

THE BRANCH

The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church



October 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).



Photos by Marjie Smith & Jon Zadick

STREET FAIR & FESTIVAL ADDED TO ANNUAL PIG ROAST EVENT

The afternoon of October 4th, St. B's held its Annual Pig Roast. This year, the event was given an overhaul, with a Street Fair and several other events added to the festivities. The wet weather didn't stop the St. B's family from coming out for barbecue, live music, games and street

fair booths with a variety of goods for sale. As in years past, all money raised benefitted Youth Ministry. Many thanks to all those who helped make this event a success, but particularly to Robert and Kirk Smith and their committee for organizing the festival.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Nashville, TN 37215
Phone: 615.377.4750
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Staff

Clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith, Rector
The Rev. Dixon Kinser, Assistant Rector for
Youth & Young Adult Formation
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
Suzanne Zadick, 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 Jon Zadick

Articles and photos for the Advent Branch
must be submitted no later than

November 20.

Articles can be sent to:
editor@stbs.net



Authentic Love Celebrates Truth

“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.” (1 Cor 13:4-7)

Things aren't always what they seem!

Someone recently sent me a series of videos, advertisements really, each with the intention of showing how quickly we jump to conclusions based on what we think we see. Without knowing the rest of the story, we are often wrong.

Jesus knew this truth all too well. His 'less than completely objective observers' were mustering up their conclusions about him based upon a very small window of observation. Consequently, they missed the very Lord of Life when he was in their midst.

This same Jesus was quite pointed when he said openly, “Stop judging by appearances and make a right judgment” (John 7:24).

What he was really saying was “Don't jump to conclusions without knowing all of the facts.”

Thankfully scripture assures us that “... God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God...” (2 Thess 1:5)

It is comforting to know that God knows all there is to know about us and still, through the completed work of His Son, pronounces us “not guilty.” This is particularly encouraging because we live in a culture, and sadly even a church, that does not know us as well as God does, and still is prone to jump to conclusions. We seem to be masters at connecting dots that don't exist or even manufacturing them to justify our crude assessment of situations and people.

Followers of Jesus are called to a higher plane.

In St Paul's admonition to the church in Corinth to be becoming a community known for its authentic and manifested love for one another, he says that genuine love

“... is patient, ...is kind. It does not

For our purposes, note that authentic love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. This means that a community growing into the image and likeness of Jesus, who is God's Love incarnate, will be a community anxious to emulate this same desire to only know and celebrate truth.

envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” (1 Cor 13:4-7)

For our purposes, note that authentic love does not delight in evil but

KINGDOM TALK

by Fr. Jerry Smith

Rector



rejoices in the truth. This means that a community growing into the image and likeness of Jesus, who is God's Love incarnate, will be a community anxious to emulate this same desire to only know and celebrate truth.

Similarly the love Jesus pours into our hearts (Romans 5:5) is a love that protects one another, hopes the best for each other and perseveres to the end, as Jesus' love for us does.

What great fun we can have as we allow God to transform us into a body of objective lovers from our sin-scarred propensity to be subjective judges!

I invite you to join me on this rigorous journey of following Jesus, who challenges us to set aside all of the old standards by which we have lived our lives, by becoming men and women committed to a higher one. By the grace of His Holy Spirit we will be made more into the image of the one who has loved us and called us to be His very own.

Together on the journey,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry".

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



Pig Roast, BBQ &

Fall Festival



Photos by Marjie Smith & Jon Zadick





Prayers and Practices for “Ordinary Time”



A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Assistant Rector for Youth & Young Adult Formation

The Episcopal Church I grew up in would post each Sunday's hymn numbers, lessons and week of the church year on a large wooden board that was affixed to a column in the nave. During most of the church year the seasons would move along at a fast clip: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost.

However, after Pentecost the fun stopped. The large wooden sign seemed to lock up, showing only an escalating number of “weeks after Pentecost” every Sunday. This count went on and on until Advent finally broke it and the whole thing began again.

Later in life I learned that this seemingly endless season of the church year was known as Ordinary time. Ordinary time is indeed the longest season of the church year. It begins just after Pentecost and concludes on the first Sunday of Advent. Its liturgical color is green to mark both its emphasis on Christian formation and the agrarian times it came out of when many Christians would be working in the fields during this season.

I have always found the name “Ordinary time” to be both helpful and misleading. It can be misleading if we assume that these long months of the Christian year don't really matter as much as others because they are ordinary. This must mean the season is somehow less important than the

What I like about the name “Ordinary time” is the way it reminds us that life with God is meant to be lived out in ordinary places and ordinary ways.... We must be the people who look to join God everywhere all the time.

festival cycle that precedes it, and it is therefore a type of “summer vacation” from our Christianity. If this is the notion Ordinary time evokes in you, please discard it because nothing could be farther from the truth.

What I like about the name “Ordinary time” is the way it reminds us that life with God is meant to be lived out in ordinary places and ordinary ways.

Jesus' life and ministry constantly confused and baffled his contemporaries because his kingdom proclamation took place in the least important and most common locales. The center of God's activity was supposed to be Jerusalem and the temple, and yet, here is Jesus proclaiming God's in-breaking in places like Galilee. This was indeed a

shock to the sensibilities of Jesus' Jewish audience.

Ordinary time embraces such consternation by challenging Christians to look for God in the everyday and ordinary of their world. Ordinary time is the season when we train ourselves to make sacramental connections to all of life. Because there is no place God is not, we must be the people who look to join God everywhere all the time. This is both the challenge and good news of Ordinary time.

Spiritual Practices for the Ordinary

During the next 5 or 6 weeks before Advent, consider adopting some practices that will help you see the kingdom in common places.

Take a prayer, such as “Creator show me where your kingdom is already on display in this place and among these people” to the grocery store or your child's school. See what God shows you.

Or better yet, take a trip to a part of town or locale where you feel uncomfortable and pray, “Creator help me to think your thoughts and feel your feelings for this place and these people.” A prayer like this can also be particularly challenging in places like shopping malls and movie theaters. Pray this prayer and see what God reveals.

Consider taking these risks through ordinary time and let me know what you discover. May the gospel take root in our lives and inspire us all to make God's dream of justice, beauty and peace come true in the most ordinary ways.



My Journey to Ecuador

Lessons in Compassion and Love

by Denise Kemp

My journey started with Compassion Sunday here at St. B's two and a half years ago. As my friend Amy was telling me how Compassion works, I was looking at the photos of the children and my eyes noticed a spunky little 7-year-old girl with her hands on her hips and a serious look on her face. My relationship with Estefany began that day as I picked her to sponsor. We have shared many letters, photos, details of our lives, and a lot of love.

About a year ago in a Compassion magazine I found out they were leading a sponsor tour to Ecuador. I prayed about it and felt that if it was God's will for me to go that nothing would stop me from going. Believe me, there were times leading up to making my last payment that the deceiver tried to put stumbling blocks or doubt in my mind. I am thankful I trusted in the Lord and went on this trip. In fact, I was nervous about flying over the ocean from Miami to Quito, but as I am writing this, I am looking at my journal and reading how God gave me peace throughout both flights.

I was there for ten days in mid-September. We flew into the capital city of Quito and spent the first half of the trip there. Quito is such a beautiful part of Ecuador. The first full day, we went to share in worship with a local partnering church. The children there had prepared songs and dances for us. There were many children who had come on their own. One little girl captured my heart. I sat next to her

throughout the service. We sang, we danced, we praised the Lord together. The service was in Spanish so I was thankful for the little preparation I did in learning Spanish before I left.

Monday and Tuesday we visited different child sponsorship projects. Everywhere we went the children were so joyful and happy to see us. They



would come up and love on us as if they had known us for a long time. I will never forget many of those faces just holding my arm or hugging me with a smile. These children were the face of love.

Wednesday was the first day for sponsors to meet their children and have what was called a "fun day." Others (myself included) were invited to go along for the ride and help out. Our Compassion tour leaders organized everything perfectly. It was fantastic. I will never forget the moment when the children

(accompanied by a guardian and translator) walked up to where all the sponsors were standing. Children were running with arms wide open to greet their sponsor. What a beautiful moment.

My "fun day" with Estefany was on Friday in Guayaquil. We had flown there Thursday morning. There was a significant change in climate, from an elevation of 9,000 feet and average daytime temperature of 70 degrees in Quito, back down to sea level and an average daytime temperature of 90 degrees in Guayaquil.

They brought all the children (about 30) to the hotel where we were staying. The children had to wait outside before we all left and caravanned to the park. All the sponsors were inside the hotel and were asked not to look or go outside because they didn't want us to see our kids until

we got to the park. Well, when we realized that the only thing that was separating us from the children was a sheer curtain, the idea of having to

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Behind the Scenes for Sunday Morning Worship

Getting to know those who help make our services possible

When you come to church on Sundays for Holy Eucharist, has it ever crossed your

mind that over 200 people volunteer behind the scenes to help support our worship services? We are very blessed at St. Bartholomew's to have many people who serve in various ways and bring the light of Christ to us through worship.

Some of our volunteers are visible. You see the Greeters and Ushers when you first enter the Narthex. And as the service starts, you see the processional led by the Acolytes and then Chalice Bearers. During worship, the Lectors read the Scriptures, and the Prayer

Ministers pray for anyone who comes forward to the kneeling benches.

Join in on Sundays

Ushers (8:30): 4 needed, contact Tim Villager, tim@timvillager.com

Ushers (10:30): 4 needed, contact Tom Hutchinson, thutchinson16@yahoo.com

* We particularly encourage couple groups to volunteer such as wife and husband, or father and son.

Acolytes (8:30 & 10:30: 4 needed for each service, contact Robert Rhea, robrhea@aol.com

Flower Guild: 1 substitute needed, contact Thorunn McCoy, 889-3029

Altar Guild: 4 substitutes needed, contact Zena Carruthers, zena.carruthers@rhmr.com

However, there are many faithful volunteers that we do not see through the course of the service. You hear the beautiful music offered by the Parish Choir and the Loft musicians, and the special music presented by the Chamber Singers. You see the decorative flower arrangements from the Flower Guild that adorn the front of the nave. The Altar Guild is not visible, but they are always serving unseen by

preparing the altar for Holy Communion, monitoring all of the holy hardware in the Sacristy,



by Vanessa Hardy
Vestry Liaison for Worship

keeping the candlesticks filled with oil, and coordinating all the color changes you see through the church year.

Continued on next page

KAY AND TONY MORREALE GREETERS AND USHER

"We have been Greeters for a few months, and Tony has Ushered for about



a year. Both roles have reaffirmed that St. B's is a warm and welcoming family, continuing to reach out to others. What we enjoy most about serving during Sunday morning services is meeting and greeting parishioners and visitors and assisting them if they have questions or needs. Tony says, "Being new to the St. B's family, we are constantly becoming acquainted with new people ourselves. Ushers and Greeters often may be the first personal contact with a newcomer and become an ambassador or disciple for St. B's." Kay adds, "I have enjoyed being a Greeter because it gives me a real sense that this sanctuary is my home, and I am welcoming family and guests. I am also making a small difference because I am contributing to the running of our church home."

JANE METCALF ACOLYTE

I have been an acolyte about a year.

I learned how to tie the belt acolytes wear. One funny thing that happened was my belt fell off at the Christmas Eve service.

My favorite things about Sunday services are hearing the sermon and the songs.



Jane (second from right)



Worship (continued from page 8)

I am very grateful to all of you who volunteer and minister to us each Sunday morning. And I am hoping that we can fill all the open positions for volunteers. Even if you are new to St. B's, volunteering for one of the Sunday morning positions is a wonderful way to serve the church and get to know other people. There is something for everyone, so don't let shyness keep you away!

LOUIS METCALF ACOLYTE

I have been an Acolyte about 3 years, and I have learned that you have to stay alert. What I enjoy most about being an acolyte is sometimes getting mentioned in Father Jerry's sermons!



SHARON SMITH CHALICE BEARER

I have been a Chalice Bearer for a couple of years, and also have been an acolyte.

My expectation had been that there might be an ever-present feeling of self-consciousness during the worship service, being positioned as we are up on the platform, in everybody's view, throughout the service. What's everybody thinking? About me? But that concern, from the very first Sunday, was a non-issue, as when people are worshipping God, their attention is focused on our Lord.



As a Chalice Bearer, I love having the opportunity to share in celebrating the sacrament of the Eucharist, to serve the Cup of Salvation to those who have come forward to the altar to receive. I am very intentionally focused on each person to whom I offer the Cup, and feel for each person that it is a holy, sacred moment. The space of time during which we celebrate the Eucharist seems to me to be timeless. I have experienced some significant difficulties in recent years, and had wondered if it would be appropriate for me to continue serving in this capacity. As I have continued doing so, I have found it humbling and a great honor. I have such love for this body of believers at St. B's. As I serve my fellow believers at the altar one at a time, I have opportunity to reflect on our separate journeys of faith—mindful that some are in their own places of difficulty. And I am grateful knowing that God gives us to each other, that we share, not only at the altar, but in our day-to-day lives.

Journey to Ecuador (continued from page 7)

wait to see our kids was thrown by the wayside. I'll admit; I was one that couldn't wait!

I noticed a tall young man standing in the back with a piece of paper with my name on it. I recall thinking that this must be my translator, so I knew Estefany had to be close by. I held up a picture of her, hoping that either my translator or Estefany would see it. About 5 minutes later, pushing her way through the groups of children was my sweet Estefany. I was finally able to see her face to face. The best part was

when we arrived at the park and she walked up to me and we got to hold each other for the first time. I will never forget that moment of getting to hold her, see her precious little face in person and touch her cheeks. It was such a sweet moment. We spent the day together talking, painting each other's finger nails and swimming. In fact, Estefany had never been swimming before. We had a great day together.

While in Ecuador we got to visit the country office and meet the Director

for Compassion in Ecuador. He explained so much about how they run the company, from the process of where our letters go when we write to our children to how funding works and how our sponsorship money gets to our children's projects.

We visited some homes in Quito and Guayaquil. The family we visited in Quito was a husband, wife and three kids. The wife stays at home and the husband works as a day laborer making the U.S. equivalent of \$65.00 a month.

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4th Annual Missions Night

Our 4th Annual Missions Night was a great success. Many thanks to John and Natasha Deane for hosting the event at their home. Those in attendance enjoyed an evening of great wine, hors d'oeuvres and the presentation of a documentary by Nicole Deane, produced during their summer trip to Africa to visit the Chapman family. The fundraising total for the evening was \$5,256.58, all benefitting Long Term Mission & Outreach.



Photos by Katherine Bomboy



A Visit to the Powells in Germany



RUMINATIONS

by *Marjie Smith*

msscibbler@comcast.net

The German town of Kandern sits in a little bowl with scenic hills spilling up around it.

From the balcony of Mark and Susan Powell's rented home, you can look down on the charming and tidy village. The shops are so picturesque they look like someone's decorative Christmas village. It is a tourist's dream – a place made for the camera.

And because of the setting, some folks wonder, "How can this be mission work to serve in Europe?"

Let's get that question out there right at the beginning: it is an undercurrent, usually unstated, with which the Powells regularly contend, right along with all the other challenges our outreach families face: language issues, cultural differences, tight budgets, loneliness and a host of other sacrificial realities.

When we commission people for full-time ministry, we collectively want value for our dollar. There is a traditional, hidden expectation that missionaries, local and abroad, sacrifice (read "suffer") on our behalf. And we pay them to do that. In return, there is an expectation that they will bring back stories about their grueling life, right along with the primitive art and photos of the indigenous people.

A bottle of German Riesling and photos of German cyclists don't cut it. Not that either is at the top of their daily to-do lists.

As Jerry and I visited the Powells for a few days on the tail end of our visit to see the Chapmans in Liberia, what we

discovered were the similarities between the two families. Here were



two countries at opposite ends of the cultural scale and here were two families experiencing the same realities.

The top challenges for both are culture and language, which are pretty much inseparable. While English is spoken in Liberia, it is a pidgen English, difficult to understand. Most Liberians speak a tribal

tongue. The Powells are definitely immersed in learning German. While they may encounter English speakers, they cannot survive in the country without speaking German.

Having been in Germany for a year, the Powells all speak some German, but that doesn't mean they can sit down and have deep conversations with neighbors. And, of course, neighbors have to want deep conversations. In small towns where people have lived their whole lives, that doesn't always happen. Rather, one neighbor asked the Powells to keep their sons quiet during the period of the day when he likes to nap.

Though not yet fluent, Susan seems comfortable speaking German, perhaps because she is the one often inquiring about the family's essential activities in the community. The three children, Meredith, Evan and Ethan, have felt deeply the loss of friends. Meredith was able to return to Nashville for a month this summer and go on a mission with the St. B's youth group. Evan finds it awkward to walk down the street without feeling the neighbors are watching the foreign kid. As a result, he spends a lot of time working on his

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Visiting the Powells (continued from page 11)

guitar and has become quite accomplished. However, guitars don't replace people.

Because friendship and language skills evolve together, it was heartwarming and amusing when Susan wrote on the Powell blog this summer, "Another highlight for us this summer has been getting to know a German family. (Ethan's new friend is Pascal). Pascal's dad is Ethan's soccer coach. Klaus, Ilona and Pascal have come to our house for visits and we to theirs. It has been such a joy to become friends.

"Klaus and Ilona want to improve their English and Mark and I our German, so we help each other out and share laughs in the process. Just the other night I told them that our nightstand was still in the oven (the German word for dessert is nachtisch and the word for night stand is nachttisch)! Only one letter difference in the word but what a difference it made in the meaning of the sentence!"

Jerry and I were blessed by our experience with the Powells, visiting their home and touring Black Forest Academy where they both serve the children of missionaries throughout the school year. We also squeezed in visits to nearby communities and took



a short trip across the border into Switzerland. Through it all, we saw first-hand the struggles – even small ones add up – entailed in making cultural adjustments. Susan wrote the following on her blog about what it is like to deal with an injured child in a foreign country:

"Probably one of the biggest events of our summer was our first ever broken bone among the Powell children. Ethan was playing goalie in a soccer game and blocked a pretty hard shot that snapped his arm just below his wrist. It was quite an experience going through all of it in a foreign language.

"We ended up being taken to the hospital via ambulance. Go figure. We tried to assure the EMTs that we could drive him, but they insisted that it would be better for

Ethan to go in the ambulance. We still haven't gotten the bill on this one. All in all, he was a real trooper and we learned a little more about the German way of doing things."

The academy where they serve is a Christian

boarding school that ministers primarily but not exclusively to children of missionaries around the globe. Over 50 nations are currently represented by the approximately 350 students at the school. Mark serves as a counselor and Susan as librarian. As she led us on a tour of the library, Susan talked about the issues that one encounters at a school dedicated to providing students with a Christian

worldview: book content, for example. Opinions differ about what students should or should not read. It is no



mistake that Susan, who is personable and a good listener, is in a position to be able to help discern the way through such polarities. Equally, Mark is an excellent choice as a counselor, not just because of his background in mental health, but because he grew up as the son of missionaries. He knows what it is like to be from a country, but not live in it, to have parents minister

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ECW Annual Fall Luncheon Is Lovely and Delicious

by Sue Pichert

Over 40 women gathered in the Parish Hall on Saturday morning, October 10 for the Annual ECW Luncheon. Mavis Harrop beautifully decorated the parish hall in a fall theme. Our outgoing president, Jane Stranch, reviewed the wide variety of activities that the ECW has sponsored over the past year.

The St. B's ECW received positive feedback from the Diocesan ECW for hosting their annual meeting at St. B's last month. We agreed to return the funds leftover from that event to the Diocesan ECW.

Nancy Coleman-Valentine kicked off the annual Christmas Greens Sale, our only fundraiser, by passing out brochures. This is Nancy's third year to chair the event and she will be assisted by Laura Headley, Corinne Wilder, Michelle Olson and Suzie Woolwine. Be sure to pick up a brochure and order form in the Narthex and return your order by October 26.

Wendy Baldwin shared that Kristin Chapman has been working closely with a local orphanage in Liberia. Marjie Smith also reported briefly on her visit to the orphanage while visiting the Chapmans. The ECW voted to make a one time donation of \$200 to the orphanage.



This was just the second ECW event I've attended in many years - why did I wait so long! It was a wonderful occasion - allowing for plenty of time for fellowship, wonderful musical praise and an incredible lunch. I was particularly touched by Katrina Wilson's inspiring story. Thanks to all who contributed in making this such a meaningful event."

- Diane Sheffield

December 11 from 2-4. Contact Michelle Olson for more details or to volunteer.

Julia Miller spoke briefly about "Mom's In Touch," a group that prays for kids and their schools. There is a local event planned for Saturday, November 14 from 9:00-1:00 pm at Brentwood Baptist church. Contact Julia if you are interested in joining or starting a group at your child's school.

The new officers of the ECW for the upcoming year are:

Bev Mahan: President

Ellen Latimer: Vice-President

Corinne Wilder: Treasurer

Tara Moore: Event Coordinator

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Michelle Olson is organizing a Christmas party again this year at the NHC nursing home in Cool Springs. Women who attend the annual Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 7 at the Mahan's home are encouraged to bring small gifts such as hand lotions, hotel toiletries, "footies," small gift bags, etc to donate to the 50-60 residents who attend. The party will be on Friday,

Many thanks to the ECW for organizing an encouraging morning. I really feel blessed to be in such a supportive, Christ-focused community. I really enjoyed the morning, and so did my mother-in-law.

- Vanessa Hardy

Photos by Whitney Stone



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

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ECW Fall Luncheon (continued from page 13)

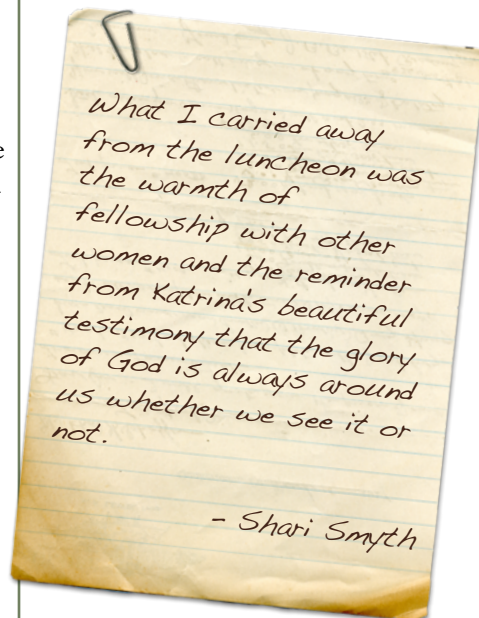


Sue Pichert: Communications

Bev Mahan began her tenure by thanking Jane Stranch for her service as president over the past two years and Whitney Stone for her service as

treasurer. Anadara Arnold led us in worship through singing and prayer. We were then blessed by Katrina Wilson, who spoke of her upbringing in Latvia during WWII and how God very dramatically revealed Himself to her and has been a constant, comforting presence in her life ever since.

Finally, we thoroughly enjoyed an excellent catered lunch, arranged by Tara Moore. As usual, any questions or suggestions regarding the ECW should be directed to stbsecw@yahoo.com.



Visiting the Powells (continued from page 12)

to others while you are going to school elsewhere.

Once the school year is under way, the Powells are busy, not only in their regular jobs, but serving as small group leaders, as well as volunteering at the dorms and helping with extracurricular activities.



Please pray for them as they enter their second year, that they may grow in their experience as well as help nurture others. As Susan wrote:

"We are very thankful to have one year under our belts and are feeling a little more settled in our home away from home. It's not easy being called to live and serve so far from home, but we are learning to accept the good and the bad and allow the Lord to teach us through it all. Recently, Mark spoke to the new staff about burnout and how to care for yourself. He did a great job!

"I was asked to speak briefly about how my transition this last year has been. I've learned a lot about myself and God is continually teaching me. I continue to be humbled by him and how He sees something in me worth refining."

Please continue to pray for the Powells and to follow them at their blog: <http://fivepowells.blogspot.com/>

Note: The photo that ran with last month's column of a couple playing Scrabble by lamplight was not of my mom and dad, as some of you have thought. It was of my older brother, David, and his wife, Sandy. I have included a picture of my mom, below.



How Much is Too Much?



REFLECTION

by Jon Zadic

Depending on which dictionary you prefer, the primary definition of the word “poverty” is described as a “state of having little or no money, goods, etc.” By most accounts you are poor if you don’t have much stuff. (Note: I recommend the Veggie Tales episode featuring “Madame Blueberry”).

Now name the opposite of “poverty.” Recently, a friend challenged me in the same way. I thought very carefully before answering because I knew it was a trap! But, after much consideration, I reluctantly answered “wealth.” It was too obvious. I knew my dear friend was about to zap me.

About a month ago I was quite moved by that day’s reflection offered in the St. B’s Daily (email devotional). The writer described how we so often and easily allow ourselves to be “distracted” from living for God by all the many common, everyday trappings of life; how “stuff” and our own self interests and activities can brutally stunt our spiritual growth. It was dead-on accurate commentary. God has much work for us to do. He desires that we fully engage in the world and life that He has given us.

What I want to propose is that I think this business of being distracted from truly serving the Lord is such a common “symptom” of who and/or what we have become as a culture. So many seemingly harmless activities, causes & “stuff” are barring our spiritual growth and preventing us from doing ministry. And many of our

daily pursuits can, indeed, become our “gods” and idols. You and I could brainstorm and come up with many different “distractions” that we

pursue with great enthusiasm; thus allowing our minds to be filled and gradually (and ultimately) our hearts to be tainted by self gratification.

This concept of our lifestyles impeding our spiritual growth & ministry seems so simple. Yet, it goes unnoticed by so many. It’s as if we have been blinded by excess and busy-ness.

My aunt always makes a huge amount of fudge at Christmas time. This stuff is absolutely delicious. But, she always brings too much. About half of one piece is enough to satisfy even the most fervent chocolate fudge lover. Yet, without fail, I will eat one entire piece and then, without thinking, grab a second piece for the trip into the next room. My point is that there is absolutely nothing wrong with something that is so good like this fudge. And, the world is full of really good stuff. But, I believe that perhaps one of our biggest problems in these times is gluttony & excess.

We have become such consumers that it has distorted our values. I am no exception to this trend. But, like so much of our lives, it comes down to personal responsibility. I work on

being personally responsible every day of my life. It’s not easy, but it’s worth it. We are all part of the “problem” until we actually take steps to make adjustments in our own lives in order to not only live healthier, more balanced lives, but also to lead by setting an example that would inspire others to emulate our countenance. This concept of our lifestyles impeding our spiritual growth & work (ministry) seems so simple. Yet, it goes unnoticed by so many. It’s as if we have been blinded by excess and busy-ness.

In my own life, the Lord has been very clear recently in moving me to be bold and deliberate in my pursuit of fulfilling the mission to which I have been called. Of course, another way of saying “bold & deliberate” would be “faithful” & “obedient.” So simple, yet so difficult to be that way.

He has reminded me in recent months that there will always be innumerable distractions that would hinder us from serving in the manner we are well suited. I’m talking about making use of spiritual gifts here. Are you using your spiritual gifts? Do you know how God has gifted you? It’s worth investigating.

We have all been blessed with spiritual gifts that, when truly acknowledged and put into practice, can make a very real impact on God’s kingdom community. But, first, we must unlock and throw open the iron gates to our hearts, thereby releasing every aspect of our lives over to God’s authority. We must let Him in, in order to begin. Only after such an act of faith are we able to properly recognize and even appreciate how God has gifted us!

Oh, and my friend’s definition of the opposite of “poverty” is “enough.” Think about it. And then have some fudge.



St. B's Joins in with the Habitat Unity Build

Last month, a group from St. B's teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to help build a new home for Monique Gardner (pictured) and her two young daughters. The team helped construct the walls and trusses, as seen the photos here. We hope next time even more of the St. B's family can come be a part of this community event.



Anglicanism 101 (Confirmation Preparation)

Where did the Prayer book come from? How is Anglicanism different from other denominations? How does queen Elizabeth figure into all this? What is a general convention anyway? What do all these symbols around the naive mean? What is a naive for that matter? What actually happens during the Eucharist?

If you've ever wondered these things, then Anglicanism 101 is for you! This very popular 8 week class (held twice yearly at St. B's) answers these questions and many more as it surveys Anglicanism's rich history, doctrinal distinctives and many of the colorful characters who have made us who we are as Episcopalians. Class serves as preparation for the rite of Confirmation as well as an enjoyable refresher for life long Episcopalians. Childcare provided.

Class runs from October 21 to December 16. Sign up with the church office or at the table in the back of the Narthex. Please indicate if you'll need childcare.



ECW Annual Meeting

Yearly Diocesan Gathering Held at St. B's



Photos by Katherine Bomboy



Meals for New Moms Delivers More than Food

by Meredith Flynn

Imagine this. You have just ushered your first child into this world.

You are so full of joy and love and fear that you don't know what to do with yourself. You can't believe that the people at the hospital actually trust you enough to take that sweet tiny baby home with you. Do they not see how clueless you are? What will you do when the questions pop up at 3:00am? Yet somehow you find yourself driving down the highway at 40 miles per hour, one of you in the backseat just staring at your child buckled in, as if prepared for atmospheric reentry.

Or imagine this. You are a seasoned parent now. You remember (and have forgotten) enough of your children as babies to want to have another one—their sweet smell, their silky skin, their soft coos and the eyes that lock in on yours. You meet the newest member of your family and you can feel your heart stretching. Your older child, or children, walk into your hospital room to meet their new sibling and your eyes fill with tears—they suddenly look so big and so old. You drive home from the hospital in a bigger car than the first time. Now you are just trying to keep everyone's hands to themselves and are wondering how all of this is

going to work. "Lord, have mercy," might be your refrain.

Enter, the church. Whether a first-timer or a family with a nest-full, you need help during this time of transition. At St. B's we have a wonderful team of volunteers who

to Meredith Flynn, the nursery director.

- ✦ When the baby arrives, an email is sent to the volunteers announcing the great news. In the email there is a link to Mealbaby.com where volunteers look at a calendar for

Meals for New Moms was a God-send! I'm not sure how we would have gotten by without it, and we loved the opportunity to taste new dishes and meet more St. B's parishioners. Thank you, St. B's!

Aaron Rachel, and Lily Sefton



deliver both take-out and homemade meals to families with newborns or newly adopted babies. The ministry is lovingly called MEALS FOR NEW MOMS, but the moms do share the food, of course! Here's how it works:

- ✦ The "family in waiting" sends their address, phone number, food preferences and preferred start date

that family, decide which date they'd like to bring a meal, and even receive an automated email reminder the day before the meal delivery. If volunteers do not want to use this link for whatever reason, they can still call or email Meredith to select a date and get all of the information.

- ✦ The volunteers call the family the morning of the delivery to set up a convenient drop off time. The family just opens the door, basks in the oooing and ahing over the baby, and then enjoys a warm meal that they did not have to purchase, prepare or even think about.

- ✦ The often sleep-deprived and emotionally exhausted family receives these emails every other day for five weeks (or some variation).

The Meals for New Moms ministry has been such a huge blessing for our family. When I mention to others how well we're cared for with three meals a week for five weeks, the typical response is, "Where is this church and how can I join??" We are truly blown away by the kindness and generosity of our church family. The ministry has made adjusting to life with a newborn so much smoother and easier. Thanks!

Matt, Liesl and Nora Dromi



Continued on next page



Meals for New Moms (continued from page 18)

Clearly, Meals for New Moms is not just about food. It is about giving and receiving. It is about friendship, relationship, being a part of the body of Christ. In my own experience (Joe and I have gratefully received meals with each of our three children) I am awed by the love that goes into each meal delivery. We have treasured the sustenance, but also the advice, encouragement, and sacrifice made by our brothers and sisters in Christ. Now whenever we deliver a meal, we remind our boys of the people who cared for us when they were brand new. They know that they are woven into the fabric of our church family and have been since their birth- they are a part of God's story here at St. B's.

Please consider joining this ministry. We are always in need of more

Jason and I didn't think we were going to use the Meals for New Moms ministry since I have several food allergies and felt like it would be a burden to those preparing the meals. But a week before we had sweet Jude, Meredith introduced herself and encouraged us to have some meals delivered. I cannot even begin to express what a huge help this was to Jason and me in Jude's early weeks. Jude suffered from colic and reflux, so having warm meals brought to us by a loving community made that season a bit easier. Meals for New Moms was essential to our family as we navigated the new territory of parenthood.

Jason, Krista and Jude Barmer



volunteers- just look around at all of the new babies and babies-to-come! You do not have to cook. You do not have to deliver meals to every baby born to a St. B's family. You can bring

one meal to one family when your life and resources allow.

Continued on next page

The Meals for New Moms ministry has been a very huge part of us realizing that this church is a community that cares about something besides Sunday morning. Right after our son was born, at a time when we felt like we had to bear this burden on our shoulders, we were so relieved to have such support in our daily life. Not only did we get an occasional break from making or buying food, we got to meet so many folks from the church, from both the early and late services. In a lot of cases, we've met other families as well, and it's been great to feel more and more connected to the people we worship with. We feel like they are really becoming new friends and not just people who we recognize and say hi to once a week. I should add that as a husband and a father, I feel a particular hunger to feed and care for my family.

Nothing means more to me than to see people taking part in caring for the people who I love. In the last year of attending St B's, we've been amazed at the community of this church, its diversity, and how open it has been to us. I don't think we knew what to expect when we started going, and now we feel like it is our home and a place where our whole family can grow. Thanks for helping to welcome us to the church in so many ways, but especially with good eats!



Asher, Missy, Gaia, and Presley Wood



Meals for New Moms (continued from page 19)

Please contact Meredith Flynn at mandjflynn@comcast.net or 673-0377 for more information or to have your email address added to the list of volunteers.



Meals for New Moms sure was there for us when we needed it. We had our first daughter Madelyn Grace Schroeder in March 2008. My wife Brooke had a very difficult postpartum situation and had to incur two surgeries so recovery was rough. In addition, one month after that, Brooke broke her ankle trying to find our dog Winston who had escaped. We were quite immobile during that period and having the church take care of us with meals made such a difference. We are thankful to this day to be able to have more children- both Madelyn and Ainsley are miracles. Thank you all for your servant hearts. This is the faith in action that we have appreciated so much at St. B's.

Dave, Brooke, Madelyn and Ainsley Schroeder

The Meals for New Moms ministry must have been sent straight from God's lips to our tables. As a first time mom, I had no idea what to expect after bringing home our sweet little guy, except that I would have to give up sleep as a fond past time. Nathaniel went back to work just a few days after we brought Hudson home, so for me, the Meals ministry was not only a chance to focus on Hudson and not worry about food, it also allowed me to connect to the outside world without leaving my house. It was a blessing of which magnitude I couldn't fully grasp until I was the one being blessed.



Abby, Nathaniel and Hudson Tylor

November Women's Event: Bunco Night



When: Saturday night November 7 from 7:00-9:00 PM

Where: The Schober's house:

9264 Hunterboro Dr., Brentwood, 37027

Who: Any and all women who attend St. Bartholomew's

What: Bunco is a social dice game involving 100% luck, no skill and PRIZES! Also, we rotate tables so you get small group time with several sets of women.

Why: Fellowship and Friendship

By now, you should have received an evite. We'll be asking attendees to bring either a light snack (nothing fancy) or drinks (wine, soft drinks, juice or water). We may also need to borrow some card-tables and folding chairs and ask for clean-up volunteers.



Play Time!

Updates on the playground and back patio

If you haven't been out to the playground lately, you may not have noticed the exciting projects that have taken place there. After completing the new sewer system and tree trimming, the finishing touches began. Due to all the recent rain, the project was delayed for a couple weeks, but has now been finished. A new fence was installed, the playground has fresh mulch, and the whole area was re-sodded. Also, some new landscaping was added around the new cement patio. Many thanks to Pam White for heading up the project and to Suzy Floyd and the whole MDO staff for their patience and cooperation.



New landscaping around the new patio



New playground mulch



A new fence stretches around the entire perimeter of the playground

Photos by Pam White



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

OCTOBER

Bill & Mimi Arthur	10/4
Chuck & Gail Richey	10/4
Jon & Suzanne Zadick	10/7
Tony & Sarah Bell Earley	10/10
Jerry & Melody Krogman	10/13
Chris & Erin Somerville	10/14
Chad & Tara Moore	10/15
Walt & Lori Quinn	10/17
Tim & Nyla Villager	10/18
Sean & Larissa Root	10/19
Jamie & Laura Wilhoite	10/20
Peter & Mary Woods	10/21
Josh & Anna Hayden	10/23
Adam & Amy Wirdzek	10/24
Chuck & Becky Kown	10/26
Trey & Jamie Myatt	10/31

NOVEMBER

Dane & Maggie Anthony	11/6
Len & Jane Harrison	11/14
John and Kathy Leo	11/16
John & Kendra Allen	11/21
Bill & Barbara Ewin	11/26
Robert & Jill Pullen	11/26
Brian & Natalie Langlinais	12/1

Birthdays

OCTOBER

David Freeman	10/1
Ted Goldthorpe	10/1
Clare Hughes	10/1
Maggie Sullivan	10/1
Lois Granbery	10/2
Spencer Holt	10/2
Maddy Madeira	10/2

Tim Villager	10/2
Abigail Butler	10/3
David Wood	10/4
Corrie Logan	10/5
Charlotte Hughes	10/6
Rankin Clinton	10/7
Rachel Daniel	10/7
Greg MacLachlan	10/7
London Max	10/7
Joshua Puckett	10/7
Ruthie Clements	10/8
Sophia Lauer	10/8
Margaret Grace Root	10/8
Shirley Garth	10/9
Natasha Deane	10/10
Morgan Wills	10/10
Bill Ewin	10/11
James Chaffee	10/12
Joseph Moessner	10/12
Marissa Yennie	10/12
Julia Halford	10/13
David Pollitt	10/14
Alex Pullen	10/14
Justin Schober	10/14
Lisa Goss	10/15
Jackson White	10/15
Ben Hornsby	10/16
Paul Nelson	10/16
Hunter Pollitt	10/16
Jubal Yennie	10/16
Julia Miller	10/17
Annabeth Nelson	10/18
Jerry Verner	10/18
Melissa Riddle	10/20
Linda Waters	10/20
Tega Ewubare	10/21
Charlie Lowell	10/21
Tiffany Villager	10/21
Suzie Woolwine	10/21
James Leach	10/22

Katherine Petillo	10/22
Katy Bowlby	10/23
Andrew Sale	10/23
Jack Alcott	10/24
Richard Hunter	10/24
Brent Andrews	10/25
Julianne Hyer	10/25
Margaret Weedman	10/25
Rev. David Wilson	10/25
John Insani	10/26
Matthew Zadick	10/27
Rebecca Ramsay	10/28
Tyler Russell	10/28
Alexandra Deane	10/31

NOVEMBER

Greta Goss	11/1
Beverly Mahan	11/2
John Allen	11/2
Will Pullen	11/2
Alice Justiss	11/3
Jane Harrison	11/4
Paul Damien Daniel	11/4
William Kelly	11/4
Jamie Wilhoite	11/6
Jenina Ries	11/6
Taylor Chapman	11/6
Bridget Ashworth	11/7
Maleah Kelly	11/7
Hunter Andrews	11/8
Belle McFadden	11/9
Wilder Kinzig	11/9
Drew Miller	11/10
Gretchen Abernathy	11/10
Ruby Puckett	11/10
Teresa Robinson	11/10
Len Harrison	11/11
Lindsay Martin	11/11
Mary Peebles	11/11
Lou Cornelius	11/12

Continued on next page



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."

Allison Hardwick	11/13	Robert Rhea	11/20	Nathan Rainey	11/30
Anna Huff	11/13	Sarah Zadick	11/20	Phyllis Xanthopoulos	11/30
David Leach	11/13	Sara Caroline Metcalfe	11/21		
Dr Kathy Hoover-Dempsey	11/13	Emily Kinzig	11/22		
Mary Alice Parker	11/15	Henry Martin	11/22		
Rev Peter Batarseh	11/15	Jay Ferguson	11/22		
Suzie Johnson	11/15	Rachel Myatt	11/22		
Cynthia Clinton	11/16	George Clements	11/23		
Mai Phuong Nguyen	11/16	Meredith Williams	11/23		
Jonathan Merkh	11/17	Jon Zadick	11/24		
Donald Corlew	11/18	Keon Cleary	11/24		
Erin Somerville	11/19	Rocky Arnold	11/25		
Dmitri Stone	11/19	Miriam Swihart	11/26		
Grace Woolbright	11/19	Nina Ingham	11/26		
Joan Schoenberger	11/19	Nathaniel Kammerer	11/29		
Kim Simpson	11/20	Steve Hindalong	11/29		

Births

September 4th

Ainsley Schroeder
Parents, Brooke and Dave

September 13th

Nora Dromi
Parents, Liesl and Matt

Journey to Ecuador (continued from page 9)

Their two room home was smaller than the St. B's bookstore.

In Guayaquil, the home visit was a single mother of three who lived in a hut style home. Guayaquil is on the ocean so many of the homes are on stilts in case of flooding. I remember the floor was wood planks, many having one inch gaps in-between. You could see the ground directly below. During our visit she made us Empanadas.

If I had to sum this trip up in one word it would be 'love'. No matter if I was with the children at a project, on a home visit, journaling at the park, or visiting with my sweet Estefany, I felt

love everywhere. As I write this I am looking at the daily journal I kept. On the flight from Miami to Quito we were asked what one thing we hoped God would show us on this trip. I had already written 'love'. I wanted God to show me love on this trip. Matthew 21:22 is what I experienced there and I am so grateful.

God's love is infinite. He showed me his love through these children. He showed me his love through the three fabulous tour guides and how they organized the entire trip. Love was even in the faces of poverty. Because these people knew Christ, they lacked nothing. If seen through the eyes of a North American, one might say they

were poor because they wore the same dirty clothes day after day and didn't have many material possessions. But one thing most of these people have that I am so grateful to have seen is a genuine love for our Savior. They don't have many material things to draw their attention away. I will be forever grateful for this trip. God has opened my eyes to realize what true compassion and love is.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Room In the Inn Begins November 1

Each year, from November to March, St. B's volunteers host 12 carefully screened homeless guests every Saturday evening through early Sunday morning. Various helpers are needed to:



- ★ Provide transportation from the Campus for Human Development on Saturday evening and back again on Sunday morning.
- ★ Purchase and prepare a hot dinner
- ★ Host the guests overnight by sleeping at St. B's
- ★ Provide breakfast foods for the overnight hosts to serve (do not have to be present to serve)
- ★ Do 3-4 loads of laundry (St. B's linens and towels) each week

Volunteers may choose to help with one or all of these tasks. Sign up sheets are in the Parish Hall. For more information please contact Jim Pichert at jpichert@yahoo.com.
