

# THE BRANCH

*The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church*



September 2008

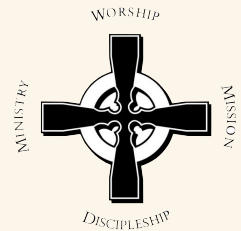


Men's Ministry volunteers work on the new fellowship arbor

Photos by Pam White

"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).

## FELLOWSHIP ARBOR WILL BE MULTIPURPOSE

by Pam White, Director of Operations

**T**hank you to the men's ministry for spearheading the construction of the Fellowship Arbor located between the sanctuary and parish hall buildings. This arbor will be used for Sunday morning coffee (other volunteers are using the leftover lumber and building a moveable coffee bar to be housed under the arbor), Easter sunrise service, serving area (buffet and drink tables) for church-wide events such as the upcoming Pig



Roast on October 5th, 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.

Continued on page 4

## 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, Executive Assistant  
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

#### Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

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

#### Music:

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

### Vestry Members

Sarah Bell Earley, senior warden  
Andy Valentine, junior warden  
Len Harrison, treasurer  
Whit Smyth, vestry clerk

Greg Daniel, Mavis Harrop, Tom Howard, Dick Jewell, Denise Kemp, Jud Laughter, Ashley MacLachlan, Paul Miller, Charlie Reasor, Harry Xanthopoulos

### Diocese

The Rt. Rev. John C. Bauerschmidt, Bishop

## INSIDE

Kingdom Talk - Fr. Jerry Smith	3
Taking Care of Business - Pam White	5
A Missional Life - Fr. Dixon Kinser	6
Vestry Summary - Whit Smyth	7
Prayers of the People - Mindy Mumme	8
ECW Fall Kickoff	9
Savvy Seniors	9
Fall Retreat Info	9
The Twig - Children's Discipleship	10-11
Walk Through the Bible	12
ECW Midsummer Retreat - Bev Mahan	13
Men's Breakfast - Whit Smyth	14
Psalms "Be Still" Project	15
Missions - Paul Miller	16
From the Loft - Eric Wyse	17
Men's Retreat	17
Live Green - Jud & Laura Laughter	18
From Glory to Glory	19



Photo: Matthew Sullivan gives preschoolers a farm lesson about the gospel

Articles and announcements for the  
October issue of The Branch are due no  
later than Sept 20, 2008.

Please e-mail your  
information to:  
[editor@stbs.net](mailto:editor@stbs.net)

# Telling the Story

“How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” (Rom 10:14)

One time Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt. Rev. William Temple, is reported to have argued that the church's primary purpose is to exist for those who don't yet belong.

Those who don't believe, writes Paul, often don't because they haven't heard the message. In fact, he writes, “How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” (Rom 10:14)

At its core, the church is about telling the Gospel story so that others might come to know the full impact of the saving grace of God. In order to get better at telling the story of Jesus, we have added a new member to our staff at St B's.

Erin Somerville has joined us as director of communications. Her primary responsibility will be to help us get better at communicating the message that has been given to us to share. She will be evaluating what we are currently doing and then implementing some new communication strategies. It seems to me that there are three areas that we need to be focusing on.

First, we need to be telling the story of what Jesus is doing among us to one another. Nothing encourages us more in our walk with God than to hear of just how God is at work among us. What an amazing blessing to hear of answered prayers, acts of divine intervention, and lives being drawn to God's saving grace.

Second, we need to be telling, with more enthusiasm, the story of God's redemption so that every visitor to our community hears and sees the message clearly and in an inviting way so that

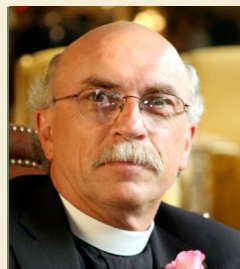
he or she too might come to embrace Christ.

Third, we are to be telling the story to the broader community so that they might come to see God's activity and long to become part of the story themselves.

Hiring a new director of communications does not trump our need to be the living and telling the story. Erin's ministry will be to help us communicate but not to do it for us.

**“Historically, many have argued that Christians themselves are to be a sacrament to a broken world. We are the story that God is telling so it is incumbent that we be faithfully seeking and serving Christ as we committed at our baptism.”**

I am personally grateful for Erin's willingness to tackle this new ministry at St B's. This is her first issue of The Branch and we are thrilled to be able to draw on her writing and design experience. My personal and extended thanks needs to go to Marjie Smith for her leadership these past three years as editor of The Branch. This small parish newsletter has risen to be a national award winner under her leadership. All



## KINGDOM TALK

*by Fr. Jerry Smith*

Rector,  
St. Bartholomew's

in the name of “telling the story”!  
Thanks Marjie.

Historically, many have argued that Christians themselves are to be a sacrament to a broken world. We are the story that God is telling so it is incumbent that we be faithfully seeking and serving Christ as we committed at our baptism. This fall brings many opportunities for you to be better equipped for this journey and I encourage you to take advantage of these.

Many were blessed by the regional Simply Following Jesus (SFJ) groups that started last September and we are encouraging everyone to participate in one of these again this year. If you can not identify one in your area, please contact the church office and we will see what we can to do get something going soon. Groups last year studied Mark's Gospel (some are still studying Mark) and this year we will be Simply Following Jesus through Acts of the Apostles (once you have finished Mark!).

As this new season begins, I invite you to join us as partners in telling the story of Jesus.

You may contact Jerry Smith at:  
[jerrysmith@stbs.net](mailto:jerrysmith@stbs.net)





# New Fellowship Arbor

Continued from page 1

The next steps to be taken in order to complete the arbor are:

- 1) Add coverage on the top of the structure to provide needed shade.
- 2) Sand and paint the structure.
- 3) Landscape the area to provide a welcoming and shaded area for fellowship.

The cost of the structure is estimated at \$1,600 with all labor being donated by the men of St. B's (and a few ladies too). The money to purchase the lumber and parts was taken from the capital improvement designated fund which was voted upon and approved by the vestry.

Initial discussion among the Facilities Committee and Vestry took place concerning use of Nehemiah Fund dollars to build the arbor. However, the vestry voted to not use Nehemiah Fund dollars, because upon review, it was determined the arbor was not a maintenance or repair issue, but a new structure for ministry.



Photos by Pam White

## Mark your calendars...

### The Annual St. B's Pig Roast

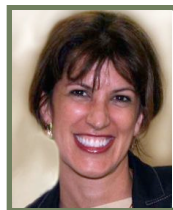
Sunday, October 5th from 12:15-2:30.  
Benefits will go to Youth Ministry  
(\$5/person recommended donation)  
There will be children's activities,  
inflatables, and other games. Hot dogs  
& chicken will also be served.

### Newcomer Luncheon

Sunday, October 12, after the  
10:30 service, in the gym. For  
more information or reservations  
please contact Sue Pichert at  
[spichert@yahoo.com](mailto:spichert@yahoo.com).



# Nehemiah Fund Dollars at Work



## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

*by Pam White*

Director of Operations

**W**e are well on our way to completing the Nehemiah Fund "A" priorities. With the new parish hall HVAC (heating and air conditioning) system and roof repair completed, and the two new choir loft heating and air conditioning units installed and running, our top two repairs are complete. The cost of both installations and repairs totaled \$124,000.

We have two areas we will focus on next. First, repairing the outside wood window frames holding the stain glass windows intact in the sanctuary (these were installed in the late 60's), and second, replacing our broken (33 year old) parking lot lights. Work will begin on both of these areas the second week of September.

The idea behind the Nehemiah Fund is to spend only what money we have brought in and not to enter into any debt for the needed repairs and maintenance to our facility. Thanks to the generous gifts and commitments from many members of the parish, we are well on our way to accomplishing this.

The review of priorities and analysis of vendor proposals and bids are done by the vestry appointed Facilities Committee, comprised of Dick Jewell (vestry liaison), Tim Villager, Mimi Heldman and David Morss. Participating from the staff is Pam White, Director of Operations.



Photos by Pam White & Erin Somerville



The chairman of the Nehemiah Fund is Len Harrison, Treasurer, and the vestry spokesperson is Andy Valentine, Junior Warden.

If you have any questions concerning the Nehemiah Fund or facility repairs, please do not hesitate to contact any of the above persons.



Roof repair work (top) and new HVAC for the Parish Hall (middle) were two of the Nehemiah Fund "A" priorities.



Members of the Facilities Committee (from left) Mimi Heldman, David Morss, Tim Villager and Pam White.



# Practicing Promises



## A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Director of Youth Ministries

**K**eeping promises is hard work. It is something that takes character, purpose and, in my opinion, practice.

Our God is a God who keeps promises and is faithful no matter what. This reality is central to the Biblical story and God's redemption of all creation. God will do what God has promised to do, no ifs, ands or buts about it. Moreover, the expected response of God's people to this kind of unwavering fidelity is a faithfulness of our own. We are called to be faithful like God is faithful. This is part of what it means for people to be made in the image of God.

When the book of Genesis says that God makes people, "in (God's) image" it is using a phrase that is loaded with meaning. In the Ancient Near East, when a king would establish his reign in a new land or city, he would place a statue (or statues) made "in his image" at the city center. Seeing this image of the king would remind the region's inhabitants who was in charge and whose will was to be carried out.

Therefore, when Genesis says that "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (1:27), it is a powerful theological and anthropological statement. Human beings are made in the image of God in order that they will actually image God. Our call is to demonstrate on the earth God's rule and reign as it is in heaven; to make things the way God wants them to be. Our place is as ones who declare to the creation what God

is like, and we do that with the way we live our lives.

This is why promise keeping is such a big deal for God's people. Because God keeps promises, our charge is to do likewise. The right response to God's enduring trustworthiness is to be faithful in return. In fact, this expectation of devotion and loyalty is the standard everyone from the prophets to Paul use in taking the people of God to task when they go astray. The message is clear, we image God when we keep promises.

**"Spread for me a banquet of praise, serve High God a feast of kept promises..."**

**Psalms 50:14**

But, if we were made to demonstrate God's promise keeping to the world, why is it so hard? Is it an impossible standard we can never live up to? I don't think so. I think a better question is, "What practices could we adopt to actually shape our characters toward this God-faithfulness and promise keeping? What could we do together to better image our faithful maker in the world?"

These are the questions our youth ministry will seek to address this year. Starting in September students will be given an opportunity to participate in something called The Way of St.



Bartholomew. The Way of St. B will be a nine month long journey of intentional spiritual formation centered on keeping five Jesus centered/monastic type vows. There will be a vow of **Prayer** with a commitment of daily or weekly prayer and scripture study; a vow of **Practice**, where participants make intentional choices toward demonstrating unity, constancy and peace (with God, Neighbor, self and creation) in Nashville; a vow of **Presence**, where participants commit to being intentionally active in our community and each other lives; a vow of **Simplicity**, where participants agree to live simply and openly regarding their possessions and resources and finally a vow of **Pilgrimage**, where all participants go on a funded weekend pilgrimage in the Spring with Dixon Kinser (the youth director).

All vows will be tweaked with the input of the community and families before we try them out. However, the idea is the same; provide some measurable and attainable disciplines for students and leaders to make and keep a vow. Perhaps in this we will discover (or recover) the power of promise keeping, and as such, grow more into the image of our Lord, Savior and teacher for life, Jesus.

# August Vestry Highlights

## Financial, Facilities & Ministry Updates

**E**ach month the Branch will briefly summarize key points from the previous month's vestry meeting. Here are highlights from the August 11 meeting:



**Rector's Report:** Citing a report on "Biblical Illiteracy in America," Fr. Jerry said, "We must get back to the Bible, we must be students of scripture." He then asked vestry members to listen to and provide feedback on an MP3 disk of scripture to see if it might be something to provide to the congregation.

Fr. Jerry asked the vestry to "look at our buildings as if you've never been here before." Along those lines, he has asked Erin Somerville, Director of Communications, to review the signage in the church to ensure that our facilities are as comfortable and safe as possible.



**Operations Report:** Pam White noted that the Fellowship Arbor on the lawn would eventually be painted brown and possibly have lattice-work over the top for protection from sun and rain.

Invitations have gone out for the Long Term Missions Dinner on September 13 at the Deane's home in Nashville.

The deadline for registration for the St. B's Soccer Academy is August 13. Thus far, there are 41 families signed up with 47 children, including seven families from St. B's.

Donna Easter is spearheading a project to spruce up the Rectory to make it inviting for meetings, prayer, and small groups as well as continued use by Mobile Loaves and Fishes.

In the St. B's office, Susan Houston has taken over producing the Sunday bulletin.

Cooking Classes will hopefully be back for another year since many have expressed an interest in this program.



**Other Business:** The Finance Committee presented two proposals for the vestry to review and respond to at its September meeting. These were 1) a proposal for a Ministerial Discretionary Fund, and 2) a proposal for Designated Fund Management.

Ashley MacLachlan presented a Discipleship Liaison Report on a new class that is underway called "Discerning the Voice of God." This class is being held on Wednesday evenings for seven weeks.

For Missions & Outreach, Paul Miller reported that the Powell Family has left for Germany. Paul will write an article for the September Branch on this mission outreach and the faithfulness of God in providing the necessary funding.



### VESTRY SUMMARY

*by Whit Smyth*

Vestry Clerk

### Financial Report

#### Year to Date Numbers (Jan - July)

**Contributions:** Under budget by \$26,795.

**Expenses:** Under budget by \$7,419

That leaves a \$19,376 shortfall versus a \$22,000 shortfall at the same time last year.

### Nehemiah Fund Update

**Current cash-in-hand:** \$76,006

**Recent expenses:** \$141,250 for the HVAC units on the roof and in the sanctuary. In August an additional \$10,000 is coming out for smoke detectors in the gym and to repair the broken water pipe in the Parish Hall boiler room.

#### Next Projects in line:

- 1) Repairing and painting windows in the sanctuary
- 2) Installing lights in the parking lot.

Pam White, Operations Director, stressed that "We will do the planned Nehemiah Fund work as the money comes in."

Harry Xanthopoulos reported on the Columbarium Project, including some findings on a possible extended wall at St. B's to hold approximately 200 urns. This information will go the Facilities Committee for review.

Continued on page 8

# Walking Again: A Lesson in God's Timing

I would like to share with our St. B's Family my experience of healing during the past few months. After a year and a half of being on the prayer list, I'm at last no longer hearing my name during the Prayers of the People on Sunday mornings! I can only give God all the praise, honor and glory, as well as thanking each of you who has faithfully prayed.

Let me provide a brief history. During an 18-month period in 2007-2008 I struggled with a very severe balance/falling disorder which a multitude of doctors both locally and around the country could not diagnose. My condition continued to deteriorate until I truly reached rock-bottom last November when I became confined to a wheelchair. Needless to say, we had everyone we knew praying, including the prayer team here at St. B's. During that time, it often seemed to me that the many prayers of friends and family, as well as my cries for help to the Lord, were falling on deaf ears. I'm not sure which was more difficult for me – the physical or the spiritual challenges, not to mention the uncertainty of this season.

Then, during the 2nd week of May, after a year and a half of going only downhill, I began to suddenly feel

better. I literally woke up on May 6th and realized that my equilibrium seemed to be returning and the seizure-like episodes I had been experiencing were, for the most



Photo by Chris Somerville

part, gone. I experienced 2 months of continued improvement and by mid-July I was feeling back to normal. I still often find myself in a state of disbelief that such a debilitating condition could turn around this completely and in a relatively short amount of time.

The medical explanation? We believe that this was the result of the combination of an infection of the balance nerve of the inner ear and a

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*by Mindy Mumme*

side effect of a medication I had been taking for many years.

The spiritual explanation? God heals in His way and in His time. His ultimate desire is that we seek Him - not just to be healed, not demanding that He grant us answers in our time or our way, but that we desire Him. He can never be the means to our end. He is the end. I hope I've learned that if I can't thank Him in the valleys of uncertainty, I won't truly be able to thank Him wholeheartedly when things are going well.

I am so grateful for each of you who prayed for and with me. May this remind us never to lose hope or become weary of praying even if God doesn't answer in our time-frame. I'm hoping I've learned that when God seems to be silent, He is not only still acting on our behalf, He may be waiting for us to ask Him to meet us in the midst of our despair. I'm often so focused on how and when God will answer my pleas for help that I miss the important lessons that can only be learned during the seasons of waiting.

Thank you for being a caring, praying church. May we continue to pray boldly and expectantly for the needs of our St. B's Family.

## Vestry Highlights

Continued from page 7

The vestry reviewed a six-page form on final burial directions and instructions. This is a form that every parishioner should have on file with his or her Rector, Fr. Jerry said.

You will hear more on this in the months ahead.

Greg Daniel presented a report on the Bookstore. He and bookstore manager Allison Hardwick propose holding a sidewalk sale in conjunction with the Pig Roast on October 19. The purpose of the sale is to clear out books that have been

languishing on the shelves for years, thus making way for new inventory.

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.



## ECW Fall Kickoff:

### An examination of God's call on our lives

**W**OMEN OF ST B'S... Mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 4, and the fall kickoff of the St B's ECW (Episcopal Church Women). This year we are blessed to have our own Debbie Smith lead us through an examination of God's call on our lives, and an evaluation of how well we are aligned with that call. Women who feel pulled in every direction and who long for a sense of peace in the midst of the busyness of life are encouraged to attend and expect God to reveal a strong sense of purpose and direction. Debbie has a coaching and consulting

practice here in Nashville and also serves as the Executive Director of the Center for Women in Medicine, a non-profit organization which provides resources and support for women in medical training and practice.

There will also be time for visiting, worship, and sharing lunch, as well as opportunities to help set the agenda for the reaching in and reaching out ministries of the ECW in the coming year. Childcare will be provided. Details will follow, so stay tuned.

For now, make sure you save the date: Saturday, October 4.

#### EVENTS

## Fall Retreats

**Both Men's and Women's Retreats are coming up. Here's the information, at a glance.**

### Men

#### St. B's Men's Retreat

At DuBose Conference Center on October 24-25. "Called to Simply Follow Jesus" with Fr. Jerry Smith & Fr. Randy Hoover-Dempsey. We'll gather for Friday dinner through Saturday lunch. Great teaching, amazing fellowship. Don't miss it. Registration forms are in the Narthex. For more information and to sign up, see Whit Smyth or Sean Root.



### Women

#### The 120th Annual Meeting of The Diocese of Tennessee Episcopal Church Women...

will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at The Church of the Advent. Registration forms will be available on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

#### Episcopal Church Women Fall mini-retreat

Saturday, October 4 from 9 am - 2 p.m.. Want to help with the planning or execution? Email us at stbsecw@yahoo.com.

## Calling All Savvy Seniors

### Committee Members Needed

by Denise Kemp,  
Vestry Fellowship Liaison

**I**f you are 55 or over and have been a part of the Savvy Seniors group or would like to be, we are looking for you!

This is a group that currently meets once a quarter to enjoy lunch and fellowship together.

In the past, a guest speaker (usually from St. B's) has been featured. Leslie Ewing has so graciously been leading this group for 3 years and has decided to step back and encourage other members of the community to take the lead.

Some examples of upcoming program topics being explored are: Legal documents seniors should have, identity theft protection, and general health information.



We are looking to have this be a committee effort going forward. If you would be willing to serve on the committee to help organize these quarterly luncheons or programs, please contact Denise Kemp at neesy29@gmail.com or 975-0493.

What an exciting opportunity this could be for you to get to know your fellow Savvy Seniors at St. B's! In the words of Leslie Ewing, "It's a fun way to meet new people and broaden our outlook!"

# THE TWIG

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

## Updates

### Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

(Catechist for 8:30, Emily Huff; Catechist for new 10:30 option, Shari Smyth)

Beginning Sunday, September 14th through Sunday, September 28th, there will be open enrollment for children age 3 1/2 years (potty-trained) up to pre-K. This year the criteria for participating in the class will be less flexible. Parents/caregivers of new or returning students will be expected to commit to bringing their children a minimum of two Sundays out of each month. Class size will be limited to 12 children.

### Godly Play/Preschool

(Godly Play Teacher, Deborah Whiteside)

For those children 3 1/2 years old (potty trained) through Kindergarten we are happy to offer another year of Godly Play. This class will meet in the parish hall from 8:30-9:30 and will be open to any/all new children throughout the school year. The method of teaching and curriculum is very similar to Catechesis, however there is more room for flexibility and size of class.

### "The Way of the Child" - Elementary (On-hold)

We are hoping to offer "The Way of the Child" for elementary age children in January 09. We are looking for 2 leaders to introduce this new and innovative teaching style. For information on this curriculum please visit [upperroom.org/companions/wayofthechild.asp](http://upperroom.org/companions/wayofthechild.asp) and watch the video.

For now, families with elementary age children are invited to worship together during the 8:30 service beginning September 7th.

# The Empty Nest



## THE WONDER OF IT ALL

*by Carla Schober*

Director of Children's Discipleship

**M**y husband David and I are now officially "empty nesters." All three of our children are in college and, while we look forward to their return during school breaks, our parenting techniques will no longer be the same, but we will still love them just as much.

We moved our youngest daughter, Ellie, into college last Friday. However, with so many other things going on in our lives this week, there has been little time to sit, think and let the reality of this new season sink in...until now. As I sit here at the quiet of our kitchen table I go from feeling happy with many wonderful memories, to feeling sad, or maybe numb, knowing that a chapter in our lives as parents has ended. But as I sit here I also notice a clock above the door in front of me. It's a clock David bought me when we first moved here to Nashville and our children were very young. It's a pretty little wall clock with three hungry baby birds in a nest with their eyes looking up and their beaks opened wide. In the faces of the birds there is a look of anticipation of being taken care of. That's why I love this clock. I saw in it a symbol of what I wanted for our children. I wanted them to not only anticipate us as parents taking care of them, but for them to always look up in anticipation of their Father God watching and taking care of them above all else.



Yes, we're empty nesters. As I sit here looking at the clock I realize our real "little birds" are now grown, out of the nest, and flying somewhere under God's watchful eyes. For years this clock hung in the center of our kitchen, over the sink. Just a few weeks ago we painted the kitchen and the clock was placed above the outside door. Funny, I didn't realize it until now, but as our children left the nest, the clock and its previous symbolism changed, and it no longer needed to be the focal point. This clock served its purpose in my heart as a constant reminder of God's care as the children grew up. It can now remind me that it's time, not just for the children to leave the nest, but for me to get out of the nest, and allow for Father God to show David and I how to fly into a new chapter in our lives together and with Him.





Above: St. B's preschoolers get a farm lesson about the Gospel. Photos by Chris Somerville.

*To our dear sister and friend,  
Ann Denson,*

On behalf of the children's discipleship team I want to thank you for over 3 years of incredible devotion to the families of St. Bartholomew's. As one of our main leaders, your weekly service and the use of your many gifts downstairs will be sorely missed. May the Lord continue to guide and bless you!

We love you.



*Carla and the  
children's  
discipleship team*

## WILL YOU HELP?

### **The Meals for New Moms Ministry**

provides meals for families of newborns and newly adopted children for five weeks, every other day. You do NOT need to be a great cook (take-out is a huge treat!) and you do NOT have to help every time a new child comes into the life of a St. B's family. If you are interested in serving others in such a practical way and would like to have your name added to the email group, please contact Meredith Flynn at 673-0377 or [mandjflynn@comcast.net](mailto:mandjflynn@comcast.net). Getting to meet these sweet families and new little ones is truly a blessing!

# Walk Through the Bible Coming to Nashville

by David Rowe, St. Paul's Murfreesboro

**L**ooking for an easy and fun way to learn the books of the Old Testament? Looking for an easy and fun way to teach it? Have you tried reading books and attending lectures but they just didn't work for you? If your answer to any of these questions is "Yes," then the Walk Thru the Bible seminar is meant for you.

On September 20, from 9:00am to 4:00 pm, a team of presenters from this internationally-acclaimed organization will be at St. George's Episcopal Church to guide adults and children through a day of interactive, fun learning. Says one pastor about his experience, "It is not often that a church has the opportunity to enjoy such fun, bathed in spiritual depth. The Walk Thru the Bible was positively one of the best sessions I have ever enjoyed." A video on their web page ([www.walkthru.org](http://www.walkthru.org)) shows the excitement that fills the church as participants revisit and learn both the structure of the Bible and the message of salvation.

Beyond simply learning, the seminars have strengthened spiritual lives. Participants often report that after attending a session they pray more often and more deeply and read the Bible more regularly and with greater understanding.

Our Nashville seminar will explore the Old Testament (a seminar on the New Testament is also available and is a future possibility). At the seminar adults and children will enjoy individual programs, geared to their age and learning experience. Volunteer assistants will help the presenter in the children's seminar by working with small groups to enrich the learning process.

The Diocese of Tennessee's Commission for Christian Education invites all Episcopalians to attend—adults and children, laity and clergy, teachers and students, young and old. The costs are \$25 for each person from



6th grade to adult and \$15 for each child from kindergarten through 5th grade. The fee includes a study book and lunch. There will also be a nursery for pre-school children at a cost of \$5 per family for those who need it (parents should bring lunch for their nursery children). Scholarship assistance is available.

To register go to <http://episcopaldiocese-tn-ce.org/>, download and complete the registration form, and mail it to the address indicated by September 12. The registration fee after that and at the door will be somewhat higher. For additional information please contact Carla Schober, Director of Children's Discipleship, at [carlaschob@gmail.com](mailto:carlaschob@gmail.com) or 512-1969.

## Supper Clubs

There is no better way to get to know fellow St. B's members than by enjoying a meal together. Supper Clubs meet once a month for 12 months in various homes or locations. Sign-up sheets are now in the Narthex



Questions? Contact Nyla Villager at 373-3009 or [nyla.villager@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:nyla.villager@vanderbilt.edu)

## Recipes

**Recipes from the ECW Retreat in July from the lunch with Thorunn McCoy can be found on the St. B's website at <http://www.stbs.net/women.htm>. This is also good place to check regularly for ECW news.**



# Pray, Work, Eat: ECW Midsummer Retreat

by Beverly Mahan

The ECW (Episcopal Church Women), the ministry to and for women at St B's, met for a mid-summer retreat in July at the church. The goal of the gathering was to grow in fellowship with our Lord and Savior, and with each other. Catering to both our inner Martha and inner Mary, we sat at the feet of Jesus and busied ourselves with a service project for the church.

We began in the sanctuary with a guided meditation led by St B's own Gail Pitt. Gail has been a spiritual director since 2003, and a therapist in private practice for the last 18 years. She has a Masters in Counseling from the University of Pennsylvania at Shippensburg, and a Masters in Biblical Counseling from Colorado Christian University. She received Certification in Spiritual Direction from the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, Pennsylvania. Gail works with others in spiritual direction, counseling and leads directed silent retreats. Everyone was provided with a journal and encouraged to record whatever came to mind in the course of scripture reading, prayer, and reflection. The momentary oasis in the midst of a hot summer day was appreciated by all.

Next we had a choice of three activities: continued meditation led by Gail, painting the living and dining room of the rectory, and a cooking class led by Thorunn McCoy. When we reconvened in the parish hall, we were treated to a delicious lunch prepared by Thorunn's students. As an added bonus, we got to watch the men build the outdoor pavilion from the cool comfort inside. The recipes for the dishes prepared that day are available on the ECW link on the St B's website.



Photos by Bev Mahan & Marjie Smith

The mini retreat was well attended by women representing most every demographic at St B's. Everyone seemed to take advantage of the opportunity to meet someone new and share a little something of themselves. If you weren't there, you were missed. Plan to join us at the next ECW event,

a luncheon on October 4th in the parish hall, featuring another speaker from the St B's family. If you would like to be a part of setting the direction for that meeting, contact Beverly Mahan at [mahanbb@bellsouth.net](mailto:mahanbb@bellsouth.net).

# Men's Breakfast Features a Priestly Trifecta

by Whit Smyth (note: this article was originally written for publication in the Diocesan Connections newsletter)

A recent breakfast at St. Bartholomew's Church had a distinct ecclesiastic flavor as three former parishioners, each now a priest, swapped stories and shared their spiritual journeys with those in attendance.

The speakers were Rev. Clayton Ingalls, Rev. William "Doc" Martin and Rev. Stu Phillips. The occasion was the monthly men's breakfast at St. B's run by Sean Root, head of the men's ministry.

Leading off the program was Clayton Ingalls, curate of the Church of the Advent on Franklin Road. Ordained in 2005, he said, "St. B's is my home. It's where I became a believer and where I discerned my call to the priesthood."

At Church of the Advent, Clayton works with youth ministry and young adults while preaching every other Sunday. "Youth group leadership was something I never imagined I would do," he explained, "but now youth and missions are my passions."

His heart for missions began to take shape at St. B's, and serving in the mission field in Southeast Asia is now a long term goal. It's a dream he shares with his wife, Teresa. The couple are expecting their first child in early September.

After years at St. B's, an assignment to a new church where he was not known

posed challenges. "You have to start by building relationships and the best way to do that is to be open and honest. Just be yourself," he said.

Unlike Clayton's experience, Doc Martin had no history at St. B's when a

After his ordination, Doc worked for the Diocese of Middle Tennessee before his assignment as priest-in-charge at Grace Episcopal Church in Spring Hill, a title he said is a misnomer because "God is in charge."

Although God is in charge, Doc is His instrument to help grow this small but elegant church. The congregation is made up mostly of retired people and averages about 60 people a service. "It's a joy to be part of this," said Doc, a man who understands first-hand how pivotal a church can be in the life of its people.

The third breakfast speaker was Stu Phillips, a

75-year old priest with a background as varied as Joseph's coat of many colors. Stu is a Canadian native who has thrived as the host of national television and radio shows, as an accomplished singer-songwriter and as a member of the Grand Old Opry.

Sprinkled throughout Stu's colorful account of his life are notables he worked with, such as Chet Atkins and Eddy Arnold, both country music legends. "It's very special to be part of the Grand Old Opry," he said of those days in the 1960s during what he called "the golden era of country music."

A superb performer with 55 years in show business, Stu and his wife,



From left, Reverends Doc Martin, Stu Phillips and Clayton Ingalls

fellow teacher from Nashville State invited him to attend. A former Baptist minister, Doc was going through a divorce and hurting when he first came to St. B's.

"Right away I felt the presence of God at St. B's. I sat for months in the back row, cried a lot and began to heal," he said.

Helping the healing process was a lady named Julie who Doc met while leading a Boy Scout pack in the area. A lengthy courtship ensued, until a friend of Doc's said, "You better ask her to marry you before she gets away."

Doc heeded the advice, the couple married, and they live in Nashville, bringing together a total of five children between them.

Continued on page 15



# Psalms “Be Still” Project Born at St. B’s

**T**he Branch recently interviewed musician and parishioner Mark Baldwin about his new Psalms project, which has its origins in the St. B’s loft, and features his vocals and guitar playing, as well as contributions from other St. B’s musicians.

Q: How did this project originate at St. B’s?

MB: Eric Wyse asked me about two or three years ago if I would be interested in writing a new musical setting for the Psalm for that upcoming Sunday. It was Psalm 37 (“Be Still Before the Lord, and Wait Patiently for Him”). It started a journey of worship that has transformed me.

Q: Can you tell us more about being “transformed?”

MB: When I respond to the hunger for intimacy that He has placed in me, using the gifts that He’s given me, His Spirit transforms me (and others) when I exercise those gifts. It’s true of anyone using their gifts in the body, but there’s a deep, visceral impact when it’s the combination of the Word, music, and His Spirit. It seems that music can help reach that place in your heart where God has put, in the words of C.S. Lewis, His “secret signature.”

Al Andrews said, “There are times when one hears a piece of music and a door opens...in a way that invites us into the presence of God and makes us long for more.”

That “longing” that Al refers to (as well as David in Psalm 63) leads us by the Spirit of God to worship Him...and desire more of those deep places. Singing the Psalms allows the Word to “dwell in you richly” (Col 3:16), and I’ve found that there is transformation in that.

Q: How did the recording come about?

MB: Upon hearing the Psalm 37 antiphon, someone at Discovery House Music felt that we should record an entire project of Psalm settings. This was a desire of mine as well, and since by then I had written six or seven settings of Psalms for St. B’s services, it seemed natural to pursue it. We recorded it at my studio, using several musicians from St. B’s, including cellist Paul Nelson and percussionist Rich Courtney. I am the singer, or “cantor,” for many of the Psalm settings. I also



Mark Baldwin in the studio

used a few other Nashville session singers as cantors, to give the project a varied vocal texture.

In a lot of ways, though, this project is St. B’s born and bred. My prayer is that whoever hears it is drawn into worship, as I was in recording it.

(“Be Still – Psalms for the Soul” is available in the St. B’s bookstore)

## Men’s Breakfast

Continued from page 14

Aldona, have a daughter, two sons and four grandchildren. They moved to Brentwood in 1965 and started at St. B’s where they became good friends with Rev. Chuck Murphy, who was the priest there during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Although he’s traveled worldwide as a performer, Stu said, “St. B’s is my favorite church. I never found one I

liked better because there’s a real spirit in this place.”

As the country music industry waned somewhat in the 1970s, RCA let its artists go. Stu, who had originally signed at the company with Chet Atkins, experienced a drastic change of life. He spent three years at Sewanee and has been a priest ever since. He served 17 years at St. James Episcopal Church in Madison before retiring in 2005. Kicking back didn’t last long, and he is currently the full time priest at St Luke’s Episcopal

Church in Springfield, as well as owning a winery in Goodlettsville.

“God has blessed me,” Stu said. “Sometimes you have to take chances in life, but if you follow in God’s footsteps, you’ll be all right.”

As the mornings final speaker, this former country singer’s concluding words struck the right note: “I believe with all my heart and soul in my savior, Jesus Christ. You can always turn to the Lord. He will lift you up. I promise you that.”

# The Powell Family: The Road to Germany

by Paul Miller

Vestry liaison to Mission & Outreach

In 2007 Mark and Susan Powell came to Jerry for counsel. They had an inkling that they were not where God wanted them to be. Jerry suggested the discernment process and The Mission and Outreach Committee (M&O) recommended a discernment committee.

The Powells didn't feel called to be church planters or parish ministers. Supporting missionaries by ministering to missionary children through their vocations seemed right.

The Powells found two positions at the Black Forest Academy (BFA) in Germany that fit their background, training, and experience. This seemed to confirm the direction God had set for them.

In March, the Powells visited BFA in Kandern, Germany. After the Powells finished the discernment process, the discernment committee made their report to the M&O committee in April, stating their enthusiastic endorsement of the Powell's ministry.

The Powells laid out their financial needs to M&O in late April and gained both the committee's and the vestry's support in early June to raise funds from the parish.

Jonathan Merkh came alongside the Powells as their advocate to form a support team for their fundraising efforts.

On July 7th, Jonathan reported to M&O that the Powells and their support team had only half of the monthly support for the rest of 2008 and they might have to delay their departure unless Janz Team Ministries received at least 80% of the Powells' support by 15 July 2008. M&O agreed

to provide \$4000 to meet this need, which was the equivalent of the uncommitted funds in the M&O 2008 budget. The committee encouraged the vestry to cover the remainder.

Jonathan Merkh found out that Janz Team needed not only a minimum of 80% of the monthly support for the rest of 2008, but at least 80% pledged by the church for 2009.

On July 14th, the vestry wrestled with the decision to support the Powells in 2008 and finally voted against it for what seemed like good reasons and good stewardship. Almost all vestry believed the discernment process indicated the Powells should do this ministry but it was not clear to the vestry that the Powell ministry couldn't wait until funds were available.

That same night, two vestry members informed the Powells of the decision, and I went home disheartened but content that I had done what I thought the Lord wanted me to do.

The next day, a donor contributed \$11,000, covering the 80% for 2008. The Powell support team vowed to cover the remaining 20% of monthly support for 2008. Nothing was required from the church for 2008. The remaining question was: Would

the vestry revisit the issue and agree to pledge support for at least 80% for 2009?



After several days of email exchanges between vestry members, M&O and Jonathan Merkh, there was an email consensus that the vestry would agree to pledge the necessary amount for 2009, and hope that the Powell support team would raise the funds by their continued efforts. The Janz Team accepted the Powells and in two weeks they were off to Germany.

Thanks to all who joined us in prayer, labored in seeking God's will and then worked to execute it. May the Powells minister mightily in Christ's name in Germany even beyond BFA. May God use Mark's personal experience growing up as a missionary kid and make Mark a conduit for Christ's Spirit and love to the missionary kids at BFA. And may missionary parents have peaceful assurance their children's needs will be met even as they labor for the Lord in His harvest fields around the world.



# Announcing the St. Bartholomew's Chamber Singers

## FROM THE LOFT

by Eric Wyse

Director of Music

A new small choral group, the St. Bartholomew's Chamber Singers, will be forming this Fall. The Chamber Singers will be an auditioned group, as opposed to the Parish Choir, which is open to all. Our mission is to enhance the vocal element of worship at St. B's, providing another platform upon which to lead the congregation into the Lord's presence.

The Chamber Singers will not always play a "routine" role in the service (such as always performing at the same point in the Liturgy), but will try to vary our repertoire from choral anthems to community singing that involves the whole congregation. In accordance with the way other forms of music are used at St. B's, our goal is

to not distract the congregation from worship, but to enhance the power of Liturgy, providing opportunities for the parish to both worship with us or to be still, listen, and reflect.

The group will be led by David Madeira. David recently completed his masters degree in composition at Belmont University and has been an active part of our music ministry for several years as a percussionist. I'm



David Madeira (above) will lead the Chamber Singers

excited about this new chapter in the life of the music ministry in our church, and will work hand in hand with David to assist him as accompanist, as well as in the selection of music.

To achieve the desired blend and balance of voices, as well as forming a group of singers who can tackle more complex music, this will be an auditioned ensemble. The audition time will take 15 minutes, and will include singing with 3 other voices a 4-part simple anthem, and singing alone scales for range and tone.

Auditions will be held on Sunday, September 13 at 12:30 to 2 PM, and Tuesday evening from 7 - 9 PM in the choir room (Room 112).

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Wyse at [ericwyse@mac.com](mailto:ericwyse@mac.com).

## St. B's Men's Retreat Set for Oct 24-25 in Monteagle

by Whit Smyth

"Called to Simply Follow Jesus" is the theme of this year's Men's Retreat to be held October 24-25 at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN.

Led by Fr. Jerry Smith and Fr. Randy Hoover-Dempsey, this retreat is a terrific time to learn from our pastors, ask questions and share with other men of the church. Whether you've been at St. B's for two months or 20 years, there is no better way to connect with the men than this outing.

We'll gather Friday evening around 6:00 pm and stay through lunch on Saturday. Some may elect to hang

around Monteagle after lunch to play golf, explore the area or go hiking, but there is no pressure to do any of those things.

Registration is underway for this event with sign-up forms available in the Narthex. For more information, please contact Whit Smyth ([wsmyth3420@comcast.net](mailto:wsmyth3420@comcast.net)) or Sean Root, head of the St. B's Men's Ministry, at [stbsmens@aol.com](mailto:stbsmens@aol.com).

For further information about the DuBose Conference Center, including directions, visit: [duboseconf.org](http://duboseconf.org).



DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle

# The Story of Stuff



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

As we've spent the last year exploring and learning about living green, an associated issue has begun to intrigue us, an issue central to the health of our planet and to the ministry of Jesus: stuff. We don't tend to attribute action or culpability to the things we own; stuff is just stuff. However, leaving our relationship to material goods unexamined blinds us to the economic, political, environmental, and spiritual impact our stuff has on us. For example, every garbage can of stuff we throw away includes seventy garbage cans already thrown away during production. Imagining ourselves as individual consumers without taking a look at what hides behind the curtains leaves unexamined the complex and complete story of stuff.

The statistics about our stuff are overwhelming. In the past thirty years, we've consumed one third of our planet's natural resources. In the United States, we have less than four percent of our original forests left and forty percent of our waterways are unfishable, unswimmable, or undrinkable. A primary reason for this depletion is the amount of stuff we all have. Americans now consume twice as much as we did fifty years ago, our houses have doubled in size since the 1970s, and we average four and a half pounds of garbage per day (twice the amount of 1970). We spend more on shoes, jewelry, and watches than on higher education and there are twice as many shopping centers as high schools.

The problem behind the production of all our stuff is that we are trying to run a linear system on

a finite planet, which will eventually end in no more planet. Altogether, this system is called a materials economy, in which there are five major steps: extraction, production, distribution, consumption, and disposal:

Extraction basically means coming up with the raw materials that we turn into all our stuff. This includes chopping down trees, drilling for oil, digging up rocks, and anything else that gathers a natural resource. All our stuff comes from these same basic ingredients.

Production takes the natural resources, mixes in some synthetic chemicals, and comes up with the products we all consume. There are over 100,000 chemicals being used today in production, few of which have been tested for harmfulness.

Distribution means selling all this stuff to consumers, often as quickly and as cheaply as possible.

Consumption is the heart of this system, the engine that keeps everything moving. Average Americans shop six hours each week (as opposed to forty minutes playing with their children). It is this part of the cycle in which we've recently become very interested.

Disposal is the stage that we've talked about most in this column, especially in regards to how we can bend this linear model back around to its beginning through the steps of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

What we don't see along this route when described in such broad terms

are the people who gain and lose at every point of the system. As consumers, we support with our dollars a system that exploits God's creation and God's children, but rarely are we allowed to see or understand that exploitation. The system might break down if we were able to understand fully why we can buy a radio for \$4.99 or a hamburger for \$1.

Instead, we are bombarded by messages day in and day out that tell us to want more stuff. Buy this and you'll be smart! This product will give you power that you've never had! Try this new lotion and you'll look years younger in just one week (and then everyone will like you)! As American consumers, we suffer from Affluenza, the "painful, contagious, socially-transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety, and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more" (Check out the book *Affluenza* by John de Graaf, David Wann, and Thomas Naylor).

Affluenza is nothing new. In Luke 18:18-30, Jesus encountered the power of Affluenza. Unfortunately, the rich young ruler was too beholden to his stuff to follow Jesus. How do we respond to Jesus in the face of our own Affluenza? Can we investigate the power our stuff has over us? Do we really want to? We would like to begin to explore this topic as a community, face to face. We will be hosting a screening of the 20-minute film "The Story of Stuff" after which we will explore our relationships to material possessions, think about how we are influenced by advertising, and discuss what it means to walk in the way of Jesus in a consumerist economy. Watch for announcements about the screening in the weekly bulletin.



# 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

Rick & Cindy Lundgren 9/1  
Brian & Donna Darnell 9/8  
Joshua & Susan Puckett 9/9  
Don & Dawn Grant 9/9  
Paul & Julia Miller 9/9  
Blake & Melany Tenore 9/12  
David & Jule West 9/14  
David & Carla Schober 9/14  
Scott & Anna Kammerer 9/16  
Charlie & Katie Reasor 9/18  
Langley & Lois Granbery 9/20  
Marc & Christy Byrd 9/23  
Richard Jr. & Ellen B. Rust 9/29



### Birthdays

Matt Jablonka 9/1  
Ellen B. Rust 9/1  
Ellen Hingst 9/3  
Tim Lauer 9/5  
Elizabeth Carley 9/6  
Wendy Baldwin 9/7  
Lila Buxton 9/7  
John Downton 9/8  
David Schober 9/8  
Tony Bakker 9/8  
Lily Courtney 9/9  
Natalie Langlinais 9/10  
Megan Darnell 9/10

Diane Marshall 9/10  
Abigail Granbery 9/11  
Lucy Sarah Kammerer 9/12  
Jack Waggener 9/12  
Asher Ferguson 9/13  
Joseph Martin 9/13  
Sibley Edwards 9/14  
Hunter Holt 9/14  
Wren Kinzig 9/16  
Thomas Ramsay 9/16  
Jane Stranch 9/17  
Lauren Chapman 9/18  
Emily Hindalong 9/18  
Dawn Rodgers 9/20  
Beth-Ann Ramsay 9/21  
Samuel Bartholomew 9/21  
Marshall Weems 9/23  
Morgan Workman 9/23  
Brett Kinzig 9/24  
Scott Emerson 9/24  
Lee Stewart 9/25  
Sandy Wood 9/25  
Rick Wood 9/27  
Greg Daniel 9/9  
Teresa Silva Coleman 9/24  
Jerry Smith 9/22  
Sonja Lowell 9/14  
Janeane Kinnaman 9/24  
Dave West Sr. 9/20  
Reid Blandford 9/28  
Amy Ingham 9/23  
Jamieson Simpson 9/29

Connor Morss 9/16  
Walt Quinn 9/28  
Mary Beth Lavin 9/28  
Tanya McMillen 9/28  
Blake Tenore 9/12  
Melany Tenore 9/26  
Rhonda Courtne 9/22  
Ladonna Mullins 9/15  
Keith Chapman 9/24  
Hannah Granbery 9/24  
Nancy Pollitt 9/25

### Baptisms

Kylan Love Clair, Parents: Jill and Nathan Clair, 7/20

Corinna Blake Bauchiero, Parents: Jessica & Dan Bauchiero, 8/16

Elliot Alan Abijah Swihart, Parents: Miriam & Seth Swihart, 8/17

### Births

Olivia ("Olive") Lindsley, Parents: Matt and Kristin Slocum, 8/4.

Gabriela Rose, Parents: Erick and Lisa Goss and sisters Greta and Elena, 8/8

Adeline Farrah, Parents: Matt and Bethany Smith, big sister Scarlett, and big brother Camden, 8/21

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

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Brentwood, TN.  
Permit No. 256

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

---

## ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SOCCER ACADEMY KICKS OFF

---



On Tuesday, September 2nd, St. B's kicked off the inaugural practice for the SBSA (St. Bartholomew's Soccer Academy). Over 120 children and their parents, along with coaches from the David Lipscomb University Soccer Team were present. Families from all over Nashville signed up to be a part of this unique three on three soccer league. Practices are held on Tuesdays from 5:30pm-6:45pm with games on Saturday mornings starting at 8:30am. For more information, visit the St. B's Soccer Academy Website at [www.stbsoccer.com](http://www.stbsoccer.com).

