

THE BRANCH

The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church



FALL 2010

AT ST. B'S

In this month's issue we reflect on summer and look toward the season ahead



September 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).

INCREASING OUR BIBLICAL LITERACY

by Fr. Jerry Smith, Rector

One of my summer projects was to read the new memoir of Christian ethicist and Duke University professor, Stanley Hauerwas.

Hauerwas is known for being outspoken and controversial, but he will never be

accused of being illogical. His tendency is to speak unabashedly to foundational principles, rather than specific issues in both church and society, and often listeners and readers alike find his logic difficult to follow. This is in large part because we have lost the discipline of

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St. Bartholomew's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Dixon Kinser, Assistant Rector for
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Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

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Star Wars fan and nursery volunteer Susan Houston couldn't resist snapping this "George Lucas" photo of new St. B's family members George Wilford and Lucas Van der Hiejden.

Articles and photos for the October
Branch must be submitted no
later than October 1.

Articles can be sent to:
editor@stbs.net



Increasing Our Biblical Literacy (continued from cover)

philosophical logic, a course of study that use to be mandatory for all college and university students.

A quick read of the New Testament reminds us that this was also why Jesus was so often misunderstood. He was never satisfied simply addressing a presenting issue. He would always go deeper. His listeners wanted simple answers while He was motivated by introducing the principles that were governing factors in the Kingdom of God.

Often times, things arise that risk dividing us and we allow ourselves to be satisfied with biblical proof-text answers rather than digging deeper into Scripture to see the principles that God wants us to be using to govern decision making. These principles are like rivers that flow throughout the text - from Genesis through the book of the Revelation. Often times, what might seem like a legitimate "housekeeping rule" from the back of one of the epistles can actually be in conflict with these principles.

It is important that we are able to make the distinction without worrying about undermining the authority of Scripture. In fact, I will argue that the authority of this text increases, as these principles are applicable to every aspect of our lives, unlike the "housekeeping" instructions which tend to be very specific.

This fall we are offering you the opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of these "thematic rivers" that flow through both the Old and New Testaments.

Beginning the first week of October and running for six consecutive weeks, we will be offering adult education classes during both the 8:30 and 10:30

services. During the 8:30 service an Old Testament survey course will be offered and the New Testament survey will take place during the 10:30 service. Next semester

We want our faith community to be increasingly biblically literate in order to live more meaningful lives and to be able to make cultural, political and theological decisions with more confidence.

(beginning in either January or February) the same classes will be offered at the opposite service times (OT at 10:30 and NT at 8:30).

I believe that for our growth as Christians, both individually and corporately, it is vital that we learn how to think like Christ. Paul would write, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:5). This is the goal of all that we offer in terms of educational experiences. We want to learn to think like Jesus, but tragically many of us are content to think only like sanctified humans. This often means nothing more than having a proof text to condone our secular way of thinking and acting.

KINGDOM TALK

by Fr. Jerry Smith
Rector



Our hope is that these classes will increase your hunger for Scripture. Opportunities abound on Sundays, through the Lifebuilders class, or mid-week via a number of SFJ (Simply Following Jesus) groups that come and go around the city.

We want our faith community to be increasingly biblically literate in order to live more meaningful lives and to be able to make cultural, political and theological decisions with more confidence. Interestingly we often seem satisfied with something far less than a well-rounded understanding of God's unfolding Kingdom and how we are to partner with Him.

Equally important this fall will be the opportunity to become familiar with the proposed Anglican covenant. In fact, to best understand the motivation for the covenant as well as the biblical logic used in its development we ought to have offered our New and Old Testament survey courses last semester!

Studying the proposed covenant does take work, but it will be energy well spent.

I invite you this fall to practice some radical discipleship by engaging Holy Scripture the way our God wants us to.

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

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



Suzy Floyd: 30 Years of Service

St. B's Preschool and Mother's Day Out Celebrates a Milestone

by Michelle Ferguson

It happens every year about this time. An onslaught of cars, vans and SUVs pulls into the St. B's parking lot around 9:30 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. Dozens of lunch boxes, backpacks, and children are unloaded and escorted into the building. Quietly, the parents and children wait behind the downstairs door until Ms. Suzy or a member of her staff opens the door to welcome the students to what is their earliest (and perhaps sweetest) introduction to school.

St. B's Preschool and Mother's Day Out program celebrates an important milestone this year. St. B's parishioner Dean Logan founded the Mother's Day Out program in 1978. Two years later, in 1980, the school hired parishioner Suzy Floyd as director. The preschool program was added in 1983. This school year marks thirty years of having Suzy as the director – a director that not only introduces the ABC's,

but also God and Jesus, to some of God's littlest creations. One can hardly reference St. B's Preschool and Mother's Day Out program without thinking of Suzy Floyd and the influence she has had on the program's development and success.

The program operates September-May and provides classes for children 15 months to five years old. The school is under DHS regulations and consistently receives a 3-star ranking by the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS). Children in the preschool program participate in creative movement, music, and Spanish classes. The school provides enrichment activities



Above: Suzy Floyd, director of St. B's Preschool & Mother's Day Out, leads the Preschool open house in 2008.

Bottom & next page: The 2010 Preschool and MDO Staff and a few recent students.



such as Farm Day, Thanksgiving Feast Day, a Christmas program, Father's Day (celebrated in January), an



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30 Years of Service: Preschool & MDO

(Continued from page 4)

Easter program and Mother's Day. Speakers are routinely brought in to enhance the children's understanding of various topics.

It is not by chance that the school has been successful. Core to the school's mission is the belief that God orchestrates the details.

The teachers and staff pray before each school day begins, and they participate in a monthly prayer time, where they pray for not only the school, but for each other. Suzy holds two staff retreats each year, which are filled with much fun, but also much prayer time.



This commitment to prayer is often evidenced during the school day, where it is not uncommon to see Suzy praying with parents, teachers praying with children, or children praying with their classmates.

Thank you, Suzy, for thirty wonderful years of service to these young children and their families. We hope that the program continues for another thirty years. With nearly one hundred children enrolled in the program each year, think of how many little lives have been touched by this important ministry!

Promise Keeping: After the Flood

Mark Powell snapped these summer photos of St. B's family members following through on our promise to continue the post-flood rebuilding efforts. On this particular weekend, Mavis Harrop's condo was painted.



A Note from the Powell Family

This past Monday in a Special Services departmental meeting, I was asked to share God's goodness in my life over the past year.

Sharing with others about how faithful and good God has been to me is certainly not a difficult task. As I shared that afternoon, I was moved to talk about God's people serving and loving one another. My stories were all about how my church family, you, both literally and figuratively wrapped their arms around my family and me this past summer. I was so richly blessed by just watching the many ways that you chose to love us. Some involved sizable sacrifices on your part while others were simple expressions of love that let my kids know that you cared and that you were an active and vital part of our lives and ministry. As I watched my children's eyes light up in surprise by some token gift or kind gesture, my heart melted.

This brought back vivid memories of my own times when my family left the field and were back in the States with family and friends. These were difficult times for us because we were on the road for so long and attended so many meetings and church services. However they were also some of my favorite times because I was with people I knew loved me. Thank you for all you did this summer for us, but especially for your loving kindness toward Meredith, Evan and Ethan. We love you and are praying for you all daily.

--Mark (for the whole Powell family)



Getting to Know Robert Smith

Our New Coordinator for Pastoral Care

As you may have read in last month's *Branch*, Robert Smith is our new Coordinator of Pastoral Care. He is replacing Vestry member Dorman "Butch" Burch as coordinator, since Butch has many new duties as our Junior Warden. I have known Robert most of my life, since I grew up attending Christ Episcopal Church (now the Cathedral) where Robert was also a member. In my years of being around him, I have seen how Robert is naturally devoted to his family, friends, neighbors, and church. Coordinating the pastoral care needs at St. B's is a natural fit.

Robert and his bride, Kirk, have attended St. B's for almost five years. They were married in July of 2005 at Christ Church Cathedral, Nassau. Robert has three children and Kirk has two children.

Before finding St. B's, Robert worshiped at St. Paul's Episcopal, while Kirk attended 4th Ave Church of Christ – both in Franklin. Knowing that they needed to find a church home that fit both of them well, they began searching across many denominations. (One Sunday they even attended two or three different churches!) They both felt that a Church home needed to be part of the foundation for their life together.

Meanwhile, Kirk's son, Josh, and his wife Stephanie were dealing with serious health issues regarding the

upcoming birth of their first child, Will. It was determined by physicians in Memphis, that the baby would be born with severe heart problems and other complications, so they decided to move to Nashville to be



Robert lends his cooking skills for the Jambalaya & Jazz Fest.

near Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. Around this same time, the Smiths visited St. B's. Robert remembers, "The warmth and sense of 'welcome' was so refreshing! It felt like home!" But the amazing and most important thing to Robert was that former Assistant Rector Father Randy Hoover-Dempsey and other members of St. B's came to visit the Smiths,

GETTING TO KNOW

by Sean Root

their children and grandson in the hospital! No other Church that they had visited, or had been members of, had made the same effort. Robert & Kirk knew then that search for a church home was over. Although Will only survived a short time, the warmth of St B's had shown through. The importance of Pastoral Care was not lost on them at that time.

Robert attended Webb School in Bell Buckle and then Vanderbilt. He received an Associate's Degree in Automotive Marketing from Northwood University in Midland, Michigan, which was an endorsed program from the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA). His father, Madison Smith, married his mother, Ada, in 1950, when she was teaching Nursing at St. Thomas

Hospital. Both of Robert's parents were very active in the Presbyterian Church,

helping to start two churches in the Nashville area (Hillwood & Bellevue Presbyterian Church).

If you are familiar with Madison Smith Mercedes in Nashville, you know Robert's family business. Robert worked his way up the ladder within the family dealership to eventually

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Sex is Everything: Blessing the World with Singleness

Let us recap our previous discussions before we begin. In part one of this series we discussed sex being about connection. In order to have a healthy conversation about sex, and in particular Christian sexuality, our dialogue must go beyond simply talking about sex as intercourse. Our sexuality is the good, God-created thing in all of us that desires connection and intimacy with the rest of the creation.

In part two of this series we discussed that because of the presence of sin and death in this world there must be an ethic to our sexuality that joins God in the restoration of creation. This ethic is called chastity. Furthermore, we discussed that chastity is more than simple morality. Chastity is an ascetic or spiritual discipline that carries through our entire lives. Like all spiritual disciplines, chastity forms us into a particular kind of people who point the rest of the world to God and what God is up to in the world - redemption of the creation. In this article, I want to talk about how being single and chaste can benefit the world in some practical ways.

Let me direct your attention to Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In chapter four of this letter, Paul tells the church in Ephesus to not live as the Gentiles do. He reminds them that they belong to Christ and should live accordingly. Towards the end of his exposition he writes, "Those who have been stealing must steal no longer" - which is not unlike me telling you not to have intercourse until you are married. But the passage doesn't end there, it continues, "but must work, doing something useful with their own hands that they may have something to share

with those in need." What this passage acknowledges is this: when the thief stops stealing, the thief is still going to want to steal. Stealing is an addiction: a thief's body chemistry gets used to the thrill and begins to crave and desire it.

With singleness comes a variety of freedoms and abundances.... The most important part of our chastity it is to come up with ways to give these things away for the benefit of the world.... Using our sexuality to contribute to wholeness, redemption and life quenches our thirst in ways that not only make our singleness bearable but actually turns our singleness into something wonderful to offer the world.

And like all addictions, to remove the action doesn't remove the desire. The same is true with our sexuality.

Like we have mentioned before, our sexuality is buried deep within us and



by Steven Lefebvre
Assistant Director of Youth &
College Formation

it is good. But as Christians we are called to not contribute to the destructive sexual ethic of this world, but rather to live chastely. This is why we can't simply tell our single people to "just say no" to sex. If sex is a good and essential thing to our connection with one another, it would be sinful to demand our single people to divorce themselves from sex.

So what does it mean in terms of single sexuality to "do something useful with your hands that they may share with those in need?" It means that we need to imagine ways to turn our singleness into a blessing for the rest of the world. With singleness comes a variety of freedoms and abundances, like wealth, energy, or time. We aren't raising children or spending our energies being present to one relationship. The most important part of our chastity it is to come up with ways to give these things away for the benefit of the world. However, there is still that matter of desire.

If our sexuality is more than just intercourse, then there are certainly other ways to satisfy and calm our desires. Our desires to have sex are much deeper than the physical act of intercourse. For some, sex is about relieving feelings of loneliness, for others it's about desiring intimacy, and for other's it's something else entirely. But I can personally bear witness to the fact that these feelings change when I've given myself over to

Continued on next page



Robert Smith (continued from page 7)

become the manager of Madison Smith; that is, until the family sold the business. He continued in the auto business after Madison Smith Mercedes' sale, with a short foray into the insurance industry. He has even helped a few parishioners find the cars of their dreams.

Robert has always been very active in the community. He was involved with and eventually coordinated Nashville's Italian Street Fair. He is also a member of the Alumni Board for The Webb School in Bell Buckle. When they found St. B's, he and Kirk naturally fell into service roles here. Together they host a "Simply Following Jesus" group and are Greeters to members and visitors. Robert is also an Usher, Acolyte and Chalice Bearer. These experiences have enabled him to lead when called upon—whether it is the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper or the Pig Roast (or as he likes to call it, "PigStock").



Kirk & Robert at lunch following their wedding in 2005.

To quote Robert: "I learned when going through Boy Scout wood badge training that I could not know everything. I just needed to surround myself with accomplished people and be able to find whatever I need. Trust that the Lord will guide us. Do not worry, just do!"

Singleness (continued from page 8)

something beautiful, whole and of God.

When we give ourselves to our community, that thirst for sexuality, called lust or longing, gets quenched. Certainly there are other ways to quench this thirst with pornography, sexual promiscuity, etc. But as we all know these things are fleeting and leave us desiring more. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks several times about drinking his 'living water' and never being thirsty again. In the same way, using our sexuality to contribute to wholeness, redemption and life quenches our thirst in ways that not only make our singleness bearable,

but actually turns our singleness into something wonderful to offer the world.

To the single people: How are you spending your free time? How are you spending your excess income? How are you using your abundance of energy? Perhaps, if you are feeling as if you have nothing to give, you may need to change the ways in which you use your resources. I invite you into the way of chastity, to give yourself over to this community, to come drink of Christ's living water and to never be thirsty again.

EVENTS

Coming Up...

Men's Breakfast Saturday, October 2

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place Saturday, October 2, beginning with coffee at 8:00am and breakfast at 8:30.

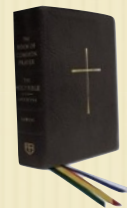


Will Granbery will share about his recent trip to China. We are still looking for a head Chef and helpers for the kitchen. After breakfast we will need some volunteers to help Robert Smith get things ready for the Pig Roast. Cost is the usual \$5.00 and kids are invited to attend.



Victus Thursdays, 6:30pm

Young adults, you're invited to our weekly gathering on Thursday nights, where we seek spiritual formation, intentional community, and living in the way of Jesus through dinner, conversation, and liturgy from the book of common prayer.



Victus meets Thursday nights (except the first Thursday), 6:30 - 8:00pm in the Rectory. For more information, contact Steve at stevenl@stbs.net.



New Opportunities for Study



Sunday Morning Old & New Testament Surveys begin Oct. 3

Beginning on October 3, we will be offering both an Old Testament and New Testament survey class on Sunday mornings. The Old Testament class will meet at 8:30 in the Parish Hall and the New Testament class will meet at 10:30 in room 112. Both classes will cover common themes throughout the whole of Scripture.

Women's Bible Study Thursdays, 10:30am

A new women's Bible study has begun. It meets on Thursday mornings, from 10:30-12:00 until November 18 in the Rectory. Childcare will be available. The group is studying John 17. All women are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Katie Moessner at katiemoessner@gmail.com.

M&O Wine Tasting and Silent Auction

The annual Mission & Outreach wine tasting and silent auction was a bit hit again this year! Approximately 60 people were in attendance and enjoyed wine, food, music and an update from the Powells. The event raised \$3,193 for Mission & Outreach. Thanks to the volunteers who continue to help make this event a success!



Photos by Mark Powell



Sex is Everything: Blessing the World with Marriage

Let me begin by saying how excited I am to be tag-teaming my Branch article this month with Steven. When it comes to the topic of sex, it seems there is either more to say than can ever be said or plenty said that shouldn't be. That's why a series of articles on sex, and in particular, this month's "tag team approach" to exploring how married and single chastity can bless God's mission, makes so much sense. So, to Steven I say "thank you" for setting this up.

Sex and Marriage in the Bible

From the first pages of the Hebrew scriptures right through to the last pages of the New Testament, marriage and sexual intercourse are joined at the hip. To be certain, sexuality is about more than intercourse (see Steven's intro for more on that) however, passages like Exodus 22:16 where it says: "If a man seduces a virgin who is not pledged to be married and sleeps with her, he must pay the bride-price, and she shall be his wife", and other's like it (Deut 22: 28-29)¹ make it clear: According to God it is not the ceremony, flowers, bridesmaids, receptions or even public vows that make you married – it is the act of intercourse. So as far as God seems to be concerned, intercourse = marriage and marriage = intercourse.



A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Assistant Rector for Youth & Young Adult Formation

However, like most things in Hebrew thought, these rituals point to something larger than themselves. They provide a here and now picture of a sacred truth that is meant to be reflective of God. Marriage is one such ritual-picture.

In the Old Testament, marriage mirrors the union of God and Israel at Mt. Sinai (see Exodus 19

and 20) while in the New Testament the vision expands to include Christ and the Church (Revelation 21). As such, the way we humans act regarding marriage is theological in that the relationship says something about whom God is. The habits and practice of arranging a marriage to say something right and true about God are called chastity. Chastity is the manner and practice of Holy sexuality, therefore chaste marriages can demonstrate to the world some very wonderful things about God. I'd like to mention three:

Blessing the World with Married Chastity

First, a chaste marriage demonstrates promise keeping. When someone is

married they make a very public proclamation that they plan to keep a promise. Their proclamation is heard and blessed by a community and is actualized in the act of intercourse. Such a promise is an echo of Yahweh's promise to Abraham, God's promise to Israel and Jesus' promise to his

Our God is a God who makes and keeps promises, with every marriage providing an opportunity to testify to that truth by the way the couple keeps their vows.

disciples. Our God is a God who makes and keeps promises, with every marriage providing an opportunity to testify to that truth by the way the couple keeps their vows.

Is it any wonder then that the writer of Hebrews admonishes the church to keep the marriage bed pure? Just like Israel is admonished not to take other lovers (worship no other God's before me) so are we. Husband and wife remain sexually devoted to only one another and in so doing say, "God keeps promises!"

Continued on next page



Event Spotlight: How Do I Talk About That?: SEX

As much as sex is everyone's favorite topic, few people know how to talk about it well. Until now! Join us for two weeks in September (15th and 22nd) for a conversation about how Christians (and Christian parents) can approach this most dicey of issues with confidence and effectively disciple their children into a Jesus- honoring sexuality.

While some of the content will be specifically oriented for parents with children (two through teens) the seminar will more broadly address how all of us (single or married) are called to that most rewarding yet challenging of Christian disciplines: chastity.

Hosted by Rev. Dixon Kinser, "How Do I Talk About That?: Sex" will meet Wednesday, September 15 and 22 from 7:00-8:00 in the parish hall. Childcare will be provided with RSVP to the church office.

When & Where:

Wednesday, September 15 & 22
(a 2 part series)

7:00-8:00pm

In the parish hall

Blessing the World with Marriage

(continued from page 11)

Second, a chaste marriage blesses the world in the way the couple works through conflict. God is a God of forgiveness and reconciliation. Israel turns away again and again and yet God is there, taking even their most wanton disobedience and turning it into something beautiful. This is reflected in a wonderfully public way when couples fight, forgive and reconcile with each other. In Christ, conflict is not a deal breaker but an opportunity to reconcile and, as such, a path to deeper intimacy. In this way, marriage blesses to the world by proclaiming that forgiveness is not only real but also possible!

Finally, a chaste marriage blesses the world by reminding us that we are not in this alone. During the wedding liturgy the bride and groom are not the only two who take vows. The entire

community is asked if they will do all in their power to uphold the couple in their life and marriage. The community responds enthusiastically, "We will!" This is a good thing too because none of us can make it in marriage alone. The same could be said of faith. We need a community to support, guide, discipline and encourage us along the way. Marriage points to this reality in the way husband and wife lean on their wider network to strengthen their relationship and can even, at it's best,

dimly illuminate the interdependence of the Holy Trinity itself.

These are only three of the myriad way a chaste marriage can bless the world. However, let us take seriously the Biblical notion of marriage as picture and ask ourselves, "What are your relationships a picture of?"



It's worth acknowledging that the cultural context of these two verses was one in which women were viewed as property. That is true and, I contend, not part of the Gospel. However, these admonitions in Torah, while still functioning inside that cultural milieu, radically subvert it. The message to men is, "You want to have sex with her? Then you must be willing to commit your life to her, provide for her needs and fulfill your husbandly duties. She is your equal and you will treat her as such." While this is not yet where things need to be, it's a great step forward and, as such, means we should not throw out the wisdom of the scripture because of its context.



Remembering Dad, Reflecting on Grief



RUMINATIONS

by *Marjie Smith*

msscibbler@comcast.net

For all that has been written about it, grief is not something you can package up and produce when it is convenient. It doesn't flow like an estuary to a predictable place where you can plant a little boat and sail about in it. In theory, we know that grief for a friend is different from that for a child, and the loss of parents, part of the natural cycle, is different again. But you still can't stop it from leaking out when it fancies and enveloping you like fog on a cool night.

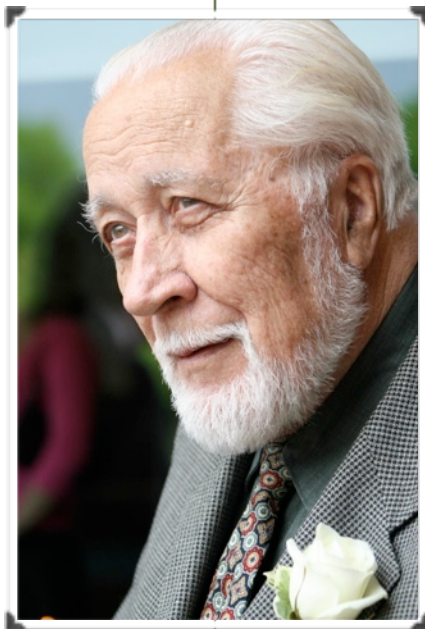
As we buried my father at the end of July, exactly a year after we buried mom, I was surprised that the tears didn't render me a plumber's nightmare, the way mom's death did. I was surprised that mom's death did, given that she had Alzheimer's for so many years. And then I came to realize over this past month that the loping into our lives of memories and emotions doesn't follow a calendar or sign in at the registry in a funeral home.

Dad and I had a complicated relationship. In some ways we were close and in other ways we couldn't have thought more differently.

heart just couldn't handle the routine anymore and it took him the full month he was in hospital to realize he wouldn't be going back to live with his granddaughter. And then, that he wouldn't be going to live with anyone at all. I'm told that in the middle of his last night, he wanted off oxygen and reported that he was going to die now. Less than three hours later, he did. He told my siblings who lived near him, which is pretty much all of them, that he told mom to meet him at the fountain in glory.

For nine years, he had driven almost daily the 20 miles or more to visit mom in the nursing home and to feed her lunch. Jerry and I had helped him take her to the home a year before we moved across the border. Often, I would drive down on a Sunday, since I worked full-time, pick him up at his apartment and drive him down to be with her. It took the better part of the day and we had plenty of time together. That was in the early days of his unwelcome return to

bachelorhood. Then he moved in with my brother. Even a decade ago, there was still a good residue of the strapping six-foot, 200-plus pounder



Richard Edgar Aldom would have turned 96 this fall. He basically died of old age. His



who had played college ball at the University of Guelph (then the Ontario Agricultural College) on his way to collecting degrees in, first, agricultural science, and then in microbiology.

He was a newlywed and just starting his career when war broke out and he joined the air force, where he served for three and a half years. It changed the direction of his career, since jobs in microbiology were not readily available when the war ended and he had a growing family to support. Dad made his living representing pharmaceutical companies, but he pursued agriculture as his passion. When I was four years old, and the youngest of five stair-step children, my parents subdivided their 25-acre raspberry farm on Sheppard Avenue at the edge of the growing city of Toronto. There are high-rises there now.

Dad wanted us to grow up in the country, so my parents bought 300 acres of farmland north of Toronto,

Continued on next page



Remembering Dad (continued from page 13)

and that's where we grew up. Dad put in grain and a massive vegetable garden to fill the canning jars and the freezer and drive his youngest daughter to distraction hoeing, picking and chopping. I'm sure mom would have gladly traded me for one of the boys. Dad knew this and gave me the chickens to look after. He also bought me my first baseball glove and when I needed a bike, drove to the dump, retrieved three bicycle carcasses and built me one from them that he painted a bold yellow and blue.

Summers we spent on an island my parents had purchased about five years after they married. It was on a lake in northern Ontario, not far from where my mom, Anna Murielle Whittington, grew up as part of a family pioneering the wilderness and where they owned and lost, to fire, a lumber mill.

Dad and mom couldn't have been more different, both in nature and upbringing. Mom, the second oldest of five, had lost her mom in childbirth when she was eight. She had lived freely, growing up in the lumber camp; excelled at school and was sent by the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire to further her schooling in Toronto. She stayed. She had come full circle. Her mother, who was from Toronto, had met her father while a tourist on a popular lake in northern Ontario. My dad, on the other hand, went full circle the other way. His ancestors had settled on a farm, as many did. But by his generation, the family had based itself in Toronto. He was the older of two sons. He remembers, as a young boy, watching his mother's sisters and his grandparents succumb to the black flu as it painted a swath of sorrow across the country. Perhaps that is why he was so engrossed in biblical prophecy. More than engrossed. I called it

prediction addiction and refused to listen once I was old enough to opt out. We therefore found a lot to talk about and I always knew when he was using something in the news to leapfrog into end-times dialogue. My hand would go up. And he'd start laughing. Then he'd switch to how fast I was driving my little



Yes, grief is difficult. It is difficult because parents are wired into you in so many areas. While you spend your life rewiring yourself, it is only when a parent passes that you realize that some wires cannot nor should not be severed. We are part of a continuum.

yellow truck.

Even when he and I picked out mom's tombstone this past spring, dad didn't want a joint one because the Lord was coming back before he died and he didn't want to falsely advertise his demise.

We disagreed on many things: the focus on prophecy, his church's disallowing women to preach and belief that women should wear head coverings, his putting the family island

in only the boys' names. We did not agree politically, either. Much as dad wondered, sometimes, how I got grafted into the family, he equally took pride in my independent thinking and was proud of the family branch that had returned to Anglicanism.

Though we disagreed on much, I admired

many of his accomplishments. He built our beautiful house in Toronto, which was destroyed when the property was subdivided. He built our cottage, lugging rocks from as far away as Nova Scotia to build the massive fireplace. He and mom went off to Africa for three years in their sixties to teach at a girl's school in the middle of Zambia. When they returned, they opted to manage a Christian camp on the ocean in Nova Scotia. They were not afraid to make big decisions.

Yes, grief is difficult. It is difficult because parents are wired into you in so many areas. While you spend your life rewiring yourself, it is only when a parent passes that you realize that some wires cannot nor should not be severed. We are part of a continuum. Dad put the emphasis on family name; I put it on family soul. One way or the other, I'll miss him. I'll miss our good-natured sparring. For it had become that.

If he gets to watch us down here, he knows that if I ever wear a hat to church, it will be because I like the hat. And I still have that softball glove he gave me when I was about eight. Hey, dad. Look who's on first now!



Look to the Skies

Seeing the Wonder of the Creator in the Creation

Years ago, while living in California, my husband David became interested in the study of astronomy. With an assortment of star maps in hand, he'd take his scope out at night and gaze into the sky for hours. Around that time we were gifted with a 10 inch round, 2 inch thick mirror left over from my Uncle's days working with the Air Force. Next thing I knew, David had taken that mirror, some huge drainage pipes, and built a telescope around it. Not only was this new scope large enough to fit the mirror, but it stood taller than him. To David, this scope would allow a broader and clearer look at the universe. To me, it simply looked like we now were in possession of our very own red steam engine's smoke stack. I didn't understand David's growing passion for the stars and was a bit miffed that he spent so much time outside.

While David was outside gazing at the heavens, I would often read. I had been introduced to the 19th century Christian author George MacDonald, and was thoroughly enjoying his theology disguised as fiction. And wouldn't you know it, the Lord used one of the MacDonald books to not only help me better appreciate David's love of the sky, but how to begin to open my eyes and better look for the reality of the Lord's infiniteness. In *Highlander's Last Song*, two Scottish brothers are trying to explain their love of nature and its connection to the Lord to two rich young women. One brother asks, "Imagine for a moment how it would be if, instead of having the sky over us as it is, we only had a roof we could see, with clouds hanging down, as in a theater, only a yard or two from our heads!" One of

the sisters responds, the brother continues. "How do you think it would affect your nature, your being?" He then adds, "What notion could we have had of majesty if the heavens seemed scarcely higher than the earth? What feeling of the grandeur of God, of the vastness of his being, of the limitlessness of his goodness? For space is the body to our idea of God." I began to catch a glimpse of what I was missing. To stare up into the heavens is to search for things we may never understand, yet can still appreciate and even love. To look up is to recognize how very small we are and how very vast and infinite our creator is.

There are so many things, ideas and notions in our lives that can be used to bring us closer to our creator. As we enter the Fall season, I encourage each of us to take time to look at the leaves as they change and consider the artist behind them. Sit outside and feel the changing of the temperature and consider who breathed life into the winds, and

who can calm the storms. And look into the night sky and feel the infiniteness of His love for you. And if that is too difficult, simply sit down with a child, ask them their impression of what God is doing all around them, and join in their awe and wonder.



THE WONDER OF IT ALL

by Carla Schober

Director of Family & Children's Formation



Dear St. B's Family,

You may have noticed this year we didn't spend quite as many Sundays asking for help in Children's Formation. That's because one week before our training, two weeks before we even started, all volunteer positions were filled with a remarkable, giving and excited team of teens and adults believing in the importance of participating in the lives of the St. B's children. This was not only a blessing to the children and their families, but also a testament to God's faithfulness and the health of our parish.

Thank you St. B's! Thank you on behalf of the many children, adolescents and adults who see Jesus in your serving hands and hearts. The Lord is indeed moving among us.

Gratefully,
Carla



Kemah's Journey

A Story of Redemption and Community from Liberia

Editor's Note: This story began as an email from Kristin. As the story unfolded, I realized it was one that should be shared with the whole St. B's family. I'm grateful Kristin was willing to rewrite some of it and add an opening to give the story proper context for those reading it here.

by Kristin Chapman

Kemah, like so many children in Liberia, has lived a life that most of us can not even imagine. After the death of her parents when she was quite young, Kemah was placed in an orphanage. The orphanage tried to find a home for Kemah and her siblings in the states, but that never came to pass. Instead, Kemah found herself moved from home to home until an American missionary couple offered to take her in. This move, which appeared to be such a blessing for this young girl, resulted in tragedy. The man in the home (an American "missionary") raped and sexually molested her and the 2 other girls living in the home

repeatedly. Keith and I found out what was going on and confronted the man and his wife. Long story, short, the man is now in Monrovia Central Prison facing charges of rape. After his trial and punishment here, he will be extradited and tried in the states. Once again, Kemah was without a home. Kemah's dream was to go to an all girls' boarding school. School began

just 10 days after we discovered what would be needed to get her into the girls' Episcopal school here, and it was past the admission deadline dates. After several phone calls and emails, we were able to get Kemah a chance at attending. What we needed was, first, for Kemah to pass the entrance exam, and second, we needed to raise about \$1500 in less than a week.



From left: Peter, Kemah and Kristin

I think Kemah's own words say this the best. When I told her, just days after sending out the email asking for help, that we had received enough money for her to go to school, Kemah looked at me and said, "Please tell all of those people thank you. Thank you so much." She also asked that I send some pictures so that they could see where she was getting to go because of

their prayers and money. I think Kemah's smile in all of these speaks volumes. To all of you who sent up prayers and sent in money to help - THANK YOU for giving Kemah this chance at a new beginning. Her sweet spirit and fun-loving nature seem to have returned this past week. There is some money left over that will go into an account to help with expenses throughout the year and to begin a fund for next year's fees! Here's a recap of our last week.

We spent all week running around trying to get everything ready for Kemah to attend boarding school.

She had uniforms made, had a medical check, filled out numerous forms, sat for and passed her entrance exam, sat for an interview, spent hours at the market buying shoes, buckets, cleaning supplies, a mattress and anything else needed for a year away. The most fun we had was shopping for her snacks!

Although the school provides three meals a day, the students must bring their own snacks. I took her to a supermarket and she was like a kid in a candy store. I don't think she had ever been able to just put whatever she wanted in a shopping cart. She chose some of my favorites, M&M's and Pringles, but also added the typical Liberian favorites, canned

Continued on next page



Kemah's Journey

(continued from page 16)

sardines and mayo. What a joy to watch her as she grew more and more excited by the day! A couple of nights before she left, she moved in with our family to get everything washed, packed and ironed.

After packing it all up, it was time to go. Kemah has an older brother, Peter, who just graduated from college. He grew up in a boys' home in Monrovia and went to a college about 4 hours from Monrovia.

He has just returned to the city and is living and working in the boys' home where he grew up. He has taken a big interest in Kemah and her welfare since returning. He was anxious to travel out to the school with us and see where Kemah would be living. We picked up Peter on our way.

On the way to the school, Kemah became very quiet. I looked over and asked how she was doing. She smiled and said, "I'm ready to be going to Bromley." About an hour and a half later, we arrived at Bromley Mission School.

Once at the school is was time to get Kemah settled. We met the principal and the dorm matron. We had her suitcase inspected. She was told some of the basic rules and then we took her upstairs to the 10th grade dorm. We found her bed and spent some time getting her organized.

All around us was the bustle of the other girls arriving and getting settled. It was fun and exciting to be with her as she began a new phase of life.

After getting her things settled, though, she wanted to take some more pictures before I left.

It was hard to say goodbye but it was time to go and leave Kemah at Bromley. There were a lot of hugs and tears. I have received several



phone calls since leaving the school and I think Kemah is doing well and liking her new home.

Thank you to all of you who are walking this journey with us! And, thank you for giving Kemah such an incredible opportunity!



Top and left: Bromley Mission School.

Above: Kemah packs her things for the year ahead



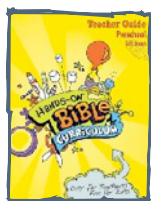
What are my kids learning this fall?

This Fall children's formation is excited to introduce two new curricula for the 10:30 Sunday school hour.



Preschool (2 years old – Kindergarten)

Group Publishing's "Hands-On Bible Curriculum"



Although this particular curriculum has been used by many churches across the nation for over a decade, it has been recently revised and we're excited to

offer this new version this Fall.

"Hands-On" taps into a child's God-given desire to learn not just by listening and watching, but by doing.

"Hands-On" curriculum uses what is called a "one point learning" method. This simply means that rather than a multiple number of Bible points being taught and loosely retained, "Hands-On" lessons focus on one specific Bible point through activities and interaction. The goal at this early developmental stage is that the child will retain one life-applicable piece of Bible truth each week. And, over the following weeks and months, they'll not only remember but apply these truths in their daily lives.

Elementary (1st – 6th Grade)

David C. Cook's "RIO-Deep & Wide"

Rio's philosophy: "Rio" believes that our faith is a relational one, and that the best way to grow people in the faith is to help them deepen their relationship with God



and others. We strive to engage relationships at all levels - leader to child, child to child, child to parent, parent to leader - all within the context of a relationship with God."

These days, children don't think of information in the same way as in other generations. To them, all information is interconnected. With this in mind Rio presents Bible lessons as all part of the same incredible story written by God.

In this informational age, just because someone may know a lot about God it doesn't necessarily mean they know God. "Rio" stresses spiritual formation. "Every lesson is God-focused, builds Bible study skills, and helps kids understand each Bible story in the context of God's grand redemptive plan throughout history".

8:30am - For children 3 1/2 years-old (potty trained) through 7-years-old

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is not a curriculum but rather a method of religious formation which is "rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the education principles of Maria Montessori." Developed by Sofia Cavaletti and Gianna Gobbi in Rome, Italy, it has been offered in the United States for over 25 years.



ECW Fall Luncheon Saturday, Sept. 25

The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) will hold our Fall Luncheon on Saturday, September 25, beginning at 10am.



Fathers Jerry, Dixon, and Dave will testify to the role of women in shaping their faith and ministries. This will be a terrific opportunity to get to know them on a more personal level. Also, as a very special treat, we will hear musical offerings from ECW members Amy Wirdzek, Betty Ashton Mayo, and Rachel Sefton.

Please RSVP to either the Evite or stbsecw@yahoo.com.

This method recognizes that an adult may study the Scripture, find a passage and ponder it's meaning, it's intent. He or she may choose to read further, offer up a prayer or discuss the passage with others. A child however, unable to read, needs another way to ponder and express what they hear from Scripture, lessons expressed that morning or a prayer from the liturgy. During class (referred to as the "atrium"), children are given a lesson from a New Testament parable, passage or lessons on our Eucharistic Prayer. They are then given time and materials (referred to as "work") to experience what they believe the Lord is speaking to them through art, sculpted New Testament figurines, maps, Eucharistic or liturgical furnishings or simply a quiet place to sit and pray. The work of the child becomes a prayer, a conversation with God.



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

Brian & Donna Darnell	09/08
Winston & Allyson Edwards	09/28
Lois & Langley Granbery	09/20
Scott & Anna Kammerer	09/16
Angela & Tim Lauer	09/11
Cindy & Rick Lundgren	09/01
Julia & Paul Miller	09/09
Joshua & Susan Puckett	09/09
Charlie & Katie Reasor	09/18
Carla & David Schober	09/14
David & Jule West	09/14

Birthdays

Tony Bakker	09/08
Wendy Baldwin	09/07
Michelle Bradley	09/18
Lila Buxton	09/07
Keith Chapman	09/24
Lauren Chapman	09/18
Teresa Coleman	09/24
Juliet Cooper	09/11
Lily Courtney	09/09
Rhonda Courtney	09/22
Greg Daniel	09/09
Megan Darnell	09/10
Mary Grace Dill	09/15
John Downton	09/08
Sibley Edwards	09/14
Scott Emerson	09/24
Asher Ferguson	09/13
Abigail Granbery	09/11
Hannah Granbery	09/24
Christine Hansen	09/26
Emily Hindalong	09/18

Ellen Hingst	09/03
Hunter Holt	09/14
Amy Ingham	09/23
Lucy Sarah Kammerer	09/12
Brett Kinzig	09/24
Wren Kinzig	09/16
Natalie Langlinais	09/10
Tim Lauer	09/05
Sonja Lowell	09/14
Elizabeth Madeira	09/06
Diane Marshall	09/10
Joseph Martin	09/13
Victoria Morant	09/20
Connor Morss	09/16
Ladonna Mullins	09/15
Nancy Pollitt	09/25
Walt Quinn	09/28
Gabby Rainey	09/06
Beth-Ann Ramsay	09/21
Thomas Ramsay	09/16
Dawn Rodgers	09/20
David Schober	09/08
Ainsley Schroeder	09/04
Jamieson Simpson	09/29
Jerry Smith	09/22
John Southwood	09/11
Leslie Southwood	09/27
Jane Stranch	09/17
Marshall Weems	09/23
Dave West	09/20
Matt Wilder	09/17
Rick Wood	09/27
Sandy Wood	09/25

Baptisms

Sunday, August 29
George Rayburn Wilford,
(parents Holly & Brince Wilford)
Chase Thomas Moore
(parents Tara & Chad Moore)

Sunday, September 5
Josiah Alan Michel, Miriam Corinne
Michel, Benjamin Ransom Michel
(parents Andy and Corinne Michel)

Births

August 13
Jane Frances Goldthorpe
(parents Ted and Georgeanna)

Willa "Ruth" Vhi Wen Earley
Birthday: October 18, 2006
Arrived home from China on August 28
(parents Tony and Sarah)

Membership Transfers In

Andrew Kintz
Pam McCarthur

(Both transferred in during the month of August)



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ANNUAL PIG ROAST & STREET FAIR OCTOBER 2ND & 3RD

The Annual St B.'s Pig Roast, Pigstock and Fall Fest is just around the corner - October 2nd and 3rd! Be sure to mark your calendar and bring family and friends!

We need your input and help to pull off the planned activities. If you have a gift for art, canning, collecting, or anything that you'd like to share with the community, please contact Kristi Cleary at ekcleary@comcast.net.

If you plan to join us for the campout, bonfire, Compline and camaraderie, please contact Sean Root at stbsmens@aol.com.



To help with the Pigstock (the hit of last year) please contact Jon Zadick, jzadick@hotmail.com.

If you want to donate jams, jellies, preserves, pickles, etc. or just some extra produce, contact Kirk Smith, pkirksmith@yahoo.com.

And, all of you cooking geniuses, if you want to help cook, please contact Robert W Smith, benzrwilder@att.net.

