

JUNE 2010

THE BRANCH

The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY AT ST. B'S



Top: Twenty-eight St. B's parishioners were confirmed on Sunday, June 6. Full list of names on page 14.
Above left: Jason Ingalls, ordained deacon on Saturday, June 5, with Bishop Bauerschmidt.
Above right: Holly and Brince Wilford at the confirmation reception following the service.
Photos by Bev Mahan

June 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

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

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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

Music:

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

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Vanessa Hardy, Denise Kemp, Ashley MacLachlan,
Paul Miller, Kay Morreale, Trey Myatt, Charlie Reasor,
Rachel Sefton, Adam Wirdzek

(Officers: Dan Cleary, treasurer and Gary Mumme,
clerk)

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Julia Carruthers-Thorne and Chris Somerville take a break for some comic relief during this month's youth trip to Mississippi. More photos from the trip begin on page 4.

Articles and photos for the August
Branch must be submitted no
later than July 23.

Articles can be sent to:
editor@stbs.net



The Anglican Covenant and Our Response

Yet again precipitous action taken by some of the leadership in The Episcopal Church (TEC) has caused a tidal wave of reaction within the worldwide Anglican Communion (WWAC).

Some point to the consecration of a partnered lesbian woman as bishop in a west-coast diocese as the problem. In fact, the woman's sexuality may, by some, be understood to be problematic, but the ordination itself was in direct conflict with the world wide communion's request that this action not take place as it was understood as offensive by a significant number of members in the body.

The WWAC through the proper authoritative bodies, asked only that TEC not ordain any further partnered gay men or women until it (the WWAC) had the opportunity to study and pray as a whole body. At the same meeting, the WWAC requested that bishops respect diocesan boundaries and not cross them without permission of the local diocesan bishop.

The consecration this spring was an act of defiance and the Archbishop of Canterbury has exercised disciplinary action by requesting that any TEC members on international committees withdraw from their participation on these bodies.

Confused yet?

Some months (even years) ago, the WWAC proposed a covenant that would basically be a document to govern our life together. It was the intention of the WWAC that all member churches study the document and then chose to participate in the WWAC by voting to accept the covenant or not. Our own diocese is to

begin studying the proposed covenant later this summer and our parish, which has already studied the covenant once, will undertake a second study this fall.

At the upcoming diocesan convention in January 2011, it is our hope that the

I think that the enemy of the Kingdom of God would like to use this, and many other similar issues, to so distract us and consume our emotional energy, that we have nothing left to give to God for His service. We may win the immediate battle, but we risk losing the war being waged for souls.

diocese of Tennessee chooses to accept the covenant. In the legislative structure of TEC, each diocese has the authority to act independently, so in fact, many may chose to participate and some may not. Consequently, the structure of the national church (TEC) may change, but our life will continue much the same.

This is truly all very complicated and sadly, very divisive as well. Nothing hinders the work of Christ more than allowing our energies to be focused on these things, at the expense of doing

KINGDOM TALK

by Fr. Jerry Smith

Rector



what God wants us to be doing - partnering with Him in the unfolding of His Kingdom.

I think that the enemy of the Kingdom of God would like to use this, and many other similar issues, to so distract us and consume our emotional energy, that we have nothing left to give to God for His service. We may win the immediate battle, but we risk losing the war being waged for souls.

My personal agenda includes staying in the worldwide Anglican communion, but even more importantly it is to stay faithful to our understanding of how God is at work in and through us, for His glory sake. His glory is never revealed in division, nor in animosity and judgment. Sadly our denomination is being consumed with the latter, consequently there is much room for His glory to be made known.

My prayer is that through all of this, we might maintain a balance wherein God is worshiped and served in both Spirit and Truth and that our goal, above all else, is to heed the words of the psalmist who wrote, "today if you would hear his voice, harden not your hearts". May we be known as a community anxious to hear God's voice and to respond with soft moldable hearts.

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

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



STBS Youth Ministry Returns to Mississippi for a Fourth Year



A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Assistant Rector for Youth & Young Adult Formation



It is hard to believe that August 26 will mark the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's Gulf Coast landfall. What is even harder to believe is that five years later there is still so much work to do. As the youth ministry prepared to return to the Bay St. Louis area of Mississippi for a fourth summer, we heard comments like, "Is there anything still left to do?" and "Why don't you go where the real need is." I can tell you categorically that there is no need more "real" than what we experienced on the Gulf Coast again this summer.

For example, the communities down there are still without any grocery stores (except for Walmart). Additionally, the oil spill in the Gulf has utterly demoralized the residents. When I talked to people in restaurants and around the camp I got the impression that these are a people hanging on by a thread. Our presence

Continued on next page

Photos

Most of our indoor work on the house consisted of drywall - hanging, mudding and sanding.

Right: Our whole group poses for a photo on the front porch just before leaving the house on our last day. Photos by Julia Carruthers-Thorne.



Youth Ministry Returns to Mississippi

Continued from page 4

weaves another cord around those threads and, I pray, makes it stronger.

Furthermore, because volunteer monies and labor now sustain most rebuilding efforts, we worked on a home that has been in process for over 3 years. Our contribution to the project included hanging drywall, fixing soffits, sanding a lot of drywall mud (make that lots and lots of drywall mud) and checking off other odds and ends on the to-do list. The work was hard (the heat index was over 100 degrees every day) but our group worked with diligence, patience and love.

Every evening after dinner we retreated to the beach where our crew studied scripture together, prayed, laughed and occasionally went out for coffee. I was so impressed with the maturity our students exhibited and amazed at the kind of community that was formed. God was certainly in our midst from beginning to end, blessing us as we worked to be a blessing.

Our trip concluded with a visit to Memphis where we studied the book of Lamentations through the lens of Beale St. and the blues. It was a rich time that was capped off by a powerful visit to the National Civil Rights History Museum.

So, enjoy the pictures, stop any of us if you have questions and remember - we're going back next year. Want to come?



The Youth Ministry is coordinating work projects all summer long to assist flood victims in Nashville. Keep an eye out in the eNews and the Weekly for when we are working next.

Top left: Logan Gross shows off his drywall sanding face. Top right: Will Granbery serves as the hand sanitizing station. Bottom: Day 3 - Time for the second and third coats of drywall mud. Photos by Julia Carruthers-Thorne



Youth Ministry Returns to Mississippi

Photos from the trip



Top left and above: The team unwinds and has some evening conversation on the beach. Left: Breakfast at Brother Junipers in Memphis. Bottom left: An evening on Beale Street. Bottom: Dinner at Darwell's (a local gulf coast restaurant). Photos by Julia Carruthers-Thorne.



Password Please: The Agony of a Digital Life



RUMINATIONS

by Marjie Smith

msscibbler@comcast.net

I was trying to do the simple task of getting into Meal Babies so I could make a meal for a new mom. The meal part isn't hard, unless the family lives in Hendersonville or they live a gluten-free, organic, vegan life. Or, if the baby is born in the summer when to survive the south I feel like I need hot-flash meds just to walk by the stove.

But, once again, I couldn't get into the Meal Babies website because I couldn't remember my password. I feel like a lax Catholic always having to go to confession, reporting to the web administrators, buried deep within the electronic labyrinths: "Father, forgive me for I have forgotten my password again."

"Well, say 15 Hail Gates and go and sin no more." And then you have to create a new password, which you promptly forget.

So, needless to say, since I've already griped about it on my Facebook site, "I'm tired of passwords!"

I spend more time trying to get into my own sites than hackers do. I just want to go somewhere where I don't have to remember something to get through the portal. Even at church I have to remember I'm a sinner. Maybe that should be my password.

Write it down. Of course, I do that. And then I hide it and forget where I hid it. What is the point of passwords if you have to keep a list of them beside your computer or, worse, on it? If someone stole my outdated and sluggish computer, which is apparently

random words that float around in my head and burp themselves up when I need to have 'secure' access to something.

Worse yet, if they got my list, I would have to quickly go into all those sites that I can't get into because I forget the password and ... change the password.

One of my sons told me to use a combination of letters and numbers for passwords. I thought he knew me. I have never memorized a license plate number in my life. It took me seven years to learn my American Social Security Number and stop calling it my SIN (Social Insurance Number).

Someone once said the solution was to always use the same password. And I'm thinking, "That's like putting all fires out with the same hose." How do I know this hacker isn't going to be the one that consumes the boreal forest? Do I really want the same password for PayPal and Kroger? Not that I've ever gone into a Kroger site that I know of, but who knows? I've got a lot of woolly mammoth skeletons buried in sites I couldn't get back into. Cyber-

what thieves like to do, then they would have more access to my life than I do. They'd even have access to the scary,



archaeologists of the future are going to view my scattered details as the tedious pottery shards of their pursuits.

One of my sons told me to use a combination of letters and numbers for passwords. I thought he knew me. I have never memorized a license plate number in my life. It took me seven years to learn my American Social Security Number and stop calling it my SIN (Social Insurance Number). To tell you how bad it is, I'm still working on my mother-in-law's phone number after almost 40 years. Remembering that password would be like winning the lottery. Words I remember, but mostly in Scrabble games.

And while I'm on the rant, I have the same problem remembering television station numbers now that there are about 1,000 of them. If I decide to watch television, which I rarely do because the ads alone make me feel like I'm breaking the 10 Commandments, I spend the whole allotted time flicking through the numbers. I watch about four channels – the one that NCIS is on (even though I can't stomach looking at all those mutilated body parts), CNN, the local news and National Geographic, if I can find it. I don't know why I'm paying for the other 996, or whatever it is. I'd rather spend the money on a facial, which I've never done and which would probably require hiring a zoo keeper who is accustomed to working

Continued on page 12



St. B's Runners Go the Distance

Pictures from the Music City Marathon



As in years past, this year's Music City Marathon included a great showing from the St. B's family - both runners and cheering section!

The pictures say it all. Despite the incoming storm, the runners and cheerers were in good spirits. Thanks to Marjie Smith for documenting the event with these great photos.



St. B's Runners Go the Distance

Photos by Marjie Smith



Below: Runners and families gather at the home of Fr. Jerry and Marjie Smith for dinner the night before the run.



Summer Facilities Update

If you've been around the church in the last couple weeks, you've no doubt noticed all the work taking place. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Pam White, her team of volunteers and our wonderful contractors, many parts of the Parish Hall building have been beautified and transformed. The asbestos in the building has been removed. New carpet has been laid, walls have been painted, and the bookstore, copy room, and Carla's office have been renovated, just to name a few of the updates. Look for more about the renovations in the next issue of *The Branch*.



Photos by Pam White & Carla Schober

Pentecost Sunday

A Big Thank You to Zena Carruthers

Pentecost Sunday was full of activity this year. Below, Trey Myatt shows off the Mobile Loaves and Fishes truck as part of the Mission Minute. After the service, the altar guild gathered at the Rectory to thank outgoing coordinator Zena Carruthers. Thorunn McCoy (pictured right with Zena) will serve as the new head of the altar guild.



Photos by Marjie Smith



Sex Is Everything

Part Two: Chastity, Asceticism, and Community

by Steven Lefebvre,
Assistant Director for Youth & Young
Adult Formation

Before we begin our conversation about chastity, let me recap my last article defining sex. Sex is about connection. Our dialogue about sex must go way beyond talking about simple sexual intercourse. Our sexuality is the good thing in all of us, created by God, that desires connection and intimacy with the rest of creation. However, because of the existence of sin and death in the world, our sexuality must be about joining God in restoration. This is actualized in the practice of chastity.

Often times in conversations about Christian sexual ethics, chastity gets lumped in with words like virginity and abstinence, but chastity is much more than that. Virginity is a biological term simply meaning that one has never had sex. The problem with virginity is that we have declared sex is more than just intercourse. Therefore calling single people to simply avoid intercourse is unhelpful in the larger landscape of our sexuality. Abstinence, in terms of sex, describes a person who is restraining himself or herself from intercourse or various degrees of sexual relations. However, once someone gets married they are no longer abstaining from anything. Chastity is also not celibacy, which is a particular calling for an individual to never get married. What makes chastity unique is that it is an ascetic practice for the entire Christian community (both married and single) that is to be practiced our entire lives.

What is an ascetic practice? 'Ascetic' comes from the Greek word for "training." Ascetic practices are the

spiritual disciplines we choose that move us further into the way of Jesus. Like an athlete practicing for a career of athletics, so too Christians are called to practice a life lived "on earth as it is in heaven." Like fasting, it is the way we demonstrate that we aren't a slave to our desires. Like the Sabbath, it is a way we demonstrate our trust in God's provisions. Spiritual disciplines are formative and shape us into a

When Paul tells the church that our bodies are "a temple of the Holy Spirit," he is telling us that our bodies are now the meeting place of heaven and earth. We demonstrate with our bodies who our God is and what our God is like!

certain kind of people. But what kind of people are we being shaped into?

In Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth (1 Cor 6:12-20), he talks about sex. In this passage he reminds the Corinthians that they shouldn't be sexually immoral because their body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Is this because sex is dirty and you don't want to desecrate a holy place? Not exactly. In Paul's day the temple in Jerusalem was the holy meeting place of God's people. It was believed that God actually resided there in a room called

the Holy of Holies. It was the place where the realm of God's activity interacted with the realm of human activity. When Paul tells the church that our bodies are "a temple of the Holy Spirit," he is telling us that our bodies are now the meeting place of heaven and earth. We demonstrate with our bodies who our God is and what our God is like! Therefore, how we use our sexuality matters way beyond our own personal experiences. We must consider in all our relationships (especially the ones involving sexual intercourse) if our ways of making connection and intimacy are demonstrating Yahweh or something else entirely. In other words, who are you telling the world you worship?

What this means for single people is that we must critically consider the ways we use our sexuality. Do we use our bodies in such a way that we hide it from our church community? Does our sexuality contribute to the chaos and destruction of this world or the redemption of it?

But chastity isn't just reserved for those who aren't married. For married people, it means when you are married, you discipline yourself to love, cherish, protect and have intercourse with one person. It means that even when you don't 'feel it,' you keep your promises and continue to serve your spouse. It means, for all of us, we don't give into temporary indulgences and bad behaviors just because we are unhappy or stressed. What we are up to as Christians is much bigger than our fleeting feelings and impulses. In Christianity, all relationships (our marriages, our friendships and even our enemies) are about joining God in

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Sex Is Everything: Part 2 (continued from page 11)

restoring wholeness and life to the creation. Chastity is the discipline we enter into to get there.

In saying, 'yes' to this way there will be suffering. By saying, 'no' to some of our own biological impulses for sex and connection we are choosing to struggle. In my own experience of singleness, loneliness and the fear of never getting to know the intimacy of marriage are daily struggles. For married people it might look like

having to confront and deal with real pain in order to save a marriage. But if we truly believe that God is ultimately working to make all things new and whole again, then our suffering is going somewhere. Suffering forms us, connects us to our deepest humanity and binds us together. The question is, do you trust God in your suffering? Do you trust that truly living in the way of Jesus (the way of self-sacrificial love) is the only way to wholeness and redemption? It is within the practice

of chastity where we demonstrate to others, to God and to ourselves our faith in Christ.

In the next Branch article Fr. Dixon and I will discuss more of the implications of chastity. What does chastity mean to a single person? What does chastity mean to a married person? How can this kind of discipline benefit our church community? How do I change my broken sexual ethic?

THIS SUMMER, JOIN US FOR DINNER, FILM & CONVERSATION
TUESDAYS, 6:30PM IN THE PARISH HALL

OPEN TO ALL OVER 18. CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED

RSVP TO STEVENL@STBS.NET

IF YOU NEED CHILDCARE OR WILL BE JOINING US FOR
DINNER. WE'VE JUST STARTED **SUNSET BOULEVARD**



Password Please (continued from page 7)

keeper who is accustomed to working with elephant hide.

When the thieves are casing the neighborhood, I feel like putting out a sign that says, "Come and get it. Our electronics are a history lesson. You probably need one. If you decide you can't carry away the TV because it

weighs more than a pachyderm, don't even think of looking at my earring collection. They have no resale value, I know where they are and I don't need a password to wear them."

"And guess what else, thief! I keep hornet spray beside the bed, right beside my earrings." And if I'm lucky, I

might even be able to use it without having the nozzle facing the wrong way.

Besides, you need a password to get into our house.



Passing It On

Training in Sports and Spiritual Formation

The opening ceremonies for the World Cup Soccer Finals in South Africa had just begun. Even while viewing on a TV screen thousands of miles away, I could still sense the stadium electric with the energy of anticipation. It didn't matter the nationality, the culture or the age of those seated in the stadium; there was one mindset, one hope shared. Which team would make it to the very last and be crowned number one in the world?

I confess, I'm not an avid sports watcher. But, no matter the sport, I usually get pulled in to watch the finals and thoroughly enjoy it. I like hearing my husband and sons shout out as arm-chair referees. I often smile watching their facial expressions and body language. I take pleasure in the camaraderie they share even if they're rooting for opposing teams. Watching sports is a community event in our home. Even if I'm not as familiar with the rules or particular players, I can still be a part of the family dynamic by being with them, asking questions and providing the snacks.

After the opening ceremony it was time for the first two opposing teams to come out onto the field. As the

THE WONDER OF IT ALL

by Carla Schober

Director of Family & Children's Formation



There can be many parallels drawn between how an active sports community and an active church community choose to respond to their times together... Spiritual formation is not to be just the responsibility of a Sunday school teacher or priest, just as sports training is not the sole responsibility of a coach or team captain.

cameras rolled, the players filed into the halls and each took the hand of a young child waiting for them. These children, whether the players knew them or not, were a part of a tradition symbolizing the passing of the game to the next generation. I watched as the

players walked down the hall, but it wasn't the players I was drawn to, it was to the faces of the children as they looked up at their escorts. These children no doubt felt the importance of what they were doing. They may not have understood the symbolism nor believed that their presence helped the actual game, but I can bet they felt included and respected as part of the community tradition.

There can be many parallels drawn between how an active sports community and an active church community choose to respond to their times together. One example is with the responsibility we have of passing on our traditions, but even more importantly, our faith in Jesus Christ. Spiritual formation is not to be just the responsibility of a Sunday school teacher or priest, just as sports training is not the sole responsibility of a coach or team captain. Whenever possible, it's the responsibility of the parent first

Continued on next page

Would you ask your guests to spend the night on one of these cots?

Children's formation would like to invite you to join our St. B's children this Summer as they raise monies to purchase new cots for the Room in the Inn ministry. The current cots have served our guests for close to two decades. Many are now in disrepair or have become quite difficult to set up on a regular basis.



Our goal, if you'd like to join us, is to purchase 15 new or slightly used cots and mattresses by the end of September.

Designated offering jars will be located in the downstairs children's formation halls each Sunday. For questions, please contact Carla at carlaschob@gmail.com.



Confirmation Sunday

On June 6, Bishop Bauerschmidt made his annual visit to St. B's. Twenty-eight people were confirmed during the 10:30 service that morning. A reception followed the service.



CONFIRMED ON JUNE 6

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Micah Weedman | Michael Dumitru |
| JoEllen Weedman | Gregory Letterman |
| Keon Cleary | Greg MacLachlan |
| Aaron Kipp | Louis Metcalfe |
| Winston Edwards | Jane Metcalfe |
| Joshua Puckett | John Southwood |
| Susan Puckett | Leslie Southwood |
| Katie Sizer | Allyson Southwood |
| Olivia Gross | Carrie Hodges |
| Ginger Gross | Chris Hodges |
| Sarah Zadick | Janaruth Ford |
| Holly Wilford | Heinrich Tischler |
| Brince Wilford | Lisa Phillips |
| Jessica Dumitru | Josh Lee |



Photos by Bev Mahan

Passing it On (continued from page 13)

to come alongside and point the child in the right direction with love, encouragement, boundaries and respect for their leaders. As pledged in our Baptismal Covenant, it then becomes each of our responsibilities to come alongside and reinforce the tenants of our belief, not just recite them. We are not meant to simply watch the children be ushered off to classes, but we are to get to know them, come alongside their parents

and be as much of a representation of Jesus to them as we can.

Thinking back to the admiration revealed in the faces of the children escorting the soccer players, I can only imagine what our St. B's children would think of our community if we each tried to play a role in escorting them in their walk with the Lord. What would happen if we each took the initiative to show one or two of the children we come across on a Sunday morning how much we're glad to see

them at church? Or, imagine how included they'd feel if we looked to see how we could include them in the ministries we're already a part of? If you already volunteer with making coffee, gardening, altar guild, as a chalice bearer (with an acolyte), a teacher, a greeter, an usher, a reader, at the prayer desk, etc., consider inviting a child or two to come alongside you in your ministry. Let's learn together how to be an active, loving and future-thinking family called the Church.



Expanding St. B's Recycling Program

In last month's article, I told you about the Diocesan ministry "Living in Creation" (www.livingincreation.org) and Bishop Bauerschmidt's call to us to become better stewards of God's Creation. I also told you of St. B's collective answer to that call: the formation of a "Creation Care Crew." But even if you're not serving on the Crew, there are many ways that you can answer the bishop's call as individuals, including how you dispose of your waste!

St. B's has had a few recycling bins on the premises for a while now, but they may have been hard to find. And if you did find them, it may have been confusing as to which recyclables could be disposed in which bins. Well, Justin Cole and I have been working with Pam White as she oversees several renovations through the Nehemiah Fund, and I am happy to announce that not only will you soon see more recycling bins on the premises, but you will also see clear labels on them as to which items can be disposed there.

Here's how it will work:

Starting sometime in July, most trash cans on the premises (including those in the classrooms, offices, and kitchen) will have a recycling bin right next to it.

When you go to dispose of something, before putting it in the trash can, ask



CREATION CARE

by Rachel Sefton

Vestry Liaison to the Living in Creation Ministry



Creation Care



Please use this container to recycle:

Aluminum and Tin Cans

Cardboard

Paper (including soft-cover books and magazines)

Plastics 1-7 (including styrofoam)

Please take all glass items to the glass container located inside the kitchen.

THANK YOU!

Above: Keep an eye open for our new recycling bins with this label.

yourself if it can instead be recycled (if you're not sure if something can be recycled, just read the label on the recycling bin). If it can be recycled, simply put it in the recycling bin instead of the trash can! It's that easy!

Our custodial staff will empty these smaller recycling bins into some larger

recycling bins located inside the gym, which the company EarthSavers (www.earthsavers.org) empties every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month.

NOTE: We really want the recycling of glass to be available at St. B's, but unfortunately, EarthSavers charges an extra fee for the collection of glass. Therefore, we will have one separate recycling bin for glass located inside the kitchen, and members of the St. B's Creation Care Crew will take turns transporting the glass to a nearby recycling center.

And now, for the most exciting revelation of EarthSavers' service, they collect...drum roll please... STYROFOAM. Yes, folks, that's right. You can now stop feeling guilty about throwing away your styrofoam coffee cups

because St. B's has the means to recycle them. Just use any one of our conveniently located and clearly labeled recycling bins.

So please, do your part in our continuing effort to become better stewards of God's Creation.



Chamber Singers Concert

by David Madeira,
Associate Director of Music

On Pentecost Sunday, the Chamber Singers concluded its 2nd season with a concert entitled "The Church Year in Song and Prayer". The concert included 14 selections reflecting the shape and scope of the church year, and paired them with selected Collects from various Sundays. Selections ranged from Renaissance polyphony to 20th and 21st century tonality, mostly a cappella but also including instrumental accompaniment by Matt Slocum (cello) and Betty Ashton Mayo (harp). If you are interested in singing with the Chamber Singers or becoming involved in other choral activities at St. B's, please contact David Madeira, Associate Director of Music, at dmadeira@stbs.net.



Photos by Elizabeth Madeira & Marjie Smith



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

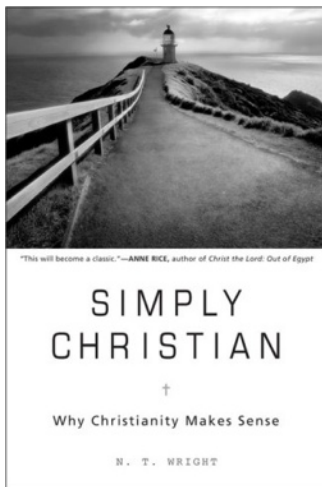
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One Church, One Book

Join the Conversation

We're already on chapter 4 in our summer book club! Each week, we're reading one chapter of Simply Christian by N.T. Wright, and a member of our family is writing a brief reflection on our blog. So far, the comments have been great! Be sure to check out the website for the latest post and comments.

So far, this book has been a great catalyst for some deep theological conversation as we explore the written word together.



EVENTS

More News...

Next Men's Breakfast: July 17, 8:00am

Our next men's breakfast will take place on Saturday morning, July 17.

Mark Powell, St. B's parishioner currently serving at Blackforest Academy in Germany, will be our guest speaker.

Coffee chat time begins at 8:00am and breakfast begins at 8:30. Cost is \$5.00.



May Men's Breakfast

The most recent men's breakfast took place on Saturday, May 22. Keith Chapman did a great job pulling double duty as Music Leader and Guest Speaker. The men filled a huge shopping bag with toothbrushes, dental floss and tooth paste for Keith to take back to Liberia. Robert Smith and Marshall Weems provided an excellent breakfast for all in attendance. A great time was had by all!

Photos by Dorman Burtch



St. B's ART Show Sign up Now

You're invited to be a part of the St. B's Art Show - "Halos in the Hall: Parish Pictures of the Saints" on Saturday, September 11.

Create a work of art about, of, around, involving... A SAINT. (Or saints. Any saint. There are hundreds!).



You have the rest of the spring and summer to make, paint, sew, build, sculpt.... whatever your heart desires... and have something ready for the September show & party.

To sign up, call or email:

Donna Easter (969.6821, dmckeaster@att.net) or Mimi Heldman (351.2314, mimiheldman@comcast.net).



Lessons in English and Gratitude

Meredith Powell Travels from Germany to Tajikistan

by Meredith Powell

In March, I was given the opportunity to take part in a mission trip to Dushanbe, Tajikistan. If you're anything like me and have never heard of this country and don't have the slightest idea how to pronounce it, that's completely understandable.

Tajikistan is a small developing country located in Central Asia. The main religion is Islam. The official languages are Tajik and Russian. The people are poor and oppressed. Like many such cultures, the men



control and dominate the women. Because it is a third world country, the roads of Tajikistan are horribly bumpy, the streets are filthy, and the buildings appear to be deteriorating before your eyes. But surrounded by snow-capped mountains, filled with beautiful people, and decorated by colorful bazaars, Tajikistan is breathtaking.

My team—comprised of four adult leaders and twelve high school students—had the opportunity to volunteer at a boarding school for visually impaired children. The children ranged in ages—most were in elementary and middle school, although a few were high school aged. But as a result of being very malnourished, most of the

children looked at least three years younger than their actual age. Their sight and vision was also quite varied—some were completely blind, others had vision in one eye, and some suffered from blurred vision.

The task at hand: teach basic English words, phrases and songs to seventy Tajik kids who don't speak our language and can't fully see us. Needless to say, we were all worried. After the first day at the school, we

But what I also felt, a feeling that was stronger and more real, was that I was the one who had been taught - taught how to love, how to be appreciative, and how to be thankful.

realized that even though the kids were excited to learn, they were more longing to love and be loved.

The rest of the week held a different goal: love each child as much as possible. Yes, at the end of the day we were absolutely exhausted. Yes, we felt emotionally drained. But each morning upon our return, we were reenergized by the children's love, life, and laughter.

By the end of the trip I felt like I had successfully taught several little Tajiks a handful of English words. Maybe they would remember "Head, Shoulder, Knees and Toes" or how to greet someone in English. But what I

Continued on next page



Lessons in English and Gratitude (continued from page 18)

also felt—a feeling that was stronger and more real—was that I was the one who had been taught. But what I also felt, a feeling that was stronger and more real, was that I was the one who had been taught - taught how to love, how to be appreciative, and how to be thankful.

A few days after my return to Germany, I couldn't get the Tajik children off my mind. I tried to keep busy, listen to music and occupy my mind with other thoughts, until I finally gave in. I went straight to my journal and wrote:

"I miss them. I can't stop thinking about them. I just want to go back and see them and hold them and squeeze their hands.

... I wasn't expecting to love them so much. I feel like I'm the one who was

served last week ... If there's something they taught me, it's to be appreciative.

And what did I teach them in return? Hopefully more than a handful of English words. Hopefully, that there's a dozen western-cultured teenagers that love them to death. They're special.

There's no doubt in my mind that God had intentions placing me on that trip. Whether I know the exact direction they're headed, I'm content knowing for now that something's stirring in my heart."



SFJ Fun

Who's this happy group? The East (and North) Nashville SFJ group that meets at Fr. Jerry and Marjie Smith's home. Here, they're gathering for an end-of-year grilling party.

Want to find out more about SFJ groups? Visit the "Small Groups" link on our website.

Photo by Aaron Smith



Ice Cream Social with the Chapmans

One of the many events during the Chapman's recent visit was an afternoon ice-cream social at the home of Tony and Kay Moreale.

Photos by Marjie Smith.



A Trip to Tanzania

Memories of Compassion and Community

by Susan Powell

I love how certain smells, tastes, sights and even songs can transport you back in time. Sundrop Cola and a Moon Pie take me back to summer vacations spent at my Granny's. Cucumber Melon lotion (my scent of choice at the time of our first trip there) immediately conjures up images of Rome in my mind. Listening to Journey songs puts me back in the living room of my youth as I read and reread the album cover and wore out a few needles on my parents' turntable. Memories.

But then there are those random experiences that with no rhyme or reason cause one to remember, reflect and process. Such was the case one lazy April morning as I opened the refrigerator to pull out a cup of yogurt. In that moment, I was back in the bush of Africa thinking about a little boy named Mkapa and his family. I wondered what he would be having for breakfast that morning, if anything. A wave of sadness mixed with joy washed over me. During my time in Africa, I had come face to face with poverty and suffering and in that moment I struggled to reconcile that with my ability to pull a cup of yogurt out of a refrigerator.

Mkapa came into our lives in February shortly after I learned that I would be



co-leading a team of BFA students on a mission trip to Longido, Tanzania. Our family had been talking and praying about sponsoring a child through Compassion for some time, but had just never made the decision to do so. Knowing that I would possibly be able to meet a child we might sponsor in Tanzania inspired us to go ahead and take on this commitment. A few emails and prayers later, Mkapa Lekipa Laizer entered into our lives and hearts. We began praying for him and his family

and I began planning for our introduction. I tried to imagine how I would feel, what I would say and what kinds of things I would take for him and his brothers as gifts from our family. As much as I tried to prepare for how I'd feel, nothing could prepare me for how I was received. Our team arrived in Longido just in time for church where I was introduced as Mkapa's sponsor. I was asked to stand and everyone clapped. After church I was surrounded by beautiful African children rubbing my arms and playing with my hair and in no time I had a new name. For the rest of our time in Longido, I was referred to as Mama Mkapa (It's Maasai tradition to address older women in the community as Mama).

Everywhere I went in the community people recognized me and called out to me..."Mama Mkapa, God bless you. Mama Mkapa, thank you." I felt embarrassed and guilty. I didn't deserve the attention and praise. Even on a missionary's salary, \$38 a month is not that hard to part with. I came to realize that being a part of the Compassion program means a great deal to the families of children

Continued on next page



A Trip to Tanzania (continued from page 21)

sponsored. It means a lot to the whole community because they all benefit from the services Compassion provides. I asked God to use the emotions I was experiencing for good, for His glory. He did.

When I pulled out that cup of yogurt that morning and was transported back in time, it definitely did not provide the warm and fuzzy feelings mentioned earlier, but was definitely an emotion I wanted and needed to feel. I want to feel uncomfortable when I remember my time in Africa. I want to feel conflicted about reconciling my comfort and provisions with Mkapa's lack thereof. I need to be reminded there is always something more we can do to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The Trip:

Every spring, BFA sends 5 to 7 teams of students and staff to serve on several continents throughout the world. This year's trips included Macedonia, Greece, Tajikistan, Burkina Faso and Tanzania. The fact that these students give up half of their spring break and raise their own support to go on these trips speaks to the quality of the students that go to serve. Our Tanzania group was no exception. I am constantly amazed at the students God has called us to serve at BFA. I love how much I learn from them and how much joy I get from simply being in their presence. We volunteered at a primary school in Longido that is sponsored by the local Compassion International site. Every day, over 400 children, mostly from the Maasai tribe, would fill the 6 rooms of the rustic school with laughter, song and joy. Our students taught English lessons, played soccer, shared meals with the students, visited their homes in the bush and

showered the children with love. I couldn't have been more proud. Most of the students on our team went home with only the clothes on their backs because they wanted to share all they had with those who had so little. It was such a privilege to serve alongside the 13 students and share in this experience with them. Thank you St. B's for how faithfully you support our family. Your consistent and faithful contributions to our ministry made it possible for me to accept the co-leadership position on this trip. I will forever be changed because of my time in Africa and for that I am so grateful and full of joy.



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

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Barbara and Jim Bowman | 07/27 |
| Keith & Kristin Chapman | 07/20 |
| Claire & Danny Combs | 07/19 |
| Meredith & Joe Flynn | 07/21 |
| Don Paul & Ginger Gross | 07/12 |
| Emily & Jason Huff | 07/27 |
| David & Deen Logan | 07/26 |
| Beverly & Tom Mahan | 07/17 |
| Kirk & Robert Smith | 07/1 |
| Robert & Sarita Stewart | 07/12 |
| Jonathan & Mary Stone | 07/19 |
| Jim & Jane Stranch | 07/1/ |
| Sonza & Walwin Vialdores | 07/28 |
| Rick & Sandy Wood | 07/30 |

Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Molly Arthur | 07/19 |
| Will Arthur | 07/24 |
| Jude Barmer | 07/08 |
| Julia Carruthers-Thorne | 07/31 |
| Hadley Clair | 07/08 |
| Kylan Clair | 07/18 |
| Cameron Conant | 07/11 |
| Richard Courtney | 07/09 |
| Brian Darnell | 07/27 |
| Jess Darnell | 07/08 |
| McKenzie Darnell | 07/01 |
| Donna Easter | 07/22 |
| Ashley Emerson | 07/08 |
| Barbara Ewin | 07/24 |
| Lynn Ferguson | 07/27 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Bob Garth | 07/29 |
| Rusty Grant | 07/21 |
| Katie Headley | 07/12 |
| Thomas Hutchinson | 07/22 |
| Ellen Jewell | 07/14 |
| Monty Kimble | 07/31 |
| Kristin Kinser | 07/15 |
| Melody Krogman | 07/17 |
| Maxim Langlinais | 07/02 |
| Kathy Leo | 07/21 |
| Deen Logan | 07/10 |
| Finn Lowell | 07/30 |
| David Madeira | 07/14 |
| Louis Metcalfe | 07/02 |
| Jan Minshall | 07/24 |
| Chad Moore | 07/26 |
| Pat Morris | 07/23 |
| Trey Myatt | 07/17 |
| Lynn Nelson | 07/14 |
| Lola Petillo | 07/29 |
| Jeanie Price | 07/27 |
| Connor Quinn | 07/22 |
| Alex Rhea | 07/29 |
| Mary Ruth Robinson | 07/09 |
| Sean Root | 07/26 |
| Bob Rowland | 07/30 |
| Diane Sheffield | 07/07 |
| Bethany Smith | 07/19 |
| Sharon Smith | 07/29 |
| Diane Stannard | 07/08 |
| Robert Stewart | 07/02 |
| Christopher Thorpe | 07/24 |
| Mimi Verner | 07/17 |
| Nyla Villager | 07/30 |
| Maggie Williams | 07/13 |
| Heather Wills | 07/15 |
| Katrina Wilson | 07/12 |
| Adam Wirdzek | 07/31 |
| Katherine Wood | 07/14 |

Baptisms

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Eli David Bradley & | 05/23 |
| Micah Nell Bradley | |
| Kristina Elizabeth Cox | 6/13 |
| Marshal Loizeaux Simpson | 6/27 |

Births

| | |
|---|-------|
| Leah Grace Woolbright | 05/07 |
| <i>Adopted by Grace & David Woolbright.</i> | |

FloodRELIEF

We are continuing our community flood relief efforts all summer long.

Be sure to check your eNews, the *St. B's Weekly* and our website for upcoming projects.

For more information, contact Steve Lefebvre at stevenl@stbs.net.

We want to be a family that is faithful to the promises we've made to both those in our parish and to our community at large. We're in this for the long-haul. Come join us!



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

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Annual July 4th Corn Roast



Make plans to join us for this fun annual event! We will kick off the festivities after the 10:30 service with the kids' bike parade around the parking lot. Bring bikes, trikes, scooters, etc. (decorated, of course) and our Grand Marshall will lead the kids around the parking lot a few times for a fun parade. Afterwards, we'll head over to the lawn for food, fun and fellowship. We will have hot dogs, roasted corn, watermelon, chips, drinks and desserts. The cost is \$6.00 per person, \$25.00 max per family. Bring family and friends!

Please sign up if you plan to attend this fun event and if you are free to help out. We need some people to bring dessert and we'll need some setup and cleanup help. Sign up sheets are in the narthex or contact the church office.

When: Sunday, July 4, after the 10:30 service

Who: Everyone! We encourage you to bring family, friends and neighbors.

What: Roasted corn, hot dogs, watermelon, drinks, desserts and more. Also, a dunk tank, bike parade and other fun family games and activities.

Cost: \$6/person, \$25 family max
