling over which next steps to take with the abundance of people and resources God had assembled in their midst. What did they do? They took a step back for *six months* to read about and practice spiritual disciplines. Only after that period did they begin in earnest to attempt discernment.

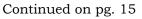
Barton emphasizes that corporate discernment begins with attending to the spiritual formation of each individual leader. She suggests one beginning place is to engage the scriptures by imagining ourselves in the historical setting and then listening to the story, allowing God to show us ourselves in the story.

This connection was thrilling for me given that men's ministry was recently blessed to have Gail Pitt spend a Saturday morning leading us in Ignatian Prayer – a type of prayer that took us into the story just as Barton prescribes. I experienced the story of Zacchaeus in new way and marveled at his simple act of looking – a looking for Jesus that resulted in his repentance and transformation. Could more of this prayer and reflection be what God wants for our community?

### **Recognize the False Self**

Barton goes on to say that a leader cannot discern external matters if s/he is not able to discern what is true and false within him/herself. He/she are dangerously subject to his/her hidden motives and defense mechanisms that are unknown even to his/herself.

In my men's group we recently spent eight weeks going through Richard Rohr's teaching on the





Trey Myatt at the installation of St. B's new columbarium

## Columbarium Dedication

## Sunday, Nov. 25 10 a.m.

Please join us for the dedication of the long awaited columbarium and the interring of the first ashes.

## Anticipating the Christmas Bloom Flowers during Advent



by Thorunn McCoy Altar & Flower Guild tmccoy@email.usn.org

A twork we have a saucer magnolia outside our window. Throughout the gray, cold days of February, I watch the shoots swell on the gray bare branches. Each day I stop and mark the progress, waiting for an early harbinger of spring. Eventually, the early buds move beyond an ashy green and distend into to bubblegum-pink lipstick tubes. The color deepens and the days grow a touch longer. And one day, their rosy leaves unfurl in twirls more graceful than ballerinas' tutus. Their stark beauty stops me in my tracks, and for a moment, the promise of warm sunshine and green grass lifts my heart.

Advent is a similar time. We mark the passage of days with rituals carved from busy lives—advent calendars, baking cookies, wrapping presents, Christmas cards, and we wait for the joy of Christmas. All too often, our culture rushes us directly into the hubbub of Christmas without a quiet time to reflect on the small, quiet movements of Advent where we wait for our hearts to swell and bloom.

During this season's Advent, the flowers at St. Bartholomew's will reflect our collective anticipation. Instead of our normally exuberant floral displays to thank God for the many blessings of our lives, the flower guild will use branches and greens to illustrate our longing for Christ's birth and His joyous return. We hope that the quietness of the arrangements will create a space for reflection and expectation of Jesus' coming. Like to work behind the scenes? Then serving once a month on a flower or altar guild team might be the place for you. For more information please contact Thorunn McCoy at tmccoy@email.usn.org



oin us for Christmas Caroling, Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 6:30 to 9 PM. We'll meet at St. Bs 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. We will 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 can make it through "Happy Birthday," you can sing with us!



## MARK THE ADVENT SEASON WITH THE CHOIRS & MUSICIANS FOR

# A FESTIVAL OFLESSONS &CAROLS, DECEMBER 9 At both services

St. B's Family Christmas Concert & Carol Sing

# Sunday, Dec. 16 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Childcare for under 4 yrs. and under RSVP to <u>churchoffice@stbs.net</u> by Dec. 12



## Being Better Friends Growing in intimacy with each other

This column is excerpted from Marjie's presentation at the Women of St. B's fall luncheon.

his year, the leadership of the ECW would like to focus on how we can be better friends as women of St. B's. How can we grow in intimacy with each other and become more accountable in our daily lives?

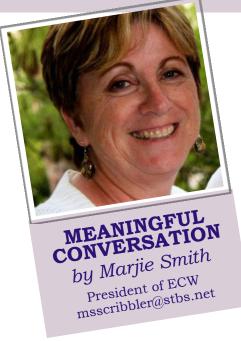
We have a diverse group of women. Some are highly involved and firmly planted in community. Others are strangers living on the fringes. Most are somewhere in between. Being firmly planted does not give us license to abdicate our responsibility to others. Jesus did not say, "Follow me until you're settled and too content to reach out." Neither does being new and on the outside give us an excuse to feed our insecurities, fears and selfpity.

None of us can grow outside of the community. And we can't grow in community if we're trying to turn it into a custom-fit.

It is easier, sometimes, to pick and choose our involvement. People are tough. They can be mean, demanding, selfish and downright inconvenient. That's what God uses to polish us.

People can also be wonderful, sweet, unbelievably kind, insightful and brilliant. God uses that to humble us.

We are designed to thrive in community where we are loved and understood. To be intimately involved is to be accountable to each other. That doesn't mean randomly and



readily spilling our guts. It means deliberately choosing to be in active relationship with others. Intimacy is a discipline. We have to make it a priority, and we don't make a priority what we don't value. To value intimacy, we have to believe it is only in a trusted community that we can mutually unfold our strengths, weaknesses and gifts.

It is here that the fruits of the spirit are cultivated and harvested.

As such, this year's objective is to encourage women to enter into meaningful dialogue with each other. That's not to say that we haven't been doing that. It's to say that we want to be more intentional about it. Dialogue alone may not bring intimacy (Social media and talk shows attest to that), but it does inform action, if we so choose.

Our prayer for the women of St. B's this year, is taken from Isaiah 58:11: "Lord, guide the ways of these women; satisfy their needs in a sunscorched land. Strengthen their frames. Give them your living water, so they may be like well-watered gardens and springs that never fail."

The thirst-quenching water is here in our midst; but we live where people want power drinks instead of water, where it is more common to wear a clever T-shirt about Jesus, than to let Him inhabit us.

We need to learn together how to die to self so that we can gain back our lives, so that we can be well-watered gardens in a dry land. Knowing someone and making a practice of outreach are deliberate acts. When we take action based on an emotive experience, we often run out of juice when the feelings fade. A disciplined life has a slower, longer burn.

This kind of deliberate action brings many good things, including grace, but it also puts us in places where we are uncomfortable. Discomfort and grace often dance together in the same leotards. This kind of dancing is happening everywhere at St. B's, but not all the time, and not for everyone.

Over the nearly eight years I have been at St. B's, I have talked to many women who are lonely. Young women, seemingly surrounded by friends, sometimes feel isolated by conformity. They don't believe they can be themselves. Many older women are isolated by mobility issues, lost loved ones, children moving away or moving to be closer to their children.

We are called to be part of a sustaining community. We are the hands and words of Jesus to each other. We own wisdom that God wants us to

Continued on pg. 11

# IN DECEMBER FOR THE WOMEN ST. B'S

## ADVENT MINI-RETREAT sat

As we enter into Advent, join us for this half day retreat with meditations on the season. Come expectant. Come casual. Bring a Bible and journal. Please RSVP to <u>stbswomen@stbs.net.</u>

saturday dec. 1 9 a.m. -Noon

OPEN HOUSEMarjie Smith.dec. 106:30 -6:30 -8:30 p.m.State open endbase open

Women of St. B's Annual Spring Retreat April 5 - 6 | Speaker: Gail Pitt

## Better Friend

continued from pg. 9

share. We need permission from each other to be together on the road. We need to cry together; laugh together; create together.

The book of Titus urges the new church to encourage and support each other actively. And I confess that when I was young, I didn't like verses like Titus 2:3-5 because they came with cultural strings attached. (Back then, there was the glass ceiling and then the church ceiling where women got to bump their heads before they even stood up).

Now, I'm more able to see under the layers to the real meaning.

Titus 2:3-5 reads, "Teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be selfcontrolled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."

This is not about submission. It is about maturity. There are similar admonitions to men. It is both a relief and a frustration to know this is not instinctive. We have to learn how to love, how to mother, how to bring our basic instincts under control.

Many years ago, when working as a journalist, I interviewed a female artist. This artist, who created whimsical statements about women, mourned the fact that women were not helping each other reach their full potential. In fact, they often undermine each other. "We look each other over and we knock each other down," she said. "And all those judgments are based on 'keeping a man' or on 'one-up-manship' because that is the only arena in which they have power."

Her comments started me seriously thinking about women's relationships with each other. I began to notice something else, particularly as I overheard conversations between women in public places. I kept hearing the word "she", used over and over, almost like a litany . Women talk about each other. Sometimes it is informative and kind. Often it is petty and mean. Above all, it indicates that women are important to each other. We may fear women, but we also value them. We treasure

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### Congratulations to Leslie Ewing

Leslie was recently honored for her service to the Diocese of Tennessee's Episcopal Church Women (ECW). She served on the board for 18 years. Leslie was presented at the Diocesan ECW Fall Annual Meeting with a framed resolution acknowledging with gratitude the years of service. Thank you, Leslie, for all you have done!



Leslie and Brooke Schroeder at the fall luncheon

## Better Friends continued from pg. 11

the solid women in our lives: our mothers; our grandmothers; our sisters; and our childhood friends. They know us intimately and still love us.

When we lack that in our lives, we become critical, depressed, protective, controlling and overly competitive. We substitute other things.

Marketers are feeding on our insecurities. More and more society is being built on an idealized and distorted view of women. PhotoShopping has become so prevalent that there are Web sites and articles dedicated to major PhotoShopping gaffs where women have had limbs accidentally removed; arms so elongated they look like insect limbs; or clothes removed.

Between these distortions and the social media, we are surrounded by avatar-like beings that are more like fiction than reality. It is the new pornography. It is the full-bodied mask. It is the opposite to intimacy.

If that is the case, how do we know intimacy when we encounter it?

In a crime novel I read over the summer, the novelist observed that we do not know how to be intimate in America. We tell personal details of our lives to complete strangers, mistaking that for intimacy.

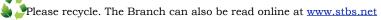
This novelist defined intimacy by what it is not.

Intimacy is not so much something to be defined as recognized in our hearts. God has put a picture of it there and we get enough glimpses of it to keep that vision alive. That's why we value family. For that snapshot to be accurate, it should come from Christ, not popular culture.

The Greek word for the kind of intimacy experienced in the early church is called koinonia. Its use in Scripture is often translated into: *communion, joint participation, sharing, intimacy, fellowship.* 

In the book of Acts this communal life was described in this way: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the communion, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need...They broke

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We have a lot of new faces on the ECW (Episcopal Church Women , i.e. the women of St. B's) board this year. If you have any questions please feel free to email them, and do say hello and introduce yourself if you see us around.

Marjie Smith - President (<u>msscribbler@comcast.net</u>) Brooke Schroeder - Vice President (<u>brookeschroeder@gmail.com</u>) Pat Bowlby - Finance (<u>patbowlby@comcast.net</u>) Nancy Cason - Committee co-ordinator (<u>ncason@comcast.net</u>) Mavis Harrop - Outreach (<u>mavise@me.com</u>) Becky Hornsby - Fellowship (<u>byhornsby@gmail.com</u>) Lindsay Lee - Resources (<u>jlindsaylee@gmail.com</u>) Pam MacArthur - Spiritual Formation (<u>pam.macarthur@vanderbilt.edu</u>) Jude Mason - Communications (<u>jude@judemason.com</u>)

WOMEN OF ST. B'S

# Better Friends CCW

bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

In our modern world, it is difficult to realize koinonia without being very deliberate. But we are not alone in that. The early church did everything deliberately – and at great personal risk.

I believe that we become so accustomed to living lives that don't answer to anybody that we don't know what we're missing. We fear or even dislike true intimacy because we confuse it with the relationships that come from pseudo intimacy – ones that have hurt us. I also believe the life of choices we live has made it easy for peripheralism to take hold. As such, many of us operate on the edge of a body, never contributing and actually taxing the core. When I read Scripture, the primary reasons for gathering are not: to heal, to catch our breath, to enjoy the music; to sit under top-notch teaching; or to make new friends. These things are all meaningless unless we are here for the most important reason: to be body parts – to participate in the whole communion of saints.

So, on the one hand we are designed for engagement, while on the other we've been taught that engagement can be a roadblock to achievement. It's a conundrum. You cannot have intimacy without commitment, service and self-sacrifice. Yet those require setting some of our own desires aside, and we fear either rejection or failure by worldly standards.

Corporate life isn't always pretty. But we receive so much from our investment in it: loyalty; kindness; service; contentment; fulfillment; mentorship; and most importantly, maturity. Often, it is so foreign to us, we need to let ourselves in gradually.

In larger churches, where it is impossible to know everyone in the family sense, we develop programs such as Meals for Moms, topical Sunday school classes, neighborhood studies and smallgroup accountability groups. We're not trying to create think-alike tribes. We're trying to create plug-in points.

Committing to a small group and meeting weekly to encourage each other in our faith and mature in our personal lives is important. Small groups are an effective gateway to action and spiritual nourishment.

> St. B's Self-Evaluation Guidelines for groups can be found on pg. 15



L to R: Women engaging in meaningful conversation at the fall luncheon. Marjie Smith speaks on intimacy at the fall luncheon

## Journey With Us to Bethlehem Again St. B's Annual Christmas Pageant



Children's Pageant Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. Service



hristmas 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 from their perspective, 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 with the parish. This is not a big production from an adult perspective, 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. I can only 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: Saturday, December 22 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 11:15 downstairs in the designated rooms. This rehearsal is for 4 years through 6th grade. Children, 2 & 3 years, are invited to participate but do not need to come to the rehearsal.

What if your child or visitor wants to participate but can't come to the rehearsal? On Sunday, December 23 from 9:50-10:15 a.m., you can help make a costume for your child in the designated rooms downstairs. Know that the pageant runs well as long as half the children know what's going on.

### Are You Interested In Helping – We Need You!

Please email Carla at <u>csschober@stbs.net</u>, if you'd like to help with the pageant, by December 1.

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



Enneagram. Rohr points out that in order to be humble, you must suffer humiliation. Part of that humiliation is to see and be disappointed by our own default mode (one of nine spiritual energies or personalities that categorize most people) of perceiving and interacting with people and events. The challenge is that this personality mode is often the very thing we cherish as we have likely been applauded and praised for it for much of our lives. There is a good chance it has even brought us perceived-career or relational success. But this personality type works against us as much as it works for us. And we cannot see it. We don't see how it harms our relationships. Rohr describes the ill side of this personality as something you can only catch yourself doing out of the corner of your eye. It demands great awareness and an ability to see more of your true self.

I am also reminded of a recent encounter at 2:30 in the morning with Thomas Mertons's <u>New Seeds of</u> <u>Contemplation</u>. I assumed it was a sure-fire text to bore me back to sleep. Instead, I was enlivened by his message of detachment. Merton says we detach from ourselves in order to see and use all things for God. The obstacle is not things but our "self." Every one of us is shadowed by an illusory person, a false self. We are not very good at recognizing this illusion. Referring all things to this outward false self alienates us from God.

Barton recommends we look for leaders who are growing in selfawareness, taking responsibility for what drives their behaviors and who have the courage to bring that selfknowledge into the leadership setting.

### A Posture of Indifference

Finally, Barton encourages us to pray for indifference in order to discern God's will. *What*? Yes, indifference. We pray more often for wisdom while we are already attached to some outcome we think is best. This outcome is typically shaped by the false self, the ego. Indifference may be the very spirit needed to discipline this discreet false self that is informing us in ways we do not perceive. When we have come to a place of true indifference, we are then ready for wisdom.

It was our own Randy Hoover Dempsey at the vestry retreat earlier this year who challenged us with the notion that God is less concerned about the decisions we make and more concerned about the condition of our hearts.

I invite you to join me in praying for our parish and the vestry to spend more time in silent, reflective prayer. In that prayer let us be humiliated by our absurd false selves and let us learn to laugh at that self. Pray that we may detach from it and be led to indifference. Then let wisdom and God's will enter in.

## How Am I Doing? Self-Evaluation Guidelines

- What was my **moment closest to Christ** this past week?
- Worship (How have I centered myself before the throne so that I have a right understanding of who I am and whose I am?)
- Internal formation (How did I fashion my thinking through prayer, Bible study and other spiritual resources?)
- **External formation** (How did I allow my faith walk to flow into my daily living?)
- **Social Action** (How did my formation impact my involvement and outreach in the community?)
- **Evangelism** (What opportunities did I have to share my faith?)
- Stewardship (How did I share my time, talent and treasure?)

## Turning Christmastime into Christmas Time

Silver bells. Silver bells. It's Christmas time in the city.

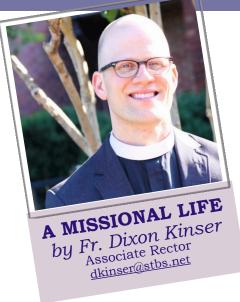
Ring a'ling. Hear them ring. Soon it will be Christmas Day.

Ave you ever heard this song? Sure. We all have. It was written by Jay Livingstone and Ray Evans in 1949 but it was Bing Crosby who made it famous when he recorded it a year later. Today *Silver Bells* is one of the most beloved (and played) songs of the Christmas season. The song and its lyrics evoke the notion of Christmas as a "time" and that got me thinking; what does Christmas *time* look like in the Bible? To answer that question I'd like to explore a bit of the Gospel of Luke.

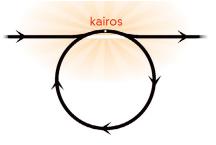
In Luke 1 the Angel Gabriel appears to the high priest, Zechariah while he is performing a ritual in the Holy and Holies. Gabriel tells Zechariah that he is going to have a son, but because Zechariah doesn't believe the angel he is struck dumb. Then Gabriel tells him "...now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their **appointed time**." (Luke 1:20). Appointed time? What is the angel talking about?

When we think of the word "time" we usually think of our watches, smart phones, and calendars. We conceive of it as something that happens in sequence. The Greek word for this is kind of time is *chronos*. *Chronos* is where we get the word chronological and describes the kind of time that moves linearly. In *chronos* time, today is preceeded by yesterday and followed by tomorrow. This year is followed by next year and the year after that and then the year after that. We live and experience the world in *chronos* time.

However, when the angel speaks to Zechariah of the appointed "time" he doesn't use the word *chronos*. Instead, he uses the word *kairos*. *Kairos* is a word we don't really have



equivalent for in English. It is a reference to time as an event. *Kairos* time focuses not on a moment as it occurs in history but instead the meaning of the moment itself. God acts in kairos time and this is what the angel tells Zechariah to wait for: the moment when God will interrupt *chronos* with *kairos*!



This is my prayer for all of us this Christmas. I pray that God will turn our Christmastime into Christmas *time by* disrupting our *chronos* with a little *kairos*. However, we have to play along and prepare some space for this so maybe we take a page out of Zechariah's book and practice being quiet for a bit this Christmas season. Perhaps it will be in the moments of silence that God's *karios* work of new creation will ring out in our lives and teach us again the meaning of the moment that is Christmas Day.

Christmas Peace, *Dixon* 



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# The Sword of the Spirit

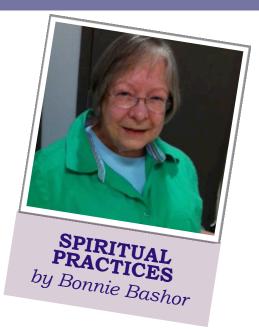
he sword of the Spirit is an offensive weapon that is like a laser scalpel when used under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Paul tells us that the sword of the Spirit is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17). The author of Hebrews says that the double-edged sword can divide soul from spirit and that it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12, 13). I want to explain what that means.

When I use the word, soul, I am speaking of that inner part of a person that consists of the mind and emotions. I believe this is the part of us that can be renewed by the Holy Spirit over time, resulting eventually in a renewed mind (Titus 3:5, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Romans 12:2). When I talk about the spirit (with a lower case s), I am talking about that part of us that is in perfect communion with God after we have been baptized by water and the Holy Spirit. In order to cooperate with God in the renewal process, it is very helpful to be able to separate what your mind, thoughts, and emotions (soul) are saying from what your spirit is saying.

I did not like the person I grew up to be. When I accepted Jesus at age 28, my greatest desire was to be made into a different person. Jesus began working on that immediately; thirty-six years later, he is still working on it.

I grew up with a very manipulative, emotionally labile mother. My father always gave in to her to avoid ugly scenes. When I was 42, my parents came to visit for 10 days over Christmas. The first few days were difficult. My mother was unhappy about everything; she attempted to verbally abuse me constantly. My emotions were in a turmoil. God finally let me see the separation of my soul and my spirit. I made a decision to go with what my spirit wanted, since that was (is) the part of me in perfect





communion with the Holy Spirit. Doing this meant that I had to ignore my emotions and do what the Spirit wanted, even if it killed me. I thought obedience really might kill me.

On December 23, I confronted my mother as gently as I could and told her that her behavior was not acceptable. Wow! The eruption was awesome. She screamed, cried, threw things, and told me I was an evil, unloving child who was trying to kill her. I was an emotional mess, but my spirit was clear that this was the right thing to do and to not back down. My father ordered me to apologize. God had so separated my spirit from my emotions, that I knew that to give in was to sin against Him. I stood firm while shaking all over and clutching the dog for stability. This went on for several hours. Then my father said it was clear they were not welcome, and they left.

In retrospect, I know that I did what God wanted and that this action was crucial to my progress in being transformed. I knew it then in my spirit, but the rest of me was a mess. I could not have stood firm if God had not used his sword to separate my soul and spirit.

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# A Call to Healing & Ordination Seminarian's Corner

### by Jason Reynolds

eet Robert Rhea, one of St. B's seminarians, whom we prav for weekly. He is in his second and final year at Nashotah House (www.nashotah.edu).

Robert Rhea has a unique call to the priesthood.

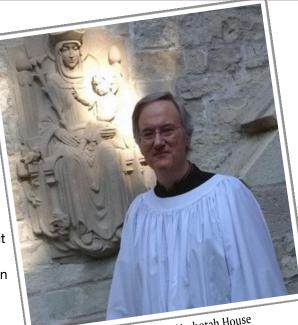
Robert sees his call as bivocational, combining his medical practice with ordained ministry, understanding that healing of the spirit is not always separate from the healing of the body.

Having graduated from Oral Robert's University School of Medicine in 1986, going back to school would take some adjusting. "I had to get used to library research again as well as writing

papers with new technologies not available then." After a 25 year hiatus from academia, he will now graduate from Nashotah House Theological Seminary in October of 2013.

"I view my medical practice as a true pastoral ministry," Robert said, while acknowledging not everyone shares that view. "As a family physician, one is trained to look at not just the patient in front of you but the context of his whole family, and the social dynamics that are going on in the family. As a family physician, I feel this is ministry."

The medical-spiritual nature of Robert's work is further combined when he offers to pray for his patients.



Robert Rhea robed at Nashotah House

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### continued from pg. 17 r d

The key is to know what God wants. Every person and every situation is unique. Only God knows the perfect way to handle each situation. Only He knows the perfect timing. In the example with my mother, I could not have withstood the assaults from my parents a few years earlier. God knew when I would be able to do this. If used when and how God directs, this sword cleanly separates soul and spirit so that you can see clearly what God wants and ignore your emotional turmoil. The choice is to follow your soul, emotions, and mind or to follow your spirit.

Another example is about a man from rural Tanzania. I was with a team of people giving seminars on inner healing. In one town, the man came into the church each day, chewed razor blades, spit on the altar, left evil offerings, and mocked the crucifixion. He never spoke. I interacted with him during the week during the breaks.

On Friday, some of the team took him into a storage room and began to pray to deliver him from his many demons. One of the local team members came and got me after about 30 minutes. The deliverance was not progressing to completion, although God had given several people words of knowledge to see the variety of demonic activity. In frustration, the team leader said that if anybody knew what to do, to do it. I prayed for wisdom. God said to use the sword of the Spirit to separate the man's mind from the demons. I did what He said. In about five minutes, the whole thing was over. In just a few hours, the man's mind was renewed. Four years later, I heard that the man was a valuable member of the community.

The prerequisites to using the sword of the Spirit are the same as for praying in faith:

- 1. You must abide in Jesus.
- 2. Jesus must abide in you.
- 3. The result you want is in the will of God.
- 4. The result is to the Glory of God
- 5. You must use the sword of the Spirit only as directed by God.
- 6. You must speak the words. This means to act on the knowledge you have been given.

The sword of the Spirit is a powerful weapon. I have only touched on two ways to use it. God will be faithful to let you know when and how to use the sword of the Spirit if you listen for God's instruction and do what He savs.

## Remembering Bill Ward, 1928 - 2012

illiam Eldred Ward III was in my opinion as active a layman both in the parish and in the diocese that we have seen in the past forty years. Rivaling Bill's involvement in the parish, however, was that of Maggie, his wife of 35 years. Maggie passed away in late 2009. Bill held on for almost three more years and passed away on July 15 of this year. His final years were spent in a nursing home where friends and family were regular visitors. The care of his sister, Jean Oldfield, his three children, as well as the regular visits from friends at St. B's were a testament of the love and respect Bill engendered among so many.

I first encountered Bill in 1977 when I arrived at St. B's fresh out of college and looking for a church.

Interestingly, I grew up with Bill's kids, Bill, Claiborne, and Jim but didn't know their dad. I remember their mom yelling at us to leave the house and yard late one hot summer night in high school, but that's another story. Years later, Joanne, now Bill's ex-wife, married my ex-uncle, Bam. Bill married Maggie and wound up at St. B's. My first memories of Bill in the late 70s and early 80s were of a man who had come to know Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord and who lived out his life in the parish and diocese. I remember attending the 6:15 a.m. service with breakfast and prayers afterwards on a fairly regular basis. Bill and Maggie were there every day, and when it was their turn to bring breakfast, one could count on a delicious casserole and perhaps some fresh fruit. Bill was clearly impacted by the renewal movement



Bill Ward with grandson, Jim E. Ward III at St. B's

### Please recycle. The Branch can also be read online at <u>www.stbs.net</u>

### By Langley Granbery

of the 1970s, and our current policy of having a faith budget, for example, is to some degree a product of Bill's faith in God to provide. The imprint of Bill's life and legacy is on St. B's in ways we may not even fully realize. In the 'old days', Bill was also fixing boilers and changing light bulbs on the outside light poles, serving at the altar and doing just about anything that needed to be done.

As I spoke to several friends and family members of Bill's to get a better sense of the man, I gained an insight into how Bill was shaped to become the man he was. Very simply, I believe that Bill's life direction was profoundly shaped by his years on the mountain attending Sewanee Military Academy. As Bill's sister Jean noted to me, 'Billy was born into a family that have been strong Presbyterians for generations. His great grandfather was a Presbyterian minister and started Ward Seminary, one of the early schools for girls in Nashville. When Bill's high school years came along, he went to Sewanee Military Academy, and at that time was introduced to the Episcopal Church. Before graduating from SMA, he told his parents that he wanted to join the Episcopal Church. They simply asked him to wait until he graduated from college at Vanderbilt, and if he still felt that way, it would be fine. He never wavered, and thus began his long association and love for the Episcopal Church.'

In thinking about Bill's life, I tried to imagine a young teenager around the time of World War II traveling from Nashville to Sewanee to attend Sewanee Military Academy. Once on the mountain having traveled most likely by train, what did Bill see and encounter? Quintard Hall! All Saints Chapel! The giant cross at the end of Tennessee Avenue! The fog! And last but not least, St. Mary's School for girls! Who were some of his friends

continued on pg. 21

# Health Ministries Launches

n December 1, Heather Wills will begin work as the first-ever St. B's Faith Community nurse, part of a new Health Ministries Program that is sure to have a positive, far-reaching impact on our church community.

A registered nurse and member of St. B's, Heather will be available in her office at the church on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 4 pm. From there, she will offer a growing number of health-related services as needs are identified by the Health Ministry team.

The program was proposed by Fr. Jerry Smith and approved by the Vestry. As Fr. Jerry says, "I believe strongly that the church needs to be concerned about the whole person and not simply the state of an individual's soul. I see this ministry as the next step in delivering serious and significant pastoral care to our family."

Here's a broad-brush look at how this Health Ministry Faith Community nursing position can impact the St. B's community:

• Immediately the program will let the faith community of St B's know how seriously the church takes their total care.

• It will offer an important educational ministry for people who may be anxious or concerned about their health condition or the health of loved ones.

• It will provide the pastoral care deliverers at St. B's, including Fr. Jerry and Robert Smith, a resource person to help evaluate parishioners' holistic health needs. • It will also be a 'front line' defense for parishioners who need a professional to walk with them and help them know what direction they should be going, including questions like, "Do I need to see a doctor? Or, I have been diagnosed with diabetes, what do I do?"

As a knowledgeable and concerned health care worker, Heather will be a helpful resource for the St. B's community, especially as an advocate for parishioners within the increasingly complex health care system.

As the Health Ministry Faith Community Nursing Program grows, Heather envisions the role expanding as she and the Health Ministry team survey the congregation to determine their health care needs and desires.

"Really, the sky's the limit," she adds. "The most important thing to remember is that this ministry is a team effort, and it is all God's work that will come about in His time."

by Whit Smyth

Some possible ways in which the ministry will expand include conducting seminars on key issues such as stress management, holding blood pressure screenings, developing a health fair and pulling together a volunteer team to help with these and other initiatives.

"So much of what I will do is to call on many in the congregation to share their gifts and expertise as we embark on a journey together towards holistic health," Heather says."

As Fr. Jerry puts it, "My goal is that the parish nurse position start off as a volunteer position in order to earn the right to be in our budget. Budget lines prove how seriously we take things, and my goal is that this ministry

> become so much a part of who we are that it will become a budgeted item sooner than later."



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## Getting to Know Heather Wills Introducing our new parish nurse

### by Whit Smyth

ith her lively personality, strong faith and passion for nursing, Heather Wills is an ideal choice as Faith Community (parish) nurse for the St. B's congregation.

As Fr. Jerry Smith says, "This program has been on my mind for years and Heather is just a good fit. She has the training, the desire, the passion as well as the faith that I have been looking for."

A native of Ontario, Canada, Heather earned her Nursing Degree in 1995 from Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. Tired of the snow and cold, she yearned to go south, eventually landing a job at Vanderbilt. But her Nashville plans almost ended before they began.

During a January snowstorm in 1996, she headed towards the Music City. On I-65, a pick-up truck collided head-on with her, totaling the car and, amazingly, causing only whiplash to Heather. Out of seemingly nowhere, a stranger she knew only as Buck came to her aid, helping her reach her Antioch apartment, another of the many providential turns in this lady's life.

Heather spent three years as an adolescent nurse at Vanderbilt until a chance meeting turned her life around. "I was attending a Bible study, and Morgan walked into the kitchen," she recalls. "I took one look and thought, 'I think I've met my husband.' "

For both Heather and Morgan it was love at first sight. "I know that sounds weird but it was true," she says. Courtship and marriage followed and today the couple have three children: Isaac, 13, Jessie, 11, and Morgan, 9, plus a German shepherd named Sunny.

Not surprisingly, her husband, Morgan Wills, who is Director of the Siloam Faith and Medicine Institute and also its staff



physician, is "jazzed up about my new role at St. B's," she says.

As for Heather, the job fills her with both excitement and trepidation. "I really believe in promoting health and wellness in our congregation. I'm sold on the whole idea and very aware that all of this is going to come through the Lord."

On the flip side, she knows that Faith Community nursing is not an easy form of nursing. "You see the bad times and the joyful times; it can all get pretty heavy."

To prepare for her position, Heather completed a 40-hour Faith Community Nursing program at St. Thomas Hospital. "Faith Community, or parish nursing, is a unique, evolving nursing specialty," she explains. The program is endorsed by both the American Nurses Association and the Health Ministries Association. As far as Heather knows, she is currently the only parish nurse in the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee.

For a busy mother of three young children, the demands of parish nursing might seem daunting. But, as she says, "The magnitude of the need and my own smallness in the face of it means I have to leave it with Jesus."

## Ward continued from pg. 19

but Gwyn Bowen and Emmons Woolwine! And what did he do on Sundays but march in dress uniform from Quintard Hall to All Saints Chapel singing 'Onward Christian Soldiers.' How formative those years must have been for Bill Ward!

According to the St. Andrew's school website, 'The Sewanee Grammar school changed its name in 1908 to Sewanee Military Academy continuing the military influence which had disappeared from the college...Over the years, SMA's headmasters included three Generals. As I read about this legacy of leadership at SMA, I wondered how Bill's own giftedness and leadership qualities were shaped and cultivated by his experiences there. In reading Bill's obituary, I was struck by the fact that Bill was the President of at least five different organizations during his career. He was also in a leadership fraternity, a commander in the Naval Reserves, and during his lifetime, a warden at St. George's, St. David's, and St. Bartholomew's. His leadership in the Diocese of Tennessee was extensive, perhaps legendary. His involvement with and love for St. Mary's Retreat Center was pivotal in the life of the Center. In 1997, Bill was awarded the Bishop's Cross by Bishop Herlong at the diocesan convention in Clarksville. I was in attendance as Bill bowed his head to receive the award, a big silver cross placed around his neck, a fitting tribute to a man who had dedicated much of his life to the Lord and to His Church.

Active and involved! A leader! A servant of the Lord! A servant leader! That's how we remember Bill Ward. And, most importantly, a sinner saved by grace. Bill would probably want us to remember that about him the most. Rest in peace dear brother until we meet again.

## Rhea continued from pg. 18

His office is adorned with Christian artwork, and Christian music plays in the background.

"As a lay Eucharistic visitor, I have brought communion to the sick and have officiated the funerals of two of my patients."

The lifelong Episcopalian has long been active at St. B's in the acolyte ministry and as a chalice bearer, among other activities. About five years ago he felt an "urging to pursue the discernment and ordination process."

During an ordination service he attended, Robert heard the bishop admonish the new deacons: "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely" (BCP, 543).

"I turned to my wife, Lisa, and said 'I'm doing that already in my medical practice.'"

It took several years to form a

discernment committee and get started in his official studies, but finally he started taking distance-learning classes from Nashotah House seminary in Wisconsin. No date has been set for his ordination, he said, nor has a parish assignment been proposed. However, Robert said since he plans to remain a full-time doctor he looks forward to a ministry position compatible with his medical practice, for example as an assistant at a large parish or at a small mission church that cannot afford a full-time priest.

He expects to remain in Middle Tennessee after graduation, and continue to minister to people's spiritual and physical needs through the priesthood and his medical practice. Robert in the sacristy at St. B's holding the thurible (censer)

ROBERT AT A GLANCE Name: Robert E. Rhea Age: Turns 54 on Nov. 6 Hometown: Idabel, OK Vocation: Family medicine and emergency room doctor in Ashland City. St. B's background: Former member of the vestry; member of the search committee for Fr. Michael Ellis; coordinator of the acolyte ministry; chalice bearer; former volunteer at the Siloam Clinic on St. B's night Family: Wife, Lisa; two sons, Matt, 25, and Interesting fact: Robert's ancestor, the Rev. Joseph Rhea, was an Ulster Presbyterian Alex, 20 minister who was trained in Scotland and



Christmas Service times Christmas Eve, Monday, 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, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m. Nursery for 3 years and under on Christmas Day. Sunday, December 30, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Nursery for 3 years and under. No Christian formation classes

## Growing in Community Through Serving Together



t the beginning of the vestry year I requested and was given the role of liaison to Missions and Outreach. I filled this role my first year on vestry and continued to attend M&O committee meetings during my Junior Warden year. The exposure to local missions helped my family make St. B's our home. We have seen first hand what can be done for the poor. It has been great to show my kids a community helping the poor instead of hearing about helping the poor. Sometimes I talk about M&O basically to "preach" to my own soul and the need for a "mini-Revival". I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed getting to know those in our parish that participate in the same missions as I do. There's no way I would have met them any other way. Like others, my family has experienced some tough time. We have a good idea about when medical and family problems occur, if you don't have insurance, you don't have a community around you and you don't have family with you, poverty and homelessness could happen to anyone.

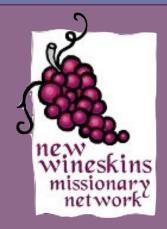
This holiday season, here are some opportunities to serve as a family in a few of our supported ministries.



Room In The Inn is one. Each Saturday night, November through March, St. B's volunteers host 12 screened homeless individuals here at the church. We pick them up from the Campus for Human Development, share a warm meal, provide a safe area to sleep, have breakfast in the morning with them and get them back to the campus. It's a good way to introduce outreach to your kids. Our guests always enjoy the kids running around and talking with them. Just from my own experience there is a man that the kids got to know one night and years later they still pray for him. Also, RITI is a great way to come together as a community. Involvement in RITI helps to spend time with one another in ways that are different than Sunday mornings and a chance for groups to participate. For more information contact Jim Pichert at jpichert@comcast.net . There is also a sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

Also, **JESU** ministry provides shirts, socks and underwear to the RITI guests. Other clothing is given as available. When you and your family are out shopping this season, please consider buying some of these items and dropping them by the church. If you have questions please contact Nancy Leah Hyer or the church at stbsoffice@stbs.net.

Another opportunity is **Nashville Food Project**, formerly Mobile Loaves and Fishes. Each 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month we take hot meals using the 2 NFP trucks that have continued on pro-



New Wineskins Global Missions Conference

April 4-7 Ridgecrest Conference Center, NC

For more information, contact Langley Granbery at <u>lgranbery@comcast.net</u>.



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# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle... Donate Life?



he Diocese of Tennessee's Living in Creation ministry and the St. B's Creation Care Crew promote the conservation of God's beautiful creation. But God's creation is more than the environment that surrounds us; it includes human beings too. God blessed each one of us with the gift of life, and we have the ability to share that gift with others through organ and tissue donation.

Why am I talking about this now? The weekend in November that is two weeks before Thanksgiving weekend is National Donor Sabbath weekend. It is a nationwide effort for faith communities to educate their congregations about organ and tissue donation. November 11<sup>th</sup> is also my dad's re-birthday.

My paternal grandfather, Harry Baum, died at the age of 66 after complications stemming from polycystic kidney disease (PKD). With PKD, cysts develop on the kidneys and can (but not always) increase in size and number to the point that the cysts begin to choke the organ and decrease its function. Because of this, my grandfather was on dialysis for several years before his death. PKD is also genetic. Each child of a PKD patient has a 50:50 chance of inheriting the disease. My father Steve got it, my aunt Marcia did not, my aunt Ann did, and my uncle John did. My dad learned that he had PKD in his early 30s, but his health did not begin to

suffer until his late 40s. And in his case, the PKD was coupled with massive polycystic liver disease. His kidney function started to decline, and though his liver function was fine, the cysts began to crowd everything else in his abdomen. He couldn't eat as much, he had difficulty breathing, and eventually he had to trade his busy career in food service for a desk job. He needed a new kidney and a new liver. Lucky for him, my dad received both in a double transplant on November 11, 2009. To give you a better idea of how serious his condition was, I found the average weight of a normal adult kidney is 1/4 pound; when the doctors pulled out one of my dad's kidneys, it weighed 9 pounds. The average weight of a normal adult liver is 3 pounds; my dad's was 30. He likes to joke that he was the only person in America to lose 40 pounds that Thanksgiving.

Now one of Dad's mottos is "Honor thy donor." Among his

numerous accomplishments since the transplant, he has completed two halfmarathons and a sprint triathlon, has competed in the TN Senior Olympics and US Transplant Games, and next year will compete in the World Transplant Games. In every athletic event, he promotes organ donation by wearing a shirt that says, "An organ donor saved my life. Kidney and liver recipient." His goal is to get 1,000 new donors. Part of his motivation? His son does not have the PKD, but his daughter does, and therefore his grandchildren might too.

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If interested in becoming an organ donor:

- Sign-up with your state's donor registry.
- Indicate your decision on your driver's license.
- Share your decision with your family in case they are asked to sign a consent form.

For more information on organ and tissue donation, go to <u>www.organdonor.gov</u>. The Baums thank you, and your future recipients thank you.



A pregnant Rachel Sefton with her Dad in 2009

## **Donor** continued from pg. 24

## How big is the need for organ donations?

As of 4:34pm Central on Friday, October 26 (when this article was submitted), 116,450 people were on the national transplant waiting list. Another person is added about every ten minutes. Though an average of 79 people receive transplants each day, another 18 per day die waiting.

### How can you help?

One organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people with the heart, pancreas, liver, small intestine, kidneys, and lungs. Donating tissue can improve the lives of around 40 more with corneas, skin, bone, heart valves, blood vessels, and connective tissue. Living donors can donate blood, umbilical cord blood, peripheral blood stem cells, marrow, a kidney, a lobe of a liver, or a lobe of a lung.

### Is there an age limit?

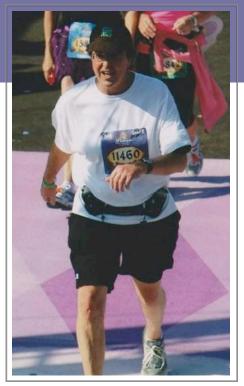
No. Newborns and senior citizens have been organ donors. Even some with chronic conditions.

### What's the cost?

There is no cost to the donor's family; costs are covered by the recipient(s).

## What is the Church's stance is on the matter?

The 70<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church recommends and urges "all members of this Church to consider seriously the opportunity to donate organs after death that others may live, and that such decision be clearly stated to family, friends, church and attorney."



Steve Baum completing his first half marathon

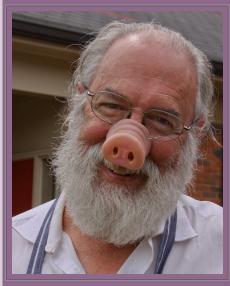
## Community continued from pg. 23

been prepared by volunteers to selected homeless, impoverished areas in Nashville. Generally 5 volunteers go in each truck to serve the meals. We go to the same locations each time so we have an opportunity to get to know the people we serve. If you would like more info contact me at <u>treymyatt@gmail.com</u>. This is a great opportunity to serve as a family.

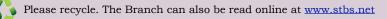


All three of the ministries fall under the Missions & Outreach (M&O) committee. It's my responsibility to work to bring Mission and Outreach matters to the vestry for consideration. The Missions and Outreach Committee consists of John Deane, Shirley Garth, Langley Granbery, Carmen Hall, Jonathon Merkh, Nancy Leah Hyer (Chairperson), Brooke Schroeder and Suzy Woolwine. At the start of the budget year we sit down for possibly the best organized "post it note filled" meeting I could ever witness. The energy in the room is incredible and we always come out of the meeting with creative solutions to a budget number requested by the Vestry. The committee meets once a month to discuss the missions that St. B's currently supports through the general budget. We also have the opportunity to have ministries we don't support share with us what they do and how we could help. When possible, we allocate funds to these groups through our discretionary account as well a designated account that is funded by annual fundraisers and individual donors.

I can't say enough how ministries like these have helped our family to look at things outside ourselves. Also, it is a great chance to get to know others from St. B's.



Huge thanks to Robert Smith for his continued service to the St. B's Community through the Pig Roast! Once again, the festival was excellent and the pork delicious.



# **From Glory to Glory** Celebrating the glory that grows within us and among our community

12/28

12/1112/2912/09

12/07

12/15

12/05 12/18

12/24

12/20

12/09

12/03

12/11

12/0912/08

12/08

12/02

12/10

12/25

12/06

12/2712/16

12/23 12/11

12/08 12/17

### Anniversaries

Heather and Stephen James	12/16
Elizabeth and David Madeira	12/29
Mindy and Gary Mumme	12/16
Nancy and David Pollitt	12/26
Susan and Mark Powell	12/29
Joan and Ed Schoenberger	12/28
Evelyn and Marshall	12/27
Greg and Marilyn Droman	01/18
Georgeanna and Ted Goldthorpe	01/01
Kristin and Rev Dixon Kinser	01/02
Beth and Grant Lehman	01/08
Sonja and Charlie Lowell	01/03
Nancy and Dave West	01/20
Rhonda and Richard Courtney	02/12
Dick and Ellen Jewell	02/06
Carol and Joel Tomlin	02/19

### **December Birthdays**

Alcott, Samuel Key (Sam) Andrade, Cameron Anthony, Mr Dane	12/23 12/08 12/18	January Birthda
Anthony, Mrs Maggie Brown, Paul Kent Brown, Seth Walker Burns, Emma Grace Carruthers-Thorne, Sam Clements, George Hughes Clements, Townes Holwegner Collins, Willo Corlew, Mrs Tommye Craig, Paige Deane, Nicole Droman, Mr Greg Edwards, Mrs Kathy Edwards, Polly Anne Fenton, Jordan Ferguson, Mrs Michelle Flynn, Mrs Meredith Fulmer, Ms Arlene Garner, Corinne Garth, Stephen Granbery, Will Gustafson, Mrs Himmie Hall, Avian Manuel Hall, Kyrie Micaela Hampton, Mr Brian Harrop, Ms Mavis Houston, Ms Susan Lauer, Mrs Angela MacLachlan, Hannah MacMillan, Charlotte MacMillan, Linley Mennen, Nathan	12/08 12/01 12/14 12/01 12/26 12/17 12/23 12/21 12/21 12/21 12/21 12/21 12/23 12/16 12/29 12/26 12/23 12/01 12/20 12/24 12/11 12/20 12/24 12/11 12/20 12/25 12/28 12/16 12/03 12/27 12/09 12/16 12/03 12/27 12/09 12/16	Abernathy, Trane Allen, Mrs Kendra Allen, Wilder Baldwin, Aja Berschback, Donald Brown, Derek Carter Burgess, Chad Carruthers, Ms Zena Cason, Mrs Nancy Combs, Dylan Daniel, Joshua Caleb Dinwiddie, Anna Edwards, Mrs Allyson Flynn, Mitchell David Goodman, Ross Hall, Mr Thomas Hayden, Caleb Michel Hayden, Mr Joshua Michael (Jo Holmes, Ella Kate Kinser, Rev Dixon Kline, Cheryl Lamothe, Mr Peter Lamothe, Mr Svirginia Langlinais, Mr Brian Logan, Mr David Madeira, Ms Elinor McRae, Mrs Lindsey Merkh, Faith Margaret Mourter, Mr Deng Niemeyer, Evie North, Ms Darcy

Miller, Lauren Day
Morse, Ms Judith
Muckala, Liam
Olson, Ms Michelle
Penney, Judah
Petillo, Mr Thomas
Powell, Mr Mark
Price, Hudson Golden
Prichard, Conner Thomas
Ramsey, Jenny
Ramsey, Marc
Ramsey, Warren James
Richey, Mrs Gail
Scholes, Ms Peggy
Simpson, Mr Dan
1 /
Stranch, Ethan
Thorne, Mr Steve
Tomlin, Mrs Carol
Vialdores, Mrs Sonza
Vialdores, Mr Walwin
Villager, Cora Claire
White, Mr Malcolm
Wyse, John
Xanthopoulos, Mr Harry
Zaher, Ben
Zaher, Holly

### ays

Abernathy, Trane Allen, Mrs Kendra Allen, Wilder Baldwin, Aja Berschback, Donald Brown, Derek Carter Burgess, Chad Carruthers, Ms Zena Cason, Mrs Nancy Combs, Dylan Daniel, Joshua Caleb Dinwiddie, Anna Edwards, Mrs Allyson Flynn, Mitchell David Goodman, Ross Hall, Mr Thomas Hayden, Caleb Michel Hayden, Mr Joshua Michael (Josh) Holmes, Ella Kate Kinser, Rev Dixon	01/26 01/15 01/25 01/19 01/09 01/16 01/13 01/18 01/02 01/02 01/02 01/23 01/31 01/30 01/27 01/16 01/17 01/16 01/17 01/06 01/25 01/03 01/04
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Kline, Cheryl	01/20
Lamothe, Mr Peter	01/02
Lamothe, Mrs Virginia	01/27
Langlinais, Mr Brian	01/28
Logan, Mr David	01/20
Madeira, Ms Elinor	01/26
McRae, Mrs Lindsey	01/09
Merkh, Faith Margaret 01/18	
Mourter, Mr Deng	01/01
Niemeyer, Evie	01/16
North, Ms Darcy	01/10

Paige, Ms Sherry	01/17
Penney, Ethan	01/31
Poindexter, Ava Lee	01/22
Poindexter, Olivia Rae	01/05
Pregont, Isabel	01/23
Price, Savannah Leigh	01/27
Pullen, Robby	01/18
Rodgers, Mr Bryan	01/27
Ryan, Rex Taylor	01/02
Shay, Ever	01/06
Simpson, Davis Fraser	01/19
Stone, Aleksandra (Leksi)	01/13
Stone, Mrs Mary	01/11
Sullivan, Mrs Andrea	01/19
Swihart, Elliot Alan Abijah	01/17
Thornton, John Christopher	01/16
Trevathan, Ms Melissa	01/01
Tyler, Mr Lyon	01/03
Tylor, Mr Nathaniel	01/28
West, Dr Jule	01/16
White, Christopher	01/19
Whiteside, Ms Deborah	01/05
Zaher, Basil Rankin	01/05
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### February Birthdays

	Anthony, Caitlin	02/14
_	Attig, Raleigh Olivia	02/11
	Bashor, Ms Bonnie	02/05
	Bauchiero, Mrs Jessica	02/12
	Bennett, Mary Love	02/23
	Berschback, Raleigh	02/28
	Bradley, Eli David	02/18
	Brown, Elise Thierry	02/17
	Buxton, Samuel McKinny (Mack)	02/09
	Cleveland-Greenberg, Ashley	02/02
	Craig, Chelsea	02/06
	Cropp, Mr David	02/25
	Damen, Sarah R.	02/14
	Dillingham, Chuck	02/04
	Dunaway, Amy	02/14
	Edwards, Dr David	02/08
	Ferguson, Reilly Cate	02/04
	Floyd, Mrs Suzy	02/23
	Freeman, Ms LeeAnn	02/24
	Goldthorpe, Paige Elizabeth	02/17
	Gross, Mrs Ginger	02/17
	Gross, Logan	02/09
	Hampton, Caroline	02/05
	Hunter, Joey	02/24
	James, Heather	02/22
	Kintz, Claire	02/02
	Lefebvre, Mr Steven	02/18
	Lehman, Mrs Beth	02/14
	Letterman, Mr Gordon Gregory	02/14
	Lundgren, Blake	02/24
	Lyons, Mrs Susan	02/26
	MacLachlan, Hayden	02/14
	Mahan, Mr Tom	02/15
	Marshall, Mr John	02/17

Being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory.

from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, chapter 3, verse 18.

## From Glory to Glory

Celebrating the glory that grows within us and among our community

02/09 02/10 02/02 02/17 02/03 02/22 02/25 02/09 02/10 02/22 02/01 02/25 02/10 02/03 02/12 02/12 02/08 02/16 02/06

Woods, Hannah Births	02/25
Xavier Manuel parents, Beth & Manuel Cruz	8/7
Elliot Steven parents, Keelen & Adam Woods	8/20
Grant Thomas Holland parents, Miriam & Seth Swihart	9/2
Bohannon Alexandra parents, Betsy & Daniel Collins	9/7
Owen McGinn parents, Kate & Brent Ferrell	9/7

Pax Robert parents, Rachel & Aaron Sefton	9/16
Caleb Gabriel parents, Kate & Yuri van der Heijden	10/16
Baptisms	
Evan Tayloe Kipp	11/4
Deaths:	

George Howard Henson	9/1
James MacArthur	10/18

## Epiphany Celebration 14th Annual Chili Cook-Off and Bonfire

On Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating Epiphany with our annual chili cook-off and bonfire from 5:15 -6:30 p.m. Epiphany in the church is celebrated on the 12<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas and signifies the visit of the three kings or wise men to Jesus, the Christ child. It also recognizes the



"Rock Star White Chicken Chili" with table decorations

extension of salvation to the Gentiles which provides us all with a great deal to celebrate!

### Chili Cook-Off

All ages are welcome to compete. The categories are Best Hot Chili, Best Medium Chili, Best Mild Chili and Best Decorated Table. Each contestant determines which category to compete in – Hot, Medium or Mild. All contestants will automatically qualify to compete for the Best Decorated Table.

Sign Up in the narthex now through Sunday, December 30th. The chili from each contestant is used for our main course for dinner that evening. If you wish to provide chili for dinner, but do not want to participate in the competition, please still sign up and check the box "not competing". The Chili Cook-Off is one of our largest attended events and our goal is to have 30 chilies to provide dinner for all attendees.

### Dinner

A family dinner is provided for all attendees and includes chili,

cornbread, salad, macaroni and cheese, dessert and drinks.

### Bonfire

After dinner, everyone convenes outside by our larger than life bonfire comprised of Christmas trees. Each family is encouraged to drop off your Christmas tree to the designated "tree burning spot" on the church grounds any time after December 25.



# EPIPHANY CELEBRATION chili cook-off & bonfire

## Sunday, January 6 5:15 - 7:30 p.m.

## NEW TIMES ON SUNDAYS BEGINNING 1.13.13

8:15 - 9:30 a.m. Eucharist w/Children's Church 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Christian Formation Classes 11:00 - 12:15 p.m. Eucharist w/Children's Church



for more information, pick up a brochure or go to www.stbs.net