

THE BRANCH

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

"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).

Page turner:

West African children enjoy bears made by St. B's children during VBS. Photo courtesy of Keith and Kristin Chapman.



St. B's hosts diocesan convention

Carla Schober, director of children's discipleship, volunteered along with everybody else to see that St. B's was a welcoming, organized site for the convention to take place.

Photo by Katherine Bomboy

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

4800 Belmont Park Terrace
Nashville TN 37215
Phone: 615.377.4750
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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*
Allison Hardwick, *assistant dir. of operations*
Jane Long, *office manager, executive assistant*
Heather Childs, *administrative assistant*
Becky Hornsby, *childcare coordinator*
Marjie Smith, *Branch editor/designer*

Parish ministry:

Carla Schober, *dir. of children's discipleship*
Aaron Mayo, *children's ministry assistant*
Susan Powell, *preschool coordinator*
Meredith Flynn, *nursery director*
Kristin Kinser, *elementary coordinator*
Ann Denson, *Sunday morning leader*
Steve Lefebvre, *youth discipleship intern*

Preschool and 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:

Don Cason, *senior warden*
Sarah Bell Earley, *junior warden*
Len Harrison, *treasurer*
Whit Smyth, *vestry clerk*

Greg Daniel, Ann Denson, Joe Flynn, Mavis Harrop, Tom Howard, Dick Jewell, Jud Laughter, Andy Valentine, Harry Xanthopoulos, Denise Yen-nie

Diocese

The Rt. Rev. John C. Bauerschmidt, *bishop*

Photo: Delegates to convention participate in worship service at St. B's.

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Photo by Katherine Bomboy



Articles and announcements
for the March issue of *The Branch* are due no later than Feb. 20, 2008.
Please e-mail your information to: branch@stbs.net.

Thanks to Sarah Bell Earley for assistance with copy editing.

Priestly vow is to local bishop

Important to understand the Episcopal Church polity

On March 30, Deacon Dixon Kinser will be ordained priest in the church. In light of some of the ongoing controversy in our communion, I thought it might be helpful for you to better understand the nature of the covenant that Dixon and other priests take. The actual service can be found on Page 525 of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

The first thing to note is that selection for leadership ministry in the Episcopal Church is just that. An individual is “*selected in accordance with the canons of this church.*”

We are often tempted to bring other denominational interpretations to our leadership when, in fact, they have been chosen by a unique set of standards to serve in the equally unique polity (ecclesiastical structure) and piety (Anglican spirituality) of our church.

We are not ‘free evangelicals’ or Presbyterians. Nor are we Roman Catholics or Baptists. Every Christian denomination is distinct and it is incumbent for us to understand the boundaries within which Episcopal leadership is constrained to exercise ministry.

You must make special note of the next question:

“Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?”

Later, it is pointed out that the person being ordained is “*called to work as pastor, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the church.*”

Our ministry is one that is to be in concert with others and in obedience to the bishop (meaning the diocesan bishop, not the presiding bishop).

We are not independent entrepreneurs but, rather, are the extension of our bishop’s ministry in the diocese. If the bishop asks us to do something that might compromise our conscience, or if we feel it goes against Scripture,

our only option is to resign from the covenant because our ministries are only valid in relationship to our bishop.

Our tradition has always understood the local bishop to be the central focus of unity in the church. When a priest chooses to be uncooperative it really becomes necessary for him/her to resign their ministry.

The Episcopal Church is not a congregational denomination, although we very much believe that everyone’s voice is vital to the Kingdom of God. Each parish church and mission is a very special component of the much larger diocese. Everything needed for effective kingdom ministry can be identified within the boundaries of the diocese.

Ordained clergy are particularly aware that their gifts and talents are at the disposal of the bishop for the sake of the kingdom in the diocese. Their gifts are not the solely for the parish in which they exercise most of their ministry. Anecdotally, this is why clergy receive a stipend and not a salary. A stipend is an honorarium offered to free a person to be Christ’s servant wherever the need arises. A salary is a mutual contractual obligation between two parties.

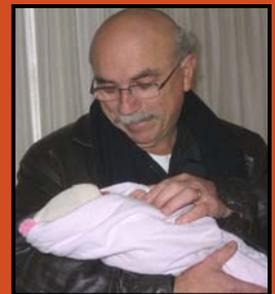
One of the prayers in the prayer book reads that to serve Christ is “*perfect freedom.*” In spite of the apparent constraints of ordination, there is freedom in understanding the boundaries, a freedom that we can all know as we engage in our own ministries as understood in our own baptismal covenant and reiterated at our confirmation.

Please pray for Dixon as he prepares for his ordination and please pray for all who offer themselves for leadership in our denomination, particularly those finding the current controversy unnerving.



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

Kingdom Talk



Inside track

by Fr. Jerry Smith

Rector,
St. Bartholomew’s

Our Vision Statement:

To imitate Jesus Christ and develop maturity in him:

- In knowledge
- In character and lifestyle
- In devotion to God
- In relationships
- In ministry and mission



Your vestry nominees 2008



Getting to know ... by Sarah Bell Earley (junior warden)

The selection of four new vestry members will take place at the annual meeting on Sun., Feb. 10. The following information was supplied by the members of our congregation who have been willing to stand in the selection. All were given the option to make a brief personal comment as well.

ANN DENSON

During the 30-plus years that Ann Denson has been a member of St. B's, she's been a leader and participant in many areas of church life. Most recently she has been the assistant children's ministry director, a lay eucharistic ministry team captain, adult ed liaison, co-leader of the 5th & 6th Grade Boys'/Girls' Club, lector, choir member and writer for *The Branch*.



Ann has been completing the last year of the vestry term for someone who needed to step down, and is eligible to stand for a three-year term.

Ann is customer relations manager at Gary Force Acura. She writes, "It is with joy that I worship each week as a Christian who is an Episcopalian, a life-long member of this denomination and a member of the St. Bartholomew's community."

"Jesus is Lord of St. B's – as we keep him preeminent in our parish family, in our worship and in our lives, we will continue to prosper for his kingdom. I am excited about what God is doing through their leadership; I remain committed to serving them and him faithfully as we grow in community at St. Bartholomew's."

GERRIT GUSTAFSON

Gerrit and his wife Himmie have been at St. B's two years and were confirmed last June. They have five children, one (Gates) still at home. They are interested in the music and small groups at St. B's.

Gerrit is the general manager for Car-

penter Bus Sales in Franklin and also conducts occasional weekend worship schools around the county.



DENISE KEMP

Denise has attended St. B's since the summer of 1999. She has participated in the Eucharist ministry, as an acolyte, is in two women's Bible studies and is a regular in the nursery. Denise is an instructor at AT & T.



ASHLEY MACLACHLAN

Ashley and her husband Greg have been coming to St. B's for over seven years. They have three daughters, Hannah (10), Hayden (almost 8) and Grace (5.5). Ashley is currently the liaison for adult discipleship and helps monthly in the nursery. She taught 3-4 year olds in Sunday school, has been the summer children's Sunday school coordinator and coordinated vacation Bible school for several years.



Ashley is the director of home operations at Mercy Ministries, a free Christian residential home for young women dealing with life controlling issues. Her thoughts: "I love that our vestry is left in the hands of the Lord. I am excited for the opportunity if that is his plan. I feel that we as a church body are in the midst of a great shift and that the Holy Spirit has amazing things to reveal to us."

PAUL MILLER

Paul has attended St. B's for 24 years. He is married to Julia and has two sons, Jonathan (8) and Matthew (6), who also attend St. B's.

Paul has been active at St. B's, having taught adult and children's Sunday school, sat in the nursery, been on the missions/outreach committee, participated in two Christian missions to Russia, played St. B's softball, been on building and grounds maintenance crews and involved in men's group. Currently, he is helping with the youth ministry.



For the past 21 years, Paul has worked as a civil engineer with TDOT, with a specialty in bridges.

Paul admittedly finds himself "torn between feeling that perhaps the Lord may desire my service at St B's and wondering whether I can continue in the Episcopal Church as the EC moves further and further from its biblical moorings."

Outside the church, Paul's interests are in home improvements geared toward energy efficiency; international folk



Willing to serve

dance (he is president of the National International Folk Dancers); gardening; the Gerson Therapy (as well as other therapies that try to reactivate the body's own healing mechanisms naturally); ancient history; biblical studies; languages; fitness; nature vs. nurture debate and, of course, "playing with the boys."

CHARLIE REASOR

Charlie, his wife Katie and their sons Philip (4.5) and Hal (3) have been coming to St. B's for several years.

Charlie was baptized and confirmed here. He attends men's retreats and evening Bible studies and serves as a greeter at St. B's, where he says, "I really enjoy greeting people. I remember how warmly I was welcomed when I started visiting St. B's, and it is fun now to be on the other side welcoming new people."

Charlie thinks St. B's "is a great community and family, and my hope is that we will continue to become in every sense the kingdom community that God would have us become."

Charlie is a lawyer in Nashville.

JEREMY ROE

Jeremy has been attending St. B's since moving to Nashville in 2004. He and his wife Laurie married at St. B's in April 2005. He is involved in a men's ministry called Christian Leadership Concepts (CLC) that meets at St. B's weekly and is part of the acolyte ministry. Together, he and Laurie enjoy serving by working with the 2 and 3 year olds, singing in the music ministry, reading Scripture as lectors on Sunday



mornings and greeting visitors. Formerly, they co-facilitated a college fellowship with Greg and Karen Daniel.

Jeremy manages marketing communications at a networking technology company in Franklin. His background is in communications and journalism. He and Laurie are also partners and co-owners (with another couple) in a retail apparel business called Petite Boutique.

Jeremy writes, "I started at St. B's knowing just two people. Over time, as I have volunteered and sought the Lord's guidance for how to get involved, I have made friends and connections at the parish, for which I am so grateful. It is truly a privilege to stand for nomination to the vestry. Owing to our unique election process, I am confident that God will call individuals from our midst who possess the skill and heart to serve our community."

DEBORAH WHITESIDE

Deborah began attending St. B's in 1993 and was confirmed here in 1994. She has been very active in the children's ministry (the nursery, K-1st Grade Sunday school and Godly Play) and the Sudanese ministry, and participates seasonally in the choir, Room in the Inn and with women's softball. Deborah has degrees in zoology and nursing and is currently an RN/clinical manager at Vanderbilt.

Her comments: "I love children and serving those who are unable to help themselves or who are in need. I am blessed with a loving, caring family scattered across the United States from Oregon to New Jersey to Georgia and love calling St. B's my spiritual home. It is an honor to be nominated to serve on the vestry and it is with faith that I stand to come and see what our Lord has in store for our parish."



Simply Following Jesus

The Simply Following Jesus neighborhood Bible studies, based on zip codes as a source of regions, are intended to provide easily accessible studies and a local community for its members.

Below are meeting times and current locations.

37027

Second and fourth Sundays, 6:30-8 p.m.

Location: 6403 Waterford Dr.

Contact Pat Bowlby:
patbowlby@comcast.net

37221

Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: 7809 Haydenberry Cove.
Contact: Robert Smith at 406-3152 or Kirk Smith at 584-2805

37206 / 37214 / 37138

(north & east)

Second and fourth Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., dinner, 7-8:30 p.m., study

Location: 1300 Holly St.

Contact: Jerry: 969-7273 or Marjie 969-6838

37204

Second and fourth Friday, 7 p.m.

Location: 4036 Albert Dr.

Contact: Steve & Zena Thorne: 385-2657

37209 / 37212, 37203

Second and fourth Wed., 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: 3613 Pilcher Ave.

Contact: Dave and Dana Mennen: 292-2426 or Whitney Stone:
whitneystone@bellsouth.net

37064

Tuesdays, just started up, 7 p.m.

Location: 312 Julianna Circle

Contact: Tamara and Bob Rowland:
tam_rowland@bellsouth.net

Coming Soon: Zip Code 27205

www.simplyfollowingjesusblogger.com

Pleasant ghosts live here



Ruminations

by Marjie Smith

We have things around our house that serve as memorial tributes to folks who have been meaningful to us. Most of them came from the days when we were expanding as a family and living in gigantic rectories. We happily accepted other's cast-offs as we grew into these spaces and roles. Decades later, this old stuff follows us around. It has become our happy baggage — an entourage of things that kindle memories and provide comfort for the soul.

This baggage was floating through my mind, not long ago, as I entertained some new volunteer roles. It got me thinking about how you never expire as a volunteer until you expire as a person. And given that, my mind, like a tadpole in a wave pool, followed where it would and I began to think of some wonderful seniors — much more senior than I am — who refused to let age get in their way.

I can vividly recall Gwen Beck, more than 20 years ago, charging down between the rows of tables in the dining cabin at Camp Katapao, our church camp nestled deep in the forest near Timmins, Ontario. It was skit night. And Gwen was riding her imaginary motorcycle with a cooking pot stuck on her head for a helmet. It was a youth retreat and Gwen had gamely signed on to help. The church camp was not a retreat center; it was a camp built originally as a bunkhouse for junior foresters. And Gwen willingly roughed it, instilling the concept of “forever young” in our minds.

A reminder of Gwen sits in our dining room — an old Singer sewing machine stand. Once hers, it has seen better days, but it is familiar and loved. Whoever gets it next, takes the story too. The new owner will have to envision a senior, cook-pot handle extending out behind her and arms steering an imaginary Harley.

Next to that old sewing machine is an equally valued piece of furniture — a china cabinet. It also came from an elderly parishioner, almost 30 years ago. Jessie Bennett lived on Manitoulin Island, in a tiny town called South Baymouth. It is more of a blink than a town, really, and primarily exists as the landing place for the ferry that brings daily loads of tourists and their traffic to this scenic island in the middle of Lake Huron.



Jessie and her by-then deceased husband had adopted a young First Nations lad later in life and Terry was growing up in a community with a handful of people who were mostly

senior, and all non-Aboriginal. In those days before cell phones and computers, Jessie and Terry would inject excitement in their lives by going to the pay phone at the dock and phoning each other. It may sound silly, but it indicated to me the importance of the bond between a parent and child, where little things become the big things.

Inside that china cabinet is a delicate, antique glass pitcher. The pitcher is beautiful, but probably not something I would have thought about owning were it not given to me because of my friendship with Kay Mitchell.

Kay and I sat across from each other in choir. She sat beside Dorothy Dodgson on the soprano side and the three of us, along with Ann Burton, who helped nail down alto at our end of the pews, would often exchange glances and giggles as the service unfolded. There was one particularly eventful day when Kay or Dorothy pulled out a cough candy and began to unravel it, as choristers do during their downtime. It was during the sermon and the podium was directly in line with the sopranos.

The candy dropped during a lull while His Collarship sucked in air. It hit the hardwood, the sound magnified by our seeing it (if a tree falls in the forest ...). We watched it emerge, slowing as it rolled, and stopping — right behind His Collarship's foot. Kay, Dorothy and I looked at each other just as the candy halted and we started to laugh in that way choristers laugh — in contained implosions. We laughed like children who got away with something under mommy's nose. The sermon progressed, its owner and conveyer oblivious to the microcosmic flutterings of the choir members.

When Kay died, I foolishly sang in the choir at her funeral. When I looked across at her spot, I could not hold in my grief the way I could hold in my laughter. Tears streamed as I realized that feisty and Irish, Kay would have to live on now in my mind. And she does.

I could go on endlessly about people you do not know, but whom I wish you had. However, I could not finish without recalling a spritely woman named Margaret Everly. When we moved to the large deanery in Timmins, Ontario, 23 years ago, we were accompanied by our three children. Miss Margaret, who was in her eighties, introduced herself as the deanery babysitter. It was the gift she had always offered to the new deans.

I looked at this diminutive octogenarian, the first time she came to sit our kids. “Do you find the stairs difficult,” I asked, since the house came with a hefty set of them. “I know these stairs,” she said, and proceeded to dash up them to see where the children would be sleeping.

I did not worry about my children when they were cared for by Miss Margaret.

You may contact Marjie Smith at: msscribbler@bellsouth.net

Green means go ... lightly



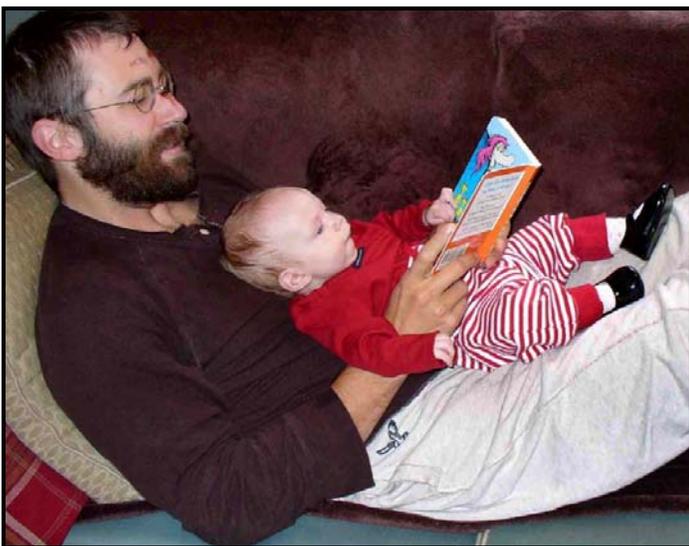
Live green or die

by Laura and Jud Laughter

Until last month, we would have highly recommended our scooter for getting around Nashville in a more sustainable manner. While a scooter still gets about 65 miles per gallon and is a breeze to park anywhere, a trip to the emergency room necessitates some reflection on the issue of safety. Whether or not the scooter remains an option for you, we thought we would talk this month about new and upcoming options for driving green.

Last October, the *New York Times* produced a special section on cars, almost half of which was dedicated to green automobiles (24 October 2007, available on line at nytimes.com). At the moment, there are four basic routes automakers are taking to produce greener cars: hybrid-electric cars, clean-diesel cars, flexible-fuel cars and hydrogen-powered cars.

By far the most popular green cars in the United States are hybrid-electric cars, combining an electric motor with a gasoline engine, but this is in no way a new idea. In 1903, the Krieger Company of France built a gas-electric hybrid; at a top speed of 15 miles per hour, it earned the world's first speeding ticket. After 1910, gas-powered cars began to dominate and so it's taken us awhile to get back around to the hybrid idea with the 2000 release of the Honda Insight and the Toyota Prius.



Columnist Jud Laughter reads to his niece Kate while recuperating from a painful scooter accident. (photo courtesy of the Laughters)

If you're interested in a hybrid vehicle, every model has its own Web site extolling its environmental virtues. In addition, there are several independent websites offering a more balanced view of what you can expect. *Hybrid-cars.com* has information on all available models and includes some good hybrid-market research. *Priuschat.com* is a forum for Prius owners to trade tips and share news about the most popular hybrid. *Fueleconomy.gov* is the EPA site that lists MPG for every car. Finally, *Cleanmpg.com* is dedicated to those striving to be "hypermilers," or drivers who try to exceed the EPA fuel economy rating of their car; they offer tips on how to change your driving habits to maximize your fuel efficiency.

Already popular in Europe, clean-diesel cars may soon begin to make appearances in the United States. Diesel engines get much better gas mileage than their gasoline brethren, and modern designs have eliminated almost all of the black-smoke, rumbling, smelly drawbacks common to previous diesel engines. There are a few negatives to a diesel engine. In cold weather, they may take longer to start. Some models, like those from Audi or Volkswagen, require additives to remove some pollutants. Finally, the diesel cars are going to cost more because they are primarily produced by European automakers like Volkswagen, Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz. However, if you have the means, you may be surprised by the speed and agility of some of these new diesels.

Most cars built since 1980 can run on a mixture of gasoline and up to 10% ethanol. Flex-fuel cars can run on a mixture of up to 85% ethanol, allowing corn and sugarcane to fill most of the tank instead of fossil fuels. Several automakers offer flex-fuel options, primarily on light trucks and SUVs. While growing our fuels seems like a great idea, some interesting structural concerns have arisen as shifts in the corn markets have created rifts in both the production of ethanol and the price of corn for other uses (e.g. animal feed). Ethanol is popular in the mid-west where most of our corn is grown, but further investigation and research will be necessary before this becomes a viable option for everyone. Brazil and Venezuela are having big success with ethanol-driven cars because they grow so much sugar cane, a crop that produces a higher-quality ethanol than corn. To begin to combat these problems, GM recently bought a stake in Coskata, a company planning to develop ethanol from crop wastes, wood chips, and general garbage (www.coskataenergy.com). Dieter Zetsche, CEO of Daimler, has predicted that eventually we will all be driving electric vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells. However, don't start looking for a hydrogen station on your block any time soon. While there are a few in Germany and

(Continued on page 9)



Dreams depict the essential 'us'

Dreams are only one avenue through which God works



Fly on the Wall

by Kristin Searfoss

As much as it might simplify life in some respects, understanding dreams is not like having your colors done or determining your Myers-Briggs personality type. If only it was as easy to figure out what a dream means as it is to discover that you look best in rich jewel tones.

I heard about somebody who had been injured and had to use a wheelchair. When he dreams about himself, he isn't using a wheelchair. That sounds like many of my dreams, and I started thinking about what dreams could mean to Christians today. I know that dreams figure many times in the Bible, mostly in the Old Testament, but I have wanted to understand how God uses dreams.

I will admit that I have mostly found dreams to be interesting rather than instructive. I'm always proud to say that I dream in color, as if that proves that I am creative, and I also tend to find the sometimes-surreal world of dreams like an intriguing non-chronological European film.

I had an e-mail conversation with St. Bartholomew's member and frequent Bible teacher Dana Sherrard about dreams, which she calls "a very profound mystery."

Dana has had some significant dreams and keeps a dream journal, but she still tempers the attention she pays to dreams with caution: "It's very easy to fall into the trap of seeking dreams as your primary way of receiving information from God. Dreams involve no study or effort on your part. It's very easy for Satan to counterfeit this and deceive you. So you need to be on guard."

It's not as if Dana is ruling out dreams' place in the Christian life entirely. She says God can certainly communicate with us in any way he chooses for a particular situation, but that we shouldn't deliberately seek him through dreams. Instead, Christians (who already have the indwelling Holy Spirit) should seek God through Scripture, prayer and meditation.

In one of Dorothy L. Sayers' mysteries, a character says something to the effect that it is

obnoxious to tell other people your dreams. But it sure is entertaining to tell family members or friends about weird dreams you have had in which they turn up.

I have had some prescription-medication-induced dreams that, to this day, are part of family lore and hilarity. Dana has some advice about what to do when you have a truly unusual dream. The first thing is to try to determine the dream's source. Write the dream down as soon as you can because dreams are easy to forget. "Then, pray to God for discernment and ponder the dream and see what God shows you," Dana says.

Lastly, talk to a trusted friend, teacher or minister who is spiritually mature and has a good knowledge of Scripture and see what they think. She says, "If what they say serves to verify what you believe about the dream, then you've probably gotten your answer to your questions about the dream."

Now, back to these dreams in which people who are in wheelchairs during the day are out of them at night. I often have dreams like this or dreams in which I am walking with great clumsiness -- my ambulatory situation before multiple sclerosis put me in a wheelchair. What do these dreams say about self-perception?

My answer to this question would be that, like anyone in a wheelchair, I am much more than somebody who sits down all the time. Even if the world doesn't always see that I'm more than my transportation, I myself must perceive it in my dreams because, there I am, in all sorts of dream situations, walking around.

So, one thing I think about these dreams is that I don't see myself as someone in a wheelchair.

In addition, a friend of mine suggests that God gives us dreams to let us see ourselves as he sees us: whole and childlike and completely ourselves. In this way, I think dreams can be a comfort because it's easy to forget how much God loves us, especially if we don't like certain aspects of our lives.

Next, and more importantly, as a Christian I'd have to say that if I am having these dreams about being out of a wheelchair, it's either a prediction that I'm going to get healed someday or a snapshot of my resurrection body.

Either way, that's pretty exciting. The resurrection body is a sure thing, and being healed in this life is always a possibility.



Dana Sherrard



New narthex table declutters



Photo by Pam White



Chris Somerville installs the new curved table he made for the narthex of the church. The table has enabled the church to remove the clutter of tables that prevented traffic flow in the area.

Savvy turnout

Thanks to all who attended the January Savvy Senior luncheon and the young adult group. We had a record attendance!

This enabled us to make a donation to the Dinka Translation Fund as a token of appreciation to Deborah and Henry Martin, our speakers, for the great presentation on their life and ministries to the Sudanese.



Photos by Pam White

Savvy Seniors and young adults joined together for meal and fellowship.

Live Green (Cont'd from page 7)



California, the widespread availability of safely delivered hydrogen remains the biggest stumbling block to fueling cars whose only emissions are water vapor. As the infrastructure grows, so will the viability of hydrogen-powered cars, but there's an underlying irony we'll have to deal with. Most of the hydrogen in the United States is produced by stripping atoms from fossil fuels, so the car may not produce noxious emissions but it will still use oil.

Looking to the future, the all-electric car is not that far away. The Chevrolet Volt (GM-Volt.com) remains a concept car but GM has assigned a Michigan plant to its production starting in 2010. The idea would be to power an electric motor with a gasoline engine that only charges the batteries; a small gasoline engine running under constant conditions can be tuned to be much more efficient than one that revs and idles with acceleration.

The descriptions seem to indicate that you can also charge the batteries by plugging the car into a standard AC outlet. There are a few other models in development that will be all electric, but most seem to be daily drivers rather than touring cars since the distance per charge is around 30 to 60 miles. Toyota just announced that by 2010 it will build a fleet of plug-in hybrids to compete with the Volt.

In 10 years, we may all be driving vehicles that we cannot even imagine now, if we haven't perfected tele-transportation by then. For now,

the first step to being a more sustainable driver is to develop habits that improve gas mileage. Avoid steep acceleration, slow down a bit on the interstate, try to take fewer trips; all of these can result in having to buy less gas. You can even go green when your car is standing still by using waterless car cleaners. Several companies offer products that emulsify and encapsulate dirt that can then be wiped away. Lisa Peri, co-owner of Lucky Earth Products, claims "we'd save 28 billion gallons of water [annually] if half of U.S. car owners used a waterless carwash just once a month instead of taking it to the carwash." Or you could just never wash your car; that tends to work for us.

No matter how you drive, be aware that as concern for the environment grows, so will the number of people using scooters and bicycles as their primary mode of transportation. Just because you might not be accustomed to sharing the road with scooters or bicycles doesn't mean it won't hurt when they hit your windshield (aftermath pictures available upon request).

You may contact Jud and Laura Laughter at judandlaura@yahoo.com



Wanna do something cool for Lent?



A Missional Life

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Director of youth ministries

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent..." (BCP, 265)

Last year, St. B's took part in a "cool" experiment. Partnering with the social activism Web site *Cool People Care* (www.coolpeoplecare.org). About 25 of us took part in what can best be described as an active Lent. The results were remarkable and we want to do it again, but because some of you may have missed it the last go around, let me explain what we're up to.

Lent is the season of the church year when Christians engage in serious self-reflection and penitence in preparation for Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (this year, Feb. 6), the congregation is invited, in the name of the church, "...to the observance of a holy Lent." This is a great phrase, because it gets two things really right. First, it makes clear that Lent is an invitation, not an obligation. We have to participate in the festival and its rituals freely because they are not magic nor are they formative outside of our contribution. Lent is a matter of real participation and partaking.

The second thing it gets right is the idea that Lent is *holy*. This is *holiness* as defined by the Scriptures. It is not simply a moral distinction but instead refers to otherness, difference or being set apart. In this way, observing a holy Lent means taking up disciplines, observances and practices that will be different from, albeit shaping of, one's normal life.

It is for this reason that lenten disciplines usually involve some kind of personal sacrifice. The discipline marks the season as one of formation and provides a sacramental reminder that suffering in the way of Jesus is transformational. Usually, such a discipline is practiced through some sort of personal abstinence (fasting once a week, giving up chocolate, etc.)

So, last year a group of us asked the question, "What if one's lenten discipline did not involve an inward, personal sacrifice but an outward, communal one instead? What if instead of giving up something personal, we took on something together? What if we acted instead of abstaining?"



This is precisely the invitation I want to offer all of us again this

year. What might this kind of lenten discipline look like? Here is what I'm thinking ...

An Invitation to a "cool" lenten discipline

One of my friends here in Nashville runs a Web site called, *Cool People Care* (CPC). It is a social awareness and activism site, run by Christians with the purpose of doing kingdom work. One of CPC's features is a daily list serve where subscribers get an e-mail that invites them to "5 minutes" of caring each day. Each 5-minute challenge can involve anything from recycling your old cell phone, to bringing your own stirrer to the coffee shop or driving the speed limit.

So, because all of them are Kingdom-of-God-oriented activities, I would like to propose that we take CPC's "5 minutes of daily caring" to be our community's lenten discipline again. In this way, our holy observance of Lent will indeed involve 40 days of sacrifice, but it will be an outward sacrifice of caring and action, directed by the CPC list serve.

The way it works is that each of us needs to sign up for the email list serve from CPC (www.coolpeoplecare.org — if you don't have e-mail, I'll have postcards for you). Then we will covenant together to complete each "5 minutes of caring" challenges to the best of our abilities! So, whatever e-mail comes down the pipe Monday through Friday, we will all try to do it no matter what. Then, because this is a lenten discipline, we'll take Saturday and Sunday as our catch-up and feast days.

I am creating an online website at www.coollent.blogspot.com where we can share our experiences, success, blessings and failures and we'll host two meetings during Lent to check in and share how God is forming us.

I Want To Do This! What Do I Do Next?

If you would like to participate in this lenten discipline for 2008, go to www.coolpeoplecare.org, register for the list serve, then link over to www.coollent.blogspot.com, add a comment and let us know you're in! You can also contact Dixon at dkinser@stbs.net or 377-4750 ext. 17. We will also schedule all meetings based on how many people are interested in trying this. If you have questions let me know.

Therefore, in the name of the church, I would like to invite all of us, as a community, to the observance a Holy Lent ... through positive, Kingdom-of-God focused spiritual direction, formation and activism. Are you in?

You may contact Dixon Kinser at: dkinser@stbs.net

Pew 2 U briefs

Dixon Kinser to be ordained priest

Dixon Kinser, deacon and St. B's director of youth discipleship, will be ordained to the priesthood at St. B's, on March 30, at 7 p.m. Please come and celebrate this occasion of commitment and celebration.

Word of Truth Bible study

A new Bible study has started on Tuesdays, from 10-11:00 a.m., in the parish hall. The course title is, "The Word of Truth" and will be taught by Dana Sherrard. This course addresses the relentless attacks that the Bible is currently experiencing by universities, seminaries and the media. It will help prepare those taking the course to answer the tough questions that the world raises about the truth and inspiration of the Bible as well as educate on how to properly approach, correctly interpret and apply the Bible's teachings in our lives.

Sprinting the Nehemiah way

If you are considering running in the Music City Half Marathon on April 26 or are simply wishing to get in better shape, sign up for the St. B's training team! Runners will each pay his or her own entrance fee for the race, but the team will be running to raise funds for St. B's Nehemiah Fund. Group runs started the week of January 20. To sign up, e-mail Meredith Pharaoh at meredith.pharaoh@gmail.com or sign in before or after services this Sunday in the Narthex.

Lifebuilders class topics varied

The Lifebuilders class (formerly known as the Homebuilders) meets Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. and provides an opportunity for adults of all ages to enjoy fellowship and study a variety of topics including books of the Bible, church history and Christian living. Currently, participants are watching and discussing two films ("Amazing Grace" and "The Second Chance") before turning to an in-depth study from the New Testament. Visitors are welcome to drop in, and doughnuts are served every week!

Bishop John Bauerschmidt leads retreat

St. Mary's Sewanee will host a retreat entitled *When Israel Came Out of Egypt: Practical Help for Lent*, led by The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt, bishop of Tennessee, on Feb. 15-17, 2008. The story of the Exodus from Egypt, the great journey of transition in the Judeo-Christian tradition, provides the background for the Christian celebrations of Lent and Easter. Through the lens of this story we will reflect on our stories of change and challenge, conversion and resurrection as we seek practical help for our own times of transition. This lenten retreat will include presentation and discussion, exploration of scripture and worship, opportunities to choose shared silence or conversation, and unstructured time for rest and reflection. As the schedule allows, time may be scheduled for one-on-one conversation with the Bishop.

Costs for the retreat are: residential fee of \$190, commuter fee of \$100. For more information, call St. Mary's Sewanee: 800 728-1659 or 931 598-5342 or www.StMarysSewanee.org.



Photo by Marie Smith

Whitney Stone holds a sleeping Jack Flynn as she takes a turn in nursery.

NEHEMIAH FUND

We have used them well.

Our buildings have been filled with the laughter of children, the solemn prayers of adults and the joy of community.

We park in the lot.

We open the doors.

We sit in the pews.

We fill a cup of coffee.

We turn on taps; run across the lawn; kneel at the communion rail.

All these properties are the place where our spiritual development takes place.

Now it is our turn to take care of them. Our facilities need some TLC.

Watch for information on the Nehemiah Fund in an upcoming issue of *The Branch*.

We are community.

We must fix our house!

Facebook takes off at St. B's



From the Loft

by Susan Houston

Facebook is what is known as a social networking site — a Web site that allows you to make contact with friends, family and co-workers online.

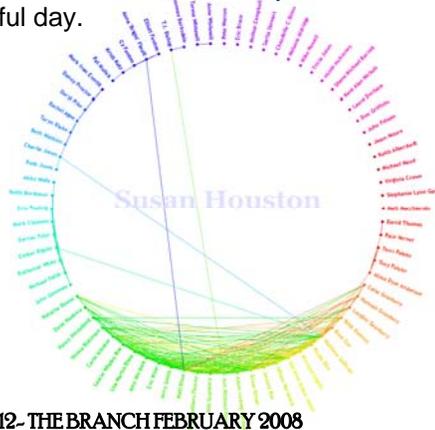
You can use it to notify friends of upcoming events, send quick messages, show photos, be notified of upcoming birthdays and events and play games. You can add a number of applications, such as “Scrabulous,” which allows you to play a leisurely game of Scrabble over many days with a friend (Marjie Smith whipped me soundly in the one and only game we played!), or Friend Wheel which creates a visual representation of how all your Facebook friends are connected.

I have never really liked the older social network site MySpace because I think it's badly designed and the pages can be pretty hard to read; plus its primary purpose as a site for musicians wasn't of interest to me.

But Facebook has a clean, simple interface that doesn't give you a headache, and when you visit a friend's profile, music doesn't come blasting out of the page! You can look at your friends' own lists of friends as well, and track down people you might have lost contact with years before. I recently discovered on Facebook one of the guys I did improv comedy with years ago who has moved to LA, where he has become YouTube's infamous “Ask a Ninja”.

Facebook also has a delightful silliness at times that can be quite refreshing. My favorite Facebook “app” at present is called SuperPoke. It allows you to “reach out and touch someone” by offering a virtual hug, giving candy, or throwing a variety of livestock at them.

There's just something about seeing a message that says, “Brea Cox has thrown a cow at you,” with a small picture of said cow that makes you smile in the midst of a stressful day.



Is Facebook a substitute for real connection with friends and acquaintances? Not at all! But in the middle of a busy week, when you have no time to make social phone calls or visit with friends, it's an eminently convenient way to see how they're doing, and even let others know of events in your own life.

There's a little feature called Status Updates on everyone's home page, where you can type in a sentence about what you're doing or how you're feeling. I can type in a sentence such as “Susan is needing another weekend to recover from this one,” or “Susan is happy with how well the Christmas concert turned out,” and it will shoot over to all of my friends' pages.

More significant news often flows out this way — a friend just announced that she and her husband are going to pick up the child they are adopting from Guatemala, while another told of a death in his family. Status Updates like this often result in a flurry of messages on that friend's “Wall,” a running series of messages from friends with encouragement or rejoicing.

Now, why am I writing about something like Facebook in The Branch? Because for some reason, it has caught on like wildfire here at St. B's. If you look at the picture of my Friend Wheel, you will see a large mass of color in the bottom half — all of those folks attend St. B's.

I don't know who started the trend, but it has spread rapidly. In fact, someone has created a group called “Coalition for St. Beez to take over the world,” with the description of “A group of young people seeking to challenge intellects, destroy conventions, construct communes and eat as much Nutella as humanly possible!”

It is a rather light-hearted group (I am assured of this by the main photo of Father Jerry aiming a water gun), with 83 members. Will they achieve this goal of world domination via Facebook? Not likely. But they will make connections to other members of St. B's, and they'll be able to supply names to some of the faces in the pews around them. Think of Facebook as a virtual (and continually updating) church photo directory. With cows.



These captures from Susan's Facebook pages give examples of her friend wheel, left, and the cheery SuperPoke feature, above.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Hard work of St. B's staff & volunteers shows

Hosting the diocesan convention at St B's has proven to be very successful. Accolades for the exceptional hospitality seemed to be given freely and there were a lot of smiling faces as everyone was leaving for home. But most only saw the two days of the actual convention and were unaware of the 'behind the scenes' activity that went on to make it seem to run effortlessly.

The real accolades need to be given to the numerous hours of preparation spent by Pam White, director of operations, and her team of both staff and volunteers, who spent incalculable time scouring the city for facilities and supplies. You can't just invite 200 people to dinner without finding a place to host and cater; without identifying an affordable menu; without all of the right invitations and then accurate guesses as to who would and wouldn't actually be attending.

The preparation of church, parish hall and gym; sound equipment; tables and chairs arranged for 200-plus; display space; food and beverages for two lunches as well as perpetual snack breaks; and break-away rooms is still not an exhaustive list.

As this was the first convention in our diocese for both bishop Bauerschmidt and his canon to the ordinary, the Rev. Pamela Snare, there was actually no 'play book' so there was a lot of guesswork involved.

Equally important was the extra time necessary to prepare for two extra services during the week. One of those services would 'showcase' a normal Sun-

day morning at St B.'s but the other was a diocesan service with music unfamiliar to most of our worship leaders, so this demanded extra preparation on top of their regular offering. Director of music Eric Wyse and his team did yeoman's service pulling this all together. Jesus showed up and blessed the energies.

Henry Martin, our sound engineer, seemed to need to be everywhere and somehow equipment duplicated itself so that there was enough.

All the while that these preparations were being made, day-to-day ministry needed to continue and some staff found themselves doing double duty.

There was also another unseen, but necessary, group of folks who held a faithful prayer vigil throughout the convention (they were praying for the preparations as well, but from home not from a make-shift chapel in the Sunday School wing). These prayer warriors were interceding to the throne of grace that God's will would prevail in both delegate deliberations as well as in the details of the facilities. Indeed his will did prevail as delegates left our parish having been blessed for having been here.

All of those involved in the event and/or the filling in the gaps while the convention was being planned are to be commended. They were the hands and feet of Jesus, literally serving the community while convention delegates were engaged in the business of the church in our diocese.

As your rector, I extend my most sincere thanks. May Jesus bless you as we were blessed through you!



DIOCESAN CONVENTION



Convention

by Scott Kammerer

St. B's delegate

Editor's Note: *Scott, who was a previous warden and continues to serve faithfully as a parish delegate to diocesan convention, was elected as one of the deputies to the national convention in 2009.*

Over 70 St. Bartholomew's members and staff were on hand on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 25-26, as St. B's hosted the 176th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee. Volunteers helped with registration, snacks and logistics, and covered the event in continuous prayer. They created a welcoming atmosphere that many of our visitors commented upon, some remarking that it was the most enjoyable convention they had ever attended.

The convention is an annual gathering of clergy and lay representatives from the 50 congregations that make up the diocese, whose mission is "To encourage and equip one another as the baptized people of God to witness to the reconciling and transforming power of Jesus Christ."

The event kicked off on Friday, at 1 p.m., with a Eucharist celebration featuring the St. B's worship team and musicians, with a sermon by the Rt. Reverend John Bauerschmidt, our diocesan bishop. Following the service, Bishop Bauerschmidt

called the convention to order in the St. B's gymnasium.

Friday's business included hearings on the 2008 budget and the only resolution proposed for consideration, which was a statement in support of Bishop Bauerschmidt. A guest speaker, the Canon Rev'd George Sumner, principal of Wycliffe College in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, gave a stirring address to the floor. Also, an open forum was held to give the convention the opportunity to ask questions of all the candidates who had been nominated for the various positions up for election. At the end of the day's business, the bishop led the convention in prayer and declared recess until Saturday morning. Meanwhile, many delegates took advantage of the convention fellowship reception on Friday evening at Richland Country Club, which gave attendees a chance to fellowship and caucus and enjoy appetizers and the gifts of St. B's musicians Tom Howard and Betty Ashton Mayo.

The convention re-convened on Saturday morning with the announcement of the election results and additional balloting where needed. This was followed by a report from the companion diocese committee and a personal greeting from our guest, the Rt. Rev. Alfredo Morante, Bishop of Litoral (Ecuador). Additional reports

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... ST. B'S AS HOST



(Continued from page 14)

from the Christian commission on education, the diocesan youth committee and the diocesan evangelism committee followed.

At 11 a.m., everyone gathered back in the church sanctuary to celebrate the primary convention Eucharist, featuring a procession of all the clergy and parishes of the diocese and special offertory music and dancing from St. B's Sudanese community, along with a sermon from Canon Sumner.

Convention business on Saturday afternoon included the speedy approval of the 2008 budget, and the unanimous passage of the resolution in support and appreciation of Bishop Bauerschmidt. This was followed by the bishop's convention address (which will be available on the diocesan Web site). The convention heard brief presentations from St. Andrew's – Sewanee School and St. B's missionaries Keith and Kristin Chapman, who gave a moving description of their new dental clinic in Monrovia, Liberia, and the great need for dental care in that poverty-stricken country. The convention concluded with a closing service of worship and a renewal of baptismal vows.

There were many comments from delegates that this was one of the most refreshing, wel-

coming and non-controversial conventions in recent memory, and there were many, many kudos to the St. B's staff and volunteers who made it so successful. Special thanks need to go to Pam White, Allison Hardwick, Heather Childs and Jane Long in the church office who put in a lot of extra hours with the many volunteers who worked hard to make St. B's such a hospitable environment. Also thank you to the St. B's clergy and lay delegates and alternates who volunteered to participate in the convention. God truly used all of us at St. Bartholomew's to minister to gathered community of faith this weekend, and blessed us in return. Praise God for such a rewarding a restorative time given to all involved.

Note: To hear the bishop's sermon go to: www.episcopal-diocese-tn.org



If you wonder why the voices at a church convention are so diverse, you need only look at the bumper stickers, below, found on the cars that were parked in St. B's parking lot during the convention.

Bumper Sticker Photos by Heather Childs



There's *Room in the Inn* for all of us



Room in the Inn (RITI)

by Carmen Hall

"RITI helps us because it is a living sermon. We don't have to be the annoying parents that constantly remind, 'No, not everybody has a Wii...'"

... Carmen

There are many important reasons why we're involved with RITI. But why does my family enjoy it so much? Kyrie, 5, says, "I like the desserts!" And she adds, "I like wandering around." Don't worry—we try to watch her. Kyrie does hit it on the nail, though. It's nice to sink into the building, not rush in and out. We like to hang out in the kitchen and meet others. We prefer chatting with others when we're working on something and share a common purpose.

Avian, 3, says, "I like the apple pie." Here is an honest boy in whom there is no guile. Our normally easy-going fellow spent most of his first RITI meal screaming for the pie he had spotted.

Manaen, 8, scoffs at his brother and sister, saying, "I don't go for the desserts! I go because it's fun. I like doing the set-up." Now, he really hit it! There are so many ways that Manaen (and the younger ones) can contribute — putting bread on a platter; paper on tables; drawing; arranging chairs; praying before the meal or talking with guests.

Manaen thrives when he has a role and responsibilities and there are few opportunities for kids who just want to "lead." When we were full-time with a Christian agency, Manaen labored along side us. He has such a sense of loss now that he can't go to work with us. Thus, RITI

meets a deep need. Manaen is a full-fledged worker. Now if only household chores were so motivating.

My kids are building a reservoir of positive memories through RITI. I hope by what we do, the way we talk about it (and don't talk about it) that they will absorb a lifestyle and mindset. Strange as it may sound, there are "useful" vocabulary words that we try to eliminate. One of our kids may use the word "poor." We don't call others poor. Why? Would you like to be called poor? No. I wouldn't either. It sounds "one down."

Others are not below us and we are not above. We are all God's handiwork. Some have needs that we can help meet; another day it may be us in need. Have you ever been truly needy? When you have a need, you long for it to be met. You're glad when it is met. But it still can hurt. The more it feels like charity and not community, the more it hurts. It's certainly more enjoyable to be the one who can give, not the one who needs.

I hope we can learn the grace of meeting needs in ways that minimize the pain of receiving. As in every case, the most important thing is to do to others as you would have them do to you.

RITI provides us a short respite from knowing about but being uninvolved with the crisis of others. On our refrigerator is the statistic that 10 children die every minute of starvation; 15, 000 children per day. We used to have up the statistics about the millions of chil-

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Photos by Marjie Smith

Hall family joins supper club in hosting RITI

(Continued from page 16)

dren in slave labor and other exploitations. You can't read about it without hurting. As a family, we read about and give to different world relief organizations.

Does the giving take away the pain? No. And when Manaen sees others living on the street, he is grieved and angry. "What about them?" he wants to know. "You give money for people in other countries. How come you can't help these?" I have heard him weep at their plight for over an hour.

RITI also provides for my continuing discomfort. Back when I organized our California Sunday school class to make food for the homeless meal, I had to grapple with my own questioning: Are we engaging in "feel-good-ism?" Are we putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound? Don't misunderstand me. Meals and services like RITI are integral pieces of a bigger picture. But I would be naive to think that they're enough. If I were homeless, what would I want? What would I need to move forward?

I'm overwhelmed by the complexities of helping people out of the quagmire of homelessness. I'm sure

there must be people who are providing that help and certainly not as lone rangers, but I'm not one of them. I want to learn more.

It's challenging to raise kids in an affluent society with differing ideals. Our son regularly lets us know all the things his classmates and their families have that we don't. And for him, it's not just words — there's a lot of emotional intensity. He knows we have the resources to buy most of these have-not's. Lord knows we have more than we need, but there remain things we just don't buy because of our values.

Manaen's ninth birthday is approaching. How do we maintain our values but not be rigid and create resentment? What is an appropriate gift? This is something I need to wrestle with and I need

God's help. And your prayers.

RITI helps us because it is a living sermon. We don't have to be the annoying parents that constantly remind, "No, not everybody has a Wii!"

But, in the end, my kids will keep coming to RITI because it's fun.



Blankets in the heart of Iraq

Warmth amidst the chaos

by Katherine Bomboy

Writer and photographer



Editor's note: Katherine Bomboy was a short-term missionary in Iraq in 2004. She returned to Iraq over Christmas and New Year's to walk beside a missionary friend Kathy Queen, (www.entrust4.org), in her ministry to the Kurdish people of northern Iraq. Kathy has tirelessly served the Lord in Iraq for the last four years. For more information on Kathy Queen and her Two Rivers Project, please e-mail her at kqueen@entrust4.org. Please pray for the church of Iraq and for local believers Kathy disciples who face persecution and temptation daily.

An Iraqi Christmas Blessing from Jesus

Jonah did not want to go to the wretched city of Nineveh. In fact he fled and took passage on a ship to avoid the call of God. Fear gripped Jonah and he could not face his appointment. God, in his infinite mercy and grace, sent a creature from the deep to swallow Jonah. While in the creature's belly, Jonah, in safety, warmth and solitude, submitted to God's will for his life.

The ruins of the ancient city of Nineveh are located in the modern Iraqi city of Mosul. On my trip back to Iraq this Christmas, I met a believer named Waheed who was born in Nineveh. His family had to flee their ancestral home several years ago due to insurgent activity that devastates Mosul even today. Waheed and his family settled in Duhok, a predominately Kurdish city north of Mosul. Waheed is the mayor of the small district of Faida, just east of Duhok. This area has become a haven for internally displaced persons (IDPs); families from Baghdad, Kirkuk and Mosul flee their homes when insurgent activity becomes too much to bear. They go north to the stability of the Kurdish region searching for work and a safer place to make a home. They arrive with nothing but the clothes they are wearing and whatever they could fit in their cars.

Waheed is a highly educated man in his early 30s. He was recently nominated for a Fulbright scholarship and strongly desires to move to America to further his education before pursuing a career as an Iraqi ambassador. He loves Jesus but is still afraid to admit his faith to his family. His wife does not even know he is a believer. Waheed reminds me of a modern Jonah, reluctant to follow God's clear call. Waheed asked me if he should come to America to further his career saying how hard life was in Iraq. I simply encouraged him to think

about the work God had for him in his country.

Iraqi Christians face real and life threatening persecution. Believers from even nominally Muslim backgrounds face alienation or assignation at the hands of their own families or communities for openly proclaiming their faith. Waheed, as Faida's mayor, walks a tightrope every day as he tries to dispense justice and mercy within his constituency. He must maintain the façade of governmental loyalty to Baghdad and consequently Islamic principles. When I met Waheed, I could sense the internal battle he faces with his position and his faith.

To complicate matters, Waheed does not even have the support of a mature Christian community. The Iraqi church struggles with clan rivalry and concepts like servant leadership. The wealth of the western church also looms in the consciousness of the fledgling Iraqi church. The logic goes like this: God will provide wealth and favor and prosperity to believers like it has in America. Pastors are to be given money and have limited responsibilities other than being the head of the church (pastors do not desire to or know how to shepherd their congregations; there are no theological seminaries in Iraq and no practical examples of how a church is to function.) Any resources given to believers are to be kept for the wellbeing of the church. Consequently, the concept of ministering to the poor, sick and needy is completely foreign to the local church.

Sadly, some western missions organizations promote this logic by giving the Iraqi church lots of fishes, never holding them accountable or teaching them how to fish within their own communities. Thankfully, God provided Waheed and other believers in his region with an amazing chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to dispense justice and mercy to God's Iraqi children.

Just before Christmas, Texas Baptist Men do-



(Continued from page 18)

nated \$55,000 to provide blankets for refugee families registered in the IDP settlement in Faida. My missionary friend Kathy Queen agreed to oversee the practical distribution of blankets for Texas Baptist Men. She wisely discerned the ministry opportunity for the local church. She insisted that local church members be completely in charge of the blanket distribution (as apposed to the Americans swooping in and taking charge of every detail.) Waheed and another brother, Fuad, partnered to coordinate the logistics of the monumental task. The process started with a simple prayer and the desire to give the refugee families the warmth of Jesus in the Christmas blessing of a blanket.

The names of over 2,000 refugee families had to be placed on distribution rosters, counted and verified prior to the blanket distribution. Local community and clan leaders were recruited to publicize and inform refugees of the four-day distribution process and the document requirements necessary to receive the distribution. Every local church member was personally called to invite them to participate in the blessing of distributing blankets to the refugee families. Security personnel, translators, clerical and inventory workers were recruited from the local community. A secure location to facilitate the distribution was determined that could accommodate the daily quantity of blankets, police, soldiers, distribution workers and refugees. Local blanket vendors were interviewed and blankets were sampled for their quality and warmth. A trustworthy vendor was chosen, a style and quantity of blankets were ordered and a semi-truck was hired to deliver the first day's shipment.

In less than 36 hours, Waheed and Fuad coordinated every detail of the distribution process. On December 30, 2007, the first load of blankets arrived at the distribution center. Hundreds of refugees waited patiently for hours outside the gates of the compound for their names to be called. God provided sunny skies and temperate weather in a season where rain, snow and subfreezing temperatures are normal. Fuad called Waheed, Kathy and me aside and asked us to pray. He prayed for the refugee families and he asked God to show the love of Jesus to every person involved with the blankets.

Fuad's humble prayer was answered ten-fold every day of the distribution. As every person received the blankets, a local believer said "Merry Christmas in the name of Jesus," as Kurdish praise and worship music played in the background. Iraqi soldiers and police officers, local leaders and government officials started asking for Bibles in Arabic and Kurdish. Each day new faces of God's children lined up outside the gates to be called by name, to receive the blessing of the Lord Jesus. Each day Waheed asked me if he should stay in Iraq. Each day I reminded him how powerfully God was using him right where he is in Faida. I could see the longing for a better, easier, more prosperous life in his eyes. I could sympathize with the temptation to relocate to escape hardship. Not receiving the answer he wanted, Waheed would eventually nod his head, turn and return to



the business of being mayor of Faida. He did his job effortlessly: talking with the people, making last second decisions, mediating disputes, and supervising the workers.

By the end of the distribution, I could see the pride and sense of accomplishment in a job well done in both Fuad and Waheed. They thanked the Lord for providing good weather, for finding favor with the governmental leaders, for the friendships that were formed and for the connection they now had with the refugee community. They also prayed for the local church and asked God to dissolve the apathy and rivalry within the ranks. On the way out of the settlement, we delivered a truck-bed load of Arabic and Kurdish Bibles and football (soccer) tracts to the local police station to distribute the Lord's word to anyone who asked. God had opened so many doors in just four days.

That night we went to dinner to celebrate. Waheed and Fuad laughed, exchanged stories and talked about possibilities for future ministry opportunities. Waheed talked about applying for government grants to fund new projects and how the local church could be involved. Waheed then looked across the table at Kathy and me and started asking about American universities appropriate for his post-graduate work. I asked him if he had read the Old Testament story of Jonah. He said yes excitedly because it was about his hometown of Ninevah. I told him he was like Jonah and that God had work for him in Iraq. He smiled at me and nodded.

Please pray for the Church of Iraq. Pray for Waheed, Fuad and other local believers who struggle under extraordinary circumstances. Pray for Kathy Queen and the Two Rivers Ministry in Iraq.



Annual meeting a gathering time

Come and celebrate what the Lord has done in 2007



Operations

by Pam White

Director of operations

On Sun., Feb. 10, St. Bartholomew's Church will be conducting its 53rd annual meeting. The St. Bartholomew's Annual Meeting and Family Feast is a definite "don't want to miss event" in the life of our parish each year.

It is a wonderful time of fellowship with old friends and new, providing a great opportunity to celebrate together what the Lord has done during the past year while, at the same time, looking ahead at God's plans for the future.

You do not have to be a member to attend the annual meeting. In fact, it is a great way to learn more about St. B's and God's vision for our church and the missions and ministries in which we are engaged. It is not simply a PowerPoint budget presentation by the vestry, but an exciting time of learning more about the plans for the future and how we each play an integral part in making the vision a reality.

The vision of St. Bartholomew's is "To imitate Jesus Christ and develop maturity in him in knowledge, character and lifestyle, in devotion to God, in relationships and in ministry and mission." It is with this vision in mind that the vestry, staff and lay leaders put together the 2008 budget.

In many churches, the annual budget is based upon a preliminary pledge commitment from its membership. St. B's leadership has chosen to take a different path in budget preparation over the years, which has required the leadership (especially the vestry that approves the budget) to wholeheartedly seek God's will for our church through prayer, faith and serious discussion vs. the expected giving from pledge cards for a given year. It is exciting but, at the same time, can be unsettling as we found in 2007 when we were looking at a serious shortfall in giving compared to our expenses through 11 months of the year with only December remaining. Praise God for his faithfulness and for open ears and hearts, 2007 ended up much better than anyone could have ever anticipated.



It is with this same trust that St. Bartholomew's selects new vestry members to serve. In 2008, we have four individuals whose terms are ending, and we will select through prayer and the

"drawing of straws" as depicted in the Bible, four new members to take their place. The selection of new vestry members is not a popularity vote but a true prayer-centered process in which we seek God's choice for leadership. We have eight members who have been nominated and qualify for service to the vestry: Ashley MacLachlan, Paul Miller, Denise Kemp, Ann Denson, Charlie Reasor, Jeremy Roe, Gerrit Gustafson and Deborah Whiteside.

The theme for this year's meeting is "Rhythm of the Saints." Webster's dictionary states the definition of rhythm to be: *a recurring and alternating flow, movement, or beat*. In 2008, our desire at St. B's is to be in rhythm and in step with Jesus and the saints of old whose focus was to know Jesus and make him known in all the world.

I hope you will make plans to attend the annual meeting and family feast on Sun., Feb. 10, in the gymnasium, from 5:30 – 7:45 p.m. Childcare will be provided for those who RSVP ahead of time. Please look for sign-up sheets during the next three weeks for childcare and to bring potluck dishes.

You may contact Pam White at: Pwhite@stbs.net

**THE
RHYTHM
OF THE
SAINTS**

**ST. B'S ANNUAL MEETING
& FAMILY FEAST**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 5:30 P.M.

Stuffed bears travel to Africa

by Carla Schober

At last summer's vacation Bible school, the children took part in a mission project for St. B's missionaries, the Chapman family. The Chapmans at the time were ministering on a ship in West Africa with the mission organization, Mercy Ships.

During VBS, the children listened to a DVD that explained what the Chapman's missionary work entailed, described how their family lived on a ship year-round and included advice on how to pray for their work.

The VBS project involved writing notes or drawings of encouragement on slips of paper, putting the slips inside stuffed bears then carefully sewing the bears' sides back up. As each bear was completed, the children were asked to pray a special prayer for the recipient.

And now for an update:

This week it was a pleasure to receive not just a note about where the bears landed, but pictures of those individuals to whom they ministered. Following, is Kristin Chapman's follow-up ...what a praise!

"Hey Carla!

"Sorry it took so long for the kids to see the results of their efforts this summer! These bears arrived on the container just a month or two before the end of the outreach. It was perfect timing, because the bears were given out at the end of the outreach to several ministries where people from the ship had worked for nine months.

The people delivering them said the recipients were thrilled with them and really spent time enjoying the messages inside. The words from the kids were read and reread and really meant the world to those who received them!

Thank you so much for allowing us to be part of this incredible ministry! The pictures that are attached are from an orphanage and from the Cheshire home for the handicapped. I think you can tell by the expressions on the faces that they loved them!

Take care. See you soon!

Kristin"

Update: The Chapman family will be visiting St. B's soon and speaking at our annual meeting Sunday evening, February 10.

Suffering is close by as well as overseas

Editor's Note: Our former missionary, Dr. Robert Riviello, shared his distress over reading about people in Kentucky who lack basic dental care.

Dear church family;

I find sometimes it is hard to grasp a reality that seems distant from my own experiences. I think this can be true when people are talking about their experiences in far-flung places around the world. It often helps me to find aspects of the story that relate to things closer to my own experiences ... and then I am struck again by the realization that we are all created by God in his image, and are called to love all as if they were Jesus in our midst (I guess, because they actually are).

The *New York Times* article that follows is about dental care in Kentucky, and how poverty and lack of access combine to create a terrible blight, right around the corner from Nashville. As Beth and I read it, we thought about St. B's mission work through the Chapmans. I think it helps to understand the importance of that work by thinking about it in a context a little closer to our own experiences. And let me just add, from our experience in Angola, that dental work is of critical importance — not just for healthy smiles, but for protecting from terrible infections, some of which even took lives of young mothers.

Such a wonderful opportunity to share God's love in a practical, tangible way. Here is the link for the article:

[In Kentucky's Teeth, Toll of Poverty and Neglect - New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12...)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12...>

About half the population in Kentucky does not have dental insurance, and 1 in 10 are missing all their teeth.

Grace and peace be with you,
Robert and Beth Riviello



Bible translation an arduous journey

He leadeth me!

by Deborah and Henry Martin

Bible translators



He Leadeth Me!

A great song – and that is the theme of this story – God just keeps leading!

Soooo ...we were two normal children when our lives were at the outset. We cried and laughed and played like any other kids. Henry and I both met Jesus early. My pastor said he “had no choice” but to baptize me at age 7 and Henry remembers the Holy Spirit visiting the summer college ministry of his dad, who was a Methodist minister. There amongst those adults, this little boy met Jesus.

At age 10, Jesus called me to be a missionary. There I was in a meeting – the Holy Spirit was clearly falling in this Baptist girl’s camp missions meeting, a bit of a strange thing. Girls were giving their lives to missions, as there were pictures of mud huts on the screen. Miss Beulah Peoples was talking about people groups who had no ability to hear the Word of God in their language and Jesus began to speak to me —“Deborah, I am calling you to give your life to me for this work. Go up front and make a commitment to me.” “But Lord,” I said, “how will I get to this work? It is a long time until I could do this.” I heard Jesus say, “Deborah, that is my job, leave it to me!” And with that in place, I walked up front in tears, amazed that I had heard Jesus again in a powerful way.

It was a long way indeed. Henry and I both had to go through being teenagers pulled hither and thither by the culture of the 60s and 70s, getting married out of the hippie generation and meeting Jesus again in the Jesus Movement — we were both baptized in 1970 as a sign to Jesus that we had returned to him in a deep way.

Then, after walking with Jesus for 5 years, Henry and I were called to take a sabbatical year. Two years later, that

turned out to be with Wycliffe Bible Translators’ organization, Jungle Aviation and Radio Service [JAARS]; and we went with our four children at the time, Taylor, Allison, Joseph and Daniel, in Southern Sudan



running single sideband radios for translators in the bush. It was there we figured out that this work of linguistics that leads to Bible translation was a joy to us and that Jesus was calling us toward that training. We came back to the US, Henry’s job, and raising these children. In 1983, God called us to return, but this time as a Bible translation team. We were trained by Summer Institute of Linguistics [SIL], the training and translation arm of Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc. This study path led to the title of linguistic technician for both Henry and me.

By the time we got to the field in 1990, we had seven children, Taylor (20) at Dartmouth College, Allison (15), Joseph (10), Daniel (9), Kit (6), Jeffrey (4), and Stephanie (10 months). Taylor stayed in the US and all the rest of us went to Kenya for training and then onto Sudan. Lindsay was born in Kijabe, Kenya, at the Africa Inland Mission hospital on November 11, 1991. We home-schooled everyone and while doing that balanced building a Bible translation team amongst the Jieng (Dinka) people of Southern Sudan. We worked both in Nairobi, Kenya, and Khartoum, Sudan, establishing a project and doing workshops to teach Sudanese how to accomplish this work.

In March of 1993, toward the end of our term, our daughter Stephanie got malaria in Khartoum, and when we came out of Sudan for a vacation she contracted pneumonia as well and died. I believe it was the saddest day of my life. It was the last day of Ramadan at sundown as the fasting ended and the feasting began. I held my dead daughter in my arms as so many other Sudanese parents have done asking God how this could be.

Henry and I decided to stay until the end of our term in Sudan and in 1994, after a last Sound Discovery Workshop with 33 elders of Jieng in attendance, we went back to the US on furlough to find that our church of 23 years that had supported us during that term had a new pastor and he had fired 11 missions teams. We thought we could weather that storm, but in the end we joined them, as he did not want missionaries.

Henry and I felt abandoned by God, our church and many friends. We found ourselves grieving and stuck in the US! God, however, long ago told me that it was his job to get me to the project and here in this clearly shifted path, God provided a job for Henry and God, in his infinite wisdom, had brought the Sudanese to us ... all the way to Nashville (the Jieng and all 101 other groups as well). So we asked God to help us if he had really called us to Bible translation. We began to cry out to Jesus – what do we do now? We have lost so much, just like our Sudanese brothers and

He leadeth me cont'd

sisters – how do you provide the path? You have given us eight children and called us to live our lives doing Bible translation. How????

Jesus kept bringing us back to the fact that we were still called.

Jesus even brought Bishop Daniel Deng Bul all the way to the US to find us, Bishop Benjamin Mungar to find us and Bishop Nathaniel Garang to encourage us not to give up! Marc Nikkel, ECUSA missionary to the Jieng came to Nashville to the Global Episcopal Missions Conference where he said, "Please, do the linguistics; it is what we need." They all said, "God will show the Way!"

So we continued.

We heard God say it was like rock soup and like Nehemiah building the wall – many people would have a part. We worked on whatever God brought us: The church in Nashville, The Lost Boys, the Sudanese community, the SPLA/M in the US, anything that helped support the Sudanese here in the US and bridged the gap to Sudan, always looking for the door to get back to translation.

On the 13th anniversary of the death of our daughter, my mom went to be with Jesus. The inheritance provided money that we could use to start this part of this project!

In 2006, our son, Kit, and I went to Kakuma with Good Shepherd Leadership Training Centre at the request of Bishop Nathaniel and did workshops:

We led a research skills in linguistics for Bible translation and a recording workshop (we recorded 400 songs of the Jolwolieech, the Lost Boy

leadership group at Kakuma Camp. (The album is now for sale.) As well we led a workshop on trauma and marriage counseling for senior pastors/peer counseling for beginners- (e.g. material on grief today) and a Youth Jesus rally.

In that same trip, we traveled to the Nuba Mountains as guests of Cmdr. Abdul Aziz Adam al Hillu to discuss translation with the tribal elders there.

We got stuck and God introduced us to a group of Darfurian internally displaced people and we interviewed members of the Janjaweed there. We also found over 600 children in that camp, all of whom had no blankets with winter on its way.

What came out of these trips was an album for the Jolwolieech and a project, which by the end of January 2007, delivered \$27,000 worth of blankets to Nuba, providing each child with a blanket.

In 2006, just after my trip with Kit, we asked St. B.'s missions and outreach committee and Father Jerry to pray with us about how to get back to work as a full-time linguistics and translations team. In the summer of 2007, we became missionaries of St. B.'s and are looking for the support necessary to continue this path.

We have started language workshops with the Sudanese again and we are still following that call that we received so long ago. If you would like to partner with us in this project, donations can be made to the Dinka Translation Fund at St. Bartholomew's Church. Henry has now ended his regular job and we are asking Jesus again to lead us!



Photos, from top, are: the Martins with Bishop Nathaniel; attending the inauguration of John Garang; their daughter Stephanie who died while they were on the mission field; at a Lost Boys workshop; Henry, in Africa, while they were with Wycliffe; Deborah homeschooling; and Kit and Deborah interviewing Darfurian defectors in the Nuba Mountains.



Photos courtesy of the Martins

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Catechesis taps into children's attributes



Catechesis

by Carla Schober

Director of children's discipleship

There were quite a few questions I had last year as I mailed off the deposit check from St. B's for four of us (Sarah Bell Earley, Emily Huff, Susan Puckett and me) to attend the training for Level I Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Questions such as, what type of one-hour-a-week Sunday school class, devoted to three to six year olds, could possibly take 90 hours of training over a period of seven months? Wasn't it possible to simply purchase the curriculum or call in a trainer for a few weeks? Was this method of teaching the Gospel really worth the time, effort and monies when we already had a vital Christian education program?

Months later, my questions seem superficial in light of what the four of us have learned and agree is the incredible amount of spiritual development and insight a preschooler can not only learn, but teach an adult. It continues to be our privilege to take this class and help bring it back to the children and adults of St. B's.

Catherine Maresca, MA, a catechist (Catechesis certified instructor) and founder and director of the Center for Children and Theology, in Washington, D.C., says,

"Undistracted by the past or the future and graced with wonder, children can help us to explore the mysteries and find the glory of God enclosed in simple gifts."

What she says echoes what each of us is currently receiving from the class. Sarah Bell Early, junior warden at St. B's, explains, "I don't want to underestimate the potential our children have to think deeply about God. And they in turn can encourage us to think more deeply about God." Emily Huff adds, "This class has encouraged us to wonder and to learn ways to help the children (and ourselves) fall more in love with God. We cannot make that happen, but we trust that the Holy Spirit is our teacher."

Susan Puckett agrees, "Catechesis takes advantage of the young child's immense capacity to love. The lessons in Level 1 teach the basic principles of our faith: God is love, Christ is risen, the incarnation and the Kingdom of God. The experience a child has builds on a growing knowledge that God is good and we can love him freely. Thus the children develop what is most important to them, a relationship with God, and learn to direct their love to the one who can exceed it."

Each week, the class centers on the never-ending love and reality of Jesus Christ and what he did for us. However, the class is also a mini form of an adult confirmation class. These children, even at 3 ½ years, are given instruction on liturgy, history, geography and

(Continued on page 25)



The Catechesis group

Left: Susan Puckett, Sarah Bell Earley, Carla Schober and Emily Huff (with her children); above: the group takes notes during Catechesis training.

Room in the Inn (and our 5th/6th Graders)

IMPORTANT DATES!

ROOM IN THE INN TRAINING

Sun., Feb. 3

11:30-12:30 a.m.

(in 5th/6th Grade Sunday school class)

This is an important training meeting.

Food assignments and discussion on how to respond and minister to our guests is necessary to participate.

ROOM IN THE INN SERVICE NIGHT

Sat., Feb. 23

Arrival time: 5:45 p.m.

NOTE TO PARENTS

Since 2000, our 5th & 6th Grade girls and boys have had the blessing of participating in this safe and much appreciated ministry. The girls and boys are in charge of organizing, preparing the meal, talking with and serving our guests. This is a team effort.



Parents, this is a service activity that the kids really enjoy and learn a great deal from. Not only does it help strengthen the kids' team-work skills, but it's a wonderful example of showing the love of God to others by unselfishly giving of themselves to those less fortunate.

Any parent wanting to participate is more than welcome and appreciated. If your child wants to participate but is unable to attend the training, email Karen or Carla and we'll work out other options. Please know all parents are welcome, encouraged and needed to join in this service activity!

If there are questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email Karen Daniel: karendaniel64@gmail.com or Carla Schober: carlaschob@gmail.com

Catechesis introduces children to wonder of God

(Continued from page 24)

worship. They learn the significance and symbolism of the Holy Eucharist. They come to know that the communion cup is referred to as the chalice, the plate that holds the bread is called the paten. They learn the colors and symbols of the church year and they learn to have their own moment of silent contemplation. They are encouraged to wonder about the mysteries of God and not to be afraid of them. And we are too.

Emily recently shared with me just one example of how powerful a lesson from our catechesis class was to her. It was a lesson about the sign of the cross. "It seemed it would be a simple lesson of learning how to say, 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,' and where to place our hands as we said it. But it was so profound for me to watch this, practice this and then to ponder the questions that Becky Rochford (our teacher) asked:

"What do you do when you finish a piece of art? Why do you write your name on a drawing that you make? When you trace the sign of the cross on yourself, who are you saying you belong to and want to be with?" The simple wonder settled in as I meditated on these. We do the sign



of the cross as a reminder that we are his work of art. We are his workmanship. (Eph. 2:10). As I see works of art all around our house made by our two children, with their names scrawled at the bottom of the pictures, I am reminded of the care, creativity and time they put into them. These paintings belong to them and are treasured by them. We display them on the wall in our hallway in our 'art show' to give honor to what they have done. In the same way, God has put himself into his creation. We belong to him. We are treasure and he delights in his creation and has deemed it very good."

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Level I has been and will continue to be a very rich and extremely worthwhile program for those of us that are taking it through March. We encourage any of you that are interested, young and old, to come observe our current Level I children's class with catechist Shari Smyth.

The class is currently held downstairs from 8:30-9:30 a.m. each Sunday. If you are interested in observing or possibly learning how to teach this course, please contact Carla Schober, director of children's discipleship at 512-1969 or carlaschob@gmail.com



A chance to get to know each other

Newcomers' luncheon

Sunday, March 30, 2008

Immediately following
the 10:30 a.m. service
in the gymnasium.

All visitors and those new to St. B's
during the last 6 months are invited.

Learn more about the ministry and
mission of St. B's
and meet
clergy, staff and vestry members.

Childcare provided

These are the faces of St. B's volunteers



These are God's hands at work!

ST. B'S ART EXHIBIT

SAT., APRIL 5

Artists and artisans
welcome



Contact: Donna Easter
(373-8244) or Mimi
Heldman (351-2314)



Meeting summary of January vestry

by Whit Smyth, vestry clerk

*E*ach month The Branch will briefly summarize key points from the previous month's vestry meeting. On December 10, the vestry:

- Praise God! St. B's finished 2007 with a financial surplus of \$71,000 over budget. The vestry elected to apply these monies to the Nehemiah Fund.
 - The Oak Hill zoning hearing on the use of St. B's fields by the YMCA has been postponed to February 2.
 - Marjie Smith, who is stepping down as Branch editor, will produce the February issue while Fr. Jerry seeks a director of communications to assume this and other communications-related responsibilities.
 - Fr. Jerry commented on two churches that have elected to leave the Episcopal Church. They are Holy Cross Church in Murfreesboro (Rev. Frederick Richardson) and Trinity Episcopal in Winchester (Rev. Bill Midgett). "We are governed by our bishop, not by our vestry or the national church," Fr. Jerry said. "It breaks my heart when people choose to leave. I have no intention of leading St. B's out of the Episcopal Church."
 - The St. B's Annual Meeting will be February 10. The St. B's Annual Report will be distributed prior to the annual meeting.
 - Parish hall renovations are due to be completed by January 22.
 - Security cameras donated by parishioner Robert Stewart will be installed during the first week of February.
 - The Nehemiah Fund has two key positions yet to be filled: Contact team leader and advance commitment leader.
 - The revised St. B's by-laws were approved.
 - Eight individuals have agreed to be nominated for the vestry. Their names will be read in church and brief biographies published in the February Branch.
 - The vestry moved to nominate parishioner Scott Kammerer as a diocesan deputy to the National Convention in 2009. There will be an open election for deputies at the diocesan convention at St. B's January 25-26.
 - Plans and prices were presented for a columbarium at St. B's. The vestry will further investigate these and other options in the months ahead.
- The complete minutes from February 14 will be posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall when they are approved.*

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."

II Corinthians 3:8



Katherine Bomboy photo

February

Anniversaries

Dick & Ellen Jewell
2/6/1982
Richard & Rhonda Courtney
2/12/1994
Steve & Carolyn Tidwell
2/17/1968
Joel & Carol Tomlin
2/19/1994

Birthdays

Hal Reasor 2/1
Catherine Allen 2/3
Pam Seavers 2/3
Reilly Cate Ferguson 2/4
Emily Tomlin 2/4
Lauren Tomlin 2/4
Bonnie Bashor 2/5
Caroline Hampton 2/5
Mimi Arthur 2/6

Justice Batarseh 2/6
Chelsea Craig 2/6
Becca Woods 2/6
Terry Armstrong 2/7
Jane Metcalfe 2/7
Gerard Stranch 2/7
David Edwards 2/8
Laine Milam 2/8
Troy Solarek 2/8
Logan Gross 2/9
David (Kit) Martin 2/9
Gary Mumme 2/9
Roger McCoy 2/10
Mike O'Neil 2/10
Rebecca Searfoss 2/10
Ward Metcalfe 2/11
Jessica Bauchiero 2/12
James Stranch 2/12
Vicky Walker 2/12
Don Grant 2/13
Caitlin Anthony 2/14
Beth Lehman 2/14
Hayden MacLachlan 2/14

Tom Mahan 2/15
L. Dove Stasio 2/15
Stephanie Tidwell 2/15
Elise Brown 2/17
Ginger Gross 2/17
John Marshall 2/17
Ella Merkh 2/17
Danny Combs 2/19
Annabella Denzel 2/21
Analise Kotynski 2/22
Charlie Reasor 2/22
Sharon Conley 2/23
Suzy Floyd 2/23
Joey Hunter 2/24
Blake Lundgren 2/24
Simon Shelton 2/24
Maggie Ward 2/24
David Cropp 2/25
Tara Moore 2/25
Jim Russell 2/25
Doug Smith 2/25
Hannah Woods 2/25
Susan Lyons 2/26

Katherine Emerson 2/27

Births

- Madilyn Aneita Wieler, parents Adrienne and Dwayne, grandparents Fr. Jerry and Marjie Smith, 1/1
- George Hughes Clements, parents George and Natalie, 1/16
- Elliot Allen Abijar Swihar, parents Miriam and Seth Swihar, 1/17
- Wilder Andrews Allen, parents John and Kendra Allen, sister, Caroline (see photo) 1/25



Huff family photo

Chalking the door

The Huff family would like to thank Dixon for providing a liturgy for Chalking the Door, in a previous Branch. The picture at the left shows Anna Huff hard at work.

Baptisms

- Davis Fraser Simpson, parents Kim and Dan Simpson, and brother, Jamieson, 1/20

Weddings

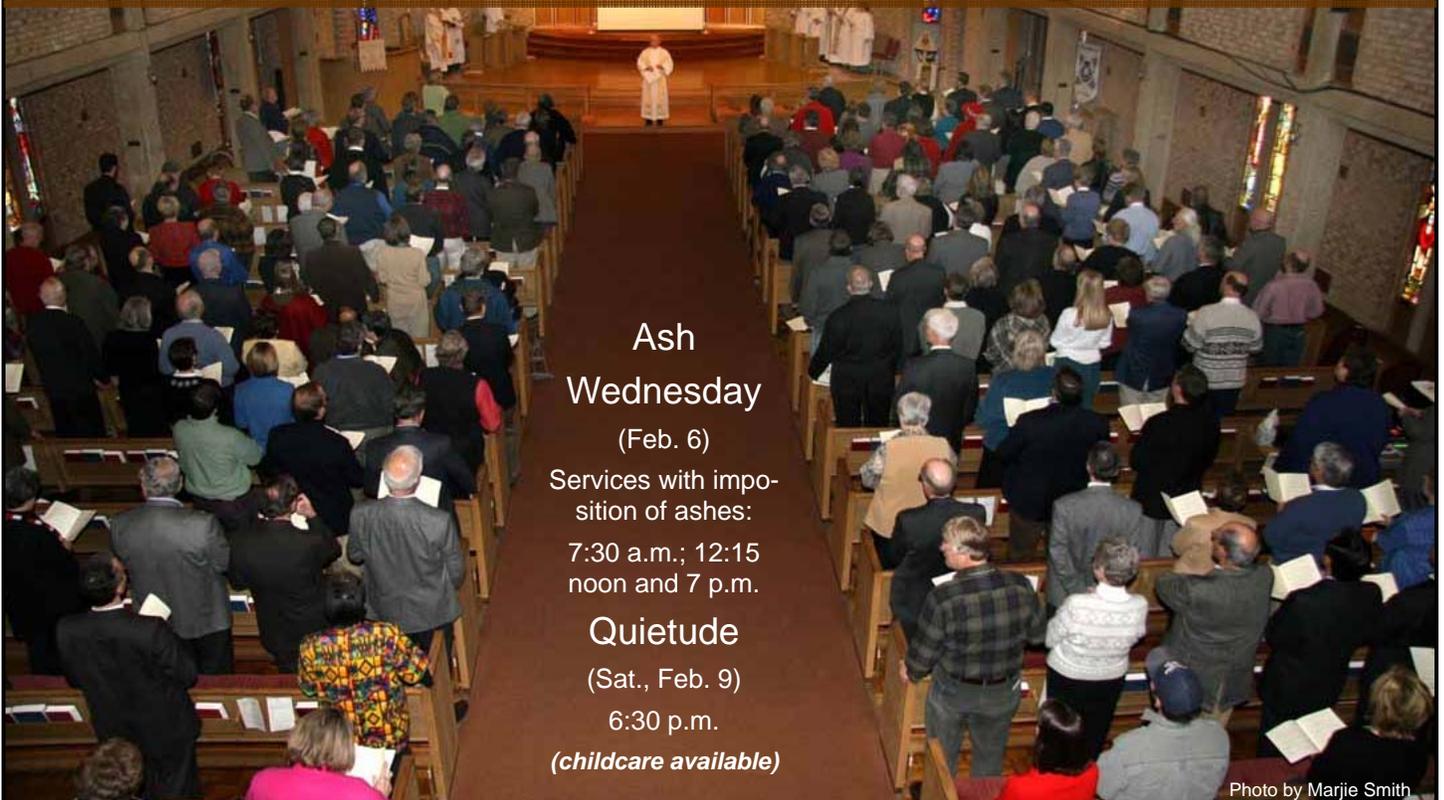
- Jessica Buntin and Sam Smith, 1/19

Jesus lives in every new beginning

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St. Bartholomew's during convention service



FOR UPCOMING ST. B'S EVENTS/ACTIVITIES: LOG ON TO WWW.STBS.NET