THE BRANCH

The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. B'S







Easter 2009

"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:

- To bring people to know Jesus Christ;
- 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).

Photos by Katherine Bomboy

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4800 Belmont Park Terrace Nashville, TN 37215 Phone: 615.377.4750 Email: churchoffice@stbs.net

Staff

Clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith, Rector
The Rev. Randy Hoover Dempsey,
Assistant Rector for Pastoral Care
The Rev. Dixon Kinser, Assistant Rector for
Youth & Young Adult Formation
The Rev. John Awan, Sudanese ministry
The Rev. Albino Gur Maror, Sudanese ministry
The Rev. David Wilson, Pastoral Associate

Office:

Pam White, Director of Operations Jane Long, Office Manager Annie Heyward, Administrative Assistant Erin Somerville, Director of Communications Becky Hornsby, Childcare Coordinator

Parish Ministry:

Carla Schober,

Director of Family and Children's Formation
Aaron Mayo, Children's Ministry Assistant
Carmen Hall, Preschool Coordinator
Meredith Flynn, Nursery Director
Kristin Kinser, Elementary Coordinator
Shelby Haggard, Sunday morning leader
Steve Lefebvre, Assistant Director for
Youth & College Formation

St. B's Bookstore:

Allison Hardwick, Manager

Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

Suzy Floyd, Preschool Director Mary Ellen Ratcliffe, Preschool Exec. Assistant

Music:

Eric Wyse, Director of Music Tom Howard, Associate Music Director Teresa Robinson, Administrative Assistant Henry Martin, Sound Engineer

Vestry Members

Andy Valentine, senior warden Charlie Reasor, junior warden

Greg Daniel, Dick Jewell, Vanessa Hardy, Adam Wirdzek, Carmen Hall, Dorman Burtch, Denise Kemp, Jud Laughter, Ashley MacLachlan, Paul Miller, Charlie Reasor. (Officers: Dan Cleary, treasurer and Gary Mumme, clerk)

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The Cross on Good Friday. Photo by Katherine Bomboy.

Articles and photos for the June Branch must be submitted no later than May 20.

Articles can be sent to: editor@stbs.net



Our Easter Hope

nd now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13

This oft quoted verse is one of the more popular in scripture, even among those would might never read the bible. It finds itself on the cover of many wedding bulletins and on a variety of other paraphernalia. But almost always it is used to expound the exceptional value of genuine love.

Now I don't want to downplay the importance of love. It is after all the one thing that Jesus himself said would distinguish his followers in the world. But I would like to suggest that there is also great importance in understanding the value of hope. In fact, I would argue, that hope is what motivates us to keep on keeping on when there may be lots of reasons to cave in. It may in fact be hope that motivates Christians to keep 'loving'.

One dictionary defines hope as "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen". I like this because without hope it would be difficult to get out of bed some mornings. One author suggested some years ago that although we might be able to survive days without food, hours without water, and minutes without oxygen, we couldn't survive at all without hope.

The Easter message is a message of 'hope'!

The church is in the 'hope' business.

Sadly, we are often guilty of succumbing to the world's bad news forecasts and lose sight of the truth that what grips this world need no longer be such a primary influence on us. We, after all, are citizens of heaven and only strangers in this kingdom.

I am not suggesting we close our eyes to this world's

issues, nor am I advocating an adaptation of some 'power of positive' thinking philosophy. I am saying that as members of the kingdom of God and as followers of Jesus, our future is placed is something much larger than the economic projections of world leaders or our 401ks. Our hope in neither in the next political rising star nor in the newest self-help strategy. Some people hope for their numbers in the power ball lottery. Some foolishly hope that their 'ship will come in' or that their next idea will be the best of all.

The word used in the Old Testament that translates most often "hope" literally means to 'look ahead with confidence to that which is good and beneficial'.

In the New Testament the implication in the use of the word, which translates 'hope', is that it is rightly placed on the Holder of the future rather than in our own prowess. The issue becomes one of trust as much as anything!

It is rightly said, we hope in what we trust. How very tragically accurate.

Paul would write that hope is the characteristic God is seeking to develop in us (see Rom 5:3-5) and would eventually define God himself as the "God of Hope" (Rom 15). In other words, hope in God is the only well placed trust we will ever have. In fact,

by Fr. Jerry Smith

Rector



the more we hope in Him the more we become like Him.

Yet a general perusal of the church, at most every level, seldom reflects this anticipation of the future, this "feeling of expectation" in God. Actually, we often allow the doom and gloom of the world to smother us when God wants that the church be an alternative to what our culture has to offer.

There is an historic prayer that gives thanks for 'faith in a world full of fear' and 'hope in a world full of despair'.

This is exactly what God wants us to be filled with this Easter season: hope that is the antitheses of what the world is representing. Not a feigned or hypocritical characteristic, but rather a genuine realization that the tomb was empty; Jesus did rise from the grave and life need never be the same again.

Our hope is that our God is in control; He does have us in the palm of His hand. He has promised not to forsake us. Our hope is the confidence that He knows our needs and if we press on seeking his kingdom and doing his will, he will supply all of our needs.

This is our Easter hope. This is what our God invites us to know with confidence this season.

Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

You may contact Jerry Smith at: jerrysmith@stbs.net





Holy Week: Maundy Thursday





Photos by Marjie Smith

I See Dead People



A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Assistant Rector for Youth & Young Adult Formation

"Ki

ind of looks like a coffin doesn't it?"

This line always draws a reaction when I say it to the class taking Anglicanism 101 because it comes in a context where they least expect it: standing around the Holy

Table, waiting to take communion. You see, during this week of the class we are teaching on how Anglicans approach the Eucharist, and part of that lecture involves a little explication on the signs and symbols of our faith. One of the biggest (literally) is the very table we use to celebrate the Lord's Supper every Sunday. Have you ever noticed, it kind of looks like a coffin? There is actually good reason for this.

When Christianity

breaks out after Jesus'
resurrection and ascension and after
Pentecost, it is initially seen as a
heretical sect of Judaism. Ergo, it is
persecuted by almost everybody and
driven underground so that for a time
the safest place Christians could gather
for worship were places called the
catacombs. Catacombs were
underground burial chambers used
during the second century by
Christians to bury their martyrs before
the faith was legal in the Roman

Empire. Christians would return to

these "grave tunnels" to commemorate the death of these martyrs and as imperial abuse heated up the catacombs actually became the safest place for the Church to gather. It was during these times that a most unlikely tradition developed.



Above: A eucharistic fresco from the catacombs

The commemoration of a saint involves the celebration of the Lord's Supper. However, because there was no institutional expression of the Church in the second century, often these feats were celebrated on the actual sarcophagus of the saint whose death was being remembered. This was a way the community maintained their connection to the communion of saints, remembering that this feast they eat now is a precursor to the great

Messianic banquet that is to come. At this "wedding feast of the Lamb" all Christians will eat together celebrating God's culmination of the old world's redemption and the beginning of God's new Creation. It is going to be great!

As Christianity morphed into the state religion of the Roman Empire and buildings began to be built for public worship, Roman Christians maintained their connection to the catacombs by building the altars of each cathedral on

of the saints. And as the Church moved into Protestantism this connection was continued when Eucharistic tables were built in roughly the size of a Roman sarcophagus. In this practice the Christian church reminded itself not just of its roots in persecution, but also more gloriously her connection to the great cloud of witnesses the book of Hebrews references. We are not in this alone - not by a long shot!

the bone or bones of one

I mention all this in our Easter issue of the Branch because this reality of, how shall we say, transtemporal community is only made possible by the resurrection of Jesus. This communion of saints is indeed at the heart of an Easter faith. This is because throughout Jesus' public ministry in general and his admonition to eat his Body and Blood in the Eucharist most specifically, it is clear that Jesus' kingdom people

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Holy Week: Good Friday













Photos by Katherine Bomboy



Holy Week: Good Friday













Photos by Katherine Bomboy



Welcoming Spring

God's love for us exhibited in the flowers of the season

by Katrina Wilson

believe God must have smiled when he thought of spring - painting the landscape in glorious colors. Here in Tennessee I think he did an exceptionally beautiful job. As I drive through the countryside, I can hardly keep my eyes on the road with trees dressed in bright pink and whip cream white blossoms, crocus, daffodils, tulips and all the colors of the rainbow decorating the landscape. Our Lord Jesus' words come to mind, "Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow . . . Even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are." After the cold winter, the earth has come awake with magnificent yet fleeting, impractical beauty. "If God cares so wonderfully for the flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you." (Matthew 6:30)



The Altar, adorned with flowers for Easter. Photo by Chris Somerville

The impractical, short-lived beauty of spring speaks to me of God's extravagant love – love for all that he has created and for each one of us.

It is the desire of the people who volunteer to decorate our Church Altar in response to that love. We do the very best we can – "wholeheartedly unto the Lord" as a thank offering, whether we serve on the Altar Guild or the Flower Guild.

During Lent as during the cold of winter, we do not have flowers at the Altar. Then comes the celebration of the resurrection, and the flowers and white vestments serve as an exclamation point of our new life in Christ and affirms our "yes" to God. This is why I felt called as a volunteer to serve on the

Flower Guild.

I See Dead People (continued from page 6)

(the church) are supposed to see themselves as a new family. Seen in the light of the resurrection we now know this family to include all those who have ever or will ever claim the name of Christ.

So, imagine if you will when you come to our coffin shaped table this week, a table that stretches all the way into the past and all the way into the future. Then imagine, if you will, every person who has ever claimed or will ever claim

the name of Jesus seated at that table and know that somehow, some way, they are in this with us today. Take a look at the great stained glass windows in our Nave and let them turn your attention to a few saints in particular. Consider how their life and faith can challenge and inspire your own. If you don't know their stories, consider their likeness an invitation to learn about them. These are our people. Our family. These are the dead people we have been invited by 2000 years of

Christian practice to "see". May we all keep our eyes open!

Finally, remember that our sarcophagus shaped table is a reminder that death is not the end of our story. No, for followers of Jesus resurrection is! This is why the best response to my observation about our table's coffin like shape is to say, "Thanks be to God!"

The Lord is risen indeed!

Hope For Your Relationship



PRACTICAL FAITH

by Fr. Randy Hoover-Dempsey

his afternoon I will see two couples for premarital counseling. One of the responsibilities of a priest is to see that the people he or she marries are prepared to be married. Being prepared means we have talked and prayed and studied about what it takes to make a successful marriage.

We use a book to structure our conversations. It's called A Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage. That's a pretty feisty title for a marriage book. But what the authors have discovered—and what anyone who has been married for a while can tell you—is that marriage is hard work.

While relational work may get easier over time, it is never over. Kathy and I have been married for twenty-seven years, but we still hit potholes in the road. We both fall into bad patterns of behavior that damage our relationship. When this happens it takes some hard work to get to a better place. One of the benefits in doing premarital counseling and in working with married couples is that I am reminded of some basic principles of good relationships.

When I sit down with a couple for the first time, I tell them that there is no such thing as a brand new relationship. Usually there are three of us sitting in a room together, but I think of the host of people who have shaped the couple's ideas about what marriage means. Each of us learns what marriage means from our family of origin. We have

learned what a wife or husband does by observing our mothers and fathers and how they relate.

Sometimes what we have learned is helpful, and sometimes it's not.

We also talk about the difference between a "romantic" marriage and Christian marriage. From a romantic point of view, each person is looking for someone who will make them happy or fulfilled. In the romantic perspective relational problems may mean that you have chosen the wrong person as a mate. "If I just had a better spouse, I could be happy," is the lie that is often lived out.

From a Christian perspective, marriage is about something deeper than momentary happiness.

A Christian marriage is based in the couple's mutual commitment to Jesus Christ and to one another. In a Christian marriage one's ultimate meaning and worth is based in Christ not in one's spouse. In unity with Christ the husband becomes the servant of the wife, and in unity with Christ the wife the servant of the husband. When problems are encountered, and problems are always encountered, they may become opportunities for spiritual development.

Where would you suggest someone go if they want to make the greatest spiritual progress? I would suggest the monastery of marriage. Living in constant contact with another person exposes each of us. Our areas of weakness become readily apparent. At the same time, we have a marriage partner to help us find the way to healing and wholeness. In the mutual

servanthood of marriage the Holy Spirit works through our partner to lead us where we need to go.

You may be asking, "What about those of us who are not married? What is our place?" The family of the Church is much like the relationship found in marriage. The same kind of mutual commitment that is found in a marriage is found in our relationships in the family of the Church. When problems arise in the Church, we are often tempted by a romanticized view of church life, "I'm going to leave and find another church home. If I can find a better Christian family everything will be better." However, the problems that we encounter can be great opportunities for spiritual progress when we take our commitment to one another seriously.

The good news about relationships is that in Christ there is always hope. He is the one who can make "all things new." He is the one who can transform situations that seem hopeless.

In beginning premarital counseling, I ask the couple to commit themselves to pray daily. I first suggest that each person pray for himself or herself. Some folks are hesitant to do this, seeing it as selfish. However, we must pray for ourselves because it is only through the grace of God that we may live faithfully with others. "Lord, have mercy on me this day, and grant me the grace to be a faithful servant." In the same way I ask the couple to pray for one another. "Lord, have mercy on Kathy" is the prayer that I pray for my wife, confident that God knows her needs better than I do.

Just as we pray this for our marriage relationships, so might we also pray for our relationships in our parish.

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Easter Sunday













Photos by Chris Somerville



Easter Sunday













Photos by Chris Somerville



The Pines: Keeping Mom's Stories



RUMINATIONS

by Marjie Smith
msscribbler@comcast.net

cannot disconnect May from Mother's Day. And I know it is because my mother, in her advanced dementia, is inhabited by someone we barely know. At 91, she no longer walks or talks. Mercifully, she mostly sleeps. She lies in bed, a modern bed with mechanical slings to get her in and out and a special air mattress to prevent bed sores. The mom we knew would have been impressed. She would have talked cheerily with the nurses. She does not recognize them, or even the family, when we visit and feed her liquid foods. She chokes, even on liquids.

We have been on this journey with her for 16 years. We have seen the disease take by piracy a woman with a bright mind, a feisty spirit and a kind soul. I understand the anger, the sense of unfairness and the eventual resignation that befall a family dealing with dementia. For when one person lives with it, all live with it.

I know many people in the parish are dealing with parents or spouses in the advanced stages of this disease. When we put my mother in a nursing home, nine years ago, I shared my struggles in my entertainment column, Stage Left, which I wrote at the time for The North Bay Nugget.

I never knew how many people were struggling with the same thing until I received the responses. One woman told me she clipped the article and wrote in her dad's name where I had put mom's. She said she'd never been able to put it to words.

And so, to know me, is to know the mother whom I love and mourn and for whom I pray. Here is the column. It is

part of a larger journal I started at the time she entered a nursing home.



We have been on this journey with [my mom] for 16 years. We have seen the disease take by piracy a woman with a bright mind, a feisty spirit and a kind soul. I understand the anger, the sense of unfairness and the eventual resignation that befall a family dealing with dementia.

It's called The Pines – the new place where you will live.

To me it sounds like the name of a cemetery. I'm grateful it doesn't have the word "Whispering" in front of it. In spite of the finality of its purpose and the euphemism of its name, it is a name I think you would choose. You've grown up among the pine trees. You were Murielle Whittington, the Girl of the Limberlost, the lumberman's daughter. You honeymooned under the pine trees on your Spring Lake island. You took us to that island every

summer, and we too played among those same pine trees.

The pines. Among the pines I learned so many things from you: to read and play games when it rained; to build a campfire and roast marshmallows to perfection; to sing harmony with my brothers and sister; to canoe and to catch crayfish; to lie in a tent and listen to the drumming of the rain; to sit under a night sky and watch the falling stars or, if we were lucky, the Northern Lights.

But you don't recognize those things any more. Something in your brain clicked off, slowly at first, and now fully as it experiences the full siege of the disease's storm-like fury. That mind was always so clever. You could recite long poems and remembered every odd-ball crossword-puzzle word that could be used to advantage in a game of Scrabble.

Your mom died when you were eight, but someone saw promise in you and the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire sent you to Toronto for more schooling when you were 16 years old. So much has happened to you since, but you've always come home in the summers to your beloved island.

I'm the youngest of five; the one who should have more years of you, but tomorrow, we'll play a game. Not the games you taught me. Not Scrabble: your words are a jumble of thoughts. Not baseball: you don't know where home plate is anymore. Yesterday, you ran out in your nighty and bedroom slippers in the cold. You were looking for your dad. That's what you've been doing all week – looking for your dad, who has been dead over 40 years.

Did you think he was out hunting?

Continued on next page



Ruminations (continued from page 13)

No, the game we'll play will be a type of drama. Dad, Jerry and I will take you to the car. We'll pretend we're going somewhere – to a nice hotel. Maybe we'll give it a name; maybe you'll remember to get excited about traveling; maybe you'll suspect something different is happening. Someone else packed your bag this time.

Tonight on the phone – you didn't know I'd called dad to see if you needed anything for your last trip – you said there were people there playing games. "Outside games," you said. "Like hide and seek," I asked. Why correct you? It's real to you. And you get upset when people try to set you straight.

"Yes," you said. "And more people are coming."

Are you a child in Eagle Lake hiding behind the lumber piles? Are you a teacher in Zambia making your students giggle with your antics? Are you having fun with the campers at the camp you managed and loved so much in Nova Scotia? Or are you somehow aware that your mind is playing hide and seek on you?

Dad and I are taking you to a safe place tomorrow – The Pines.

I should be writing about entertainment in North Bay. There's so much of it all around me. But all I can think of is you and what you were – that I wouldn't

appreciate entertainment if it weren't for you.

I think of your story you told so often about the day your skirt fell down in the middle of a play. Last time you told the story, I had to help you with the details. You've always loved a good story on yourself. You'd probably even find some of the things you do now funny. If you knew.

Last time we walked, you clung to my arm like a little girl. I don't know if I'll have the strength to be the one to tell you a story if you are afraid. Will I be

Finishing Well

St. B's will be hosting an evening event on endof-life preparedness on Tuesday evening, April 21, at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

We encourage everyone to join us for this informative evening. This event will be led by Tony Morreale. Contact the church office for more information.

able to sing those silly little songs you used to teach us without crying?

"In the little red schoolhouse, with my book and slate..."

Sorry mom. Every one of these words has been baptized. But I need to tell your story. People, incredible people like you slip into nursing homes. Behind the many stumbling feet, jumbled words and dazed eyes are lifetimes of love, dreams, things done, all wrapped up in stories.

I'll keep yours for you.

ECW Night at the Frist

The ECW will be meeting at the Frist Center on Thursday, April 30, to view the current exhibit of Medieval Treasures. We will meet at 6 p.m. in the Frist Cafe for a light dinner prior to the tour. For more details please contact stbsecw@yahoo.com or see the link on the St. B's website.

Please RSVP either to the EVITE or to stbsecw@yahoo.com so we know how many tickets to procure.



March Vestry Highlights

A Summary of the March Vestry Minutes

ach issue of the Branch will briefly summarize key points from the previous month's vestry meeting. Here are highlights from the March 9 meeting.



Father Jerry opened the meeting, reminding the Vestry their food was the same as Jesus' food, the will of the Father. St. B's is about opening our arms to love one another and opposing simply reacting. The Vestry is about hearing anew, Jesus is the Savior of the world.



Financials:

Pam White presented the financial report. Tithes and Offering were over budget for Feb 1.6% ahead of the first 2 months of 2008. Operating expenses were under budget for Feb and payroll and parish operations are 5% and 16% less than budget. Weekly offering is ahead of same time for 2008.



Mission & Outreach:

Henry and Debra Martin presented God's opportunity for mission to Sudan in July 2009 with Jason and Monique Ingalls. The ultimate goal is to train priests for the Malek Bible School begun by Bishop Nathaniel Garang. Henry, Debra, Jason and Monique are looking for prayer and financial assistance from St. B's.

Jon Zadick and Bill Bowlby presented an opportunity for a ministry called Team *8*4*Life for special needs kids ages 8-16

years old. A request was made for facility use and financial support from St. B's.

Vestry Liaison Positions:

At the March Vestry Meeting, new Vestry liaison positions were named. They are as follows:

Dorman Burtch -Pastoral Care

Greg Daniels - Preschool / Mother's Day Out

Carmen Hall - Family / Children's Formation

Vanessa Hardy - Worship

Dick Jewell-Facilities

Denise Kemp - Fellowship

Jud Laughter - Youth

Ashley MacLachan - Formation / Adult Discipleship

Paul Miller - Mission & Outreach

Adam Wirdzek - Mission & Outreach

Charlie Reasor - Jr. Warden

Andy Valentine - Sr. Warden

Financial Committee:

Charlie Reasor offered forming a financial committee for sound accounting, indicating 5 people were needed to serve. Jon Maxwell, Dan



Vestry Clerk

Cleary, Denise Yennie, Sarah Bell Early and David West Sr. were suggested.



Vestry Liaison Positions:

Father Jerry spoke on Vestry liaison positions (see box in center).

Father Jerry expressed enthusiasm in the community and a synergy among the staff. In spite of difficult financial times, God is leading St. B's in exciting ways as a parish. St B's is looking beyond controversy and focusing on the Kingdom. The Community is practicing the rhythm of the Daily Office through St. B's Daily. St. B's is pulling together, demonstrated by practicing how the Kingdom affects the whole of life.

The complete minutes from March are posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.





Life, Then Death, Then Life



THE WONDER OF IT ALL

by Carla Schober

Director of Family & Children's Formation

y Dad passed away this past February. He had struggled with cancer for the last three years and thankfully survived far longer than the doctors had given him. As I write this I also learned that my grandmother, my Dad's mom, passed away just last night. This is only April and already this year has presented a great many challenges and sad moments. But, regardless of how much I feel my losses or tears break out at random moments, I know it's okay and am so thankful for the friends and family that have prayed and checked in on me.

Dealing with the death of loved ones at any time is difficult. And dealing with death during the Lenten season is no exception. In fact, for me it's been harder than usual since in Lent death is mentioned so often in the Liturgy. It's caused me to remember and confront my loss daily. But, isn't that what it's all about? Remember the loss. Remember that Christ suffered and died. Remember the pain and anguish His followers went through and how they questioned Him and themselves. Thankfully it doesn't stop there. We remember that death is conquered by Jesus' resurrection. Death is not the end, it is a part of the resurrection. Death becomes life. Death is no longer the end. In Christ it is a new beginning. My Dad and my Grandma are with Jesus. They're now in a life that's far more abundant then I can even hope to imagine. I miss them a lot but I'll see them again.

Sophia Cavalletti, founder of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd,trains catechists to present the mystery of life and death to young children by use of Jesus' very short

We remember that death is conquered by Jesus' resurrection.
Death is not the end, it is a part of the resurrection. Death becomes life. Death is no longer the end. In Christ it is a new beginning.

parable of the grain of wheat (John 10:24). In studying this presentation it has helped me considerably to look at death through the eyes of a child. In the parable Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." The children are read the parable then reminded that Jesus knew death could be very frightening for us.

He knew His death would be very difficult for His disciples, and He wanted to share with them - and with us - the secret of death. The children are given real grains of wheat to touch and feel. The seeds are then planted and within a week the children are invited to dig the seed up and notice the changes. In the following weeks examples are then shown of the wheat in all its different stages on up to the grown plant with it's many seeds. Through this the children understand that the death of the seed brings new life, not just in plants but also with us. To look at death and the afterlife through the eyes of a child has brought me additional peace. The fact that Jesus knew we could not even as adults comprehend this mystery helps remind me that He simply wants us to trust Him that things will be okay if we put our trust in Him with our lives and our deaths.

This Eastertide I realize I will continue to mourn my losses here on earth. But, I am reassured more than ever that I will also someday celebrate the mystery of that new life with my loved ones in the very presence of God. Cavalletti writes in her book, History's Golden Thread, "At this point the constant theme found throughout the history of salvation - life coming forth even from difficult circumstances through the power of God – sounds its highest and most perfect note. This time life comes directly from death, its antithesis." This is the Paschal mystery we celebrate.



Easter Egg Hunt

















A Place Called Hope

An Invitation to Come Home

by Jim Robinson

nce, in a place and time that now seems near enough to touch and yet just beyond my reach, finding myself caught between the dreams of a boy and the desires of a man, I ran away from Home. I became very lost, lonely...very afraid. I walked through that part of my life barely half alive, in a place only half real. It is a time mostly forgotten now. But there are moments when this past reality comes back at me with unexpected force, startling me, threatening my joy.

The issues of addiction and mood disorders go back several generations in my family. After years of struggling with bipolar disease and drug addiction, my mother succumbed to that stranger who had always stalked her. In my memoir, Prodigal Song, I painfully remembered:

...so much of it I simply can't recall. There's nothing left but flashes of memory, mercifully unclear. And yet some of the images that sneak through are too dark and

sordid to tell, without giving evil more sensational coverage than it deserves...

But I remember clearly the day, there in my empty apartment—the phone ringing, my heart pounding, and a few moments later numbly pulling down my suitcase from the closet shelf. Twenty-eight years old, long-bidden from the responsibilities of my far away family, wrapped so tightly around myself that I could often fool that self into thinking there was no real tragedy playing out all those thousands of miles away...

After one earlier attempt, this time she had succeeded. After being dead in her spirit for so long, after divorce and being left lonely and bitter and with no one close to minister to her, my mother had finally found a way, finally taken enough pills and washed them. down with enough booze, though the doctors said her heart was still barely beating. She was almost done dying, now, broken into too many pieces, and though I had been. trying to hide from her, and from what she had become and what I had become and what my family had become, suddenly the

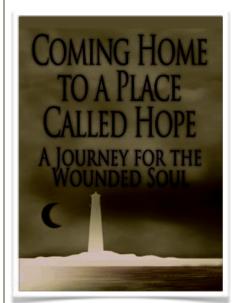


Jim Robinson, LADAC, NCAC-I, BCBC, is an award winning songwriter, and musician, singer, author, therapist, and speaker.

Jim and wife Teresa attend St. B's and are founders of ProdigalSong Ministries, which combines music, speaking, and educational workshop presentations to convey a message of hope and healing in churches, treatment centers, schools, and correctional facilities throughout the country.



Continued on next page



A Place Called Hope: A New 3 Week Workshop April 29, May 6 & May 13: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Ever Wonder Why....

- You are struggling for contentment?
- Your relationship with Christ has become strained?
- The false idols of this world sneak in despite your prayers?
- ♣ There are so many lost and broken souls out there even inside the church?

 These are just a few of the questions that will be addressed in this workshop.

 Supported by a framework of scriptural truth, this workshop will explore ways to:
- ♣ Identify and overcome the "idols" in your life
- Stop playing hide-and-seek with God
- ❖ Overcome fear and shame so you can be free to accept God's love Please join us for this workshop led by Jim Robinson.

April 29, May 6 & May 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Hope (continued from page 18)

Sometimes, even now, I find myself lost again, with a sense of being far from Home. I feel a tap on my shoulder and turn to see someone menacing and strangely familiar, with an unshaven face full of fear. And there are days when I actually pause to listen, mesmerized, suddenly oblivious to the miracle of new life all around me, heavy-lidded and high on the fumes of his breath. I will subtly and unknowingly wander away with him, forgetting, seeking completion in the false gods of fear and shame.

And then. Then I will shudder at how empty they leave me. And I will thirst again for the only true wine, the Healer of my heart, Lover of my soul. Turning back to Him who waits, whose arms are always open. And His love once more humbles and shatters me, as I fall into His embrace. Again and again...one day at a time, sometimes one hour at a time...I come home to a place called Hope.

There is no simple solution to the issues of depression, mental illness, or

addiction; to pass along a cure on the shoulders of spiritual platitudes would be both simplistic and cruel. Telling someone in this condition to simply pull themselves together and get back to living is like you or I commanding Lazarus to come out of the tomb. And although many in our world struggle with drug and alcohol abuse, I prefer a broader brushstroke definition-Addiction as idolatry: anything we use or do that separates us from the love of God. For many, the forest has become too dense, the light gone, the way lost. Unless you have been bound to darkness, it is difficult to understand.

But Jesus does. And Jesus can. He can call us out, and unwrap the burial clothes. "Come to Me," He says softly, "all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). And the rest He offers is the kind only those belonging to the fellowship of the brokenhearted can fully appreciate...those of us still one lifechanging moment away with the sweet sound of His name poised on the tip of

our tongues, caught on our breaths. We, all of us, even as we deny Him and curse Him and turn from Him cannot for long deny the very human truth that we so desperately need Him. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls."

And so my prayer for all the lost and hurting is this: Come Home. The message is about much more than drugs and alcohol. Our world is filled with those who are hurting, and those who love them. Each of us is invited to turn and head back on the road to the Savior, the One who loves you. Because I have been where you are going, and I have tasted the cold emptiness of life lived alone. But Christ Jesus offers to all a warm fire, and a place to rest our weary heads.

Life. Love. Hope.

Amen.

Relationship Hope

(continued from page 10)

Lord, we commit ourselves to Your care. Transform us so that we may give you honor and glory in all that we do. Bless, protect and sustain the marriages in our community. Nurture our parish family that we may be servants one to the other, growing in grace and faith. We pray this through the One who loves us and gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ.

(A Lasting Promise by Scott Stanley and others is available in the St. B's Bookstore.)

Road to Reemployment

Tony Morreale will be leading a seminar on outplacement each Tuesday evening in the Rectory, beginning Tuesday, April 28, at 7:00pm.

The workshop is aimed at equipping displaced employees to be better prepared to move on with their lives and careers in today's turbulent market.

The informal sessions will discuss topics such as the emotions of a job loss, life and career planning, assessment and identification of needs and goals, resume development, interviewing skills, marketing and building a search strategy, networking, and how to look for work in today's environment.

The material and presentations are interactive in nature. Come join us as we share and learn from each other.



Spring Women's Retreat

A Recap of Worship, Fellowship and Fun

by Jane Stranch

pring flowers were blooming, spring breezes blowing, and mountain vistas infinite as the women of St.
Bartholomew's gathered at St. Mary's Retreat Center for a wonderful, relaxing time away from the stresses of everyday life. The St. B's ECW held its annual Spring Retreat at St. Mary's on March 20-21. Every room we had reserved was filled with St.

reserved was filled with St.

B's women. We encompassed every age group and demographic at St.

Bartholomew's and came together as one to fellowship, worship, eat, sing and enjoy each other's company.

Debbie Smith, Life Coach & Consultant and Executive Director of the Center for Women in Medicine, taught throughout the weekend on the subject "Living as Daughters of the King". Debbie provided a series of wonderful Biblical teachings, including time for small group discussions and real life application through testimonies by Kristen Kinser, Erin Somerville and Jane Stranch. Suzie Johnson provided music and led worship; Whitney Stone led the services (and a hike afterwards); Katherine Bomboy immortalized us in pictures; and, Erin Somerville met all our technical needs, including showing a touching film of the youngest daughters of the King at St. B's.

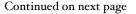








Photos by Katherine Bomboy





ECW Retreat (continued from page 20)

The women of St. B's were taught well, shared well, sang well, ate well and laughed well - who could ask for more? No matter your age or your interest, the St. B's ECW welcomes you and invites you to join us at St. Mary's for the next annual spring retreat. Until then, please join us for our monthly get togethers. Look for the e-mail reminders and invitations from Tara Moore or contact us at stbsecw@yahoo.com. The next event is dinner at the Frist Center at 6:00pm and a complimentary tour afterwards, all on Thursday, April 30. Look for an announcement of our summer program soon. Come be included in our fellowship and fun.



Right: Four sets of mothers and daughters attended the retreat together.

Photos by Katherine Bomboy.







Living in Creation: A New Diocesan Ministry



LIVE GREEN

by Laura & Jud Laughter judandlaura@yahoo.com

aster and spring are seasons of rebirth and renewal, the perfect time to consider the ways we all live with and within Creation. In fact, this was a specific focus of our Bishop when he announced the founding of the Living in Creation Ministry in his address to the 2009 Diocesan Convention. The LCM is a diocesanwide committee made up of representatives from all our parishes. In February, we attended the first meeting of the LCM and learned a lot about what we're doing as a diocese to pursue environmental aims and concerns.

The mission of the LCM is "to engage the Body of Christ in transforming our relationship with God's Creation." The LCM pursues this mission via four primary methods: (1) by providing educational resources to the diocese; (2) by cultivating environmental dialogue within the diocese; (3) by supporting existing environmental efforts in the diocese; and (4) by helping to start new environmental ministries in the diocese.

The LCM has set several goals for 2009, starting with a survey passed out during the annual convention. The results from these surveys will be a key way to investigate the specific needs

and desires of each parish. To support this work at the parish level, the LCM wants to have an appointed liaison from each

parish; at the first meeting we had seventeen people representing

fifteen of the diocese's fifty parishes. One of the direct impacts the LCM will have on the parishes is to design a diocesan-wide environmental curriculum that can be taught in Sunday School or used as workshop materials. Likewise, the LCM wants to develop an individualized environmental informational packet that will be tailored to the abilities and resources of each parish.

At the diocesan level, the LCM will develop a website to house information and teaching materials; there is also a blog coming soon at livingincreation.blogspot.com. The LCM also wants to develop a Living in Creation Sermon Series where clergy and academics will speak at various times all over the diocese on environmental and Creation issues.

This move toward diocesan coordination is representative of what's also happening in the national church. The Episcopal Ecological Network (www.eenonline.org) is the ECUSA group responsible for disseminating information and organizing environmental efforts on a national scale. Their website has a lot of information available to everyone. In Province Four and the Diocese of Tennessee, our primary contacts are Joyce Wilding and Jerry Cappel, both of whom we were able to meet in February.

We will use this column in the future to provide updates on both the LCM and what's happening with the EEN. If you're interested in some local Green Action, there's a great presentation happening at the Scarritt-Bennett Center (www.scarrittbennett.org) during the weekend of 17-18 April. On Friday, 17 April, they're showing an updated version of An Inconvenient Truth,

Living in Creation Ministry

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including a Q&A session with certified Climate Project volunteer Reverend Rebekah Simon-Peter. Then, on Saturday, 18 April, they're hosting a six-hour workshop entitled Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repent all about connecting the Christian faith with our responsibilities as stewards of Creation. For more information and a registration form, visit the Calendar of Events on the Scarritt-Bennett homepage.



St. B's Blogger: Confirmation

Finding a New Home for Worship

This article is taken from a blog entry written on March 29 by Jason Barmer. His blog can be found at lookingforquestions.com

rista and I were confirmed this morning at St.
Bartholomew's Church. For those not familiar with it, confirmation is an adult declaration that I'm a follower of Christ, with this community of believers. For us, it was a profound statement of belonging, marking a significant transition in our journey of faith.

Why the Anglican/Episcopal church? Why have I connected so easily here, when I have felt out of place in

Confirmed on March 29:

Michelle Bradley Scott Bradley Thomas Hall Andrew Michel Corinne Michel Jason Andrew Barmer Krista Nicole Barmer Alexander Scot Peden Megan Elizabeth Peden Sarah Lindsey Peden Lynn Noel Jessica Woodlee Abigail Butler Elayna Khristine Cleary Daniel Joseph Cleary Angela Hart Debbie Smith Vanessa Snead Lynch **Brittany Lassiter** Ellen Latimer Alexander Samuel Rhea

Reaffirmed:

Tim Lauer

Walt Lynch

Received into this Communion:

Carmen Hall Debra Ann Mace almost every other attempt to become part of a local congregation? What is it about this church that has resonated with me? I haven't talked a whole lot about it except with a select few friends who aren't befuddled by the idea, but I want to give some insight into what brought us to the point of such a decision.

To begin with, the worship at Saint Bartholomew's has been a gift that I never realized I would enjoy so much. Having never worshiped using any structured liturgy, I wasn't sure what to expect when we visited, but what I found was that the liturgy serves as a path to meaningful and authentic worship. It wasn't in the way any more than dirt is in your way on a hiking trail. Once I accepted the role of the liturgy, it was refreshing to be led in that way.



Second, the service is rich with powerful Christian symbolism and is centered on Christ and the Word.

The processional with the cross held high in the air reminds us of the power and efficacy of Christ's death. The reading of the Gospels in the middle of the room compels us to view the Gospels as the central story of our lives. The common cup of the Eucharist represents the fact that we are all in need of the body and blood of Christ. When we make the sign of the cross we physically express the truth that we are crucified with Christ.

Throughout the service, the senses are flooded with signs of God's truth. It's hard to miss for those who are seeking.

Continued on next page



Photo by Pam White





The St. B's Gardening Group Needs Your Help

The Gardening Group has officially kicked off their ministry this spring. If you like the great outdoors, getting your hands dirty, fun and fellowship, and seeing immediate results from your labor, the Gardening Group is for you. We will continue to meet the second Saturday of each month, 8:00am – 12:00pm, to help prune, weed, and plant flowers in the front and side gardens of the sanctuary. Come when you can, stay as long as you like, and please bring your own gardening tools.

The dates for gardening in May and June are:

Saturday, May 9, 8:00am-12:00pm

Saturday, June 13, 8:00am-12:00pm

Confirmation (continued from page 23)

Next, in the past I've had some difficulty with judging whether or not the music and the sermon are "good." I don't have the same trouble at St. B's. The choir, organ, and band are all behind us in a balcony, so it's clear to me that their role is not to perform songs, but to invite us to worship with them. They are one of the congregants, except that they get to play instruments and sing into a microphone. And the sermon is not the center focus of the service either. It's part of a whole, with Christ at the center.

Finally, Anglican theology is another important part of why I feel so at home at Saint Bartholomew's. In fact, the theology is why I like to tell people that I was Anglican before Krista and

I came to this church; I just didn't know it yet. I have found a strong likeness with how I view God and his Word.

There are four important tensions that Anglican theology seeks to maintain that I have also sought after:

- * God's immanence and God's transcendence.
- * The faith of the community and the faith of the individual.
- * Theological openness and firmness.
- * The role of our thoughts and our passions.

Over the past decade, connecting with a local church has been difficult for me (even while being on staff at a church for five years!). My friend Brian has tried to talk me out of my spiritual "hermit-ism" for a while now, gently presenting the value of being part of a community of believers who give us opportunity to serve and be served.

I had given up on the church as having any potential for this kind of connection, but God has disrupted my expectations again and I'm certain that we have found a home and a tribe at Saint Bartholomew's. We have claimed them as our family and they have done the same for us. We've not met a lot of people there as of yet, but somehow we already feel a sense of belonging within the Body of Christ.

Do you think that's confirmation enough?

The Wills Family Headed to Vancouver

by Andrea Sullivan

ancouver, British
Columbia will soon
become a place we
think of fondly,
even wistfully, from across
the continent. Although it
is a beautiful, coastal, multicultural city, host to the
winter Olympics next year,
it will also soon be home to
Morgan and Heather Wills
and their children, Isaac,
Jessie, and Morgan Jr.

The Wills family will take a sabbatical year in Vancouver, beginning in June. The initial draw to Vancouver was for Morgan to continue working toward a master's degree in Christian Studies at Regent College. He will be taking classes and hopes to eventually work on a thesis about sacramental medicine and a theology of healthcare.

He plans to develop some of his work into a training institute at Siloam Family Health Center, where he is a staff physician. Morgan will be taking a leave of absence from his clinical work beginning in May and anticipates returning in August 2010.

A primary focus of the year away is to slow down the pace of life, reflect, enjoy time together as a family, and be refreshed for the next season. (Remember, this is a sabbatical!) One inventive way to change the pace will be traveling across the U.S. in a camper in June.

This adventure is also Heather's opportunity to return to her native country, and introduce her family to the Canadian delights they've been missing all these years! In the fall,



Isaac, Jessie, and Morgan Jr. will attend a small Christian school near the Regent campus. Heather has cousins that live nearby, and plans to pursue work, study acting, or other ventures once they are settled. Regent College also offers family retreats and small community groups

to students and their families.

God has been at work, preparing many details that enable the Wills to make this transition smoothly. For example, He provided a Christian physician and his

family to rent the Wills' home for the exact dates of their absence. He brought a new physician to step in at Siloam and enable Morgan to consider taking this break. The ministry to medical students at Vanderbilt that Morgan started many years ago is carrying on in their absence under fresh leadership -- and perhaps even in their own home. Pretty great, right? In talking with Heather and Morgan, their desire to live a wellexamined life, and their openness to God's leading is evident. It is apparent that His plans are more broad than just a few classes. He is drawing them into an adventure of His making, for a purpose yet to unfold. Morgan said, "The scripture that has spoken to us most directly in this decision has

been Jesus' words to Saul in Acts 9:6; "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Let's uphold them in prayer and encouragement and accountability to this calling.

Newcomers & Visitors Coffee

Come join us for coffee in the gym on Sunday, April 26, following each service. This is an opportunity for visitors and newcomers to meet one another as well as some members of the staff.

Come if you have questions, want to meet some new St. B's family members, or just want coffee and pastries!



From Glory to Glory

The title "From Glory to Glory" comes from Paul's revelation into God's eternal destiny for each of his children. "And we...are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory."



APRIL & MAY 2009

Anniversaries

Mike & Dianne O'Neil	4/13
Bob & Susan Lyons	4/17
David & Laura Leach	4/20
Monty & Ta Kimble	4/25
Bob & Suzy Floyd	4/29
Dan & Kim Simpson	4/30
Jeremy & Laurie Roe	5/I
Greg & Karen Daniel	5/6
Jim & Teresa Robinson	5/12
John & Natasha Deane	5/14
Judson & Gretchen Aber	nathy 5/15
Rodger & Suzanne Dinw	iddie 5/17
Jason & Monique Ingalls	5/22
Mark & Wendy Baldwin	5/18
Roger & Thorunn McCo	y 5/18
John & Patricia Insani	5/21
Matt & Vanessa Hardy	5/22
Randy & Kathy Hoover-	Dempsey 5/22
Pat & Bill Bowlby	5/24
Morgan & Heather Wills	5/28
David & Grace Woolbrig	ht 5/29
Steve Thorne &	
Zena Carruthers-Thorne	5/30

Birthdays

Logan Curtis	4/I
John Dennis	4/I
Alicia Denzel	4/2
Rodger Dinwiddie	4/2
Luke Easter	4/2
Peyton Embry	4/3
Rebecca Emerson	4/4
Leslie Ewing	4/4
Emily Fenton	4/4
Karen Fentress	4/4
Sissy Goff	4/4
Anne Goldthorpe	4/5
Dawn Grant	4/5

Nolan Gross	4/5
Ann Halford	4/6
Dan Halford	4/6
Carmen Hall	4/7
Matt Hardy	4/7
Vanessa Hardy	4/7
Charles Homan	4/7
Melicent Homan	4/7
Reagan Homan	4/8
Becky Hornsby	4/9
Nathan Jacobs	4/9
Bob Johnson	4/9
Calvin Johnson	4/10
James Johnson	4/10
Daniel Jones	4/10
Paul Jones	4/10
Anna Kammerer	4/10
Carolee Kazmerowski	4/10
Jonathan Kern	4/11
Emily Krogman	4/11
Rachel Krogman	4/12
Adam Latham	4/12
Don Lee	4/13
Penny Lee	4/13
Grant Lehman	4/14
Ashley MacLachlan	4/15
Kate Madeira	4/16
William Mahan	4/16
Kate Marchiniel	4/17
Terrence Marchiniel	4/17
Deborah Martin	4/17
Jonah McMillen	4/18
Rebecca Metcalfe	4/18
Carolyn Miller	4/19
Russ Miller	4/19
Mary Mullins	4/19
Mindy Mumme	4/19
Michael Peden	4/19
Coleman Pent	4/19
Sue Pichert	4/20
Evan Powell	4/20





Confirmation reception on March 29 Photos by Pam White

Meredith Powell	4/20
Susan Powell	4/20
Jessica Prentiss	4/20
Anna Porter Puckett	4/20
Chuck Richey	4/21
Erin Rodgers	4/21
Kathleen Rodgers	4/21
Brecken Sauthoff	4/21
Michael Schober	4/21
Bet Scott	4/22
Kristin Searfoss	4/22
Aaron Sefton	4/22
Evangeline Shankel	4/22
Dana Sherrard	4/22
Katie Sizer	4/23
	-

Glory to Glory (continued)

APRIL & MAY 2009

More Birthdays

Shari Smyth	4/24
Beth Thorne	4/25
Kendra Thorpe	4/25
Elijah van der Heijden	4/25
Bill Ward	4/25
Evelyn Weems	4/25
Jordan Paul White	4/27
Clay Williams	4/27
Morgan Wills	4/27
Gaia Wood	4/28
David Woolbright	4/29
John Workman	4/30
Rebecca Zadick	4/30
Erika Elkins	05/02
Cameron Embry	05/03
Hayden Embry	05/03
Benjamin Ennis	05/04
Bryan Ennis	05/04
Lisa Fenton	05/04
Hannah Fleming	05/04
Leslie Folds	05/05
Marylou Folds	05/05
Cheryl Fondaw	05/06
John Fondaw	05/06
Jen Goodman	05/06
Randy Goodman	05/07
Victoria Gross	05/07
Gerrit Gustafson	05/07
Brad Hamil	05/07

Kerrigan Hamil	05/08
Kristi Hamil	05/08
Benjamin Hampton	05/08
Dot Hite	05/09
Robert Hite	05/09
Randy Hoover-Dempsey	05/09
Emily Hornsby	05/10
Taylor Huff	05/10
Reagan Hughes	05/10
Ralph Kennedy	05/10
Tracy Kennedy	05/11
Eddie Kotynski	05/12
Hannah Kotynski	05/12
Becky Kown	05/12
Bradley Lamb	05/12
Olivia Lauer	05/13
John Leo	05/13
Ryan Luke	05/16
Edie Maney	05/16
Daniel Marsh	05/18
Brucie Maxwell	05/18
Hadley Maxwell	05/18
Martha McCord	05/18
Jay McRae	05/18
Gracie Mennen	05/18
Jamie Myatt	05/21
Tom Pichert	05/21
Micah Pressnell	05/21
Jill Pullen	05/23
Philip Reasor	05/23
Elizabeth Rodgers	05/23

Larissa Root	05/24
Erin Shankel	05/25
Shaun Shankel	05/26
Heather Smith	05/26
Allyson Southwood	05/27
John Southwood	05/27
Whitney Stone	05/27
Audrey Weedman	05/28
Claire Weedman	05/28
Emmaline Weedman	05/29
Nancy West	05/29
Pamela White	05/29
Corinne Wilder	05/30
Amy Wirdzek	05/30
Art Witulski	05/30
Sara Wood	05/30
Todd Wood	05/31
Denise Yennie	05/31

Baptisms

Saturday, April 11: Heath Attig

Births

Kevin and Amanda Max welcomed Knightly Cristobol on March 24th

Shaun and Erin Shankel welcomed Stella Dale on April 2nd







St. Bartholomew's Church 4800 Belmont Park Terrace Nashville TN 37215 Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Brentwood, TN. Permit No. 256

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MOMS TOGETHER: UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 30th, 9:30 -11:30

Informal meet and greet at Granny White park in Brentwood. Children included.

Meet at the first playground and either wear a green ribbon or have one on your purse or stroller.

May 28th, 9:30-11:30 at St. B's

Group Meeting in St. B's Parish Hall

Theme: You're Not Alone.

(RSVP for childcare)





Moms Together helps to facilitate relationship building for moms of all ages and parenting stages.