

THE BRANCH

The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church



Above: David Schober snapped this photo with his phone on one of many of our recent snowy days.

REFOCUSING DURING THE LENTEN SEASON

Lent can bring out the best or the worst in us, depending on how seriously we take the season and how seriously we take ourselves!

There was time when we were living on the Manitoulin Island and because I couldn't afford anything better, I owned two (count them, two) Volkswagen Beetles. One was used for my daily jaunts around the very large multi-point parish and the other was used for parts. In the mid 70's, as inexpensive as these automobiles were, they were proportionately unreliable, and when you lived in remote areas like the Manitoulin, forget being able to walk to your nearest AutoPro for parts. Courses in mechanics 101 ought to have been a

prerequisite for ordination, but since that was not the case, I had to learn by doing.

When the floor boards began to evidence the highway beneath the car, it was time to head to the nearest garbage dump and hope that there was an old washer or dryer there, because the stainless steel sides from old appliances riveted to the undercarriage of the car was a better option than manufactures recommended replacement parts.

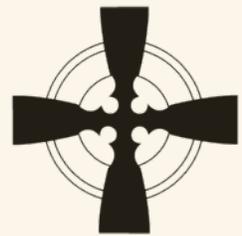
It was during Holy Week one year on the island that I was in one of those notorious VW Beetles rushing between services. That meant I would finish one service and had an hour (maybe less

Continued page 3

Lent 2010

"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. Dixon Kinser, Assistant Rector for
Youth & Young Adult Formation
The Rev. David Wilson, Pastoral Associate

Office:

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Jane Long, Office Manager
Annie Heyward, Administrative Assistant
Erin Somerville, Director of Communications
Becky Hornsby, Childcare Coordinator

Parish Ministry:

Carla Schober,
Director of Family and Children's Formation
Aaron Mayo, Children's Ministry Assistant
Suzanne Zadick, Preschool Coordinator
Meredith Flynn, Nursery Director
Kristin Kinser, Elementary Coordinator
Shelby Haggard, Sunday morning leader
Steve Lefebvre, Assistant Director for
Youth & College Formation

St. B's Bookstore:

Allison Hardwick, Manager

Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

Suzy Floyd, Preschool Director
Mary Ellen Ratcliffe, Preschool Exec. Assistant

Music:

Eric Wyse, Director of Music
David Madeira, Director, Chamber Singers
Teresa Robinson, Administrative Assistant

Vestry Members

Andy Valentine, senior warden
Charlie Reasor, junior warden

Greg Daniel, Dick Jewell, Vanessa Hardy, Adam
Wirdzek, Carmen Hall, Dorman Burtch, Denise
Kemp, Jud Laughter, Ashley MacLachlan, Paul Miller,
Charlie Reasor. (Officers: Dan Cleary, treasurer and
Gary Mumme, clerk)

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**2010 Lenten
Calendar**

If you haven't already, be sure to pick up your copy of the 2010 St. B's Family Lenten Calendar. It's full of study guides, event reminders, and helpful suggestions for serving and giving this Lenten season.

Calendars are available in both the parish hall and the Narthex.



The First Full Week of Lent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 21 Holy Eucharist 8:00am & 10:30am Study Psalm 66 Gen. 27:1-11 1 Cor. 1:1-18 Mark 1:1-13 Play Make out plans for our annual art for the St. B's Day. If you aren't, email the church office. Serve Consecration Intercessions & a Christian order volunteer ministry that reaches people from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty. Visit compassion.com for find out more about sponsoring a child.	22 Study Psalm 66 Gen. 27:1-11 1 Cor. 1:1-18 Mark 1:1-13 Play Make out plans for our annual art for the St. B's Day. If you aren't, email the church office. Serve Consecration Intercessions & a Christian order volunteer ministry that reaches people from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty. Visit compassion.com for find out more about sponsoring a child.	23 Study Psalm 66 Gen. 27:1-11 1 Cor. 1:1-18 Mark 1:1-13 Play Make out plans for our annual art for the St. B's Day. If you aren't, email the church office. Serve Consecration Intercessions & a Christian order volunteer ministry that reaches people from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty. Visit compassion.com for find out more about sponsoring a child.	24 Day of Reconciliation Study Psalm 66 Gen. 27:1-11 1 Cor. 1:1-18 Mark 1:1-13 Play Make out plans for our annual art for the St. B's Day. If you aren't, email the church office. Serve Consecration Intercessions & a Christian order volunteer ministry that reaches people from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty. Visit compassion.com for find out more about sponsoring a child.	25 Study Psalm 66 Gen. 27:1-11 1 Cor. 1:1-18 Mark 1:1-13 Play Make out plans for our annual art for the St. B's Day. If you aren't, email the church office. Serve Consecration Intercessions & a Christian order volunteer ministry that reaches people from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty. Visit compassion.com for find out more about sponsoring a child.	26 Study Psalm 66 Gen. 27:1-11 1 Cor. 1:1-18 Mark 1:1-13 Play Make out plans for our annual art for the St. B's Day. If you aren't, email the church office. Serve Consecration Intercessions & a Christian order volunteer ministry that reaches people from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty. Visit compassion.com for find out more about sponsoring a child.	27 Study Psalm 66 Gen. 27:1-11 1 Cor. 1:1-18 Mark 1:1-13 Play Make out plans for our annual art for the St. B's Day. If you aren't, email the church office. Serve Consecration Intercessions & a Christian order volunteer ministry that reaches people from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty. Visit compassion.com for find out more about sponsoring a child.

Submissions for the Easter issue of *The Branch* will be accepted no later than Good Friday, April 2. Articles and photos can be sent to: editor@stbs.net

Refocusing This Lent

A Lesson in Control and Trust

(Continued from front cover)

depending on how long-winded the preacher was) to drive the 40+ miles to the next church, get vested, light the candles and begin the liturgy for a second, or third time. (One infamous year I had 7 Christmas Eve services on Dec 24th, one every two hours beginning at 12 noon! My cars received a lot of wear and tear).

Those who know me, even reasonably well, know that I do most everything in a hurry. My driven personality got along quite well with the running between services.

So I am rushing between liturgies, during one of the holiest of weeks of the year, when the VW dies. Yes, right in the middle of one of the more remote roads on the island. I am stranded.

Stranded without a cell phone, which were yet to be invented; stranded in the middle of a country road that was very sparsely inhabited. Too far to walk to where I needed to be and too far away from where I had come. Nothing to do but wait. In the economy of my life, this might almost be a definition of hell!

Now if I take myself too seriously then this becomes problematic. Stress mounts and I try to assume some

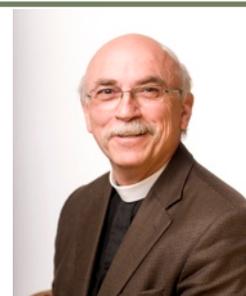
If I take Lent seriously, this becomes an opportunity to release control and turn to the One who has turned toward me in the person of Jesus.

resemblance of control to (in the lingo of contemporary business models) make lemonade when handed a lemon. On the other hand, if I take Lent seriously, this becomes an opportunity to release control and turn to the One who has turned toward me in the person of Jesus.

KINGDOM TALK

by Fr. Jerry Smith

Rector



Lent is really about recalibrating our focus. On the particular Holy Week above I realized that there was nothing I could do but wait and trust that One greater than I was actually and ultimately in control.

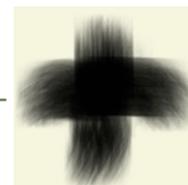
This Lenten Season He wants all of us to be reminded, yet again, of this wonderful truth. He is in control. He can be trusted and our participation in the Kingdom of God is ultimately at His pleasure and for His purposes.

I invite you this Lenten Season to the observance of a Holy Lent, during which you experience the presence of God and have the fire of love for Him rekindled.



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

Two Opportunities for Lenten Study



Midweek Eucharist with Midday Music & Reflection

Join us each Wednesday for midweek Eucharist at 7:30am and 12:15pm. During Lent, the 12.30 service will be preceded by 30 minutes of music and reflection.



Wednesday Night Lenten Study

Plan to join us for a weekly Lenten Study in the Parish Hall every Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:00pm. The study will be entitled "Following Jesus toward the Promised Land: A biblical study of people on the move."

Childcare will be provided with RSVP to the church office (377-4750 or churchoffice@stbs.net).



In Remembrance of Tom Howard

by Eric Wyse

Director of Music

Editor's Note: This article was originally in the form of an email sent by Eric Wyse to the music ministry the day after Tom's death.

*“With all of my heart,
with all of my
mind, I offer all to
the God of my life...”*

We have lost a dear friend, a gentle spirit, a willing servant, an insightful poet, and a superb musician. I am sorrowful beyond words. The lyrics above are words Tom wrote that we sang just last week during communion.

I first met Tom in the fall of 1983 at Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California. He was at the piano on a Sunday evening, accompanying the Worship Community (their choir) singing Psalm settings he had composed for the Maranatha! Music project "Psalms Alive". I was the marketing director for that label, but I knew of Tom from his recordings on Larry Norman's label. He was gracious to me as we talked of worship music, and I was in awe of his keyboard prowess. Little did I know that 20 years later we would worship together for 7 years in the loft at St. B's.

"You call me to Your courts, my King, my heart is free and whole. Guiding spirit, hand of God, Protector of my soul..."

Tom first joined us in the loft in June

of 2003, during a particularly hard time in the life of St. B's. Within a few months, he was on the piano almost every week, which freed me up to stand and direct. Tom was always willing, if his schedule permitted, to help. It wasn't long until he became the de facto "assistant" for me in the loft. Just naturally, the



Photo by Katherine Bomboy

musicians looked to him for leadership, and he offered it willingly and humbly - simply offering from his gifts. Just a couple weeks ago, Dori, Tom and I were standing in the narthex and Dori commented on how unique it was that Tom and I worked together so well - without tensions, with mutual respect, with give and take, and with joy. I learned so much from Tom in the loft - about music, about worship, about Christ.

*"Buried with Jesus, baptized with Him,
we rise and walk in new life..."*

I also had the privilege to work with Tom professionally outside of St. B's. He was incredibly well respected in the music industry. Many of you may not know that he was the orchestrator, conductor and keyboardist for some amazing music that has been produced over the last 30 years. "City on a Hill" which gave the church "God of Wonders", Phil Keaggy's Christmas album with the London Symphony Orchestra, "Streams in the Desert", Michael W. Smith, Dolly Parton, Sixpence None the Richer, CeCe Winans, Broadway star Kristin Chenoweth, Jars of Clay, Jim Brickman and so many, many more. Tom recorded 3 albums for me for my clients that were very well received. In particular, "Near to the Heart of God," an album of contemplative music for prayer, has helped countless people enter into prayer in a deeper and more meaningful way.

"It is finished, it is done! Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!"

Each week in the Eucharist we sing the memorial acclamation Tom and Darrell Harris composed. Tom was such a fine composer and lyricist. Think of the songs that are such an intrinsic part of St. B's expression of worship: "King of Love", "It Is Finished", "With All of My Heart", "He Who Dwells", "Holy Spirit, Voice of God", "Buried with Jesus", and so many more. What a gift he gave to us - songs that are "ours"

Continued on next page



Tom Howard (continued from page 4)

that we can together praise God with.

"King of Love, Risen Christ, thank you, Lord, for your sacrifice. I'm overcome, I'm lost in praise, How can I resist such love as this, O King of Love?"

Tom had a servant's heart - humble, kind, generous, giving, caring. He had a wonderful sense of humor, and at times could make people laugh at just the right time. Whether at the piano, in the choir, with Chamber Singers, filling in on guitar, lending vocals, chanting the Psalm, arranging a chart, or any number of other ways he gave of his talents, Tom was willing at a moments notice to give what was needed. When I had to be gone on a Sunday, I never worried, as I knew Tom would do such a great job leading in my absence. I think back to this last

Men's retreat and recall his leading us in an amazing time of worship, and then joining in discussion late into the night on the porch. But, perhaps I will miss most simply who he was - a true friend, a exemplary partner in worship,

Tom's CDs - Available
at the St. B's Bookstore

Near to the Heart of God
In the Quiet Place
Our Love Is Here to Stay

and a fellow pilgrim on this journey. He is now gathered with that great cloud of witnesses - spurring us on to our final victory. He will be sorely missed.

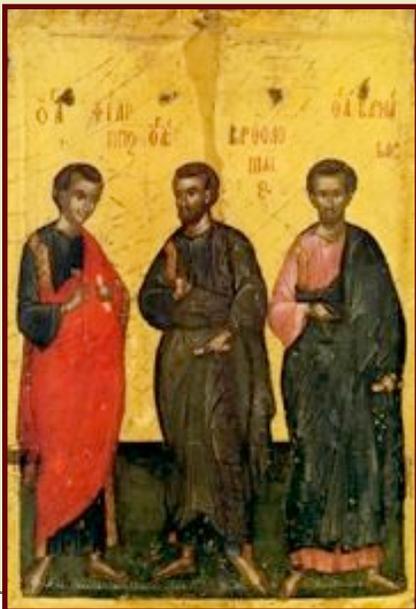
We will need to be mindful to reach out to Dori, Katie and Joseph not just in the days ahead, but in the weeks and months after we have all resumed our "normal" lives and Dori and the kids try to find their way to a new "normal".

"Safe haven, safe harbor, peace in the storm. He who dwells in the shelter of our God will find rest in the shadow of the Lord."

Tom is now at rest. As the Apostle Paul said: "We sorrow not, as others who have no hope." Tom's hope was in the Lord. Our hope is in the Lord. Yet, we do sorrow. God, grant rest to our brother Tom, and comfort to his family and friends. Amen.

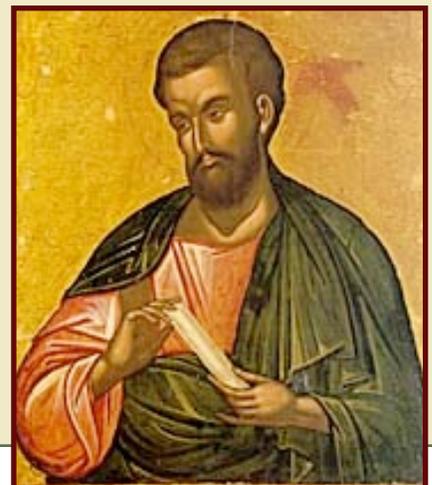


HALOS in the Hall St. B's Art Show: Coming in September



Parish Pictures of the Saints, coming in September! In anticipation of the St. Bartholomew's art show, all artists and artisans are encouraged to create a work (with paint, wood, needle & thread, etc) with your favorite saint or saints as the subject matter. We'll begin to hang the artwork in the Parish Hall as we look forward to the ART show this fall.

If you have questions, call Donna Easter at 969.6821 or Mimi Heldman at 351.2314.



The Ridiculousness of Speaking for God



A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Assistant Rector for Youth & Young Adult Formation

A few months ago I was writing my week of the St. B's Daily reflections and had the oddest experience. In the middle of making an argument for what God is like (something about mercy and justice and how Jesus demonstrates these things) I was bowled over by a stunning revelation; what I am doing right now is completely ridiculous. And it is not because I am saying something untrue about God. Instead, it is because I am saying anything at all!

How audacious it was that I would speak for God in the first place. I thought, "How can I, this finite human being, so caught up in sin and faithlessness dare to speak for the Creator of the universe, and what's more, why would God let me? I mean, God you know me! Surely I of all people should be on some sort of parole or academic probation with the gospel-proclamation-enterprise right? I can't even remember everything I need to get at the grocery store much less speak authoritatively for your kingdom." So, it was with all due respect that I suggested to God that his choice of messenger (me) might be a little irresponsible.

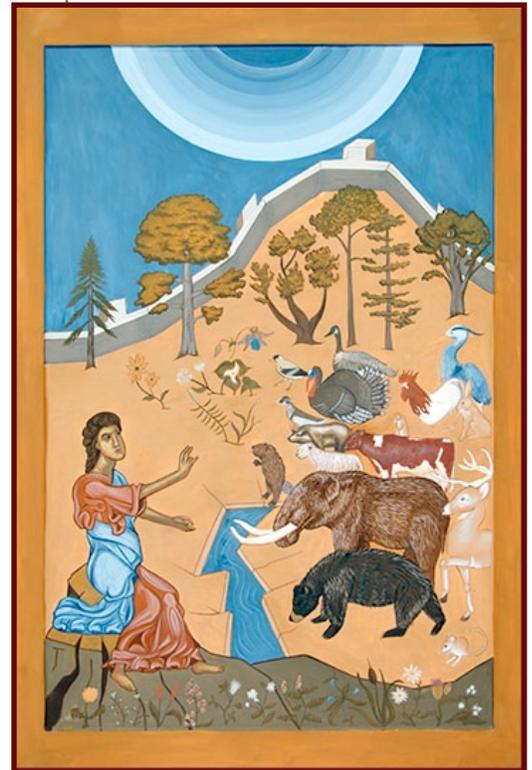
Furthermore, given the control issues I have about communication and the fears I have about not being understood, the notion that anyone would turn over the explanation of their motives, attributes and character to some one else just did not compute. What if they get it wrong? What if someone misunderstands them and therefore misunderstands me? Those

stakes are too high. I think I'll just do it myself, thank you very much.

But this is what is so outrageous and exactly what washed over me that day in the office. Turning over the message, plan and agenda over to broken people is exactly what God does over and over again in the scriptures and today. God's dream for humans in the Genesis story is that they would have agency in the Creation. People are made to care for, work with and live within the world in a way that divulges

People are made to care for, work with and live within the world in a way that divulges the character of the one who made it.

the character of the one who made it. God has been in the business of putting the announcement of his image, nature, and purpose in the hands of people since the very beginning, and shows no sign of slowing down. For a communication control freak like me, all I can do with this reality sometimes is just laugh. God, you are too good for words and just don't make sense.



Icon of Adam Naming the Animals

However, my theo-comic revelation has left me with something I need more than a good laugh: humility. When I speak for God it is the most sacred of acts. However, the sacredness of this task is not derived from some sort of exclusivity (everybody gets to talk for God after all- that's what we do) but rather from its insufficiency. When I do theology, or say words about God, I have to recognize that I can never say enough. God is better than any statement about God's goodness can ever be. God is merciful in ways language can only begin to articulate. God's dream for my children is better than I could ever hope for. Because of all this I am left humbled and moved to do the only thing I really can in response: worship.

So, with that said I must close by asking, "How good is our God?" Well, it really is hard to say.



FILM SCHOOL AT HOME - LENTEN EDITION - THE DARK KNIGHT

The purpose of this column is to encourage our community to engage film with eyes and ears for dialogue. Today's popular movies may be our most common and accessible form of art in our culture; therefore we ought to wrestle with the ideas and content found within them. Our hope is that we can use them to learn about who we are and what kind of world we live in. In these conversations and contemplations there is formation. This column exists to move that formation into the way of Jesus.

The Dark Knight (2008)

Rated PG-13 (for violence, parental guidance for teens, not recommended for children)

Directed by Christopher Nolan

By the end of the summer of 2008, *The Dark Knight* was one of the highest grossing films of all time. When it came out on DVD the following winter, Dixon and I knew we had to talk about this film with our youth (considering most of them had seen it). Let me assure you this isn't your ordinary Batman movie. Sure it has your typical cast of Batman characters (Batman, Commissioner Gordon, Harvey Dent, and The Joker), but this film has one of the strongest dialogues about the real and present problem of evil in our world today.

The Joker is the embodiment of evil in this film. We don't know where he's from and we aren't quite sure of his motivation, but the one thing we are certain of is the Joker is hell-bent on spreading fear and



FILM SCHOOL AT HOME

by Steven Lefebvre

Assistant Director of Youth & College Formation



corruption throughout Gotham City. On the other side of the coin stands Harvey Dent, Gotham's white knight. Dent is the newly appointed District Attorney who is dedicated to (and succeeding at) cleaning up Gotham's organized crime problem. But when the Joker begins to prove that he can corrupt the people of Gotham with a little fear, everything is chaos. Furthermore, what is compelling about this film is that Batman is no ordinary superhero. The Batman in this film struggles between being a victim and a participant of evil. We see a living, breathing vigilante who toes the line of justice and approaches the threshold of corruption.

The overall invitation of this film is to examine our place and participation with evil in the world. How does our response to real and present evil in our world make us part of the problem or part of the solution? Why does God's justice and his people's participation



matter? I invite you this Lent to consider this film as a spiritual discipline. May this film be a reminder that doing the hard work for God's justice is worth the struggle.

Passages to Consider:

Act 1 - Genesis 2:15-25

Act 2 - Galatians 6:1-5

Act 3 - Matthew 16:21-26

Continued on next page



FILM SCHOOL AT HOME - THE DARK KNIGHT (continued from page 7)

Discussion *Spoiler Alert*

Act 1

The important thing to pay attention to in Act 1 is how our emotions react to the Joker. The visceral response we have to the Joker's presence is the thing that tells us what is unjust and evil. The Joker character is someone who has fully given himself over to nihilistic (the idea that nothing has meaning) evil. The question this film asks isn't "Where does evil come from" (because in this film we don't know) but "How do you respond to evil?" The conversation the church must have is to ask, "How does God respond to evil?"

Consider evil in the world and in your own life?

How do you respond to these evils?

Do you pretend it isn't there?

Do you blame others for it?

Do you blame yourself?

How does God respond to evil?

How are you imaging God in your response to evil?

Act 2

In this portion of the film we begin to see just how terrifying the Joker really is. Perhaps this is a worst case scenario, but in a world where terrorism is a real and present fear in our lives, Jesus' call to not worry can be quite subversive. The people of Jesus don't worry and are

unafraid in the face of death. Why? Because Jesus has defeated death on the cross. God dealt with evil by forgiving the world of our sins, by laying down his life by dying on the cross. The invitation of the Gospel is to follow in that way.

How do we make sense of living as a people without fear when evil can genuinely make us afraid?

How does Jesus' example of forgiveness on the cross, "deliver us from evil?"

Act 3

In this part of the film we begin to see the Joker's plan unfold. He needs to corrupt Batman (Gotham's ultimate symbol of justice) to prove that in the end people are good as long as it doesn't cost them anything. All the Joker wants is to destroy Batman's goodness. This is why the interrogation room scene is so difficult to watch. As Batman is pounding the Joker's head into the table, the Joker is winning. Batman isn't doing good by taking his fear and anger out on the Joker, he is imaging the Joker's evil.

Consider the passage from Matthew 5.

Talk about how Christians can be the light of the world in the face of evil.

Why does Jesus command us to love our enemies and how is this related to being the light of the world?

Act 4

The last part of the film is extremely hopeful. I can't say I didn't cry during the boat scene. I think this film connects to Lent because it offers us an insight into what the Kingdom of God might be like. We begin to see the merits of laying down our life for the sake of others (boat scene), loving your enemies (Batman saving the Joker's life), and how hatred can corrupt our souls (Two-Face).

The Kingdom of God is built on spiritual discipline. When we deny ourselves for the sake of others and for the sake of justice, we choose a more difficult way. Often times this way causes suffering, loneliness, and uncertainty. But as we see in the final scenes of this movie, there is something truly beautiful about being on the side of justice, God's justice. God's justice is about setting everything in the world to right. Psalm 94 is a glimpse into what God's dream is for the world. Our struggle for justice and suffering in the face of evil is going somewhere. We must remain faithful.

Pray that God grants us the wisdom, courage, patience and imagination to respond well to evil.

Pray that God continues to reveal to us where this is all going.



St. Bartholomew's Columbarium Approved



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

by Pam White
Director of Operations

At the February 8th vestry meeting, the vestry of St. B's unanimously approved the Columbarium proposal presented by the Facilities Committee comprised of Dick Jewell, Mimi Heldman, David Morss and Tim Villager. Review and research of a columbarium at St. B's has been in discussion for over a year and originated from a long time parishioner, Kathy Edwards, who was instrumental in bringing this to fruition.

The Columbarium will be installed outside on the brick wall of the sanctuary (on the side where the Bell is located). We will initially purchase 96 niches (units for cremains) and will be landscaping the area as well as making it more handicap and elderly accessible. The vision for the columbarium is to carve out an area that is beautiful, peaceful and accessible twenty four hours a day for friends and family who wish to visit or meditate

in the garden area.

A complete drawing and sketch of the columbarium area will be displayed beginning the last week of February.

The cost to purchase a niche in the columbarium is \$800 and includes engraving of the name plates and upkeep of the area as well. The columbarium is open to all St. B's parishioners and their immediate and

extended families (as defined in the Columbarium Guidelines and Policies). The columbarium will not be an added expense to the church but will be paid for through the sale of the niches.

Additional information will be forthcoming during last week of February.

We are so pleased to be able to offer this meaningful and cost effective ministry to the families of St. B's.



Rising to New Heights Annual Meeting & Family Supper - March 7, 5:00pm

This annual event is not to be missed. Make sure to mark your calendars now for **Sunday, March 7, 5:00 p.m.** The Annual Meeting and Family Dinner is a fun, informative, family celebration of what the Lord has done for and through the St. B's family during the past year, as well as discussion about the year ahead. A potluck dinner is prepared by the St. B's family and served buffet style.

Childcare is provided during the meeting time after families enjoy dinner together. If you haven't yet filled out an RSVP card, contact the church office right away.



The Chapmans: A Commitment to Ministry in Liberia



RUMINATIONS

by Marjie Smith

msscibbler@comcast.net

Editors Note: This article was first written for *The Living Church*, then was submitted for inclusion in *The Branch*. We hope it serves to introduce those who may not know them to the ministry of the Chapmans.

Toothaches bring a lot of people to see Dr. Keith Chapman, a missionary dentist from St. B's in the impoverished country of Liberia, and it was a toothache that indirectly brought Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori to Trinity Dental Clinic just south of Monrovia, the African nation's capital. Liberia's diocesan bishop Jonathan B. B. Hart encouraged Schori to drop by the clinic after his brother had a tooth problem taken care of there the previous day.

It was a quick, unplanned stop during her official, week-long visit to Liberia.

However, it was long enough to make Keith and his wife Kristin feel more plugged into the Episcopal Church in Liberia. Jefferts Schori prayed with them and blessed the clinic. Keith felt the presiding bishop demonstrated a surprisingly keen knowledge of the deprivations locally and elsewhere.

"It was an honor to have her come by," said Keith. He and Kristin also heard her speak at Trinity Cathedral in Monrovia. "She did very well at challenging the Liberian people,

especially the church, to help their own people, even if that involved taking risks," he said.

Living in Liberia is risky. Only during the summer of 2009 did the United States declare the country habitable for consulate families.

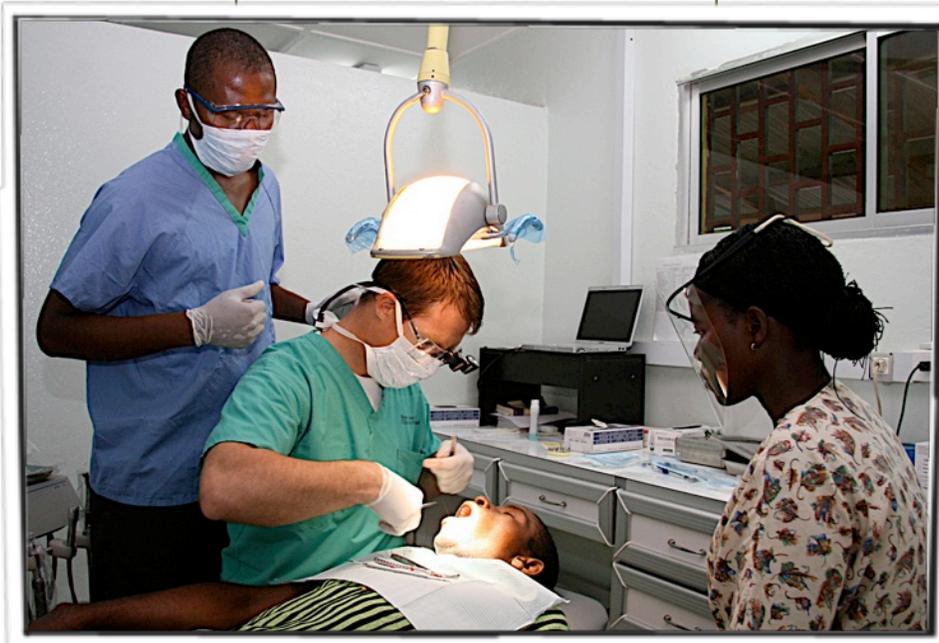


Photo by Marjie Smith

Having previously spent three years working aboard the Mercy Ships, including lengthy dockings in Liberia, the Chapmans had no romantic notions about the living conditions.

They knew that the country was crippled and impoverished after 14 years of civil war, which ended in 2003. In fact, the country has one of the lowest standards of living in the world and the life expectancy is only 40 years of age. Never having served under colonial rule, Liberia had a stable government, ruled by an elite group of

descendants from American slaves known as the Americo-Liberians, until 1980, when the country was seized by a coup. Warfare began in 1989.

"The need of the country slowly tugged at our hearts," said Keith. At the time they started the clinic, there

were only three trained dentists to serve 3.5 million people. Now there are six. That's still more than a half million people per dentist. When the Mercy Ship they were on docked for extended periods in Monrovia, Liberia's capital, the dental professionals saw terrible scenarios of untreated infections.

"Patient after patient came to our dental clinic with problems that could not be treated anywhere – literally," he said. They saw almost weekly cases of osteomyelitis, and, less frequently, cases of Ludwig's angina, both caused by long-term infections that can prove fatal. Those are conditions he may never have seen had he remained in his dental practice in Nashville, instead of heeding the call to do mission work in Africa.

Continued on next page



The Chapmans (continued from page 10)

Fortunately, says Keith, the numbers of severe cases like these seem to be depreciating.

In November, 2008, the clinic doors opened. Trinity Dental Clinic is situated in ELWA hospital, on a mission campus just south of Monrovia. The hospital operates under the auspices of Serving in Missions (SIM). Both SIM and Mercy Ships are affiliates of the dental clinic, providing essential infrastructure support in a country where there is still very little in the way of power generation, mail service or even water and sewage.

There were both advantages and disadvantages to moving from ship to shore. "By immersing ourselves in, and devoting ourselves to, the culture of one area, it allows us to minister to the people more effectively in every aspect of what we do," Keith said.

The long-term impact of the war years is everywhere. It shows in the extreme poverty, poor education and lack of employment. It is also evident in the frustrating graft and subterfuge encountered daily while doing business.

Balancing those discouragements are the exceptional people who work at the clinic, many of whom worked in the Mercy Ships dental clinic. "Many of them received a lot of training on

dental assisting and sterilizing and knew how the clinic operated," said Keith. "Our staff is absolutely excellent and I think they are shining examples of what the Liberian people can do if they're given the opportunity."

His ongoing vision is to provide



training and, eventually, satellite clinics. During the summer, Keith was training a Liberian man who provides rudimentary dental care further up the coast. A full-time dental health educator is working with local schools to provide instruction to children, and the clinic assistants are being trained in the injection of anesthesia.

Lack of accessibility is a major drawback. Often, seriously ill patients walk for days in order to get dental and medical help. Sometimes it is too late. But Keith takes great delight in the success stories.

He tells the story of little Foday, nine years old, who came aboard the Mercy Ship at one of the ports with what looked like calculus or tooth-stone on

his lower teeth. It was part of his jawbone. He had osteomyelitis. A long-term infection had destroyed the bone and his body was trying to reject it.

It took 45 minutes for Keith to remove the damaged bone and give the boy back his health. It was Keith's first

encounter with osteomyelitis. He recalls having to look it up in a textbook. "I almost named the clinic after Foday, because it was such a profound experience," he said.

Keith is grateful for the three years of surgical training he received aboard the Mercy Ship under the tutelage of

veteran maxillo-facial surgeon, Dr. Gary Parker. Working alongside Keith in the clinic is a Canadian dental therapist, Frieda Schmidt. Although Keith does the oral surgery, she does much of the dental work.

With the great need, the clinic is grateful for the people who offer their dentistry skills for anywhere from a couple of weeks to many months. Recently, they have had a dentist from the United Kingdom and one from Germany volunteer time with them, as well as having hygienists from the United States come for as long as eight months. Many of them stay in the Chapman's home.

Continued on next page



The Chapmans (continued from page 11)

One of the biggest challenges to operating a clinic is keeping the supplies coming.

Keith equates it with playing a game. "If our dental anesthetic ends up on back order and we miss a shipment to Liberia, it could mean a four- or five-month delay in getting those things over here. We're often trying to find out who's coming, asking them if they can carry something in their luggage."

When he worked in America, he said you could make a call and have your supplies within two days. He thinks solidifying supplies will be part of their ministry. "If we start training people or seeing more clinics open in the country; we can aid them in getting supplies and materials here," he reflects.

His faith may have informed his call and shaped his work, but his call and his work also shape his faith.

"In terms of my faith, this kind of work is sometimes all I can hold on to. Working in a different culture, there are theological and doctrinal differences all over the place. So I just have to stick to the simple things that I know about my faith; one of which is letting your light shine through your good works like Jesus told us to," he said.

Kristin shares his desire to live what she believes. While Keith runs the clinic, she maintains the home, schooling their three children, Taylor, 11, Lauren, 9, and Samuel, 5. She is also involved in the community, particularly with Mother Dewellies Orphanage, where 16 children live in a small building run by a couple who were using their own meager funds to feed and clothe them. When Kristin heard about the need at a Bible study, she

prayed about whether she was called to be involved.

Kristin has a heart for orphans. In fact, their youngest, Samuel, was adopted in April 2005 from an agency-run orphanage in Liberia, while they were stationed there several years ago. Her involvement with orphanages started in Benin, in 2004, when she and her daughters started volunteering at a

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Mother Teresa orphanage. Kristin and the children would help out at local orphanages wherever the ship docked.

Kristin did become involved in Mother Dewellies Orphanage. First she went over to see for herself. After the visit, she barely made it back to her car before she broke down in tears.

"There were 16 children plus the director and her husband living in a

ramshackle 300 square-foot building. They were all sleeping on the floor.

There were no beds, no mattresses. No toilets. The children were in rags. But, amazingly, they were clean and they all wore smiles on their faces. What the director and her husband were doing with \$110 was unbelievable. And, yet, it was just not enough."

Her ensuing participation in the Mother Dewellies Orphanage, and the financial assistance from friends back home, has meant things like: mattresses, mosquito netting, food and proper clothing for the children. This Christmas they all got Christmas gifts, including shoes.

It goes without saying they also get dental care and instruction on dental hygiene. Not only are their smiles big – they're clean.

Kristin observed that it may be pure religion to help orphans, but they bring joy to her heart. "The children, despite their dire circumstances, simply shine. They have given me more than I could ever give them. As is so often the case, when we go to minister, it is us that gets ministered to," she said.

Find out more about the Chapman's and the dental clinic at www.trinitydental.org or reach them by email at chapmank@trinitydental.org



A Family Friendly Church?



These days it appears the mark of a good family friendly church is one with a thriving children's ministry. This ministry should provide ample Biblical instruction, it's own praise/worship style and a prayer time. It should be friendly enough that the children not only want to come back, but would want to invite their friends.

In many churches today, a good children's ministry often takes the place of corporate worship, not merely complementing it. In some ways this ministry becomes it's own mini-church and the number of children attending service with their family is minimal. Sundays have slipped away from the spiritual unity of the church family, and have become groups segregated

according to age.

On the surface, this may sound okay and reasonable considering our culture. It has certainly become what most families are use to. But, what happens when the children grow up? Do they anticipate the opportunity to enter the "adult" worship service? If an age alternative is not provided, do they simply drift away from the church? Have we somehow allowed the younger children to think of the adult service as something uninviting? Do children look at the service as somewhere they must go if they're misbehaving in Sunday school? Why or how did the Sunday worship service become "adult" focused, not family inclusive?

These questions are just a few of the many I recently heard asked at a children's pastor's conference. The questions were extremely uncomfortable. Children's ministries in general may be providing too much that separate the children from the rest of the worshipping community. Instead, how can we bring families together on a Sunday morning, not separate them?

During Lent, our children's ministry would appreciate the help of the entire family of St. B's in implementing ways to tear down the segregation of our families. How can we encourage the children to appreciate and feel comfortable in the worship service, not alienated by it? How can we be the church, together? With God's help, let's make St. B's a true family friendly church.



A Call to Lent

by Fr. Jerry Smith,
Rector

Iwould like to invite you to contemplate participating in the following four areas of spiritual discipline during this Lenten season.

Prayer:

I invite you to be intentional about your prayer life, in particular to join the community of Jesus followers in the Daily Office, especially Morning Prayer and Compline. If you are able, Morning Prayer is read at 7:30 am every day at St B's, or you can make this a family discipline. There is no better way to end your day than by reading Compline each evening right before bed!

Stewardship:

I invite every member of the community to practice tithing for the season, if you don't already. (Biblically this means 10% of your income be offered to your local church. Other charities should be supported from your "free will offerings" or "sacrificial gifts," both of which are other biblical models of giving). If you already tithe, I invite you to sacrificially increase your offering.

Service:

I invite you to find an area of service new to you and commit yourself to fulfill an obligation, 'as unto the Lord'.

Study:

Finally, I invite you to commit to participating in a weekly Lenten Study in the Parish Hall every Wednesday evening from 6:30 - 8:00pm. The study will be entitled "Following Jesus toward the Promised Land: A biblical study of people on the move"

Lent can be a wonderful time of spiritual revitalization, but it does demand that we be willing to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to see the work begun brought closer to completion.

Join me in the journey of a Holy Lent.



Lessons in the Story of Ruth

The justice of the “kinsman-redeemer”

by Bev Mahan
ECW President

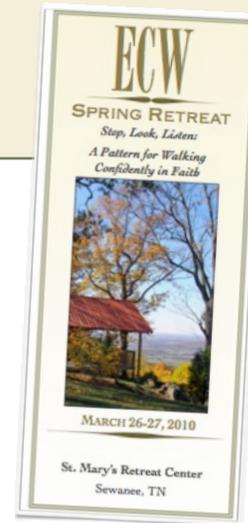
The book of Ruth includes the story of Naomi sending her daughter-in-law, Ruth, to meet Boaz on the threshing floor. Ruth obeys, taking along all the angst, anxiety, loneliness, and insecurity that filled her and Naomi. Boaz responded to Ruth’s vulnerability as a “kinsman-redeemer”, rescuing her with justice,

women at St Bs in general, and specifically to the upcoming retreat at St Mary’s. As Debbie Smith led the ECW board in a study of this passage in Ruth, she asked each of us to share an area of vulnerability in our lives. I was surprised, first that everyone had one (I thought I was the only one), and second by the similarities in our stories. Each of us covers our vulnerabilities with busyness and other

praying for me, and honored to be praying for them.

The applications for the women of St B’s that I see in Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz are these:

- 1) We all carry burdens like worry, loneliness, and doubt that limit our ability to fully experience God’s love for us.
- 2) We all can ease the burden of others by acting as kinsman-redeemer, displaying some of God’s own character to others in the community.
- 3) Like Naomi told Ruth, who go to the threshing floor to meet Boaz, as president of the ECW, I am telling you to go to the retreat to meet Jesus, and to be the eyes and ears and heart of Jesus for others!



Spring Retreat Fast Facts

Friday & Saturday, Mar 26-27, beginning with dinner at 6 PM.

Scholarships available. Pick up registration form and more information in the church narthex. Contact stbsecw@yahoo.com if you have questions.

security, and intimacy. So it is with Jesus, who saved us, and redeems us from everything and anything that separates us from intimacy with Him.

There are several truths in this story that apply to the ministry of women to

distractions, thereby cutting ourselves off from full intimacy with each other and with God. There was relief and encouragement in sharing, and a deeper level of intimacy and community is developing between us. I feel privileged to have these women

Get Ready For Spring: Join the Gardening Group

The Gardening Group has officially kicked off their ministry this spring. If you like the great outdoors, getting your hands dirty, fun and fellowship, and seeing immediate results from your labor, the Gardening Group is for you. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 10:30AM. In the case of bad weather, call Lori Quinn at 615.497.8865 first to see if the group has been rescheduled.



From Glory to Glory

The title "From Glory to Glory" comes from Paul's revelation into God's eternal destiny for each of his children. "And we...are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory."



Anniversaries

Kathy & David Edwards	3/5
Eldon & Julie Honeycutt	3/3
Jim Russell & Nancy Hyer	3/25
Jan & Jerry Minshall	3/16
Matt & Bethany Smith	3/26
Abigail & Nathaniel Tylor	3/24
Malcolm & Pam White	3/23

Birthdays

Michelle Alcott	03/09
Nita Andrews	03/07
Bethany Bakker	03/28
Joshua Batarseh	03/06
Andrew Bauchiero	03/24
Corrinna Bauchiero	03/28
Pat Bowlby	03/07
Barbara Bowman	03/24
Ava Buxton	03/09
Michael Castellon	03/23
Kristin Chapman	03/12
Claire Combs	03/11
Lisa Craig	03/01
Karen Daniel	03/20
Leah Daniel	03/30
Naomi Daniel	03/22
Joe Dinwiddie	03/21
Graham Ferguson	03/03
Parker Flynn	03/25
Martha Freeman	03/09
Rachel Freeman	03/10
Catie Granbery	03/03
Manaen Hall	03/22
Miles Headley	03/25
Trevor Holt	03/10
Emily Huff	03/16
Jason Huff	03/05

Kristi Hunter	03/03
Joan Hutchinson	03/25
Jason Ingalls	03/07
Jordan Insani	03/03
Jordan Johnson	03/03
Aidan Kinser	03/29
Quinn Kinser	03/15
Chuck Kown	03/22
Sarah Krogman	03/26
Paige Lundgren	03/22
Knightly Max	03/24
Matthew Miller	03/13
Paul Miller	03/29
Owen Myatt	03/13
Riley Peden	03/05
Yvonne Poindexter	03/06
Ethan Powell	03/06
Caitlin Quinn	03/15
Peterson Rainey	03/06
Samuel Rainey	03/27
Jim Robinson	03/06
Tamara Rowland	03/22
Carla Schober	03/10
Madelyn Schroeder	03/24
Rachel Sefton	03/27
Robert Smith	03/01
Sean Smith	03/26
Grace Stranch	03/30
Alexandra Thornton	03/14
Susan Tyler	03/27
Elizabeth Weber	03/30
Hunter Wilhoite	03/30
Laura Wilhoite	03/20
Asher Wood	03/23
Peter Woods	03/14
Anna Wyse	03/10
Eric Wyse	03/01
Suzanne Zadick	03/25

Births

Dean Coltrane Abernathy	1/26
(parents Gretchen & Judson Abernathy)	
Brooks Gerald Arnold	2/2
(parents Anadara & Rocky Arnold)	

Baptisms

Mitchell David Flynn,	1/31
(parents Meredith & Joe Flynn)	



at the Smith's

Save the date, **Sunday, April 11**, for the annual open house party at the Smith home. More details to come.



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Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday:

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday:

7:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist
6:30pm Lenten Study in the Parish Hall

Maundy Thursday:

7:00 p.m. Institution of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday:

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy
5:30 p.m. Stations of the cross

Holy Saturday:

7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday:

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Eucharist
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Celebrations of the Resurrection

