

JANUARY 2009

THE BRANCH

The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church



A LOOK BACK AT ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



INSIDE...

More photos from :

- Christmas Eve Pageant
- Epiphany Celebration & Chili Cook-off
- St. B's Family Christmas
- Open House at the Smith's

Articles on this month's theme of evangelism

... and much more



Photos by Jon Zadick

January 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).

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
The Rev. Dixon Kinser, Dir. of Youth Discipleship
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, Dir. of Children's Discipleship
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 Youth/College
Discipleship Director

St. B's Bookstore:

Allison Hardwick, Manager

Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

Suzu 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

Sarah Bell Earley, senior warden
Andy Valentine, junior warden

Greg Daniel, Mavis Harrop, Tom Howard, Dick Jewell, Denise Kemp, Jud Laughter, Ashley MacLachlan, Paul Miller, Charlie Reasor, Harry Xanthopoulos. (Officers: Len Harrison, treasurer and Whit Smyth, vestry clerk)

Diocese

INSIDE

Kingdom Talk - Fr. Jerry Smith	3
Epiphany Celebration & Chili Cook-off	4
A Missional Life - Fr. Dixon Kinser	5
You Doing OK? - Fr. Randy Hoover-Dempsey	6
Morning Prayer at St. B's	6
St. B's Family Christmas Photos	7-8
Annual Meeting - Pam White	9
Upcoming ECW Events	9
The Wonder of it All - Carla Schober	10
Christmas Pageant Photos	11-12
New Conflict of Interest Policy	13
Ruminations - Marjie Smith	14
Fly on the Wall - Kristin Searfoss	15
Upcoming Men's Breakfast - Whit Smyth	16
Thank You from the Smith's	17
Vestry Summary - Whit Smyth	18
From Glory to Glory	19



David Thornton performs at the St. B's Family Christmas Concert.
Photo by Katherine Bomboy

The next issue of The Branch will be a Lenten edition in March. Articles and information must be submitted no later than February 20. Articles can be sent to: editor@stbs.net



A Church for those who don't belong

An Epiphany reminder of our call to be witnesses

Someone once defined evangelism as 'one beggar leading another beggar to bread.' This is probably more accurate than many of us would want to acknowledge, for it would necessitate our willingness to recognize that we are all very much in need of the Bread of Life. There is no distinction of persons when it comes to salvation!

The season of Epiphany has been historically dedicated by the church to concerted evangelistic initiatives. After all, this is the season that has as one of its primary texts the narrative of those foreign scholars who found their way to the child Jesus and bowed to worship him as the Christ (see Matt 2). We gather, from very early in the life of Jesus, that his ministry was not to be confined to any one race or sector of our international society. He came for the salvation of all mankind and not the select few.

Given this initiative of God, it becomes the mandate of the church to be continuing this outreach.

One Archbishop of Canterbury said that the church exists for those who don't belong. Rather than serve as a country club or exclusive sanctuary of the 'sanctified,' we need to be regularly reminded that our community is not called to simply protect the truth of God; we have been called to give it away. Epiphany is precisely that time of year.

Some of the last words of Jesus spoken to his disciples before his ascension were encouragement to receive the power of the Holy Spirit and to then 'go' into the world and be effective witnesses to the saving grace of Jesus.

There is often some confusion as to just what Jesus wants of us. In this

passage of Acts, he calls us to be witnesses, and my understanding is that a witness simply tells what they have seen and heard. Sadly, we often confuse

the call to be faithful witnesses with the spiritual gift of being an evangelist as described in Ephesians Chapter 4. We are not all evangelists, but we are all witnesses. Primary evangelism is when God's faithful are simply and intentionally witnessing to the wonderful works of God.

I was once called to be a witness in

Rather than serve as a country club or exclusive sanctuary of the 'sanctified,' we need to be regularly reminded that our community is not called to simply protect the truth of God; we have been called to give it away. Epiphany is precisely that time of year.

court. The judge very clearly instructed me to simply tell the courtroom what I saw and heard, not how I think it happened or what I thought might be going on in the minds of those involved in the incident under investigation. So too, we are called to simply give testimony of the God that we have been encountering. There is seldom need for theological discourse.



KINGDOM TALK by Fr. Jerry Smith

Rector,
St. Bartholomew's

God is capable of filling in all the details as the listener has need.

Often, God is his own best apologist. An apologist is one who gives a defense of the faith. Again, we often confuse apologist with witness. We can't all have all the answers that those we witness to may ask, but that shouldn't prevent us from witnessing to the good news that is ours in Jesus.

Just today, someone sent me a text message telling me about a new wine I was sure to like. The message didn't tell me about the grapes or about the area of the world where the wine was made. Nor did it talk about the bottle or the vineyard. It simply said that the wine was good and the writer thought I would like it. I am sure, because I trust the person who told me.

So it is with our faith and our faith community. We have been called to be the next players in the divine story of God's unfolding love for humankind. It falls on us to be the ones who are earning the right to be heard and then are telling our families and friends about the goodness of God that we are coming to know.

The baton is being passed to us. Dare we accept it and continue to run the race of establishing the Kingdom?

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



St. B's Annual Epiphany Celebration & Chili Cook-off



Photos by Pam White



Apocalypse Now



A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Director of Youth Ministries

I think the word apocalypse has gotten a bad rap. Popularly it evokes images of destruction, conflict and the end of the world, but few of these actually have much to do with the word's (or even the Bible's) actual definition - "unveiling". Apocalypse is meant to call to mind the image of a curtain being pulled aside so that something concealed can now be seen. It is an uncovering, unveiling or revelation and, I contend, no better compass for the season of Epiphany than this word "apocalypse".

Epiphany is the season of the Christian year where we celebrate (among other things depending on your Christian tradition) the coming of the Magi to worship the Christ child.

If you'll permit one more definition here, the word epiphany means "manifestation". Therefore, the season of Epiphany takes this name because it is the time in the story when God's glory is made manifest to the kings of the foreign lands. The Magi represent all the nations outside of Israel and when they arrive to worship Jesus, it is a picture of how God's promise to bring light to all the nations through Israel is being kept. It has always been part of God's hopes for the world that all peoples would come to worship him and now, here at

Epiphany, we see how finally God will make that dream come true.

Epiphany's invitation does not end here but only begins. We have to do more than just recognize God's Glory manifest in Jesus. We must also



make that glory manifest to the world. This has always been the purpose of Immanuel. God's nativity is for the salvation of the world. The two are inexorably linked. There is no Christmas without Epiphany and no Epiphany without Christmas. So, Epiphany is not simply an epilogue to the Christmas story, but instead its grand completion.

Getting Apocalyptic

All, this brings us back to the concept of apocalypse. As the Body of Christ -

the presence of Jesus on the earth - we have an epiphanal call (I think I just made that word up, but go with me here) to bring apocalypse now. What I mean is that our *raison d'être* is to reveal God's glory and invite the world to worship with us. We have to consider how the glory of God will be made manifest, or "unveiled", in our bodies, just as it was in Jesus'. We are

the ones who pull the curtain back and reveal to the world what God is up to. But we do it not only with our lips, but with our lives. It is at that we recall our apocalyptic mission and take action upon it!

So, how will we bring apocalypses in 2009? How can our church body live, share money, serve, listen to others, do justice and forgive each other in ways that pull back the curtain and reveal the living God? How can each of us see that all our friendships are oriented toward

disclosing the glory of God? Take a moment and consider where you are already getting that right and where you need to grow. Also, how can you and your family reveal Jesus to your neighborhood? Everything from the way you keep your lawn to the guest lists of your dinner parties should be fair game for apocalyptic evaluation.

Remember Epiphany is a season of hope, light and joy. May your explorations of how to bring apocalypse now produce the same effects through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Epiphany, Evangelism, and Mammau



YOU DOING OK?

by Fr. Randy Hoover-Dempsey

My Mammau was my evangelist. She was 5 feet 5 inches tall and getting shorter when I began knowing her. She was most frequently found in the kitchen of the home she shared with Pappau. She and Pappau had an open door policy. Any one of her eight children, dozens of grandchildren or great grandchildren, or other acquaintances might be found resident at the house at a given time.

Mammau was my evangelist. But she didn't do it right. She never talked to me about a single doctrine of faith. She did not mention the ways in which I was spiritually deficient, although they were especially apparent to her. She never gave me a tract. She never told me about the Four Spiritual Laws.

Mammau was an incarnational evangelist. She spent her time living among sinners, many of them her progeny.... When the prodigal child returned, she opened her arms with a loving hug and prepared a welcome-home banquet

Mammau was a silent evangelist. Her chair was small and upholstered and sat in one corner of the living room. Her Bible sat on the dark mahogany

desk to the left of her chair. Mammau was a Bible reader and a prayer. I learned this by living with her and watching her. She never talked about it.

Mammau was an incarnational evangelist. She spent her time living among sinners, many of them her progeny. I cannot remember ever hearing her speak a condemning word. When the prodigal child returned, she opened her arms with a loving hug and prepared a welcome-home banquet. Beggars, alcoholics, fornicators, shirkers, and those from broken homes were welcomed by her.

Mammau's faith made her a solid rock evangelist. When everyone else was falling apart, Mammau was steadfast. My dad and I lived with her until I was six years old. It was because of her, and all of my family who gathered around her, that I remember standing outside her house one sunny day and wondering to myself, "Will I always be this happy?" When tough times wilted my happiness and made me wonder if anyone loved me, her love reminded me that I was loved.

Mammau was a broken-hearted evangelist. Her sons went to war in Europe and the Pacific and came back changed and quiet about what happened. She lost a child in its infancy. Many of her extended family's difficulties came to rest at her doorstep. She was no Pollyanna. Yet she resisted the impulse to be bitter or cynical or to give up. She remained faithful to the end.

Jesus was not a stranger to me. An evangelist introduced Jesus to me. She lived Him before my eyes.

desk to the left of her chair. Mammau was a Bible reader and a prayer. I learned this by living with her

Morning Prayer

Daily Prayer at St. B's

If you're new to the St. B's family (or not-so-new but may need a reminder), you should be aware of two opportunities for daily morning prayer made available by and for our community.

The first, "St. B's Daily," is a short email delivered to your inbox each morning, and includes the scripture readings from the Daily Office, a short reflection on one of the readings, and a collect. The reflections for each day are written by St. B's clergy, and some in 2009 will be written by other staff members and parishioners. St. B's Daily is a great tool for maintaining a rhythm of daily scripture study that corresponds to the Prayer Book lectionary, so that we as a family are studying and growing in sync with each other.

The second opportunity available to all in the Nashville area is a service of daily morning prayer offered Monday - Friday at 7:30am in the St. B's sanctuary. This service is led by either clergy or lay leaders at St. B's and includes the service of morning prayer, as well as a reading of the the reflection from St. B's Daily. On Wednesday mornings, this service is replaced by the mid-week Eucharist, which is offered at both 7:30am and 12:15pm.

We hope this year you will join our family as we journey together daily, longing to be formed more into the image of Christ.



St. B's Family Christmas



Photos by Katherine Bomboy





Photos by Katherine Bomboy



Make Plans to Attend Annual Meeting



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

by Pam White

Director of Operations

During the meeting we also recognize our outgoing vestry (church board) members and elect their replacements for 2009.



childcare to ensure that we have enough babysitters. Sign-ups will be available starting mid-January. You are welcome to attend even if you are unable to bring a food dish.

Be on the lookout for exciting details on our annual meeting and family dinner in the weeks to come and be sure to save the date on your 2009 calendar. You'll be glad you did!

If you are new to St. B's within the last 12 months, you may not have heard about "St. B's Annual Meeting and Family Dinner" held each year in February. Our annual meeting is not your typical ho-hum business church meeting.

It is a fun, informative, family celebration of what the Lord has done for and through the body of St. B's during the past year, and a look to the future and where God is leading us.

The meeting and dinner event is scheduled for Sunday evening, February 8, 2009 from 5:00pm – 7:35pm. Dinner is prepared by the St. B's family – potluck fashion – and served buffet style. Childcare is provided for babies through 4th grade during the meeting time.

Children join their parents during the family dinner (high chairs are provided). We have, on average 300-plus people in attendance, so it is important to RSVP ahead of time for

Mark your calendars: Upcoming ECW Events

In an effort to get to know each other a little better, please join the women of St. B's ECW as your schedule allows for the following events. Keep an eye out for future events! There is always FUN in FOOD and FELLOWSHIP! Come alone or bring a friend.



Potluck Dinner
Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009
6-7:30 p.m.
St. B's Rectory

Join us for food and fellowship! Please bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the parish hall to make sure we have a well-rounded meal.



Who Likes Mexican Food?
Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009, 6 p.m.
Mazatlan Mexican Restaurant,
116 Wilson Pike Circle,
Brentwood, 37027

Join us for dinner! Please RSVP to Tara Moore (taratomlin@yahoo.com) so we know how big a table to reserve! Hope you can join us.



ECW Spring Retreat
March 20-21, 2009
St. Mary's, Sewanee

If you have any questions, please contact Tara Moore at taratomlin@yahoo.com or 615-403-4413.



No Pain, No Gain

JANUARY 09

THE TWIG

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



THE WONDER OF IT ALL

by Carla Schober

Director of Children's Discipleship

"No pain, no gain." That phrase played over and over in my mind recently at what I thought was the most ridiculous time. I was alone, mulling over some difficult situations our family and some friend's families had gone through in 2008. This was a year of many changes which hurt, not just physically but in many emotional ways as well. I had grown weary and wasn't ready for an exercise term like this to pop into my head. What was I suppose to do, get up, exercise and bring on the endorphins? What in the world was I thinking? However, the more I thought of the ridiculous timing of the phrase, it actually began to make sense in more ways physically, emotionally and spiritually then I can put in this article. Pain, no matter how difficult, can be a remarkable tool the Lord can use to grow us into maturity and strength.

When I mentioned these thoughts to my husband David, he reminded me of the physical attributes of pain in exercise. This past year he decided to run the Music City Marathon even though he'd never really run any great length before. In preparation, he studied a bit on the anatomy of muscle growth. As he read, he began to understand that there is only one way for muscles to grow and get stronger - through stress. In fact, as we all know, muscles that aren't used will atrophy. That's why men and women in space must have physical exercise. The weightless environment of space removes even the force of gravity that helps us to maintain strength. Muscles

grow and become

stronger because during times of exercise or stress on them, the muscle fibers are actually damaged. And we know this because they are sore. But, when those muscle fibers grow back, they are stronger than before. If we never push a muscle beyond its current state, it cannot become stronger.

Pain, no matter how difficult, can be a remarkable tool the Lord can use to grow us into maturity and strength.... When we are emotionally and spiritually damaged or under stress, we have a choice of what to do with the pain.

When we are emotionally and spiritually damaged or under stress, we have a choice of what to do with the pain. We can push beyond our current state and let others know we need their prayers, their shoulder to cry on, or their help on a decision of how to move on. Or we can allow our pain to cripple us into atrophy. Sadly, the second choice has been one that I've chosen far too many times over the years and, in hindsight, that choice only made me forget God was bigger than my pain. It is only when I chose to work out the pain, rise above my insecurities and be open and honest with others, that I could see beyond myself and feel the strength of God

lifting me up. I confess, there have also been times where I'd hide in my Bible study or "time with the Lord." I'm not saying those times are wrong, but my supposed growth often came by way of keeping others at bay, looking and feeling spiritual so others wouldn't see what I felt I needed to hide about myself. I found I was getting spiritually "fat and lazy" with Scripture because I'd sit on what I learned and not exercise it in helping or sharing with others. No pain, no gain.

I encourage anyone to stand alongside me in making 2009 a year of allowing our St. B's family to truly be a family that shares and cares for each other in the Lord's love. If there is a tendency to hide behind your fears or hurt, pray and ask the Lord who He has for you to share with at church. Or, you can simply step out and join a Sunday school class, Simply Following Jesus group or supper club. Of course, as children's discipleship director, I will always encourage you to join us downstairs as a fellow family member. In children's discipleship we do enjoy ourselves as we get to know our littlest family members and each other.

I close and encourage you to read one of my favorite scripture references, Philippians 3:12-14. I especially love that Paul reminds us to press on, not sit back. Rather he encourages us, "forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." I look forward to sharing 2009 with you and our entire St. B's family!



The Christmas Pageant



Photos by Jon Zadick



The Christmas Pageant



Photos by Jon Zadick



Vestry adopts new conflict of interest policy

by Charile Reasor

The vestry has taken some actions recently relating to dealing with conflicts of interest, and it would like for you to know more about them than you might learn from just reading vestry meeting minutes. As many of you probably know, dealing with conflicts of interest is a common problem for nonprofit entities, and it is important that a nonprofit entity like St. Bartholomew's be prepared to handle them when they arise. Toward this end, the vestry at its October and December meetings last year took action. In October, it amended the parish's bylaws to create a procedure for dealing with all conflicts of interest, and in December, it adopted a policy designed to reduce the circumstances under which conflicts of interest are likely to occur.

Since conflicts of interest are bound to occur from time to time, the vestry created a procedure for dealing with them. This procedure provides that all conflicts of interest are to be disclosed to the vestry at a vestry meeting and that the proposed transaction is to be authorized by vestry members who do not have an interest in the proposed transaction.

Since certain circumstances lend themselves to conflicts of interest, the vestry adopted a policy designed to avoid those circumstances. The policy pertains to the hiring of staff members and the eligibility of parishioners to stand for election to the vestry. Under this policy, no vestry member or family member of a vestry member may be a staff member who receives compensation from this parish; and no staff member who receives

compensation from this parish or family member of a staff member who receives compensation from this parish may be eligible to stand for election to the vestry. This policy will be applied only to hiring decisions and nominations for election to the vestry made after December 8, 2008.

It is important that the parish understand why the vestry took these actions. It did not take these actions because it believed that there had been any improper activity in the past. It did not take these actions because it wished to exclude staff members and their families from the vestry or vestry members and their families from the staff. It took these actions to improve the management of the parish by avoiding conflicts of interest and all of the problems associated with dealing with them and by being prepared for them when they arise.

Obviously, there are staff members, vestry members, and family members of staff members and vestry members who would have been unable to serve the parish in their particular roles if this policy had been in place in the past. The vestry's actions are not intended to diminish in any way, or discourage them in, their service and self-sacrifice. We are grateful for the contributions which they have made and continue to make. The vestry is confident that its actions will be understood for what they are: an effort to improve the functioning of the vestry and the staff.



Upcoming Classes

Anglicanism 101

Anglicanism 101 will be starting back up on January 28 and will run for nine weeks.

If you are interested in formalizing your membership to our community here at St. B's or just learning more about our tradition, sign up in the narthex or email the church office at churchoffice@stbs.net.

Classes will be led by Fr. Randy Hoover-Dempsey and Fr. Dixon Kinser.

Childcare will be provided and everyone is welcome.

Confirmation will take place on March 29 when Bishop Bauerschmidt visits our parish.



Exploring Anglicanism

Exploring Anglicanism is an adult Sunday School class for people who want to delve deeper into our Anglican heritage.

Starting January 10 at 9:00am in Room 107, Exploring Anglicanism will spend six weeks exploring the Holy Eucharist, from its biblical roots to its contemporary expression in our Book of Common Prayer.

If you're looking to get more out of Sunday worship and are curious about the gems hiding in the attic of our Anglican heritage, please join us for this life-changing exploration!



Footprints into a New Year



RUMINATIONS

by *Marjie Smith*

msscribbler@comcast.net

cross, he was no longer Mary's son from Nazareth; He was the battered Son of God. They took away his homespun clothes and left him with

erased all of history and you have only this moment to rewrite it. Do you walk gently or do you leap into it? I think, sometimes, I have often leapt into the wrong things, leaving a few knee-deep holes that led nowhere, and stepped too gently where God wanted

During one of the rare days when Nashville keeps its snow, I took

pictures of it to let those know, who live at higher latitudes, that the fruits of winter visit us as well. My attempts at empathy don't go over that well, given that they are applying shovels and snowblowers to their dustings.

Short of taking a flying leap, there's not much of a way to take a photo of your house without your footsteps walking right up to you. And there's something intimate about meeting a lone set of footsteps – yours or someone else's – on a piece of planet. There's something about them that says, "At this moment in time, there are just you and God out here."

Wherever people have gone for the first time, I'm sure they must have turned around to look at the imprints of their feet.

People leave flags, because they are making long-term claims. Planted flags say,

"This is where I'm from." Planted feet say, "This is who I am." So often, where we're from takes precedent over who we are. Yet, there are places that only we can go. Maybe an entourage went with Jesus to Gethsemane, but the pathway out was for him alone. On the

homespun clothes and left him with



only his nail-pierced hands.

Sometimes, we've got to let go of the flag and just leave behind the footprints.

Stepping across the threshold of a new year is like walking into fresh sand.

The waves, like the calendar, have

a good heel print. Not many of us are sure-footed; few of us follow directions well; and, for the most part, when we think we've got our footing, we bound off like rabbits on amphetamines. It is no wonder that our crossed paths leave marks like a busy day at the beach.

But always, there is another day. There will be retakes of our footsteps alone, glistening in the tide-wet sand or melting snow.

Seven years ago, on New Year's Eve, my husband and I drove to America. It was a long drive through a

blustering snow storm for most of the way. I would glance in my rearview and see slushy tracks behind.

But I could not look for long because cars would loom out of nowhere and I had an assault vehicle, given the weight behind me in my vibrant yellow Dodge Dakota Sport. The box was loaded down with my husband's books. In the car

His Collarship had all the

things we needed to camp out in our new home in Beaver, Pennsylvania, until the moving company arrived several days later.

The tracks I left that day did not mean a lot symbolically.

Continued on next page



JESU Ministry now entering its fifth year



FLY ON THE WALL

by Kristin Searfoss

Have you heard that St. Bartholomew's is known as the church that gives out underwear?

It's true. Through the JESU Ministry at Room In The Inn (RITI) on Saturday nights, St. Bartholomew's gives the homeless guests who spend the night new underwear, socks and jeans. I first wrote about this program a few months after it began, and I wanted to find out how it was doing.

Entering its fifth year in January 2009, the JESU Clothing Ministry has a specific focus, which strikes me as a wise thing for ministries to have. JESU stands for JEans, Socks and Underwear. The ministry's goal is to provide a limited selection of useful clothing to RITI guests at St. B's. "Limited" means only a few types of items; "useful" means clothing that is most needed by RITI guests, given the realities of their current lifestyles and the types of jobs they might find, such as construction or day labor.

In January 2005, St. B's members started donating, collecting and then distributing new socks, underwear and

new or gently used jeans. On Saturday nights, the homeless guests who stay overnight during Nashville's colder months get a home-cooked meal, a chance to get laundry done, and a safe and comfortable place to sleep. Now, they also have the opportunity to get some new socks, underwear and jeans.

I guess because North Americans like statistics, I asked JESU Ministry cofounder Nancy Lea Hyer if she could give me some numbers, for me to have an idea of the effect RITI and the JESU Ministry have. Nancy told me in December, "We have served 12 guests, four Saturday nights a month, for five months a year, so that makes 240 guests a year, and this is JESU Ministry's fourth year, so that makes close to 1,000 guests. That's 1,000 pairs of socks, 1,000 undershirts, 1,000 pairs of underwear and probably 250 pairs of jeans (we often do not have enough jeans to give each guest a pair)."

JESU Ministry cofounders Nancy, Nancy's husband, Jim Russell, and their daughter Julianne, 17, are all very pleased that the ministry continues. Nancy says they are also delighted that a number of St B's parishioners have helped with distribution on Saturday nights and that even more have

donated clothing.

The ministry accepts donations of new men's and women's socks, undershirts and underwear, and new or lightly used, clean jeans. A donation basket sits outside the church office. In addition, people can sign up to help with clothing distribution on the Room In The Inn sign-up sheet that is posted on the bulletin board over the indoor coffee bar. Jim, Julianne and Nancy organize the donations by item and size into labeled bins and provide easy-to-follow instructions for those who help distribute the clothing.

While other churches do offer used clothing to the homeless as part of Room In The Inn, Nancy says she is not aware of a ministry that provides new socks and underwear to homeless guests. Because these items wear out, providing new ones to the homeless guests is greatly appreciated. The homeless remember that St B's is the "church that gives out the underwear."

Even though particular members of St. Bartholomew's thought up the JESU Ministry, "We really feel that the idea for this came from God," Nancy says.



Ruminations (continued from page 14)

It was after I had arrived, unpacked and faced the cold of January, the silence of the phone and the nakedness of the calendar that I realized no one in this town, not a soul in this country was going to know or care if I expired at this very moment. I was 49 years old and newly born at the same time.

I had ahead of me a long stretch of endless beach, wiped clean by the tides of change.

I would like to say that I walked out and made magnificent marks in the sand. I did not. I expect I've never left such feeble steps as I've left this side of 50. But I did find something out in

that space of time when I was completely alone: my value, the weight of my steps, is not dependent on anything I have or ever will achieve. That is over in a minute. What gives our footsteps weight and purpose is who walks beside us.



Iditarod Dog Sled Racer is Featured Speaker at January 24 Men's Breakfast

by Whit Smyth

The men of St. B's are in for a treat on Saturday, January 24, when Rodney Whaley, accompanied by several of his racing dogs, will discuss his experiences competing in Alaska's famed Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Considered the toughest race in the world, the treacherous 1,150-mile course connects Anchorage and Nome, Alaska. It is run over the Iditarod Trail, which had its beginnings as a mail and supply route. In 1925, part of the Trail became a life saving highway for the city of Nome, which was stricken by a Diphtheria epidemic. Battling sub-freezing temperatures and rugged terrain, intrepid dog mushers and their faithful hard-driving dogs delivered vital serum to Nome residents. It was against this backdrop of endurance and courage that the Iditarod Race was founded.

Last March, Rodney fulfilled a lifelong dream when he trained, qualified and competed in the 36th running of the Iditarod, the only Tennessean to have ever entered and run this historic event.

St. B's is getting the Franklin resident in the nick of time. For the past 18 years he has served on active duty in the Army National Guard and will deploy on January 31 for

overseas duty in the Middle East. A week before departing, he'll get to share his faith and dog mushing experiences with the men of St. B's, courtesy of the Men's Ministry headed by Sean Root. Coffee begins at 8:00 am followed by breakfast from cook Malcolm White with music by David Madeira.

Army Band. His dream and ambition has been to run the Iditarod. Before achieving that goal, his dog sledding adventures had taken him in recent years to Northern Michigan, Washington State, British Columbia and Alaska.

Married for 36 years, Rodney and his



Rodney mushing

The uncle of St. B's parishioner Laurie Roe, Rodney grew up in Alaska, the son of Baptist missionary parents. As a child he enjoyed mushing sled dogs, and competing in junior races. He came to Nashville to attend college and study music. It was during college that he met his wife, Vicki, who was also a music student.

Rodney taught music on the college level for 11 years, while also serving in the Army National Guard's 129th

wife are members of ClearView Baptist Church where they sing in the choir, and he teaches a 5th grade Sunday school class. He is also a TSSAA certified football official and has been officiating high school games for 26 years.

If you plan on attending the January 24 Men's Breakfast, please let Sean Root know as soon as possible at stbsmens@aol.com.



A Big Thank You and Happy New Year

Jerry and Marjie Smith would like to thank everyone who contributed to their open house. Many thanks for the baking contributions and for the hands that helped serve it and clean up afterwards. To all, we wish a fruitful new year and an opportunity to grow in community.



Above: A few photos from the open house

Left: The Smith Family
(photo by Katherine Bomboy)



December Vestry Highlights

Financial & Previous Business Updates

Each issue of the Branch will briefly summarize key points from the previous month's vestry meeting. Here are highlights from the December 8 meeting.



Financial Report:

- ❖ Update: We need approximately \$215,000 in contributions between now and the end of the year to meet our income budget for 2008.
- ❖ Nehemiah Fund: Through November of its first year, the Nehemiah Fund has raised \$373,000 in donations and pledges against its two-year goal of \$633,000.

Old Business:

- ❖ Diocesan Convention
Delegates: By random drawing, the vestry selected one delegate (Ann Denson) and three alternate delegates (Langley Granbery, David Schober and Whitney Stone) for the Diocesan Convention in January. As a delegate, Ann joins existing delegates, Matt Hardy, Scott Kammerer and Jane Stranch. The three alternates join existing alternate, Marshall Weems.
- ❖ Diocesan Convention Resolution: Fr. Randy handed out a resolution to be presented to the Convention recognizing Nashville's Campus for Human Development and its Founder, Charles F. Strobel, for their ongoing work with the homeless. The vestry approved a motion that St. B's be



VESTRY SUMMARY

by Whit Smyth

Vestry Clerk

among the sponsors of this resolution at the Convention.

- ❖ 2009 Budget: The vestry approved a 2009 budget of \$1,401,186, an increase of 6.48% over the 2008 budget.

- ❖ Hiring of Staff and Vestry Eligibility: The vestry approved a policy statement relating to conflicts of interest pertaining to the hiring of staff and the eligibility of parishioners to stand for election to the vestry

The complete minutes from December will be posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall when they are approved.

COFFEE. HELP WANTED

Yes, it's true. In spite of the shutdown of many Starbucks stores across the country, we are aggressively recruiting baristas. Plus, here there is the additional component of ministry, a compelling bonus. Openings are available throughout this operation. A three to four week vacation is awarded for serving only one Sunday per month.

The following are the opportunities currently available. Training is included.

Opening the store. Five positions available. Time commitment is 7:50 to 8:30am. Prepare five carafes of coffee and set up the serving area.

Rush time. Five positions available. From the beginning of communion at the 8:30 service until 10:40. This involves filling all available carafes in preparation for service dismissal and maintaining coffee availability during this time.

Closing the store. Three positions available. This job begins after the 10:30 service. Begin cleaning all containers. This job takes about 25 minutes.

Contact Tim Villager right away at 351-1011 or villager@realtor.com.



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 our ever-increasing glory."



JANUARY

Anniversaries

Ted & Georgeanna Goldthorpe	1/1
Dixon & Kristin Kinser	1/2
Charlie & Sonja Lowell	1/3
Tom & Dana Sherrard	1/8
Grant & Beth Lehman	1/8
Jon & April Ingram	1/9
Greg & Marilyn Droman	1/18
Dave & Nancy West	1/20

Birthdays

Wuoi Pach	1/1
Deng Mourter	1/1
Julia Lawson	1/1
Melissa Trevathan	1/1
Nancy Cason	1/2
Lyon Tyler	1/3
Dixon Kinser	1/4
Olivia Rae Poindexter	1/5
Deborah Whiteside	1/5
Josh Taylor	1/6
Betsey Armstrong	1/7
Katherine Bomboy	1/9
Darcy North	1/10
Mary Stone	1/11
Jessica Kenyon	1/13
Rejane Scales	1/13
Aleksandra Stone	1/13
Kendra Allen	1/15
John Christopher Thornton	1/16
Meg Halford	1/16
Derek Brown	1/16
Jule West	1/16
Thomas Hall	1/17
Sherry Paige	1/17
Charlie Christopher	1/17
Robby Pullen	1/18

Zena Carruthers	1/18
Barbara Bartoe	1/18
Nick Ingham	1/18
Davis Simpson	1/19
Aja Baldwin	1/19
Elizabeth Williams	1/19
Harrison Taylor	1/20
David Logan	1/20
Joshua Daniel	1/20
Ava Lee Poindexter	1/22
Scott Kammerer	1/24
Wilder Allen	1/25
Josh Hayden	1/25
Bill Arthur	1/26
Elinor Madeira	1/26
Bryan Rodgers	1/27
Nathaniel Tylor	1/28
Brian Langlinais	1/28
Matt Smith	1/29
Jonathan Miller	1/30
Anna Dinwiddie	1/31

Baptisms

December 21, 2008

Jonathan Carter Roe
Parents, Jeremy & Laurie Roe

January 1, 2009

Isabella Natalia Cruz
Parents, Beth & Manuel Cruz

January 4, 2009

Jackson Aurelio Moreno
Parents, Anne Pitt & Jonathan Castillo

Anne Elizabeth Pitt
Parents, Gail & John Pitt

Open letter to the St. B's family

My dearest family in Christ,

Words are inadequate to express my thankfulness for your unconditional love and support during the past two years and Kate's 22 month battle with ovarian cancer. Many of you followed her struggle through the prayer chain. Your cards and kind comments regarding my attempts to express our experiences are humbling.

My purpose in writing to you is three fold: to pay small tribute to a woman who was an enigma to us all; to describe and to thank God for the privilege of such a relationship; and to make affirmation of my faith and trust in His ways and promises.

Kate loved Jesus. She was a shy, retiring individual who shunned public recognition of any kind. She was kind, thoughtful, a fierce defender of the downtrodden, an insightful mentor who boldly spoke words of encouragement or correction as she believed necessary. She was given to secret, extraordinarily extravagant acts of giving, which are just now coming to light. In the 28 years of our friendship, I never knew her to betray a single confidence.

At the core of my being, like the eye of a hurricane, is Jesus' calm presence and His unaccountable steadfast love for me. Just outside that eye is a storm of monumental, indescribable pain. Time will dissipate the storm, and I pray that the eye of the storm will not remain as it is but will expand to fill the void left as the storm passes. God's purpose in this circumstance is hidden, but I trust Him (Job 19:23-27).

Finally, dear ones, please know that you did not suffer defeat when Kate's earthly life ended. Your prayers upheld both her spirit and mine and enabled us to endure great tribulation.

God be gracious to you and bless you richly for all your kindness and prayers.

Your loving sister in Christ,

Vicky Walker



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Annual Meeting & Family Dinner

Sunday, February 8th, 5:00 p.m.

This annual event is not to be missed. Make sure to mark your calendars now for Sunday, Feb 8, 5:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting and Family Dinner is a fun, informative, family celebration of what the Lord has done for and through the St. B's family during the past year, as well as discussion about the year ahead. A potluck dinner is prepared by the St. B's family and served buffet style.

Childcare is provided during the meeting time after families enjoy dinner together. Be on the lookout for more exciting details and sign-ups. For now, be sure to mark your calendars for this important family event.



Photos from the Chili Cook-off: [More Inside](#)

