

AUGUST 2009

THE BRANCH

The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church



August 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:

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

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Photo by Marjie Smith. A full report and more photos from Liberia, inside on pages 7 - 10



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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Photo by Katherine Bomboy

Articles and photos for the September
Branch must be submitted no
later than August 20.

Articles can be sent to:
editor@stbs.net



An Invitation to the Ordinary

In the liturgical calendar we refer to this season as “ordinary time”. Identifiably this is a time that is not particularly focused on one of the highlights in the life of Christ (such as Christmas or Easter), but rather it is a season where the day-to-day teachings of Jesus are to be expounded and appropriated in the lives of those committed to being Jesus followers. Consequently, there is nothing at all ordinary about this season!

Many of us have learned to live from crisis to crisis, in fact many in our culture have become addicted to either the adrenaline rush of crisis or the attention that crisis attracts. Ordinary time reminds us that much of life needs to be lived in the ‘mundane’ or the ‘common,’ outside the boundaries of crisis. Yet with Christ even this time can be rich with blessing and a significant season of growth in our relationship with Him as we learn the implications of appropriating His word.

Gardeners know the sense of excitement that grips when newly planted seeds begin to break through the ground. Germination brings a sense of joy, sometimes even a thrill of initial success. But the weeks that follow germination, the time that is marked by nothing particularly ‘thrilling’ is the actual time when the fruit of the plant sets and matures making ready for the end of season harvest.

Ordinary time, the 30 + weeks between the celebration of the Ascension of our Lord and the Sunday immediately before Advent, is to be dedicated to the “setting of the fruit” of the Spirit in our lives, or the appropriation of learned truths so that they become ‘lived’ truths. This calls for patience

and endurance (defined as “I’m in for the long haul!”).

In Eucharistic Prayer A (page 361 of the Prayer Book) we pray that once we have received the nourishment of Holy Communion, we (the body of Jesus

Ordinary time... is to be dedicated to the “setting of the fruit” of the Spirit in our lives, or the appropriation of learned truths so that they become ‘lived’ truths. This calls for patience and endurance.

followers) might serve God in “unity, constancy and peace”.

Unity is that harmony, or the state of forming a complete, pleasing whole. During Ordinary time we are called upon to learn what it means to live in harmony with others who are equally attempting to faithfully follow in the Jesus way.

Constancy is that characteristic of faithful dependability. We are to be becoming a people upon whom both God and His people can rely upon for making right decision and for being available, at His disposal.

KINGDOM TALK

by Fr. Jerry Smith

Rector



Peace is not only that deep inner “shalom” which the Spirit imparts to our inner most being, but it is also freedom from destructive disturbance or disorder. When Jesus invited his followers to be ‘peacemakers’ it was an invitation to partner with him in establishing an environment of peace where people would be safe to wrestle with the implications of being part of his kingdom.

These are some of the implications of Ordinary time. We are invited to respond to Christ by allowing His lordship to manifest itself in, among other ways, the very commitment to unity, constancy and peace. The subsequent fruit of the Spirit will be the natural result of committing ourselves to this season of the “long haul”.

The fruit of the seeds Marjie planted in our garden did not manifest itself overnight, and neither does the fruit of the Spirit develop overnight in our lives. But the harvest of fruit is the goal of God for us all. Won’t you reevaluate your life and dedicate yourself to the formation by the Spirit this season? The result will be that once again God will take the ordinary and make it extraordinary!

Together on the journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry'.

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



4th of July Corn Roast & Parade

By Denise Kemp,
event Co-Chair

...

Saturday July 4th we held our Annual Corn Roast event at St. B's. It was a terrific event. The weather couldn't have been better.

The festivities kicked off at 9:30am with our children's parade. The kids came with decorated bikes and scooters. We even had a Statue of Liberty float this year (great job Maggie Sullivan). The parade was led by our festive Grand Marshall Fr. Jerry.

After the parade the kids parked their bikes and we headed into the sanctuary for a sermon and Eucharist.

Following the Eucharist, folks headed outside to the church grounds for food, fun and fellowship. We enjoyed some delicious roasted corn, fabulously grilled hotdogs and refreshing watermelon. There were also a variety of beautifully decorated desserts - from an American flag cake to red white and blue cupcakes, brownies and ice cream. Needless to say, it was a "sweet" event!

Then came the water balloon toss, which quickly turned into a water balloon fight. This was definitely a hit this year. What a refreshing way to stay cool and have a blast at the same time!

Throughout the event we enjoyed some patriotic music thanks to Henry Martin.

All around, it was a great event enjoyed by a bunch of great people. Look for next year's event to be just as fun if not more. We will incorporate some additional games and activities.

Thanks to all the gracious volunteers who made this event possible. We couldn't have done it without you.



Many thanks to those who helped make this event possible:

Chairs:

Denise Kemp. Gary & Mindy Mumme
(pictured above)

Harry Xanthopolous
Dan Simpson
Tom Hutchinson
Sean Root
David Logan
Lori and Caitlin Quinn
Bob Landrigan
Aaron and Betty Ashton Mayo
Ladonna Mullins
Matthew Sullivan
Charlie Lowell
Carmen Hall and family
Jane Stranch
Matt Rhea
Tom Thurman
Anne Dennison
Henry Martin
Pam Seavers
Paul Miller
Chris Somerville
Katherine Bomboy



4th of July Corn Roast & Parade



Photos by Katherine Bomboy



4th of July Corn Roast & Parade



Lessons Learned in Liberia



RUMINATIONS

by Marjie Smith

msscibbler@comcast.net

their country, have my heart twist, and then go back to my life where hardships are barely worth mentioning.

and how God works through us.

We will never forget walking through Rock Hill, where we saw this young boy, other older ones like him and women and men, chipping rock, carrying it, creating craters in their own backyards. They are making gravel – gravel they sell to help rebuild the roads. Nor will we forget a trip to an orphanage where we saw 14 children living in three rooms, which, combined, were smaller than many of our living rooms. How can we forget standing on the top of the once luxurious Ducor Hotel that lies empty and dormant, riddled with mortar holes, stripped of its amenities and exposed to the destructive forces of sun, wind and the relentless pounding of rainy-season downpours? It is hard to imagine, standing there, this structure a handful of years earlier, crawling with people seeking refuge there – thousands of people, living without anything except walls and a roof.

The mouths that open in the dental clinic run by Keith, have many stories to tell,

heartbreaking stories, but they are there for more urgent matters – some life-threatening. They come to have their teeth fixed; their jawbones restored; their gums salvaged. They are not just there for basic dental hygiene, although there is some of that. Many of them have had long-time conditions, some bacterial, that have distorted their faces or even threaten their lives.

Liberians are currently some of the poorest people on the face of the earth. Some have travelled many days from isolated bush communities to have their needs met.

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There is a little boy in Africa.

He is barely more than a toddler, thin, with a protruding belly and dry, dust-caked skin. He wears only a worn pair of shorts. His face is expressionless; it is not the face of a child, but of an old man wearied by his tasks.

In a rough-cut plastic container on his head, he carries a heavy load of hand-chipped stones from a nearby quarry. Maybe he is helping his family put food on the table; maybe he is a child slave. I do not know.

I do know that I cannot forget his face and, at the same time, am privileged to have been there at all to see it. I can afford the sentiments of being moved by a young Liberian boy, or impoverished orphans, or families living without running water and sewage. I do not live in the midst of it. I do not carry the scars of their 14 years of civil war and the terrible ravages that came with it. I can go to



Every person on the seven-member team, headed by John and Natasha Deane, who went to visit Dr. Keith and Kristin Chapman in Liberia has something tucked away inside – something that touched deeply and will keep on motivating us. We shared the same experiences and brought back different things according to who we are



Lessons Learned in Liberia (continued from page 7)



In a country with a population of 3 million people, there are only three dentists. Sometimes they don't make it to a dentist in time, and dying of complications from a severe tooth problem just adds to the list of risks that makes life short in this part of Africa.

These are the people that the Chapmans have chosen to live among. They first encountered the need in Liberia while living on and ministering through Mercy Ships. Thus, they established Trinity Dental Clinic in partnership with Mercy Ships, SIM

and personal supporters such as the folks of St. Bartholomew's. Although they live on a mission campus, in a lovely setting across from a beach, they are immersed in this culture that is rising from the ruins of war. They are part of the new hope, but also deal daily with the frustrations of broken infrastructure and a generation that has grown up unschooled and untrained. In a place where bribery and graft have become survival techniques, it is a challenge to do some of the simplest transactions, let alone renovate a house and build a clinic. But they have done it. They have done it in a place where friends and family are not there beside them. They have only each other.

As we visit, all of us living with the Chapmans, we experience the intense humidity, the air conditioning limitations brought on by the cost of fuel and the sudden, violent outbursts of rain that signal the start of rainy season. We are

grateful that the water is filtered and trustworthy. We cannot imagine what it must be like for the Africans who don't have potable water.

We see Keith at work and watch him patiently training a man to do dental

procedures in a community further up the coast. The man is not a dentist, but he has been trained in the past to do simple dental work. Keith is building on this knowledge. I am touched deeply, knowing Keith has to deal with everything from keeping the books to dealing with leaks in the roof – in these rains, everyone has leaks – and yet he is patiently training staff as well.

As Kristin drives us around the chaotic streets of Monrovia where you literally inch your way through some



intersections, I am in awe. I am blown away by all her skills. She carries a fist full of hats wherever she goes. She is mom, negotiator, cultural interpreter, home manager, employer, chauffeur, compassionate heart and teacher. The latter is clearly around His Collarship and I where we sleep on a cozy futon in the children's classroom and family computer room.

The Chapmans are not super humans. They are people who get discouraged, stressed and overwhelmed just like we do. But they keep going. They adapt. Their children, Taylor, Lauren and Samuel have learned to entertain themselves. They skip and play games inside

Continued on next page



Lessons Learned in Liberia (continued from page 8)



during rainy season. The beach across from them is their playground. There is no park down the street. No abundance of children their age. Whether a group of us is sorting clothing purchased for the orphans and being carefully packaged with each child's name, or making jewelry from handmade beads, Taylor and Lauren are there, patiently, helping. They carefully write out the names of the children on paper, or thread tiny beads onto wire.

We have been catapulted into their lives and gotten to know them as one seldom gets to know fellow parishioners. We fall in love with them.

Part of their home are the African people they employ: Theresa, their housekeeper, Ida, their cook, who makes a Liberian meal three times a week, Lawrence, their gardener, and Chris, a young man who helps around the yard and who will be living in his own cottage on the property. Ida prefers to cook on a traditional Liberian coal stove, outside on the back stoop, rather than use the gas cook stove in the house. As Ida and the

young women she brings to help prepare the food work away, they chat together. It is a scene you see played out across the city – people gathered in groups, talking and carrying out their business. Community is the most important currency of Africa.

It is Ida, warm, caring Ida, who invites us to walk through Rock Hill, her community, on a rainy weekend. In spite of the rain and free-flowing drainage she has to wade through, Ida is elegant in her traditional dress. I am amazed at how the African women keep their dresses so clean when I cannot keep so much as a salsa stain off mine.

As we walk through the community, strewn randomly across the rocky surface of Rock Hill, Ida walks with dignity, proudly introducing us to her friends. "This is my sister-in-Christ," she says, as she introduces us to Anna, a woman who transfigures the world around her with her radiant smile. While my eyes are drawn to people doing laundry in drainage water and to latrines that are no more than pieces of metal or reed mats with

tattered cloths for entrances, Ida has eyes only for her friends, neighbors and guests. I am chastened. I am aware of her ability to rise above circumstance and embrace beauty and my tendency to prioritize their lives according to my standards.



Ida proudly welcomes us to her home, where 22 people currently live. We meet her granddaughter, named after Kristin, and her mother, who gives me a warm hug. I am looking at the beauty of the love in her eyes and trying to still my revulsion for the flies. In North America, we have pure water, large,

clean, insect-free houses and are too busy to invite anyone into them. What a sad irony.

As she walks us out

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Lessons Learned in Liberia (continued from page 10)



keeps food on tables.

As we walk out of the area, we meet a woman who has a handful of leaves in her hand. It is a remedy for stomach ailments, she tells us. And I can see, without ditches, sewers or

picture of the little boy carrying gravel on the Longshot Photo competition, attached to Facebook. It is not a prize-oriented competition, but rather a place where photographers share their photos under various weekly topics and vote on them and share comments. That week's subject was "Heavy."

One man wrote, "Thanx for posting this pic. I'm blowing it up to poster size and I'll hang it in my bedroom, so I can realize every morning how lightweight my life is...."

Another man wrote, "A truly good picture is one that pulls at our emotions. And this picture, in every way, shape and form, not only satisfies that but goes far beyond any other picture submitted to this date LSP... in creating emotion. I am truly touched, and it is difficult to achieve that."

It brought tears to my eyes to know that this experience that was made available to me can also be available to others through our pictures and stories.

I am grateful to all those who made it possible and especially to the Chapman family.

Next month, I will share about our visit with the Powells.

Photos by Marjie Smith



of the neighborhood, Ida shows us a quarry that just a few years ago was level ground. Down in the pit, there is an industry of Liberians breaking rock into small chunks and carrying them out in makeshift cartons. We watch a man walk towards the rock face that looms some 20 to 30 feet over his head. We're unsure how he will get out, until we see him climb a ladder that leads to an angled slope of rock. He clambers across the rain-slick rock. For him, it is employment – an income. And because of it, gravel can be produced by humans more cheaply than by a rock-crushing machine. It

filtered water why these herbal recipes are so essential. We will go back to our treated water. We will get our medicines at the drug store. We will remember clearly what we have seen and will have a small picture of the daily life experienced by the Chapmans. And we will only be scratching the surface of what it means in the lives of these people, to have a couple give up the comforts of home to bring them an essential service – dental care.

It is such a small thing for us all, back home, to do without a coffee a week or a new item of clothing in order to support them. Such a small thing and yet so much bigger than we can imagine.

Note: Pictures to me, over the years, have become a second way to tell a story – the way to spare a thousand words in sharing a thought or experience. As such, I shared the



Liberia Presentation and Documentary



You're Invited

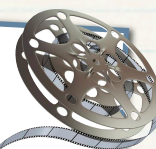
The Liberia Travel Group will hold an event on August 16th to share their experiences of visiting the

Chapmans this summer. The group will give a powerpoint presentation and screen a short documentary made during the

trip, which will be followed by a Q&A by Nicole Deane, the director. We hope you'll all attend so we can share the amazing, life-changing, and God-affirming experiences we had in Liberia with you. Donations to the Dewelle Orphanage will be accepted outside the event, which will be held in the Parish Hall at 7:00pm.

JOIN US

August 16
7:00PM
in the Parish Hall



Pastoral Care at St. B's

by Butch Burtch

Pastoral care is a primary role of the Church: living together in community, trying to love each other as Christ directed. Pastoral care as a ministry at St. Bartholomew's is manifested in several different ways and stems from the identification of need: prayer (Sunday prayer desks, prayer chain, prayer intercessors); visitation, clergy and lay (hospital, home, shut-in);



bereavement (help with funeral arrangements and hospitality); food (for the ill, their families, and families of new-born babies); and counseling. More information about these individual ministries can be found at the St. B's website, www.stbs.net, from the individual point person listed for each ministry, the church office or any of our clergy.



However, these important

services go under-utilized in a church of this size primarily because of the difficulty of identifying the need for them. Given this large congregation, it is virtually impossible to identify need without the help from everyone in the pews. Our request is simple: get to know your neighbors, those among whom you sit at church—something you should be doing anyway—and let the church office (377-4750) or the clergy know when you think such need exists.



Mississippi Trip: Four Years After Katrina



A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Assistant Rector for Youth & Young Adult Formation

Four years ago next month Hurricane Katrina laid unparalleled waste to the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast. An outpouring of public support, volunteer action and financial resource followed immediately thereafter. St.

Bartholomew's did our part by sending multiple work teams, raising money and praying for the victims. The youth ministry was one of the groups leading this effort.

As we prepared for that first summer's trip, the size and scope of the disaster began to come into focus.

Rebuilding was going to take at least ten years and with the limited availability of state and federal assistance, the job was only going get done by volunteers. Those who went down that first summer "got hooked" and felt a deep conviction to return.

However, when we did return the next summer the vibe in the region had changed. Residents were losing their trailers, haggling with insurance companies and the media coverage had long since

dried up. There was this creeping realization that recovery was going to take far longer than anyone anticipated and resilience was giving way to despair. Over and over the people implored us to tell their story to

anyone who would listen.

"We feel abandoned. We need your help," they would say, "Please don't forget about us."

It was a request our group vowed to take seriously. For as long as it takes, we wanted to help. We want to remember and we are willing to be challenged by this real part of what it means to love God and neighbor.

All this brings us to summer of 2009.

With grant money becoming more and more scarce, many camps hosting volunteer groups on the coast have had to shut down. For this reason we were



unable to return last summer.

However, after some investigation we connected with an ongoing project of the Episcopal and Lutheran diocese in Mississippi called Mission on the Bay. Located on the property of Christ Episcopal Church in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, Mission on the Bay hosts more than 2,500 volunteers every summer. Nineteen of them this year were from St. B's.

What We Did

The question I'm asked most about our trip is, "What is it like down there now"? Sadly the answer is much like it was two years ago. While there has been vast improvement and

redevelopment, there is still so much work to be done. Most of the "grass-roots" volunteer organizations have stopped and it is city governments and larger organizational networks who utilize the volunteers.

It should come as no surprise then that our group's primary project for the week was working for

Continued on next page



Mississippi Trip (continued from page 12)

the city of Waveland, tearing down a house that had not been touched since the storm –four years ago. It was dicey and dangerous work at times (ask Hunter Andrews how his foot is doing) but we were greeted by the neighbors with deep gratitude. The house was a haven for snakes, rats and other undesirable vermin and the residents had been waiting four years for someone to help give them their neighborhood back by tearing it down.



Needless to say, we were honored to help. By stripping the house down to the studs board by board, filling multiple trailers with debris, carting it all to the dump (where we would then empty the trailers into huge roll backs) in 95+ degree heat and southern humidity, we got our share of hot, tired and sweaty to the glory of God.

But demolition was not our only trick. Because we took some skilled labor with us we were able to replace and upgrade the floor of a delightful gentleman named Sam, repair and complete a falling fence and clear brush on several properties belonging to an elderly woman who is counting on them as her nest egg. None of these projects were particularly thrilling, but that is what made the work all the more meaningful. By giving up our time, comfort and finance and doing work that no one wants to do, we bring about a small piece of God's kingdom in Mississippi. We could smell, taste and touch how true Jesus' admonition was that the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve. Amen indeed.

What I Learned

I was so moved and impressed by our group and the way they lived the kingdom of God in Mississippi. Through the extreme conditions everyone took care to both consider the needs of others before their own and ask for what they needed as well. This dynamic made healthy space for not just service, but generosity, love and gratitude as well.

I was also struck by the power



of fidelity. The local news came down to our work site and featured our group in a story about the return of volunteers to the region (you can see the clip on the St. B's website). While I was being interviewed I thought of all the faces and stories of people who asked me not to forget them and I was reminded of the way God's people are called to remember things in particular and pointed ways. Remembering the cry of the poor, hurting and needy is central to Jesus' agenda, as is keeping our promises. I found both overlapping in powerful ways during our time in Mississippi. And do you know what, we're planning to go back year. Do you want to come?

Dixon+

* Next month look for the continuation of my report on our trip as I tell the tale of our "Jesus Dojo" in New Orleans famous French Quarter!



Then Come Follow Me

Cameron Conant Heads to Cape Verde

by Cameron Conant

Last year, on a whim, I decided to go to a bookstore in Nashville and listen to a recruiter talk about the Peace Corps, a humanitarian organization funded by the U.S. government. I'm still not entirely sure why I went, but I went. Almost one year later, I'm at my parents' house in Michigan, prepared to drive to Detroit and board a plane for Boston. From Boston I will then fly to Cape Verde – a chain of islands in the North Atlantic off the African coast – where I will be teaching English for two years with the Peace Corps.

It admittedly sounds romantic, but the reality is a bit different. In preparation for my journey, I said goodbye to my closest friends. I also sold my furniture, including a set of collapsible bookshelves that didn't seem worth keeping until someone wanted to buy them ("They're collapsible! Who wouldn't want collapsible bookshelves?" I asked myself). I sold my car. I gave away my kitchen table to the Salvation Army. I kissed my grandmother goodbye, perhaps for the last time. I did a lot of uncomfortable things.

While I don't think that everyone is called to sell their possessions and move to a foreign country – I never thought I was called to this until recently – I do think that we are all called to "The Gospel of the Uncomfortable," which is really just the Gospel.

In spite of my tendency to hold onto something tangible – yes, even collapsible bookshelves – living the Gospel seems to be a series of constant discomforts, some big, some small, but discomforts nevertheless. Ironically, it is in the process of doing difficult things that we learn to stop putting



Above: A view of Cape Verde. Below: Location relative to the African Continent.

our trust in the "collapsible bookshelves" of our lives, because they collapse and are ultimately worthless, and start putting our trust in the risen Christ, who asks us to take up our cross and follow him.

This will look differently for all of us, but the story I resonate with most is that of the rich ruler, who was diligent in keeping the commandments, but still felt (apparently rightly so) that something was missing. "Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You still lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'" (Mark 10:21). The Scriptures then say that the man went away sad, for he had many possessions. I love this story, because it mirrors my own experience and the human experience in general – loss is painful, uncomfortable, distasteful, and usually



necessary for any real measure of spiritual growth to take place.

While I sense my own ineptitude lately – my greed, irritability, self-centeredness, and other deficits too numerous to mention – I also sense that I am about to enter a time of uncomfortable spiritual growth, in which (I hope) God shapes me as I divest my pride and physical possessions, and take up residence in a far-away place.

- Note: St. B's has been a significant part of my spiritual growth thus far and a place that I love and consider home – thank you for this, and thank you in advance for your prayers as I embark on this new journey.



MEET THE DIRECTORS



Bethany Bakker,
Co-Director

Bethany has been involved with children's music education since 2003.

While attending Belmont University, she directed the children's choir at Immanuel Baptist (Belle Meade), and upon

graduation began teaching elementary music full-time in Rutherford County. She has completed her fourth year directing the 4th and 5th grade choir at her school, as well as teaching vocal classes at a Smyrna area fine arts after-school program. Bethany is married to Tony, and they enjoy spending time with their dog "Mel".

Belmont University -
BM, Music Education



Tamara Rowland,
Co-Director

Tamara's music education experience includes working as a music

Introducing St. B's Choristers

by Tamara Rowland

We are excited to announce the St. B's Choristers! After much prayer and planning, we feel blessed to be a part of such an exciting opportunity for the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade children within our St. B's community. As co-directors, we bring with us a variety of classroom instruction and music education experience, and we look forward to teaching the children the appropriateness of worship, individual artistic interpretation, the importance of music theory and fundamentals, and the vitality of continued spiritual formation. Be listening for the announcements in church on August 9 and 16. We look forward to meeting you and our newly appointed St. B's Choristers in the coming weeks!

therapist and music educator since 1996. In 2003, she resigned from teaching in the classroom full time to start her music studio where she currently teaches piano, percussion, theory, and voice to kids of all ages and ability levels. She is married to Bob, and has a four-year-old daughter, Priscilla.

Colorado State
University -
BA, Music Therapy

University Northern
Colorado - MA, Special
Education (social/
emotional disorders)

Belmont University -
MA, Music Education

Rehearsals
Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00pm

First Rehearsal
Wednesday, September 9
in the Choir Room

Service Participation
Approximately once
per month

Parent Informational Meetings:
Sundays August 16 and 23
10:00 - 10:30 am in the Parish Hall

Why should my child participate in the choir?

This program reflects and supports Eric Wyse's already-established Vision for Worship while also:

- ❖ Teaching and modeling ways to worship God through music.
- ❖ Helping children identify individual (musical/artistic) gifts.
- ❖ Teaching them the importance of using their spiritual gifts as acts of worship that honor and glorify God.
- ❖ Teaching children the basics of singing in a choir (following a conductor, listening to one another, breathing/phrasing, posture, articulation, etc.)
- ❖ Exposing children to a wide variety of choral literature.
- ❖ Providing children with regular performance opportunities.
- ❖ Providing "affordable" (free) music education opportunities.
- ❖ Planning fun social opportunities for the choristers.

What are some ideas for a growing children's music program?

The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade choir is our first, but we are dreaming big! In the future we'd like to see:

- ❖ Younger choristers in a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade choir
- ❖ Ensemble Singing & Instrument Playing (percussion, recorders, hand bells, etc.)
- ❖ Performances/Concerts outside of church services
- ❖ Community Events - Advent caroling/mini concerts in nursing homes, hospitals, to homebound parishioners; mall concerts, etc.



From the Loft: Getting to Know

David Madeira, Director of The Chamber Singers

In the fall of 2008, a new group called Chamber Singers, directed by David Madeira, began to perform sacred music during worship services twice monthly. They finished up the year on May 31st with a concert of all of the pieces they had sung over the months, and have been taking a summer vacation before gearing up again for the fall. I asked David to help us get to know this group, and himself, a little better.

1. How did Chamber Singers get started?

While working on my Master's in Music Composition at Belmont, I decided to use my free electives to take private conducting lessons. Conducting has always been something I have wanted to do, but has somehow until now taken a back seat to other things (performance, composition, etc.). Finally getting to take private lessons really kindled my love for conducting, and I emphasized in the choral medium because I have always loved good choral music. At my culminating recital, I conducted a choral composition of mine to close the program. Father Jerry was in attendance, and said he would love to see St. B's perform some of my music. That got the gears turning, and before long, Jerry, Eric, and I were brainstorming ways we could get a choir formed at St. B's. After that, everything happened really quickly and the group that formed was better than I could have imagined in my wildest dreams!

2. Are all the people in the group trained singers or professional musicians?

You'd think so from listening to them, but that's really not the case! We actually have a wide variety of "levels" within the group, ranging from people with decades of choir



FROM THE LOFT

by Susan Houston



Above: David Madeira

Below and next page: Photos of the recent Chamber Singers concert

Photos by Marjie Smith

experience to those with hardly any; from trained, professional musicians to those who can barely sight-read. What really makes this all work so smoothly is the dedication and hard work from the group, the spirit of friendship, and the shared love of worshipping the Lord through music.

3. So you formed the group from auditioned singers... will you be having auditions again anytime soon?

"Audition" is a scary word, and I don't want that to give the impression that this is some sort of "elite" group. What Eric and I look for in auditions is an ability to stay in tune, and basic music reading ability. Auditions also allow us to get a sense of the group's "overall" level, and most importantly, to balance the blend of voices in a way that will make the group sound best as a whole. The biggest problem in auditions is that the final group has to have an even balance of voices, and that means we can basically only have as many women as we have men. So men, please come and try out!

To answer your main question: yes, we will be having auditions again for the upcoming season. These will be sometime around mid-August. All are welcome to try out, regardless of experience and ability, and we especially encourage men to come audition.



Continued on next page



Chamber Singers (continued from page 16)



4. How often do you rehearse and perform? Are there opportunities for people who can't commit that that schedule?

We perform twice a month in both Sunday services, with a little extra involvement around Christmas and Holy Week. Rehearsals are once a week, on Wednesday nights from 7 to 8:30, though that may change with the new season based on everyone's schedules. Choir members are expected to commit to the rehearsal schedule, due to how often we perform and the difficulty of some of the music!

For those who love to sing but can't commit to that schedule, or for those who don't pass the audition, there is also the opportunity to sing in the Parish Choir. Parish Choir is open to all and rehearses/performs around Christmas and Holy Week.

5. What criteria do you use when picking music for the group?

The foremost criteria is that the music must be theologically appropriate, and must fit within our Liturgical worship structure in such a way that it keeps

the service flowing smoothly. Just like the Liturgy itself, we believe strongly in the use of music as a platform to bring all in attendance into the Lord's presence. Some Sundays call for strong and jubilant music of praise, and others

are better supported with somber, reflective pieces. Fortunately, the Anglican tradition has always had a strong emphasis on Liturgical choral music, so we have a huge catalog to draw from.



6. Is everything the group performs a cappella? Are you opposed to having instrumental accompaniment in the future?

We do quite a bit of a cappella (unaccompanied) music, and I'll admit to a little bit of a bias there. However, there is a great amount of wonderful music for choir and organ (or piano), and for other instruments as well. One thing that I would love to do in the

next season is to incorporate more of the wide variety of instruments played by members of St. B's into our selections.

7. The concert at the end of May was recorded - is there any chance that it will be available on CD?

Yes! David Schober and Henry Martin helped us get an amazing recording, so expect to see CDs of that concert for sale in the not-too-distant future.

8. What are your goals for the group in the coming year(s)? Both in the near future and in your wildest dreams?

My practical, short-term goal for the group is to get a little bit bigger, and to compile a list of instrumentalists at St. B's that would be interested in

accompanying us every once in a while. No instrument is too exotic; I want to explore a whole range of instrumental styles from contemporary instruments to medieval ones, classical to ethnic. I want to really break the boundaries of what people think of when they think "church choir." As a composer, I want to explore song forms that involve both the choir and congregation in new ways other than just assigning

hymn stanzas. As a conductor, I want to improve my own skills and become a more effective leader, moving from just the guy waving his hands in front of the choir to the skilled director who really knows how to make them sound their best.

In my wildest dreams? Chamber Singers World Tour.



Wine Tasting & Silent Auction a Success

On June 26, St. B's held a Wine Tasting and Silent Auction to benefit Mission & Outreach. The event was a huge success. Wine was donated by The Green Hills Wine Shoppe and many parishioners helped with decorations, setup, or by donating goods or services to the silent auction. The proceeds from ticket sales and the auction totaled \$7,181.

Many thanks to Tom and Bev Mahan, Langley Granberry, Jonathan Merkh, and everyone else who helped to pull this unique event together.



Photos by Katherine Bomboy



Please recycle. The Branch can also be read online at www.stbs.net

The Branch - August 2009 - Page 18

Calling all Painters, Woodworkers & Seamstresses!

Do you enjoy painting, woodworking or sewing? If so, we need you! Children's formation is in great need of woodworkers and painters to help us prepare for our new catechesis class in September. Painters are needed to paint diorama backgrounds and small wooden figures.

Work can be taken home or done at church. Supplies will be provided. Our deadline for all work is August 15th. Please contact Carla Schober at carlaschob@gmail.com if you can help.



GARDENING GROUP

If you like the outdoors, getting your hands dirty, fun, fellowship, and seeing immediate results from your labor, the gardening group would love to have your help!

Please come join us and help keep the St. B's gardens beautiful. For more information, contact Lori Quinn at lorigunn.quinn@comcast.net.

The group meets every other Saturday morning at 8:00am. The next three gatherings are:

August 8
August 22
September 5



More Wine Tasting & Silent Auction Photos



Photos by Katherine Bomboy



Rebuilding Our Walls

A Nehemiah Fund Update



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

by Pam White

Director of Operations

Heldman, Tim Villager, David Morss and Pam White.

Highlights of the Nehemiah Fund at work over the past 23 months are:

- 3) Replacement of parking lot lights
- 4) Repair of outside frames enclosing the stained glass windows in the church sanctuary
- 5) Painting and repairs to the outside of the sanctuary and narthex area
- 6) Major plumbing and sewer repairs from collapsed sewer lines
- 7) Repair of our electrical system in the parish hall building
- 8) The retirement of a long term debt in the amount of \$57,000.

The committee scheduled repairs as money came in and made it a policy to not spend any monies beyond what was "in the bank". Thus, needed repairs were postponed until enough money was received to pay for them outright.

The next major projects lined up for the summer are the outside painting of the parish hall building, the painting of the "Brides Room" and adult Sunday School room (next to the Bride's Room), complete the addition of the parking lot lights, replace the carpet in the parish hall building, and complete the plumbing repairs.

Although the official Nehemiah Fund campaign will come to an end 8/31/09, we will continue to have this Fund open as an area for designated giving by church members. The idea behind the fund is to enable it to be a long term established fund that will be used for ongoing planned maintenance for all of St. B's facilities. This will allow us to be proactive in keeping our facilities in good working order and prevent us from being in a crises mode in the future as a result of not adequately maintaining our buildings and equipment on a regular basis.

It was two years ago this August that we kicked off the Nehemiah Fund Campaign.

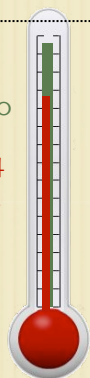
The Nehemiah Fund was established by the vestry of St. B's to address needed repairs and maintenance issues within the churches' physical facilities and grounds.

At the time of this publication, we have received \$550,094 towards our \$633,000 goal, which translates to 87% of our two year target. With the month of August remaining, we have \$82,906 left to achieve our target.

The monies received have gone towards critical repair and maintenance issues identified by the vestry-established facilities committee comprised of Dick Jewell, Mimi

QUICK FACTS

Goal
\$633,000
\$550,094
received



With one month remaining in the two-year plan for the Nehemiah Fund Campaign, we've met **87%** percent of our target.

- 1) Replacement of the oldest air and heating units in the parish hall building.
- 2) Replacement of the choir loft air and heating units

Cooking School

Last chance of the summer!

There is still one chance left to catch a St. B's cooking school class.

Classes are limited to 10 students. Payment for class must accompany registration form. (Forms can found in the Narthex & Parish Hall).

Join us for:

"Heat Up the Kitchen with Tasty Tex-Mex & Latin Appetizers"

Saturday, August 22, 7:00-9:00pm



Taught by Pam and Malcolm White.

Cost: \$35



ECW Summer Mini Retreat

Living in Community

by Mavis Harrop

The women of St. B's had a mini retreat on Saturday, July 11, 2009. The guest speaker was our own Kristin Kinser. She spoke on growing our faith and the importance of community in this process. She shared that one of the challenges of community is the need to be vulnerable, which is not always easy to do. It also involves being able to trust. Most importantly, we are called to do this many times throughout scripture.

After a short break, there were three small workshops we could choose from. It was difficult for me as all were interesting--Kristin led a workshop on reading scripture together as community, Denise Yennie facilitated a workshop that made the lunch for all of us, and Kathy Edwards facilitated a workshop that wrote notes to those who were homebound, ill and to staff and volunteers to thank them.

I so often think about those in our church who are sick or dealing with chronic conditions, so

decided I would participate in the workshop that was writing notes.

Continued on next page

The cooking class was great fun and stretched my culinary abilities! It was an adventure in flavor experimentation. I always enjoy fellowship with the ladies of the ECW. It is a highlight of my month.
- Lisa Fenton



As Kristin led us in the African Bible study process, I was encouraged by the open hearts and honest sharing as the Holy Spirit spoke to each woman. It was a great way to build true community by providing opportunity to move beneath the surface to the places we really live. We discussed the cultural problem of social isolation and talked about ways we could address the issue for women at St. B's.
- Ellen Latimer

Photos by Katherine Bomboy



ECW Retreat (continued from page 21)

What a blessing it was for me. It confirmed to me the importance of reaching out to those who we have not seen in church for a couple of weeks, or who we know are sick, or those who use their time and talents to serve at St. B's. An added bonus for me was the opportunity to paint some of the notecards that Kathy had provided. We did a total of 54 notes in about an hour!

The lunch was such fun and an opportunity to enjoy good food and fellowship.

There will be more opportunities to join the women of St. B's, so please join us next time!

Kristin's message to us was to "love one another" as a community. She presented a thoughtful study of the scripture and the many specific verses that communicated the commands of Christ for us to be the Body of Christ to one another. After she spoke, a group of us were fortunate to meet and spend some time fleshing out how this message touched our hearts. As we meditated on I John 3:11-21 and examined it through a beautiful African tool of studying scripture, we found that although God speaks to us in very unique and personal ways, we as women have in common many similar desires and struggles, and in the sharing we find our relationships strengthened as we learn to depend on one another, and in turn, truly love one another.

- Kendra Allen



Restoration for the Broken

THE TWIG

*Children's Formation
at St. Bartholomew's*



THE WONDER OF IT ALL

by Carla Schober

Director of Family & Children's Formation

Last week we decided to get rid of the bulky broken desk in the children's ministry office. We were to replace it with a smaller and more practical one no longer needed by the youth ministry. After emptying everything out of its cupboards and drawers, the switch was made. The problem was that the replacement desk was placed too far from the outlets, so two of us decided to simply move it to the other wall. Not a good idea. The desk broke in half, lost its legs and crashed to the floor.

I try to make it a practice to find purpose in even the most mundane or frustrating situations. I'm not saying I'm good at it, but I try. The broken desk is a good example. It could have been quite frustrating as it certainly added a lot more work, confusion and disappointment. But, I remembered an old desk at home that I was wondering what to do with. I brought it in the next day. The desk fit, is stronger and gave me extra space in the office and at home. The broken desk brought about a better long-term solution.

I can easily use our broken desk mishap as a metaphor for the ministry of the church. It is in our brokenness that we realize our need for a Savior, Jesus. The ministry of the church is about bringing restoration to that brokenness. On any given Sunday it may appear that people around you in the pews are in good shape, but that's not necessarily reality. Like the broken desk, those around us may look deceptively well but may have some

very weak parts that could break at any turn. We need to remember, we all have times of hurt, of brokenness, of sin. Often, out of fear, we tend to hide our frailties until we're better. We try

**We need to remember,
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of brokenness, of sin.
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own, negating the very
reason we're a part of the
church family.**

to solve things on our own, negating the very reason we're a part of the church family. However, when we do come for ministry with one another we find we are not an exception, but the norm. The ministry of the church is to bring us together in Christ's love and restoration. It's about sometimes falling apart like the desk and seeing how the church as one body comes around you and pieces you back together in the fullness of Christ's Spirit. Like the broken desk, there is usually an answer or solution waiting to be found that fits better than originally expected.

Continued on next page

Children's Formation News

Open House

When: Sunday, August 30th, 8:30 & 10:30 services

Where: Downstairs

What: Parents are encouraged to join their children in meeting the new school year line-up of children's formation teachers and assistants.

It's also a great opportunity to show these tremendous volunteers your support and encouragement. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

5th & 6th Grade Club: We Need Leaders

Children's formation is looking for 2 men and 2 women to help facilitate a special once a month group time for our 5th & 6th graders.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Carla Schober, Director of Children's Formation at carlaschob@gmail.com.



Praise the Lord Through Dance

Maggie Sullivan explains this special time of worship

by Maggie Sullivan

This Summer, 8-year-old Maggie Sullivan was part of a small group of children who asked if we, as a parish, could have a special time for the children their age to praise God, specifically through dance. Here, Maggie explains the idea and the big day.

"The idea just popped into my head, I didn't really have to think it up. I think God put it there. When I first thought of Praise the Lord Through Dance, I thought it would be great for kids to be able to dance as much as they like, for a really long time. I thought it would also be a chance for the kids to show the adults how they can worship God with their entire body!"

"I wanted to read the Scripture at the gathering, because I thought the kids would like to hear a verse from the Bible that tells us to dance for the Lord. I read from Psalm 150 at the beginning:

...Praise him with tambourine and dancing,



Above: The first "Praise the Lord Through Dance" Sunday.

praise him with the strings and flute,

I would like to do it again sometime. Yeah, that would be GREAT! I'm glad that Ms. Carla gave us all those ribbons and flags to use in our dancing.

Next time, I hope more kids can be a part of it. Many were on vacation, I think."

So keep your eyes open for an announcement about another "Praise the Lord Through Dance" day coming this fall.

Restoration for the Broken (continued from page 23)

As we begin to gear up for the Fall, I also want to speak to those who already minister to others or are considering it for the first time. Ministering to others in whatever form it takes, is what we are called to do. Jesus never promised ministry to others would be easy, but it is rewarding in so many profound ways. In ministry we have the blessing of remembering how Jesus has brought us

through difficult times; to see how He can use us to turn around and bring the light and restoration of Christ to others.

Are you ready to step outside of any possible fears or complacency? There are many ministries in our church that would love to partner with you. Of course I'd always partner with you in children's formation, so please prayerfully consider that option. Or,

give the St. B's office a call and simply let them know you're willing to help. None of us need to remain as broken desks.



Anna Huff Wins Littlest Volunteers Contest

Early Lessons in Cheerful Giving

AND THE WINNER IS...

Below: Anna and Mercy in Turkanam



Above: Anna visits the cross at Sewanee

contagious for all the adults on the team as well.

One of the best things that happened on the trip was that Anna's heart seemed to grow "three sizes" that summer (quote from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Suess). One morning, we were at a village and we saw a girl who had only a green mesh shirt on. Anna and I talked about it and she decided that she wanted to give the little girl her dress that she had on. I looked around for what she could wear instead, and she had put a bathing suit on her stuffed animal puppy that morning so she put this on. Anna shared some other dresses with her new friends there and gave away her favorite Barbie doll on the last day of our trip (with no prompting from me.) It was great to see how happy she was and it is our hope that she will use this trip as a reference point for the future. May her heart keep growing "three sizes" each day and continue to grow into a cheerful giver.

by Emily and Anna Huff

This summer, we found out some news that Anna was chosen as the grand prize winner in the 2009 WONDERTIME'S Littlest Volunteers Contest! She won \$5000 to give to the charity of her choice.

Words cannot express the joy I had in sharing my mom and Anna with friends in Turkanam last summer. We encountered a culture and a group of people who have so little on the surface compared to the excess in many other parts of the world, but we saw their joy is not defined by their circumstances. We had a rich

experience in the villages teaching about Psalm 23. Every eye was on Anna as they had never been around children from America. At first she was a little shy, but after about 30 minutes in our first village, she began blowing bubbles and playing games with the children.

It was so special for us to work and play in Kenya alongside Anna and to see this culture through the eyes of our 5 ½ year old. Her childlike spirit reminded all of us on the team to give of ourselves more freely to those in need and love those put in our path. Anna was bubbling over with joy and creativity too. This kind of spirit was



In Anna's Words:

Last summer, we went to Kenya with Children of the Kingdom, an organization that my mom helped to start to raise money for children to go to school there. We taught lessons about the good shepherd in some villages in northern Kenya. My favorite part was when I hid the sheep for the lesson on the lost sheep. We played sharks and minnows, duck, duck, goose and red rover. In one village, a little girl just had a green shirt and I gave my dress to her. When my friend

Continued on page 27



The Benefits of Sacramental Confession

by Robert Pullen

Last year, my closet was way out of hand and quite a mess. I really could not remember when or if I had last cleaned it out in a meaningful way. There was a lot that needed to go – some things that were given to me that I never wanted and others that I didn't need any more but would not let go of. The closet didn't function the way it was designed and was full of much that took the space of things that I really wanted or needed.

In terms of furthering my Spiritual Growth, I needed some cleanup work as well. There were, and still are, unresolved issues revolving around my past which impeded upon virtually all of my relationships and my ability to surrender my will. While talking with Dixon one day, he suggested that the Rite of Sacramental Confession during Lent could provide a vehicle for me to address this. When I agreed, I had no idea how it would work exactly, but I tried to trust the process and follow instructions.

The specific mechanics of Confession do not need to be enumerated here.

For me there are several significant aspects. First, the act of putting my thoughts and actions down on paper is

“...having the willingness to purposively both ask for and give forgiveness at the same time and on the same terms is very challenging... verbalizing my shortcomings to another person as well as God is an act that can bring humility.”

very powerful. No one wants to list out and then see their dirty laundry in such a concrete way. By doing so, however, there is greater accountability and openness. Second, having the willingness to purposively both ask for

and give forgiveness at the same time and on the same terms is very challenging. Third, verbalizing my shortcomings to another person as well as God is an act that can bring humility. Overall, there is a great freedom that is felt by completing the process.

Later, I understand that I did not “get to” everything in my first Confession, but I think I did the best I could at the time. I had not realized the burden that I had been carrying or its power over me. In one form or another, these “secrets” were isolating me from others and God by fostering guilt and shame that on levels I did not even recognize. The Confessional process has freed me from some of the bondage of my past and clears space for change and transformation in my life.

As for my closet, it is a work in process - better than it was but room for improvement. I am not sure if I threw out the most offensive stuff or just the easiest to part with. I trust the next cleanup will yield different results.

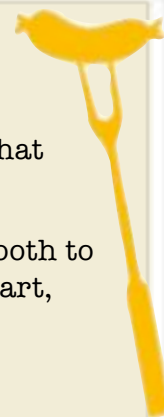
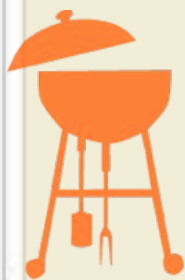
ANNUAL PIG ROAST & STREET FAIR

We're planning ahead for this year's Pig Roast, and the addition of a Street Fair that will now be part of this annual event.

We want to hear from you if you have an interest in helping organize a booth to sell goods, a portion of which will benefit St. B's. If you have a gift for art, canning, collecting, or anything that you'd like to share with the community, please contact Robert Smith at benzrwilder@att.net.

The Pig Roast will continue to benefit Youth Ministry and the event will include all the fun and games of years' past (plus more).

Make sure to mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 4.**



Parish Hall Offices Renovated

During the last week in June and first week in August, the Parish hall offices were given a much needed redesign and renovation. One of the offices is now used by Erin Somerville, Director of Communications, and the other is shared by Dixon Kinser, Assistant Rector and Steven Lefebvre, Assistant Director for Youth & College Formation. The shared office was simply not large enough for two people, so Chris Somerville designed a new floor plan that included knocking out one of the existing walls, building a new wall and moving one of the existing doors.

The new wall was built by reusing the framing that was taken down, and as many other materials as possible were reused.

All the labor on the project (demolition, framing, dry-walling, painting, and laying new wood floor) was volunteered by Chris, Steven and Erin.

Though the project was no small task, the team stayed within their \$300 budget.



Anna Huff is Littlest Volunteer (continued from page 24)

Katherine went back this summer to that same village, she saw that little girl still wearing my dress. A small gift goes a long way there!

One day, we went up to a place called "prayer mountain" to pray and I turned to the page in the Jesus Storybook

Bible where the little girl was running to her daddy. Mommy came over to me and asked me what stood out to me. I turned to that picture and I said that the little girl was me and the daddy was God. I said that I was running to God and not away from Him. I asked

Jesus into my heart. This year in celebration on that day (what I call my "Jesus birthday"), we went to the Sewanee cross and I read that story again with my mom and my grandmother.



ECW Night at the Sounds Game



Photos by Corinne Wilder

TO THE PARISH:

FROM FR. JERRY & MARJIE SMITH

Fr. Jerry and Marjie would like to express their gratitude for the many members of the St. B's family who have sent their condolences, provided support and encouragement, sent flowers, letters and prayed for the family in this last week since the death of Marjie's mother, Muriel.



New Columbarium Coming to St. B's

by Kathy Edwards

For over a decade many of us at St. B's have heard talk of wishes that our church had a columbarium. Now that wish is becoming a reality!

A columbarium is a place where a person's ashes are kept after cremation.

If you have read "The American Way of Death" you realize just how expensive preparation for burial, casket, etc. can be. Cremation and deposition of ashes in a columbarium is at least a tenth of the expense of the traditional way of burial. It is also greener in that it is much more efficient space-wise and uses much less material. The brass unit that we are planning to use is very attractive, having crosses and a leaf design on it. If St. B's were to move or (Heaven forbid!) dissolve, the unit(s) could be moved, making relocation much easier than a burial plot.

One or two units will be bought at first, depending on the initial demand. Each person would buy his/her niche

or family space ahead of time, just like a burial plot. One unit would cover a space between the stained glass

Cremation and deposition of ashes in a columbarium is at least a tenth of the expense of the traditional way of burial. It is also greener in that it is much more efficient space-wise and uses much less material.

windows from top to bottom and would be on the outside of the east side of the sanctuary. Each unit would hold 96 niches and each niche would contain the ashes from one person.

To enhance the columbarium and the general loveliness of our church the garden and walkway currently existing will be overhauled. Bordering the flowers will be 6-8 foot evergreens to enclose the space. This will give it a secret garden atmosphere and with the addition of benches will serve as a suitable place for reflection and prayer.

In the coming weeks, we will have an opportunity to see drawings and pictures of just how the columbarium will look. These will be displayed between services at our coffee gatherings. At that time the exact price of the project will be given, brochures distributed, and purchase of niches available. At the October 4 Pig Roast opportunities for purchase will also be available.

The staff and vestry are very excited about this opportunity for our entire church family (are we showing our age?) and we hope that the whole parish will be excited as well!

JOIN US FOR ST. B'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 7:00PM

THIS MONTH'S MOVIE: THE WIZARD OF OZ
BRING YOUR OWN BLANKETS OR CHAIRS
SHOW UP EARLY, BRING DINNER AND PICNIC
ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS



Welcome the Newly Baptized

by Dave West

This is the first installment of a new column in *The Branch*, introducing readers to some of the children (and adults) who have been recently baptized. This month, we're introducing Lydia Loree West and Emma Grace Burns.

Lydia Loree West, 6, was baptized at the 8:30 service June 27. She is the daughter of David and Jule West. Also attending were her grandparents, Dave and Nancy West, St. B's members, and Ric and Bev Johnson of Madison, WI.

Godparents are Matthew and Andrea Sullivan, long-time family friends and St. B's members.

Lydia was named for her grandmothers. Lydia West was her great-great-grandmother, who taught her Sunday School class in Springfield, Mo., for nearly 50 years, until she was in her 90's. Loree is the middle name of her great-grandmother, Wilma Loree West, of Springfield, and also the name of her aunt, Loree Parkinson, of Anderson, SC, and her great-aunt Nancy Loree Taylor.

Lydia is a rising first grader at St. Paul's Academy and has a sister, Millicent, 9.

The family has been at St. B's for six years. Previously, David and Jule were members from 1990 to 1993. David proposed to Jule at St. B's the altar on March 19, 1991.

David is Executive Vice President of Equinox Information Systems, a telecommunications software company, and Jule is assistant professor of internal medicine at Vanderbilt and practices at the United Neighborhood Health Services Northeast Clinic.

Emma Grace Burns, daughter of Joshua and Stephanie Burns, was baptized June 21. She is the granddaughter of Robert and Kirk Smith, St. B's members, and Larry and Pat Cox of Memphis. Joshua is the son of Kirk Smith.

Emma Grace was born December 1. The Burns attend Highland Park Church. The family chose to have Emma Grace baptized at St. B's because Stephanie was baptized as a child and the family wanted to make the same kind of commitment to her spiritual growth.

Also, the family became close to Fr. Randy Hoover-Dempsey when he ministered to them during the time their son was hospitalized for a congenital heart condition, which he did not survive.

ABOUT BAPTISM | BY FR. JERRY SMITH

Central to the teachings of Jesus and certainly one of the two "acts" He instructed his followers to emulate, was the practice of baptism. The prayer book indicates that this is "full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble." (page 298)

We believe that God acts in baptism and it is our responsibility to respond to this initiative. In fact, authentic Christian formation is centered on our need to be continually learning to respond to this initiative of God, consequently baptisms take a central place in our

Sunday liturgy so that we might all be regularly reminded of what a great thing God has done for us.

We would all do well to read the baptismal liturgy over on a regular

We believe that God acts in baptism and it is our responsibility to respond to this initiative.

basis and to examine our lives by the promises that were made for us or, in some cases, that we have made ourselves. To be increasingly

dependable witnesses of Jesus, the baptismal covenant should be our benchmark. Pay particular attention to both the examination (page 302) and the actual covenant (page 304). As you will quickly notice, it is our understanding that right behavior will follow right belief so the first three questions of the covenant are about our doctrinal beliefs and the next 5 questions are about how we need to fashion our lives to coincide with what we say we believe.

Pray for the grace to both remain faithful to this covenant and to become self aware so that you might increasingly be formed into the image and likeness of Christ.



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."



Anniversaries

Robert & Lisa Rhea	8/2
Don & Nancy Cason	8/2
Tom & Joan Hutchinson	8/3
Roland & Deedee Ewubare	8/3
Jim & Michelle Alcott	8/4
John & Diane Marshall	8/6
Eric & Lisa Goss	8/6
Luke & Donna Easter	8/10
Nathan & Jill Clair	8/12
Aaron & Betty Ashton Mayo	8/12
Jay & Michelle Ferguson	8/15
Seth & Miriam Swihart	8/18
Jerry & Marjie Smith	8/19
Dan & Julia Halford	8/22
Jubal & Denise Yennie	8/22
Bryan & Erin Rodgers	8.24

Birthdays

Daniel Hansen	8/1
Olivia Gross	8/1
Natalie Clements	8/2
Marjie Smith	8/3
Ned Arthur	8/4
Madeline Langlinais	8/4
Nora Sullivan	8/4
Margaret Granbery	8/5
Don Paul Gross	8/6
Laura Headley	8/7
Caleb Gerard Thorpe	8/7
Kristi Cleary	8/8
Gabriella Rose Goss	8/8
Seth Swihart	8/9
Maureen Smith	8/10
Isaac Wills	8/10
Whit Smyth	8/11
Langley Granbery	8/12
Sarita Stewart	8/13
Andrew Thornton	8/13
Jackson Wilhoite	8/14

Audrey Hughes	8/14
Jonathan Zadick	8/17
Manier West	8/18
Laura Leach	8/18
Randall Ferguson	8/19
Jerry R. Fink	8/19
Lisa Rhea	8/19
Georgeanna Goldthorpe	8/19
Asher Lowell	8/19
Micah Lowell	8/19
Erick Goss	8/20
Sophie Hughes	8/20
Jessie Wills	8/20
Randi Green	8/21
Patricia Insani	8/21
Eugene Halford	8/21
Jerry Krogman	8/22
Nefe Ewubare	8/22
Jack Flynn	8/23
Dick Jewell	8/24
Matt Ingham	8/24
Hazel Edwards	8/24
Fionn Miller	8/24
Ed Schoenberger	8/25
Nancy Hindalong	8/26
Katie Reasor	8/26
Lydia Loree West	8/26
Alfie Ashworth	8/26
Alfie Poindexter	8/27
Christopher Insani	8/27
Christopher Johnson	8/27
Jared Yennie	8/27
Jim Pichert	8/28
Elena Goss	8/28
Erin Hindalong	8/29
Anne Dennison	8/30
Bob Lyons	8/30
Chris Somerville	8/31
Kate Cropp	8/31

Baptisms

June 21

Emma Grace Burns
Parents: Stephanie & Joshua Burns

June 28

Lydia Loree West
Parents: David and July West

July 12th

Evangeline Ruth & Stella Dale Shankel
Parents Erin & Shaun Shankel

July 19th

Hadley Marie Clair
Parents Jill & Nathan Clair

Births

June 2nd

Hudson James Tylor
Parents: Abby and Nathaniel

June 10th

Lily Anita Sefton
Parents: Rachel and Aaron

June 21st

Austen Benn Latham
Parents: Gaylene and Jason

July 8th

Hadley Marie Clair
Parents: Jill and Nathan

July 8th

Jude Adam Barmer
Parents: Krista and Jason



St. Bartholomew's Church
4800 Belmont Park Terrace
Nashville TN 37215

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF PRAISE & WORSHIP

If, during a Sunday morning service,
you've ever found yourself wishing that
the music could continue for a longer
season of worship, then join us for...

**An Evening of Praise & Worship
August 30th in the Sanctuary
at 6:30 PM**



Childcare will be provided.

