

THE BRANCH

The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church



PRESCHOOL, MDO KICK OFF NEW YEAR

by Erin Somerville & Anne Smith

A couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending this year's open house for the St. B's Preschool and Mother's Day Out program.

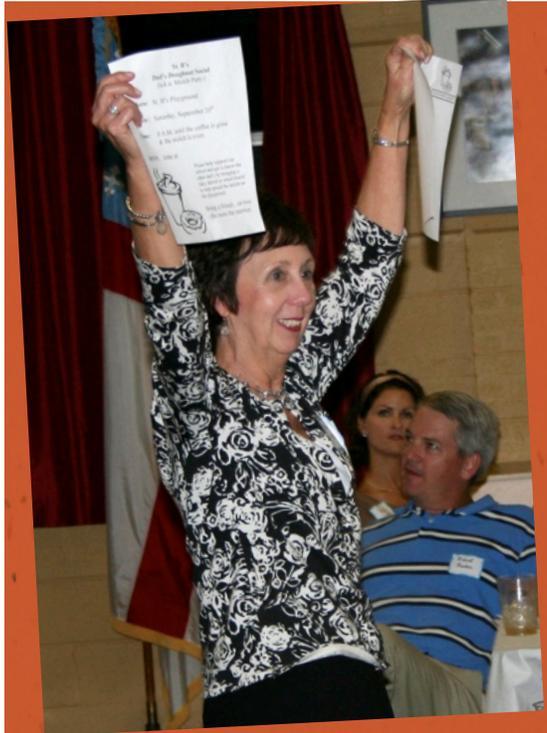
My primary motivations, as new Director of Communications, were to gain a better understanding of how the school operates, and to get to know more of the people involved in this community.

What I left with was not only a rich understanding of the mission of the program, but a unique model of what it looks like to tell the story of the Gospel day in and day out.

Many parents stood up and told personal stories of how their families' lives have been impacted by St. B's. One of these stories was from Anne Smith, who graciously agreed to let me share it. Her story, which follows, was a reminder to me of how often I am unaware of the rich variety of ways in which gospel ministry is being done in our midst. I urge you to pray for this ministry, as it shapes so many young lives each week.

From Anne Smith:

The Bible verse that always makes me think of St. B's is Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me...." Every



Above: Suzy Floyd, director of St. B's preschool & MDO, goes over a couple details of the new year.
Below (from left): Suzanne Zadick, Susan Magruder and Ruth Carleton, a few of this year's teachers.



child and family who is connected with St B's has been prayed for. Each family

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October 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).

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Staff

Clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith, Rector
The Rev. Randy Hoover-Dempsey, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Dixon Kinser, Dir. of Youth Discipleship
The Rev. John Awan, Sudanese ministry
The Rev. Albino Gur Maror, Sudanese ministry
The Rev. David Wilson, Pastoral Associate

Office:

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

Parish Ministry:

Carla Schober, Dir. of Children's Discipleship
Aaron Mayo, Children's Ministry Assistant
Carmen Hall, Preschool Coordinator
Meredith Flynn, Nursery Director
Kristin Kinser, Elementary Coordinator
Shelby Haggard, Sunday morning leader
Steve Lefebvre, Youth Discipleship Intern

St. B's Bookstore:

Allison Hardwick, Manager

Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

Suzu Floyd, preschool director
Mary Ellen Ratcliffe, preschool exec. assistant

Music:

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

Vestry Members

Sarah Bell Earley, senior warden
Andy Valentine, junior warden

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

Diocese

The Rt. Rev. John C. Bauerschmidt, Bishop

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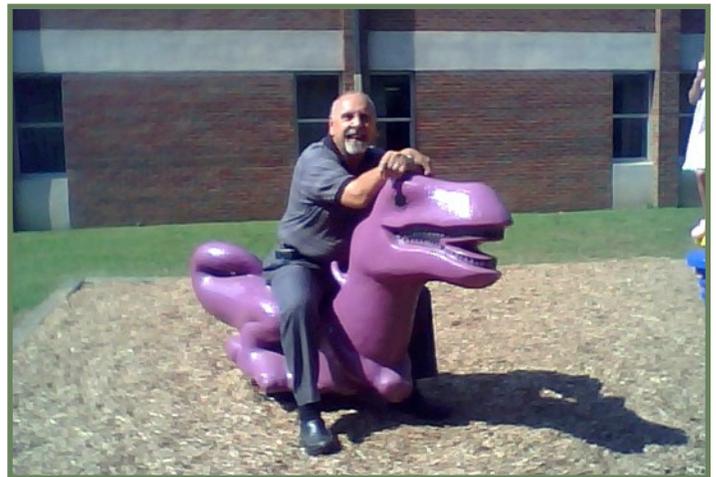


Photo: Harry Xanthopoulos takes a break on the playground with his 1st & 2nd grade Sunday school class. Photo by Sean Root.

Important note: There will be no November issue of *The Branch*. We are preparing for a special Advent edition in December.

Articles can be sent to:
editor@stbs.net



Report on Lambeth

Maintaining faithful & historic Christian perspective within our communion

The 2008 Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops is now over and the international implications are being weighed.

Once every 10 years, all of the bishops in our denomination gather at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury to pray and informally plan for our life together as an extended family. Although this is not at all a legislative body, there have always been decisions made at this gathering to which all participants would voluntarily subscribe in order to make our life together happier.

Gathered bishops this year were burdened with what seemed like the inevitability of a communion-wide split that would leave the face of our denomination looking dramatically different. Some 200 bishops chose not to attend as a reaction to what they perceived to be the lack of action from the archbishop and the suggestion that the gathering could (or would) do nothing to change the current direction of the church. According to all reports, Canterbury regularly reminded those who did assemble of those who chose not to attend in order to keep their voices present even though they weren't.

The general consensus of the over 600 bishops gathered was a commitment to work together to establish a covenant along the lines of the one proposed by the Windsor Report group. General agreement among participants is that this covenant will help form our lives together so that we can move forward together without compromising the gospel as it has been handed down to us as Anglicans.

There will be bishops and dioceses and rectors and parishes who may opt to

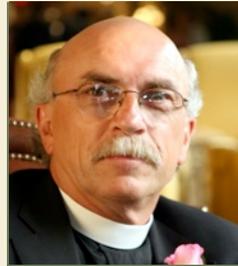
not trust the process to develop this covenant and there will be players who don't think it is moving fast enough in the direction in which they may want it to move. For my part and, I presume, for our bishop's part, we want to be faithful to the mind of the Spirit as he has been working through the community of international bishops.

Some would have us establish a 'plan B' in case the development of this covenant doesn't pan out to be what we might want it to be. I liken having an option to having a marriage

“For my part and, I presume, for our bishop's part, we want to be faithful to the mind of the Spirit as he has been working through the community of international bishops.”

contract in case the marriage doesn't work out. How can I enter into a covenant legitimately if I have an "opt out" clause? Although in the world we might be able to do this, it is never an option in the Kingdom of God as this 'plan B' evidences our lack of trust in the Lord of the Church and also our need to be in control.

Sadly, what started out as helpful organizations in the American church, both the American Anglican Council



KINGDOM TALK

by Fr. Jerry Smith

Rector,
St. Bartholomew's

(AAC) and the Anglican Communion Network (ACN), have become communities with agendas that are not always helpful to the establishment of ongoing relationships in our communion. We have been aligned with these two groups in the past, but our continued association with them suggests to the wider church that we might not be fully participating in the renewing and restoration of our denomination. I have proposed to the vestry that our energies might better be directed toward Communion Partners, a group of bishops and rectors committed to maintain faithful and historic Christian perspective within our communion. We would be doing so by being full team players. There is no fear that our desire for authentic biblical authority be compromised. Neither are we watering down our understanding of the person and work of Christ or standing in judgment of either the AAC or ACN and their partnering churches. Rather, it is simply a reflection of our desire to be fully engaged in Kingdom ministry in The Episcopal Church, for indeed we are Episcopalians!

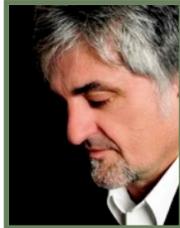
You may contact Jerry Smith at:
jerrysmith@stbs.net



Parish Talents Contribute to Billy Graham Film

by Susan Houston

There has been buzz in Nashville about the upcoming Billy Graham biopic, *Billy: The Early Years of Billy Graham*, for over a year now. Several musicians, actors, and extras have come from the Nashville area, as well as primary shooting locations. St. B's Associate Music Director, Tom Howard, played an integral part in the musical score for the film, working alongside composer, Scott Brasher.



Tom Howard

How did you get involved in the film project?

Tom: Scott Brasher, the composer for the film, asked me to come on board as the orchestrator. I have worked with Scott on previous

recording projects and he needed someone to flesh out his themes and get them ready for the score recording. I conducted the sessions and also wrote some additional material for the film.

What was your primary inspiration/theme for the project?

Tom: The themes I composed were tied in directly with particular scenes. They were both "big band" cues and they were incorporated into a couple of the historical montages that weave together some of the story line.

How long did it take?

Tom: We worked on our part of the movie, writing and recording, for about 4 weeks.

You mentioned that there were other St. B's folks involved.

Tom: Father David has a cameo role as the preacher who married Billy and Ruth, and Anastasia Brown acted as music supervisor through her company, 82i Entertainment Group. There are a number of songs incorporated into the film, and Anastasia brought in various recording artists and placed the songs and she's overseeing the release of the soundtrack album. Paul Nelson, a member of St B's worship team, is the featured cellist on the theatrical trailer I wrote and produced for the



Top: Fr. David Wilson plays the pastor who married Billy Graham and Ruth Bell in 1943. Above (left): Anastasia Brown (one of the executive producers & music supervisor for the film) in a cameo role. Photos by Katherine Bomboy.

film. Katherine Bomboy did the still photography during the shoot.

We know that this is a biopic - what part of Billy Graham's life does it cover?

Tom: The film covers Billy's life from about age 18 until his first Los Angeles crusade in 1949, which more or less launched his worldwide ministry.

Did you meet any of the cast and crew?

Tom: I met Armie Hammer, the actor playing Graham, and I worked with Robby Benson, the director. I worked quite closely with Martin Shiel, one of the producers.

Describe the soundtrack process, if you can - what was your role?

Tom: The soundtrack process is quite multifaceted, but the quick



Above: More photos from the set. Katherine Bomboy did all still photography for the film.

Continued on next page



Billy Graham Film (continued from page 4)

answer is that you sit down with the director and the producers and "spot" the film, meaning that you determine where music cues are going to be placed. Sometime during those initial meetings you have to present a production budget and make sure you're on the same page with the guys writing the checks.

Then it's a matter of living with the scenes and the story line and seeing where the creative process takes you. Scott Brasher had been working on themes for a number of months and he had some great melodies and concepts. We had a lot of discussion about mood, musical nuance, staying out of the way, etc. From there, the music is orchestrated and demo'd for the producers, using virtual instruments to

simulate what they'll be hearing in the real recording session. When they sign off on the demos, I then commit the arrangements to score paper and get the session ready to record. There was some ensuing discussion about where the orchestra would be recorded (London, Dublin, Prague, Seattle, etc.) but in the end Nashville won the day, which I was happy about because we have a great orchestral ensemble right here.

Film scoring is a different bag, in that you have to make strong musical statements but they still have to serve the bigger picture, the emotion and



Armie Hammer as Billy Graham
Photo by Katherine Bomboy

nuance of each scene. This takes a lot of experience and ongoing dialogue with the director and the producers. In the end, it's all about storytelling.

Billy: The Early Years of Billy Graham opens Nationwide on October 10th.

Preschool, MDO (continued from page 1)

will have its own story of how or why they are here.

When my oldest child was just a baby, we had her on the waiting list, and I regularly called Suzy to see if we had moved up on the list. My last conversation with Suzy ended with "we will pray her in." This was 3 years before our true need for St. B's arose, when the preschool my daughter was scheduled to attend turned out to be a poor fit for her.

The Lord opened the door at just the right moment and my child was welcomed to St. B's with open arms.

One of the most amazing blessings our family has received is Suzy and the staff's strong belief in the power of prayer. Suzy prays over every matter concerning the school. The staff and the moms meet on a regular basis to pray. Suzy will pray with anyone, anywhere, anytime. The power and joy

of the Holy Spirit is in this sweet place. Lives are changed because of the staff's commitment to be the hands and feet of Christ.

I want the world to see Christ in my family as my children are developing this amazing love of the Father. When you meet other St. B's families, and you find out you've shared this unique experience, you automatically bond. I love St. B's. I can't imagine smarter, more loving or more caring staff than I have experienced at this school.

Our children will learn their ABCs, writing, music, Spanish, Jesus stories, and proper etiquette for receiving a tootsie roll. But the most important thing they will learn is that they are children of the Kingdom.



Top: Fr. Jerry talks to Gaylene Latham over dinner. Above: Alan & Kate Mittelsdorf in the classroom.



Jazzercise Finds New Home at St. B's



FLY ON THE WALL

by Kristin Searfoss

In the early 1990s, I used to go to exercise classes a few times a week at a business in Louisville, Ky., called Shapenastics. Despite my clumsiness at the dance moves and my inability to master step aerobics, I got a good aerobic workout. Plus, I had fun.

I thought of Shapenastics again when I heard about Jazzercise at St. B's. St. Bartholomew's Church has been hosting a Jazzercise class in our gym ever since franchise owner Mary Helen Yarbrough had to move her business from the YWCA on Woodmont. The room she had rented for 19 years was going to be turned into an office, so Mary Helen needed a new Jazzercise home. That's where the St. Bartholomew's gym came in.

"We were so blessed to find St. B's. I love having a gym and a wood floor," Mary Helen says.

Although nobody from St. B's was participating in the Jazzercise classes when I spoke with Mary Helen this summer, it's still interesting to find out what's going on at our church on days other than Sundays.

She holds classes on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings for between 20 and 30 people and on Mondays,

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. for 20 to 40 people. The morning Jazzercise classes offer childcare, for \$2 per child.

"Everyone is welcome, men and women," she says. There are three or four guys who come, and almost everyone who is in class lives in the area of the church. About six people work nearby.

She says she'd love it if some members of our church family took the classes and that they wouldn't have to pay the \$35 sign-up fee.

What is Jazzercise? Mary Helen explains that it is a jazz dance-based program and that participants do yoga, kick boxing, Pilates, weights and funk. "The choreography is what sets us apart from other programs, with the top 40s music," she says. "Jazzercise is a great way to work out, sweat, and have so much fun that you forget that

you are working so hard! We do pulse tests, to see how hard we are working. In high school, I used to hate to work out or even move. I encourage people to just come to class and walk through it.



Tuesday morning jazzercise in the St. B's gym. Photo by Annie Heyward.

"You don't have to try to do more than you can do. Just be glad you are off the couch and moving. Also, Jazzercise is a great way to meet other people. We start with a warm up, then move to the aerobic curve, then back down, which is when we do more of the popular dance moves, when you

are warm. We pick up weights, do some upper torso work and then hit the floor on mats with exercises for glutes and abs. Then, we end with a stretch. We sing, dance, yell and laugh, and if you have had a bad day, I get you to leave it behind you."

It sounds as if Jazzercise would have appealed to clumsy me in the 1990s. "We dance, and even if you can't, you just have fun. The old saying, 'Music moves you,' is so true. We have a blast," according to Mary Helen.

Pig Roast & Bluegrass Festival: Oct 19



Mark your calendars now for this fun annual family tradition. **Sunday, October 19, 12:15-2:30.**

All proceeds will go to Youth Ministry (\$5/person recommended donation) There will be children's activities, inflatables, and other games. Hot dogs, chicken and a vegetarian option will also be served.

During the Pig Roast, **the bookstore is having a Sidewalk Sale!**

Help us clear out space for new inventory. Bring your cash or check and take advantage of up to 90% off of titles in stock!



Snapshots of Grandparenthood



RUMINATIONS

by *Marjie Smith*

msscibbler@comcast.net

There are three pictures in our kitchen that sit on a bureau that is so old it doesn't have nails and is covered in scars from past lives. The three pictures are of little people so young that they don't have scars. I love the contrast. I love the pictures. They are of our grandchildren. On July 30, a fourth grandchild, Eli, was born. His picture will go up there eventually, when he surrenders one.

Every day I look at them. Every day I miss them. Every day I am blessed by their existence and their happy smiles. I like to remember them smiling. Life has enough tears. Who needs them in pictures?

The frames don't match. Yes, that bugs me. But somehow, it doesn't bug me enough to buy new ones. It seems frivolous.

All the photos are of visits with Nana and Papa. That is important – to catch a moment because they are so far between. Every time we see them, they have entered a new stage. We are episodic experts in child development. I love where they are in the photos. Little Madilyn is laughing. She is like her mother, who laughed a lot as a baby. The first time Adrienne laughed, we were on summer placement in a little village on the Canadian Pacific Railway Line in the middle of nowhere – literally. It was a tiny place put on the map by the legendary Grey Owl, the counterfeit Native, who was actually a Brit. She laughed when we went to dinner at the home of Rodney Lockwood, a retired gentleman from Michigan who owned a summer house

overlooking the bay. She startled us with the forcefulness and intensity of her laughter. She was only five or six

months old. Every time she saw Rodney, she laughed, to the point where I'm sure he checked the mirror whenever we left.

I want to have a face that makes babies laugh. Adults can do as they please with it. But the innocent laughter of babies is like oxygen. You breathe it. In his photo on the beat-up bureau, Luke is half way between sitting and standing, like little boys are most of

“When I see how unique they already are at such a young age, I hope that the genetic package I sent along works in their favor. I don't want to be blamed for the hips or the attention span.”

the time. He is perched on a rock at the Nashville Zoo. At the zoo we saw a tender heart for animals and knew he'd be a good big brother, and he is. He can be very impolite with adults, but he adores his sister. And Mila is also at the zoo, in her daddy's arms, pointing to the birds. She loved the birds with their busyness and flashes of color. She gets her love of color from her mother. I don't remember her daddy ever caring much what color anything was.

When I see how unique they already are at such a young age, I hope that the genetic package I sent along works in their favor. I don't want to be blamed for the hips or the attention span.

This summer, we saw the grandchildren again – another intensive course on grandparenting. It was a short visit, but short visits are like sunsets. They leave graphic and memorable imprints. We are eternally grateful to the person who developed Skype, the Internet video communication program that allows us to talk live to our children and grandchildren. It colors in the days and weeks between visits. As we sit and talk to their parents, the children play in the background. Luke mostly just says “hi.” He is shy of phones. That is definitely genetic.

Mila gives us a close-up of the top of her head as she bends it to see the little picture of herself in the corner of her parents' computer. “Mima,” she says. “Mima.” This week, she sang her favorite songs with Nana and made butterflies with her hands that fluttered, digitally, across the screen. Madilyn, who is not nine months yet, has motored right through crawling and is trying to walk. And we're right there, watching. She crawls right up to us on screen and can't figure out why we don't reach out and pick her up. When Luke was little, his mother e-mailed us videos of him playing in his Jolly Jumper, trying to crawl or starting to walk. We played them over and over. I try to imagine what it was like for grandparents when their children and grandchildren sailed the ocean to North America. They probably never saw them again. And letters would have been few and far between. And we grumble about the price of fuel.



Touring STBSYM: Liturgy



A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Director of Youth Ministries

Welcome to my new fall series for the Branch. My purpose is to take you on a guided tour of what we're up to in the Youth Ministry week to week, so you can get a flavor for what's happening among the young people here, and hopefully, come by for a visit.

This Weeks Feature: Liturgy.

Sunday nights, from 6:30 to 8:00,

Liturgy is a gathering of people seeking to practice a way of life together in order to live it for the benefit of the world. We are an

intergenerational community

(our youngest members are 13,

our oldest is 81) who worship

God through deep engagement with the Bible, conversation, art making and even some games.

The word Liturgy was chosen

because it is a descriptor of what

we are doing. Our time together

is a "liturgy" in the historic sense.

The word literally translates

"work of the people" and comes

from a mash up two Greek

terms, laos (people) and ergon

(work). It also does not have

roots in church life, but rather it

is a civic term.

A liturgy, then, was anything you did

for public benefit at private cost. So, if

a road travelled across your land and

needed to cross a river and you built a

bridge out of your own pocket, that

bridge was called a liturgy. It was a

public work at private cost.

The early church picked up this word

to describe their worship gatherings

because it was during those times that

they celebrated Jesus death and

resurrection. They recognized that this

was the ultimate liturgy. The Messiah's passion was the supreme private cost (the

very death of God) for the greatest public good (the redemption of the world). This was liturgy, par excellence.

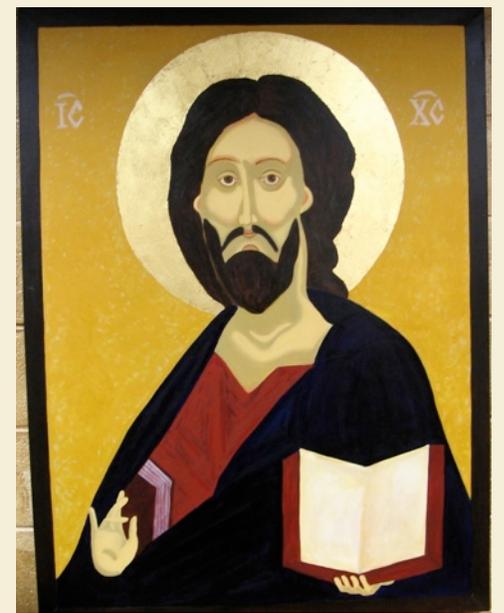
Therefore, the call of the church is not simply to remember the ultimate liturgy that Jesus has accomplished, we are called to enact it. Our calling is to bring God's future into the present and make things here and now on earth the way



they will be then and there in heaven.

So, when the church gathered and celebrated the victory of God it was always with an understanding that any personal transformation (laos) was meant for the benefit of the world (ergon).

It is this tradition of personal revolution in the way of Jesus for public good that we continue every Sunday night (hence the name Liturgy). Our rituals, practices and conversations are all designed to make us into a different kind of people. The



kind of people who join the mission of God wherever we find it.

Our gatherings begin like all Anglican liturgies, with a call to worship.

We embody the call and response, "The Lord be with you.

And also with you" by setting up a café in the hallway outside the

youth room so that worship begins through conversation,

food and table fellowship. This invitation into kingdom life

continues through some "party games". Taking seriously some of

Jesus' descriptions of the kingdom of God (it's like a

Wedding Banquet) and the early churches Eucharistic dinner

parties, we seek to learn God-blessed enjoyment as a spiritual

discipline. Then after moving into a different space (the youth room – set

up in the round) and a few announcements, we get to the meat of

our gathering, reading and responding to the Holy Scriptures.

We take the Bible very seriously here in the youth ministry at St. B's, and as

such, we want to read as much of it as possible the way it was meant to be

read – in community. Therefore our practice at Liturgy is to read entire

books of the Bible, several chapters at

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Dinner Raises \$4,800 for Mission & Outreach



MISSIONS

by Pam White

Director of Operations



The 3rd annual St. Bartholomew's Missions Dinner,

benefitting our long term missionaries, proved to be a great evening out for all those in attendance. The candlelight dinner was hosted by Natasha and John Deane at their lovely home and catered by Chef Works.



Photos by Pam White



Those in attendance numbered 47 with a special missionary update presented by John Deane. At \$100 per person, the evening raised \$4,800 in total, all going towards support of our long term missionaries.

Many thanks to Natasha and John for opening their home for this special event, to Annie Heyward, St. B's administrative assistant, who designed many of the "African theme"

decorations and Allison Hardwick who helped to assemble them for the night's festivities.



Liturgy

continued from page 7

a time, over the course of the whole semester. This practice has helped us gain appreciation for the flow of the narratives and arguments of the letters, but also the beauty of the Psalms and the uniqueness of the apocalyptic genre.

Following the reading, we then respond to the word of God through a practice we call "preaching to each other". Through this dialogical method (if you want to know more about its pedagogy let me know) we deeply engage the Biblical text, seeking its implication in our lives.

Our response to the scriptures continues with something we call "worship stations". These are interactive environments designed to involve the worshipper in multi-sensory reflection on God's activity in their lives. These can involve things as simple as lighting a candle in prayer or as elaborate an exercise taking the worshipper in and out of a camping tent that we've erected in the middle of the room. Space and time prohibit further explanation here, but these are creative ways to connect with God and let the work of the Holy Spirit settle deep into ones life.

Our gatherings then close with a verbalized prayer and the passing of the peace. Passing the peace is a glorious way to conclude our worship as it reminds us of our calling to go and make the Peace of Christ a reality in our world. It's function as a dismissal challenges the worshipper to bring the Peaceable Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. All of you are invited to come visit any time and we would love to have you.

Next month I'll take you on a guided tour of our Sunday morning gathering, Film School.



Getting to Know: Mimi Heldman & Donna Easter

St. B's Art Show forges color-rich friendship between organizers



GETTING TO KNOW

by *Melissa Riddle*

To think it was a park bench that started the whole thing might seem preposterous. But sometimes the best, most colorful gifts in life arrive in the most unsuspecting, ordinary ways.

Such was the case with Mimi Heldman and Donna Easter, two women of different generations and different upbringings but decidedly similar life passions, who met and became instant friends... over a park bench. In 2007, Mimi had volunteered to sell benches for St. Bartholomew's new walking path, and Donna happened to buy the very first one.

In short order the two women discovered that not only were they both graduates of women's colleges in Virginia, but also that they attended the same summer camp, knew some of the same people, and most exciting of all, they both had devoted much of their lives in pursuit of the arts. "We just had so much in common," Mimi says of meeting Donna. "We simply hit it off."

Mimi, an accomplished painter and teacher who works from her home studio in Brentwood, had an instant connection with Donna, an art historian/educator who taught school for many years, earned her Masters in Art History and created 32 art history programs for PBS. A cradle Episcopalian originally from Washington, D.C., Donna has been a member of St. B's for 40 years, while Mimi had only attended St. B's for a

couple of years at the time they met.

So when Pam White, who had been persistent in asking Mimi about organizing an art show for St. B's, approached her again, Mimi finally said, "Okay, I'll do it if Donna Easter will do it with me."

The two women, with tremendous support from their husbands, the entire church staff and clergy, and a few amazing volunteers, set out to do the seemingly impossible in a few months. These artists/teachers knew it wasn't just a matter of soliciting works of art and displaying them at the church. Anything worth doing is worth doing well. And as many projects do, the art show seemingly grew into a larger and larger monster by the day.

So with permission, the event was postponed 'til spring, and Mimi and Donna began working on bringing ambiance to the Parish Hall (no small feat). They hired a painter to repaint the space, made new curtains for the windows, installed new moldings and picture rails, and opened the oft-blocked windows to let in more light. Inspired by the heavy red velvet curtains—red, the official color of St. Bartholomew—that were too expensive to try to replace, Mimi and

Donna fused sacred and art history, even discovering a name appropriate for the event.

More than nine months in the making, the St. Bartholomew's Art Show, "Paint the Town Red," held on April 5, 2008, will be remembered as one of the best and brightest events of the year.



Donna Easter (left) and Mimi Heldman (right) with Allison Hardwick in the church kitchen.

With 80 different paintings and photographs on display, representing the wealth of artistic talent among those who attend St. Bartholomew's, "Paint the Town Red," brought in over 350 enthusiastic art supporters from within and outside our St. B's community.

"Our philosophy was 'whoever wants to contribute, bring it on,'" says Mimi, who often teaches folk art classes at Daystar Ministries. "Most of the people who called to inquire were hesitant about entering their work, but everything submitted was unique and wonderful. And in the end, we were amazed at how much talent exists here at St. B's."

Continued on next page



Mimi Heldman & Donna Easter (continued from page 10)

Still, she says, “When you throw a party, you wonder if anyone is going to come... You can organize and plan the food, the wine, the music and the art... but it’s the people who show up who make the party. We really wanted it to be a community building thing, not an obligatory church event where people pop in but don’t really stay.”

When the evening was over, Mimi and Donna were thrilled that so many people had not only showed up but had stayed for the entire event. People who wouldn’t otherwise attend church. People from local parishes. Even people who until recent years attended St. B’s.

“I’ve been at St. B’s for almost 40 years,” says Donna, who with her husband Luke (a longtime educator who works for the Tennessee

Titans) has one grown son, Josh, and two grandchildren, Frannie, 10, and Jack, 8. “A lot has happened here, inside these walls. I’ve seen our church go through so many upheavals and changes, but something about that night was so amazing. To me, the whole event was a coming together of just the most beautiful things, things that everyday people create.... It was almost a redemption,” she says, a redemptive, unifying expression of who we are as a congregation.

“I’m just fascinated by why people do what they do, paint what they paint, the story behind the paint...so many great painters were rejects of society,”

says Mimi, just before explaining a bit about her lawyer-husband Russ’ fascination with Bob Dylan and the big book of Dylan’s paintings she recently bought for Russ’ new office.

But it’s that place where art and

Miscellanea on Mimi:

- ❖ Graduated from Hollins University in Roanoke, Va.
- ❖ Loves Folk Art, especially Grandma Moses
- ❖ Taught 8th grade Art at Christ Presbyterian Academy for five years
- ❖ Raised 70K dollars for Daystar Ministries, bicycling the length of the Natchez Trace
- ❖ Still upset that Porter Paints changed the names on its color palette

Details on Donna:

- ❖ Taught French and Spanish for 30 years
- ❖ Undergraduate degree from Randolph Macon Woman’s College in Lynchburg, Va.
- ❖ Plans a big arts-around-the-world party every Christmas for her neighbors
- ❖ Her husband Luke is a former actor who does card tricks and ‘is still very handsome’
- ❖ Favorite painter: Edward Hopper
- ❖ Also upset that Porter Paints changed the names on its color palette

redemption meet that captivates both these women. And the freedom to shed some light on that place is just one of the things that makes St. B’s a unique community in which to worship and serve.

These two artistic women certainly don’t take that uniqueness for granted. For Mimi, who grew up in Nashville in the Presbyterian church, married Russ and raised their three girls—Clark, 21, Mary Dea, 18 and Mamie, 15—the language of the Episcopal liturgy had been calling her for sometime, but it was the community aspect of St. B’s that made her dive in. “I love how easy it was to get involved, to feel like you

can contribute, like there’s a place for you,” she says. “St. B’s is such an accessible community. And that’s how I like getting to know people, by working with them.” In addition to heading up the art show, Mimi also serves on the grounds committee and as a lector.

For Donna, who retired from teaching 15 years ago but can be found every Wednesday cleaning the kitchen at St. B’s, often organizing food ‘on the fly,’ it’s the down-home atmosphere here that’s meant the most to her. “Chuck Murphy was the priest when we came,” she says. “He was a former vaudevillian, and he was always entertaining... It’s been charismatic, high church, low church, every kind of people from soup to nuts and everything in between, which is one of the very reasons I’ve always felt at home here.”

What happened back in 2007 over the idea of a park bench is another reason altogether.

“I knew that I had found a real soul-mate in art,” Donna says of the friendship that began that day. “It’s just so amazing to be able to share that with someone who is as passionate about it as I am.”

The art show was only the beginning, Mimi adds, as the two are already planning next year’s “Paint the Town Red (Again),” event. “Getting to know Donna is just a huge benefit that came out of the whole thing. ...When it was over, a week or so later, she left this message on my answering machine: ‘Okay, I am having separation anxiety.’ I still have that message....”

“We definitely want to do it again, Mimi says. “And make it even bigger and better this time.”



THE TWIG

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

Christmas Eve Pageant

Christmas Eve is only a few months out and if your family has plans to stay in town, hopefully those plans also include celebrating Jesus' birth with others from St. B's. If that's true, any chance you could also plan to join in the fun and help with our annual children's Christmas Eve pageant?

The children's Christmas Eve pageant is a St. B's tradition unlike any you've probably been involved in. This pageant gives opportunity for the children to act out the Christmas story from their perspective, not an adult's. There aren't any lengthy lines to memorize or solo auditions. The plot hasn't even changed for over 2,000 years! However, each year the profound simplicity of the birth of our Savior as portrayed by the children is a delight for everyone who attends.

As many of our church family know, the St. B's children look forward each year to their opportunity to share the story of Jesus' birth with the parish. This is not a big production from an adult perspective but it is a big opportunity for a child. The children, with limited help from their parents, make their own costumes with the supplies we have onsite. The children take their parts seriously and through this opportunity gain a very real sense of the wonder of the night as well as their own ability to lead and serve.

It's been said that this night is organized chaos. We can just imagine and wonder about that same innocent chaos on the hills above Bethlehem as shepherds prepared to leave their sheep and see a baby in a manger that was Christ the Savior.

What's in a Vine?



THE WONDER OF IT ALL

by Carla Schober

Director of Children's Discipleship

In a Catechesis class recently we were asked to ponder the parable of the One True Vine (John 15:1-8). In this parable Jesus is the Real Vine, His Father the vine-keeper, and we are the branches. Our instructor asked the question, "why do we think Jesus used a 'vine' as His example and not a tall tree?" She then placed pictures of a grapevine and a tall Sequoia to use as comparisons.

I often don't take time to wonder why Jesus used certain physical examples.

In the parable of the True Vine, I just figured they were near a vineyard. But in class discussion I realized that without considering both His words and the examples He used, I could often miss a part of the beauty of how the Lord works in and through everything He says or does - a bigger and broader picture with very fine details.

As we shared our impressions of the vine vs. tree pictures the first obvious difference was the trunks. Why would Jesus speak of a plant with little to no trunk to illustrate His kingdom?

When I pondered that thought I decided to compare it to our kingdom life at St. B's. It helped bring me to a new appreciation of how Jesus wants us to know we are on this journey together, not only with Him but with each other as a church family.

For example, a branch on a vine doesn't start far up on the trunk, it

starts naturally low to the ground and the vine keeper prunes and trains it to grow straight up and extend out. To me that exemplifies the Lord's desire to nourish, bless and use us even at the



earliest stages of our journey with Him. In Him there is no age or experience restrictions to serve and be a part of the vine. It doesn't take a large trunk of Biblical or practical knowledge to begin to show signs of fruit. It just takes roots, fertile ground and nourishment. However, He does want to give us time to reach up to Him, gain strength and branch out.

Another observation would be of a vine branch vs. a tree branch. A vine branch often intertwines in itself. At St. B's, or any church, the more we are around each other, the more we intertwine and become close. A branch on a tree simply grows outward and off on its own. If we choose to simply show up to service and be nourished it can be like a tree branch with no closeness formed, no intertwining, just function.

While writing today I tried to remember the name of those little

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The Way of the Child coming to St. B's

by Carla Schober
Director of Children's Discipleship

As director of children's discipleship at St.

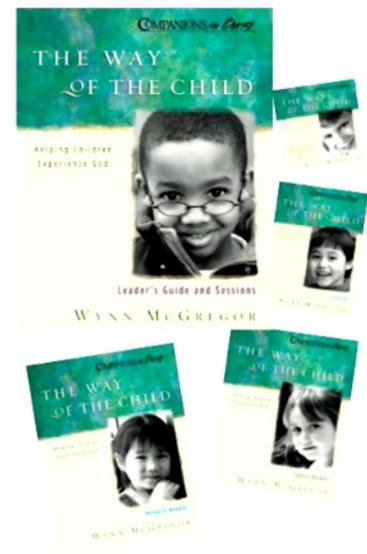
Bartholomew's it is my hope that we may soon offer a brand new curriculum during 8:30 service. This curriculum will be specifically geared toward the elementary age child, and it is one that complements the current preschool Godly Play and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd methodology.

The Way of the Child, written by Wynn McGregor and published by Upper Room Ministries, is a resource designed to provide "opportunities for children to experience and practice spiritual disciplines that nurture that relationship (with Jesus) for a lifetime." It speaks to a concern I have that most of the resources out there teach at the children and often don't offer enough time for them to reflect and explore their faith. They are kept busy and rarely if ever taught to wait on the Lord and listen for His voice.

McGregor found in many of the family workshops she's lead that participants were unaware that a child's natural way

of learning was often manipulated by the world's pace. When participants were asked to describe the world their children were growing up in, some of the words used were, "fast, cluttered, superficial, over-stimulated, fragmented, anxious..." She then asked participants to name the natural qualities of young children. Some of the words that came up were, "openness, trust, wonder, awe, laughter, curiosity, truthfulness, creativity..." These two lists were in stark contrast with each other. The Way of the Child presents Biblical Old and New Testament teachings in small group settings and calmly guides the children into a time to reflect with one another or by themselves in organized contemplative settings.

As mentioned, it is my hope to soon provide this elementary curriculum during 8:30 service. But, it needs adults or teens to lead and facilitate. I do not believe in starting anything before it has been bathed in prayer and leaders raised up. I ask for any of you reading to pray and ask the Lord if this might



be a ministry for you. If you would like to learn more, please check out the Upperroom.org website under "The Way of the child" and listen to their 7 minute introductory video. Or, feel free to borrow the introduction DVD I have in the office, or glance through the pages of the leaders book. If you know of anyone you think would be a good leader, please have them contact me soon.

What's in a Vine? (continued from page 12)

unwanted vine branches that stifle growth and are pinched off by the vine-keeper. I called Shari Smyth, who not only built but maintains our parish gardens. Although she wasn't sure what they were called she did mention that the reason she doesn't grow grapevines on a trellis at St. B's is due to the incredible amount of labor it takes to maintain a beautiful and productive vine. That's an interesting comparison to parish life and how much work it takes behind the scenes to keep our

parish running smooth. So much of what is seen as beautiful and orderly on a Sunday morning takes hours of prayer, behind the scenes labor, time and willing servants' hearts. This work in ministry can easily be taken for granted unless someone is willing to look and ponder the details of the entire morning and then offer their own hand to help.

By the way, I did find out what those nuisance branches are called. They're called, "suckers." How appropriate and

important a comparison in how our life as branches of the vine are constantly susceptible to suckers. Jesus said in John 15:2, "He (the vine-keeper) cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more." This makes me wonder about the many suckers in my own life that may keep me from not only bearing fruit, but from being intertwined with the other branches called our St. B's family.



WANTED: A Few Good Men

Leaders Needed for Boys Club

Our St. B's 5th & 6th graders have a club that provides adolescents (10-12 yr. olds) an opportunity to learn separate from the younger elementary age children and build relationships with one another prior to youth group age. This club is likened to a mini-youth group and meets twice a month on Sunday evening. We would prefer if the boys and girls could be separated during

discussion time, but we lack the men to help in this area.

Helping with the St. B's 5th & 6th grade boys doesn't take experience. It only requires a love of God and a desire to mentor others into a stronger relationship with Him.

If you believe the Lord is putting this ministry on your heart, please contact Carla Schober @ carlaschob@gmail.com.

Twig Updates

Want to help bring Catechesis Level 1 back to St. B's next Fall?

There is a strong possibility we will not have Catechesis Level 1 classes next year because we have no available catechists. If you have had children involved in this class you realize what a disappointment this would be. This rich expression and method of Biblical teaching to our youngest saints and their families can be life changing.

The training is extensive but meaningful. It takes place on Tuesdays, 9am-2pm at Christ Cathedral Sept – March, 2009. St. B's children's discipleship would be more than happy to pay your course costs with the commitment of your service 2-4 Sundays a month. If you are interested in serving, please contact Carla at carlaschob@gmail.com.



The Nursery still has several opportunities for you to serve this fall.

In the 2/3's room during the 8:30 service we need teens or adult assistants on 10/12, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16 & 11/30. We need a lead teacher on 11/2 and 11/30. The lead teacher spot does not require any advanced preparation, just the sharing of a Bible story.

In the baby room, we need one adult volunteer during the 8:30 service on 10/12, 11/9 and 11/30. During the 10:30 service we need an adult volunteer on 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16 and 11/30.

Pool Party

The 5th and 6th grade boys and girls club kicked off the new year with a pool party on September 7 at the Mahan's home in Franklin.

Photos by Bev Mahan



September Vestry Highlights

Financial, Facilities & Ministry Updates

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



Rector's Report:

❖ **Sudanese Ministry:** Fr. Jerry has invited Fr. Michael Yemba, a consultant with many Sudanese congregations across the U.S., to come to St. B's in October.

Father Yemba will be helping the Sudanese shape their vision for the coming years. He will also be consulting with us about ways in which we can work together with the Sudanese more effectively.

❖ **Communion Partners:** Fr. Jerry is participating in Communion Partners, which is a voluntary group of Episcopal rectors and bishops working towards renewal in an Anglican way. "I feel strongly that this is a healthy way for our church to move forward in this season," he said. Locally, this group includes St. George's and Church of the Advent.



Operations Report:

❖ **Repair Projects:** Pam White reviewed projects underway at St. B's that are being paid for by the Nehemiah Fund and under the direction of the Facilities Committee. These projects include repair and painting of the outside sanctuary and parish hall windows; replacing the hole in the choir loft with clear glass where air conditioning units were removed; replacing rotting wood in some outside

doorways; replacing lights in the parking lot; and installing auto flush and auto faucets in four restrooms in the parish hall. Projects also include replacing and stabilizing some dangerous fencing in the area enclosing the softball field. In addition, playground equipment is being replaced in the Mothers Day Out/Preschool toddler area with funding by MDO/Preschool. Work on the Fellowship Arbor continues, but no Nehemiah Funds are being used for this project.

❖ **Upcoming Events:** Pam also reported on upcoming events at St. B's including the October 4 Episcopal Church Women's mini-retreat; Oct 12 Newcomers Luncheon; Oct 13-14 Diocesan Sexual Abuse and Misconduct meeting; Oct 19 Pig Roast; Oct 24 MDO/Preschool Farm Day; and Oct 24-25 Men's Retreat



Old Business:

❖ **Finance Committee Proposals:** Much discussion ensued on two proposals that were carried over from the August meeting. These were 1) a proposal for a Ministerial Discretionary Fund, and 2) a proposal for Designated Fund Management. On #1, Discretionary Fund, the Finance Committee was asked to rewrite this proposal so it would be applicable to



VESTRY SUMMARY

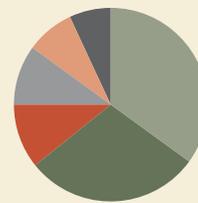
by *Whit Smyth*

Vestry Clerk

Financial Report

Year to Date Numbers (Jan - Aug)

Shortfall against expenses and contributions came to approximately **\$11,000**, which is equivalent to our shortfall during the same period last year.



Nehemiah Fund Update

As of the end of August, this fund had received **\$370,329** in pledges and unpledged donations.

all St. B's discretionary funds. On #2, Designated Fund Management, the following MOTION was unanimously approved: that the Finance Committee be empowered to establish procedures for setting up designated funds based on sections 1-5 of the proposal.



New Business:

❖ **Committee Report on Hiring and Vestry Eligibility:** Charlie Reasor handed out a report for the vestry to discuss at its October 13 meeting establishing procedures and policies

Continued on page 16



Vestry Summary

(continued from page 15)

for hiring and vestry eligibility at St. B's. In distributing this report, Charlie stressed that the authors, he and Dick Jewell, "are in no way suggesting that anybody at St. B's has done anything improper."

❖ Room in the Inn: MOTION: It was moved and approved that St. B's participate once again in Nashville's Room in the Inn program for 2008-2009, which begins November 1

❖ Columbarium: Harry Xanthopoulos is sending three proposals to the Facilities Committee for review: A set-up with 272 niches covering the first wall outside the sanctuary at a total cost of \$44,000; a center piece set-up with 96 niches at \$22,000 with

expansion available to either side; and, a 114 niche unit with a cross in the middle at \$45,000.

❖ Savvy Seniors: Denise Kemp asked the vestry to consider parishioners who might step up and lead or help long-time leader Leslie Ewing with the Savvy Seniors group.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The complete minutes from August 11 will be posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall when they are approved.



EVENTS

Coming Up...

Newcomers & Visitors: Sunday, Oct 12, in the gym

If you are new to St. B's in the past year, you are invited to our Newcomer Luncheon, directly after second service on Sunday, Oct 12. Get to know us better and help us get to know you. Bring your appetites, your questions, comments, friends & children. To RSVP contact Sue Pichert at spichert@yahoo.com or 356-0464; or sign up at the Visitor's table in the Narthex. Please include contact email or phone & specify need for babysitters (age & number of children). We will conclude by 1:30pm.



Registration Deadline is October 12 for St. B's Mens Retreat

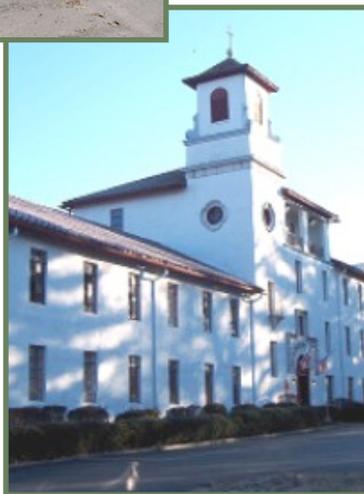
Don't wait men, sign up now for the Men's Retreat at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN. We must provide numbers by October 12. There are no rooms left in Bishop Hall, but plenty in Clairborne. You'll find registration forms in the Narthex.



"Called to Simply Follow Jesus" is our theme.

There will be time for fellowship, great worship with Fr. Jerry and Fr. Randy. This retreat is a terrific way to meet the men of the church.

Contact Whit Smyth (952-5671, wsmyth3420@comcast.net) or Sean Root (stbsmens@aol.com).



Advent Silent Retreats

Advent is a time of joyful waiting on God, a time of reflection about all that we hope for in our longing for His return and for the ways that He longs to be born in our hearts. Gail Pitt is offering a directed silent retreat during the second week of Advent, December 5-7, at St. Joseph's Monastery in Whitesville, KY. This is a wonderful opportunity to put all the busyness and preparation for Christmas in perspective. To sign up, Please call Gail at 615-714-9311.

Many St. B's parishioners have taken part in silent retreats throughout the summer, and next month's Branch will feature some of their personal stories of the powerful impact these retreats have had on their lives.



Goodbye, Hello, Here We Go

The Powell's Journey to Germany

by Susan Powell

August 2nd seems like a lifetime ago. In the time we have lived in Germany, we have experienced enough "firsts" and emotions to last us for quite some time. In the last six weeks, we have packed our earthly belongings into a 20 ft. container, said goodbye to family and friends, experienced the grace of God through His people, been through three weeks of training, met many, many people, started new jobs, helped transition our kids into a new culture, country and school, unpacked our earthly belongings - and the list goes on. Through it all, God has been ever present and His graces have been sufficient for each day, each new experience and each hurdle. We believe His peace is a direct result of the many prayers that the community of St. B's are offering to Him on our behalf. We are so very grateful for your prayers and are comforted to know that each Sunday our church prays for us.

It is our hope and prayer that we will be able to update the parish regularly on what God is doing through us, in us and around us here at Black Forest Academy. Since school has just begun



Left: Thomas Hall is a packing genius. Above: Tom and Bev Mahan hosted us in their home for two weeks prior to our departure. Their hospitality was such a gift to us.

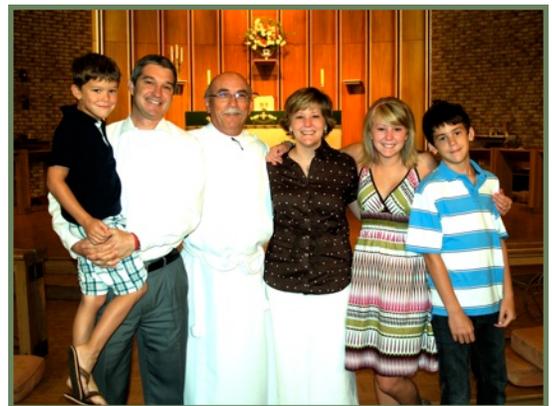
here and the students (the reason why we are here) have just arrived and our ministry to them is just getting underway, we thought it might be good to give you a glimpse of our personal lives in this month's Branch. The last six weeks can best be described as goodbye, hello and here we go!

Goodbye:

The last two weeks of July were spent preparing to depart, saying lots of goodbyes, being commissioned at St. B's and experiencing the grace of God through the body of Christ at St. B's

The day before we were to depart, we found out that our original flight to Germany had been cancelled due to a Lufthansa strike. The only way

we'd be able to get to Germany on time for training would be to drive to Atlanta the very next day and fly from there. We agreed to accept the flight plan and then hurriedly began trying to find someone to drive the five of us with our 13 pieces of luggage! To our delight, Harry and Phyllis Xanthopoulos agreed to give of their time and



Top: More goodbyes. Above: Commissioning

drove us in the church van. Their sacrificial gift was precious to us. We left St. B's parking lot with many tears and Harry got us all laughing in a way that only Harry could do. We are

Continued on next page



We were very blessed by those in the St. B's community who came early on a Saturday morning to say goodbye



Powell's Journey to Germany (continued from page 17)



forever grateful to them and are so thankful that we belong to a parish that is full of people like Harry and Phyllis.

Hello!

We arrived in Kandern on time and were warmly greeted by our host family. BFA assigns new staff families to a veteran staff family to help ease the transition into a new culture and setting. Our kitchen was full of good foods, our makeshift table was adorned with fresh flowers and most importantly, beds were ready for us to collapse into.

Our first week was spent in German culture and language classes as well as registering in the town, getting utilities arranged, insurance for vehicle and home purchased and oddly enough signing up for a garbage can.



Our home (above) and five of the seven different bins we must use to sort our trash for recycling (right)

You wouldn't believe the form we had to fill out for that one. In fact, dispensing of household garbage here is quite a complicated process.

We are very blessed to have an actual home to rent. Many BFA staff families reside in apartments, so to have a home with a yard is quite special to us. During the time we were waiting for our container to arrive, we painted and did a bit of sprucing up to make it feel like home.

Here We Go!

The students arrived in late August and the first activity that we were able to



take part in was the annual Opening Ceremonies. During this event, a roll call of countries was conducted and BFA students were asked to stand when their passport country was called. What's interesting is that many of the students have passports to several countries. As the students stood while over 50 countries were called out, our hearts swelled with the overwhelming blessing that we have in being here. Through our service here at BFA, St. Bartholomew's Church is partnering with hundreds of works for Christ all over the globe. Caring for the children of missionaries is a distinct privilege that Mark and I take very seriously. Please continue

lifting us up as we seek to offer these students the same love, grace, healing and restoration that we have been given by you, the community of St. B's.



One of the hardest things about serving here is not being able to attend St. B's every Sunday. We have come to realize that God uses other things to restore our souls and fill the void we feel. This view (above) coupled with our prayer book has been His gift to us in our saddest times.

You can keep in touch with the Powell family at:

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79400 Kandern
Germany
fivepowells.blogspot.com
fivepowells@gmail.com



Getting Started with Composting



LIVE GREEN
by Laura & Jud Laughter
judandlaura@yahoo.com

As the leaves start to change and we start to get cooler breaks in the weather, it's also nearing the time when our outdoor chores shift from mowing the lawn to cleaning the gutters to planting pansies and other flowers that will make it through the winter. As the amount of outdoor work starts to wane, we thought we'd write a column about a weekend project that will help you get ready for spring: composting! We've actually had several requests for some information on composting, so we hope this will help get you started.

Scientifically, composting is the aerobic decomposition of biodegradable material. In normal speak, composting means saving some of your food scraps and yard waste and letting them break down into what amounts to really rich potting soil. The composting process is as easy or as hard as you want to make it. Some people just dump the waste in a bin outside and let Nature do her thing; others use thermometers and catalysts to help nature out. Either way, here are a few starter points:

- ❖ The easiest way to compost is in a purpose-built container. It'll need about five hours of sunlight everyday to build up some heat, so pick the right spot in your yard;
- ❖ When you're putting stuff in, alternate layers of brown (leaves, grass clippings, and even some newspaper) with green (food waste). The alternating layers will make sure you get enough air in the mix as well as the nitrogen and carbon that will enrich the final product;

❖ Periodically stir the pile to let everything have a chance in the middle, which will get pretty warm;

- ❖ Don't try to compost meat, dairy, oil, pet waste, whole eggs (shells are okay), or yard waste that includes mature plants (you don't want those seeds growing in your bin).

The most important thing you accomplish by composting is that you keep a lot of waste from being dumped in a landfill where conditions keep it from breaking down. Instead of filling up a hole in the ground, you can make the waste into something useful; everybody wins!

The Nashville Metro government makes composting as easy as possible by offering yard containers at discount prices. For \$40, Metro has Earth Machine compost bins for sale; they look like large Darth Vader heads. You can pick them up at the Metro recycling center on Omohundro Place any Tuesday through Saturday between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Just knock on the window of the trailer/office right there in the parking lot and someone will be pleased to help you. Other options are available at any area garden or home improvement store. They tend to be much more expensive, but they also don't look like a large Darth Vader head.

You can also check out Metro's composting website at www.nashville.gov/beautification/



compost.htm. Not only will you find complete composting directions and maps of where to get your bin, they also have information about composting classes (did you know you could become a Master Composter?) and even supplemental materials like compost pile thermometers and kitchen scrap containers you can use to carry the good stuff outside. They even offer an easier method for getting rid of food scraps, the Green Cone Digester. You don't get compost at the end, this cone just "digests" the food, but you can put meat and bones in it.

If you think composting is just a little too easy and you're looking for more of a challenge, we have been experimenting in that last few years with vermacomposting, the use of worms to help speed up the process of decomposition. That's right, we have a bin on the back porch (in the summer) or under the sink (in the winter) filled with around 4000 red wigglers and just about all the food scraps two people can create. There are several websites to get you started with worms if you're interested; it's a bit trickier than the standard passive composting methods using an outside container, but the rewards are much quicker and richer. You have to use a specific type of worm, so don't think you can dig up a couple from the yard and get the right results. We started with 1000 worms ordered from California (that was fun to get in the mail) but we've since found a few bait shops in town who offer the right kind.

No matter how you do it, composting is a great project to start this winter. Save some of the leaves you rake and put them to use in your garden or window boxes next spring. You'll make fewer trips taking out the trash and help return vital nutrients to your yard.



St. B's Blogger Highlights Parish Writers



ST. B'S BLOGGER

by Julie Adkison

I entered the world of blogging last Fall when I decided to start a blog of my own. When I was young, writing down one's thoughts and fears and doubts was called "journaling". And I wouldn't have let anyone read my journal for the world! However, in the cyber world that we are living in today, these personal thoughts and feelings are out there for anyone to read. Before I started my blog, (short for web log – get it?) I researched many others. I soon discovered that St. Bartholomew's seems to have more than its fair share of bloggers. I have laughed, cried and been inspired. Over the next few months, I would like to share these blogs and bloggers with you.

One of the themes that quickly emerged is the role that the body of believers here at St. B's has played in the lives of these blogging individuals. Following are excerpts that make me proud of these very honest writers and thankful to be a part of this parish.

From Cameron Conant
(April 20, 2008):

"So recently when a good friend of mine got hung out to dry by some "Christian people," it put me back in a place of bitterness and anger and reminded me of all the things I dislike--hate even--about Christians. And I am one.

But nevertheless, I was so angry that I was saying things like, "I don't even know if I believe in God anymore." And part of me was serious.

But most of me was just hurt.

Fortunately--and what would I do if this wasn't the case?--I am part of an amazing

Episcopalian community that excels in accepting people "as they are." Angry, disheveled, liberal, conservative, happy, whatever.

If I didn't have that, where would I be? I'd be off the map, probably doing stupid things, acting out of anger and bitterness. Fortunately, God has seen it fit to not let me get too far away from him. But honestly, I don't know why.

"I didn't leave with every burden lifted. I didn't leave with all of my anger taken away. But I left thankful that as many times as I've run off to Tarshish, a whale---or some other large force---has brought me back to safer waters. Dry land even."

- From Cameron Conant's Blog

It's as if he has some purpose for me, some reason to keep me around. I try to give him reason to get rid of me, but it's as if he sees fit not to. Such was the case today, when out of nowhere at our post-church New Orleans jazz festival, a wonderful woman approached me and said she felt led to pray for me, and would that be okay, and she wasn't trying to imply anything was wrong with me, and if I felt weird about her

praying for me she would understand, and so on.

But I said, no, I'd love for you to pray for me. And she did.

I didn't leave with every burden lifted. I didn't leave with all of my anger taken away. But I left thankful that as many times as I've run off to Tarshish, a whale---or some other large force---has brought me back to safer waters. Dry land even."

From Allie Surina

(Allie, Dearest - May 2, 2008):

"Years ago, I thought that everything would be wonderful when I was married and had been miraculously transported to a place where all my deepest desires could come true.

I had a revelation moment at St. B's not so long ago, when I was walking through the grass outside the fellowship hall. I realized that if I was never able to meet a man that would share his life with me, I would still have a full, exciting and joyful life at St. B's. Although I hope that God will intersect my life with some neat man's life and I pray for all the world of love and community that marriage and family entails--I feel such a peace in knowing that being a part of this family at St. B's means that living single isn't living alone, and it wouldn't be a dreadful, painful experience.

No matter in what capacity I live out my existence at St. B's, people here are more than husbands and wives and children. We're more than doctors, lawyers, musicians and students. People here are humans, journeying together in love. In a love that is given

Continued on page 20



Have a Greener, Healthier Yard

Romans 8:19-23: The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.



AT HOME by Bonnie Bashor

Now that you know the specifics on composting, here's some additional information about building and maintaining healthy soil with compost and mulch.

A teaspoonful of healthy soil contains about 4 billion organisms! This community of beneficial soil creatures keeps our landscapes healthy by:

- ❖ Creating a loose soil structure that allows air, water, and plant root growth into the soil.
- ❖ Recycling nutrients and making them available to plants.
- ❖ Storing water until plants need it.
- ❖ Protecting plants from some pests and diseases.

Know what your soil needs.

A soil test will tell you how much nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and lime your soil needs to grow healthy plants. Depending on the condition of the soil, you may not even need to apply these nutrients! Contact your local Cooperative Extension office or garden supply center for a soil test kit (Davidson County at 862-5995 and Williamson County = 790-5721).

Feed your soil with compost.

Dig or rototill one to three inches of compost into 6 to 12 inches of top soil when you're making new beds or planting



lawns. Top dress existing lawns with a quarter- to half-inch of compost every spring or fall. Compost helps sandy soils hold nutrients and water, loosens clay soils and feeds the beneficial soil life so it can feed and protect your plants.

Mulch it!

Mulch is a layer of organic material like leaves, aged wood chips, compost or grass clippings that you spread in spring or fall around your plants. Never exceed more than three inches of mulch in your landscaping beds, and keep mulch about an inch away from stems and tree trunks. Mulch stabilizes soil temperature, prevents weeds, feeds the soil for healthier plants, and helps to conserve water. And it recycles itself!

Mulch improves:

- ❖ Flowerbeds and vegetable gardens. Use one to three inches of shredded leaves, compost or grass clippings that have not been treated with pesticides.
- ❖ Trees, shrubs, and woody perennials. Use two to three inches of woody mulches, like shredded tree bark or aged wood chips. Shredded fall leaves also work well. Be sure to keep mulches an inch away from plant stems or trunks to prevent rot.
- ❖ Lawns. Mulch your lawn? Yes, you can "grasscycle" (leave the

clippings on the lawn when mowing). The clippings quickly decompose and release valuable nutrients back into the soil to feed the grass, reducing the need for nitrogen by 25 to 50 percent.

Need fertilizer? Go slow!

Most trees and shrubs get all the nutrients they need from the soil. But annual plants, vegetable gardens, and lawns sometimes need additional nutrients from a fertilizer. When shopping for fertilizer, look for a product that contains "natural organic" or "slow-release" ingredients. Unlike "quick-release" fertilizers, natural organic or "slow-release" fertilizers feed your plants slowly and evenly. The result? Healthier plants with strong root systems and no excessive "top growth"—saving you time and money. Moreover, using "slow-release" fertilizers can reduce nutrient run-off into ground and surface waters.

Improper use of fertilizers can damage beneficial soil life essential for healthy soils and plants. Excess chemicals can also find their way into ground water, streams, and lakes where they can contaminate drinking water and harm fish and other wildlife. Read and follow product labels carefully before using fertilizer and other lawn chemicals and make sure you avoid application of these products to impervious surfaces to avoid run-off.

Remember, healthy plants grow in healthy soil.

(This information is adapted from <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/green/owners.htm>)



St. B's Blogger (continued from page 20)

by all to all, and not just reserved for special occasions or a limited sphere of close relations.

That love, less than a year deep, has already broken through me. It has already given me hope and joy in the face of sacrifice. But the biggest change that I've seen is the audacity to enjoy being who God made me to be, and to watch in astonishment as like-

minded people gather around to support me.

There are places you journey to find your whole life--and when you find them you bury part of yourself there as an altar and as a seed."

What more can I say, besides "amen" and "amen".

If you have a blog and would not mind being quoted, please email Julie Adkinson at jadkison@comcast.net

Small Groups at St. B's

Come and be a part of the small group initiative taking place at St. B's. It's called "Simply Following Jesus" (SFJ) and is comprised of groups organized around neighborhoods and divided by zip codes. SFJ groups provide a great opportunity for the entire family to fellowship, grow together and build community with other St. B's family members and neighbors. Childcare is provided at many of the groups based on the needs of the members. You can find meeting times and locations and a link to the SFJ blog site at www.stbs.net/SFJ.htm.

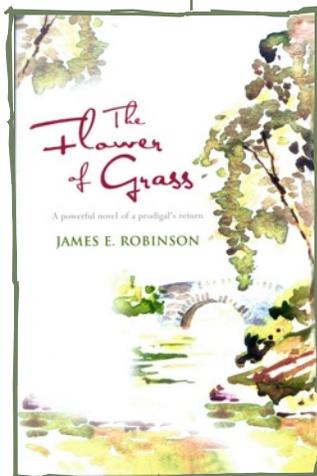
Room in the Inn

Once again, St. B's will be hosting 12 carefully screened homeless guests every Saturday evening through early Sunday morning, from November through March. Information about the program can be found on our website and sign up sheets are in the parish hall. This ministry is a great way for families, friends supper clubs and SFJ groups to serve together. Sign up now.

The Flower of Grass

A New Novel by Jim Robinson

Jim Robinson, St. B's member and founder of ProdigalSong Ministries, has just released his second book, *The Flower of Grass*, a novel (taken from 1 Peter 1:24) that frames a classic love story around the deeper themes of passing time and mortality, the true nature of love and faith, and the delicate balance of human relationships.



The story centers around John Allen, who returns to his home town after the death of his alcoholic, abusive father. He has been gone 16 years and has become a successful writer, but with major addiction problems of his own. Now he struggles to make amends with his careworn sister and dropout younger brother - and, perhaps, to pick up the pieces with Jessie, the love of his life; the one who said she'd wait forever.

But Jessie has grown tired of waiting for the letters that ceased to come and the man who didn't return, and has married. At what cost might their love be rekindled? And in searching for something long ago lost, they find redemptive healing they could not have imagined.

The Flower of Grass can be found at the St. B's bookstore, as well as many other local bookstores.



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."



OCTOBER

Anniversaries

Bill and Mimi Arthur	10/3
Chuck and Gail Richey	10/3
Jon and Suzanne Zadick	10/6
Tony and Sarah Bell Earley	10/9
Chris and Erin Somerville	10/14
Chad and Tara Moore	10/14
Walt and Lori Quinn	10/16
Tim and Nyla Villager	10/17
Sean and Larissa Root	10/18
Jamie and Laura Wilhoite	10/19
Chris and Tanya McMillen	10/20
Peter and Mary Woods	10/20
Josh and Anna Hayden	10/22
Adam and Amy Wirdzek	10/23
Chuck and Becky Kown	10/25
Trey and Jamie Myatt	10/30

Birthdays

Maggie Sullivan	10/1
Ted Goldthorpe	10/1
Tim Villager	10/2
Spencer Holt	10/2
Maddy Madeira	10/2
Lois Granbery	10/2
Abigail Bulter	10/3
David Wood	10/4
Willow Antionette Eagan	10/5
Sollie Bartoe	10/6
Carolyn Pichert	10/7
Rachel Daniel	10/7
Joshua Pukett	10/7
Greg MacLachlan	10/7

Margaret Root	10/8
Ruthie Clements	10/8
Sophia Lauer	10/8
Shirley Garth	10/9
Vicki Milam	10/10
Lissa Allen	10/10
Natasha Deane	10/10
Morgan Wills Jr.	10/10
Sydney Stewart	10/11
Bill Ewin	10/11
Marissa Yennie	10/12
James Chaffee	10/12
Christina Samson	10/12
Julia Halford	10/13
Daniel Shepherd	10/14
George Henson	10/14
Alex Pullen	10/14
Justin Schober	10/14
David Pollitt	10/14
Jackson White	10/15
Caleb Weiland Lee	10/15
Lisa Goss	10/15
Hunter Pollitt	10/16
Paul Nelson	10/16
Luke McMillen	10/16
Julbal Yennie	10/16
Ben Hornsby	10/16
Julia Miller	10/17
Matthew Rhea	10/17
Jerry Verner	10/18
Annabeth Nelson	10/18
Jack Allen	10/19
Linda Waters	10/20

Maya McMillen	10/20
Melissa Riddle	10/20
Charlie Lowell	10/21
Tega Ewubare	10/21
Tiffany Villager	10/21
Suzie Woolwine	10/21
Katherine Petillo	10/22
James Leach	10/22
Katy Bowlby	10/23
Richard Hunter	10/24
Jack Alcott	10/24
Julianne Hyer	10/25
Brent Andrews	10/25
David Wilson	10/26
Mary Powell	10/26
John Insani	10/26
Susan Gall	10/26
Matthew Zadick	10/27
Tyler Russell	10/28
Rebecca Ramsay	10/28
Kevin Mitchell	10/30
Alexandra Deane	10/31

Baptisms

Manaen Valiente Hall, parents Carmen and Thomas Hall: 9/14

Wilder Andrews Allen, parents John and Kendra Allen: 9/21



St. Bartholomew's Church
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FELLOWSHIP ARBOR A FAMILY EFFORT

On Saturday, September 27, work on the fellowship arbor continued, with about 15 St. B's family members pitching in. Construction of the structure was completed, with only some additional painting remaining to be done.

The arbor will be used for church-wide events such as the upcoming Pig Roast and Bluegrass Festival, July 4th Corn Roast, Pentecost Celebration, Jambalaya and Jazz Fest, as well as various other ministry related activities. In addition to church activities, the arbor will also provide an additional place for wedding receptions.

