

THE BRANCH

TELLING THE STORIES OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LENT & EASTER 2017



We, a people affectionately known as St. B's, are a family on a journey to grow more in love with God and one another, and to grow in our willingness to serve one another. Compelled by the love of Jesus, we long to see our alienated world reconciled to God in Christ.

We open ourselves to this growth through The Way of St. B's - a rule of life that shapes us through worship, internal formation, external formation, action, evangelism and stewardship.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH





Staff

Clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Christian Brady, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Travis Hines, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. David Wilson, *Pastoral Assistant*
The Rev. Dr. Stu Phillips, *Liturgical Assistant*

Office:

Leslie Tomlinson, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*
Teresa Robinson, *Financial and Music Administrator*

Parish Ministry:

Carla Schober, *Director for Family & Children's Formation*
David Madeira, *Director of Music*
Steven Lefebvre, *Director of Youth Formation*
Sally Chambers, *Director of Communications*
Bev Mahan, *Verger & Assistant to the Rector for Liturgy*
Robert Smith, *Assistant for Pastoral Care*
Julia McGirt, *Organist*
Gaylene Latham, *Nursery Coordinator*
Elizabeth Madeira, *Children's Classes Coordinator*
Deb Whiteside, *Children's Catechesis Coordinator*

St. B's Bookstore:

Allison Hardwick, *Manager*

Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

Kelly Hull, *Preschool Director*

Vestry

Kristin Chapman, Mimi Heldman, Ty Sparks
Seth Swihart, Shannon Truss, Eddie Latimer, Jim Chaffee, Early Ruley, Pat Bowlby, Steve Heaston, Andy Michel, Yvonne Poindexter

Beth Ramsey *Clerk*
Alfred Dowell, *Treasurer*

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to dust you shall return...
an invitation to a holy lent

Ash Wednesday
March 1
Holy Eucharist
with the imposition of ashes
7:30 a.m.
12:15 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

Enter the Wasteland

From Fat Tuesday to Lent

Growing up in an evangelical Presbyterian church I had never understood Lent until I was in college. I do not mean to suggest that my parents or the pastors did not know about Lent, but it was not something observed in our church and is largely ignored in Presbyterian communities. As I studied church history I began to get some sense of the season and its traditional disciplines, but then we moved to New Orleans, home of Mardi Gras. Wow.

In case you weren't aware (I was not) Mardi Gras, "Fat Tuesday," is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. To say that it is a big party is to lack an appreciation for adjectives. Massive, grotesque, gargantuan, hedonistic, Caligula-esque. Any of those might come close. Bacchanalian is probably the most accurate. What began in medieval days as a tradition of eating all the sweet and luxurious foods in the house to prepare for the austerity of Lent has devolved into a festival of indulgence of all excesses imaginable. Most who partake have no conception that Mardi Gras is a part of the Christian season of Lent. In fact, most are not even conscious for Ash Wednesday, let alone aware of its existence.

Far from being an excuse to live to excess, Lent can be a remarkable time for healing and growth. Lent is the church season from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, forty days not counting the Sundays which are considered feast days, and commemorates Jesus's time in the wilderness when he fasted and was tempted by the devil (Matt. 3:16-4:2).

Matt. 3:17 *And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."* **4:1** *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

God declares his love for his Son and then immediately sends him out "into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." Thanks Dad. While we are not Jesus and are not perfect as he was, his experience should encourage faithfulness us as we journey through our own wasteland. Time and again the devil tempted him with everything from the tastiest morsels to fabulous power. Each time Jesus countered Satan with Scripture.

For millennia, Christians have followed the example of our Savior and set aside this period as a time of reflection and devotion, to develop the strength to resist any temptation. Thus many converts to Christianity set aside Lent as the time to prepare themselves for baptism, spending their time praying and studying Scripture before they are baptized at the Easter Vigil.

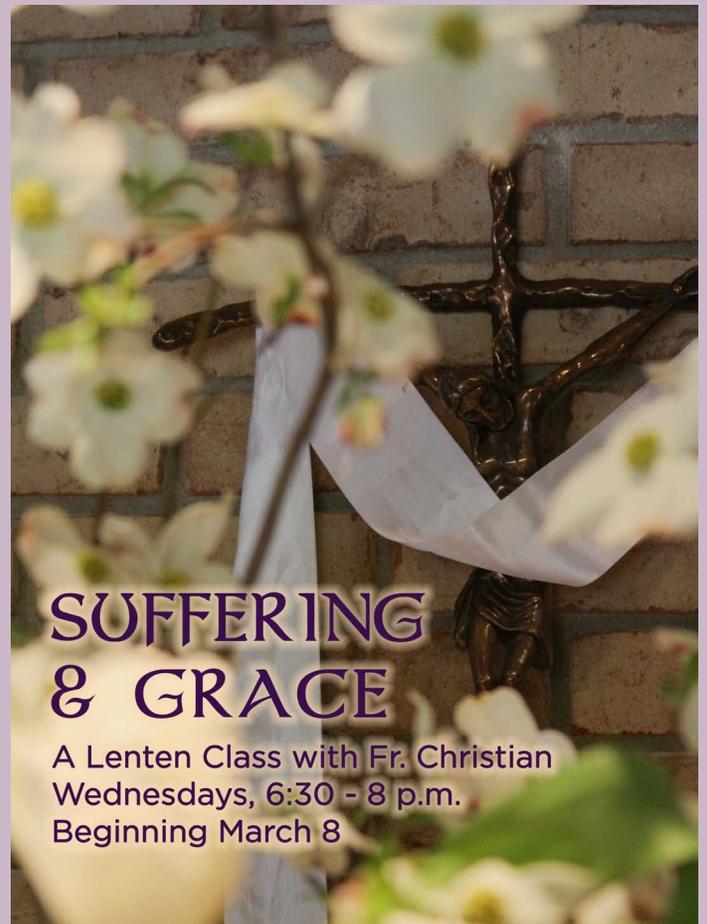
Lent should be a time of reflection, repentance, and restoration. We should not shun the wasteland experience,



**ON THE CHANCEL
STEPS**
by Fr. Christian Brady
Interim Rector
cbrady@stbs.net

but neither should we enter into it lightly. Be encouraged: doubt leads to faith and temptation to discipline.

Matt. 4:10 *Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"* **11** *Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.*



SUFFERING & GRACE

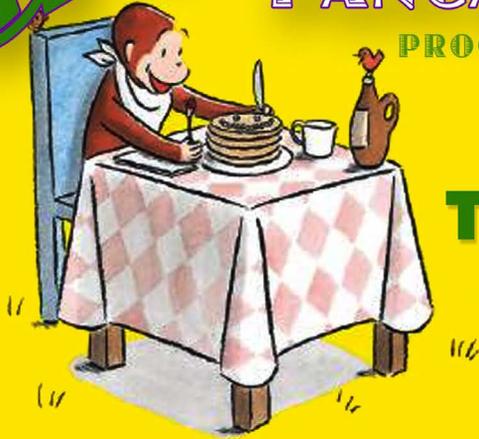
A Lenten Class with Fr. Christian
Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Beginning March 8

Shrove Tuesday

Youth
Fundraiser!

PANCAKE SUPPER

PROCEEDS BENEFIT STBSYM SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Tuesday, February 28TH
Serving Pancakes: 5 - 7pm

Lent is the invitation to “care for those things which ultimately matter and to leave behind those things which inhibit our participation in the life of God and life around us...”

-Steve Purcell, Among These Stones

REFLECTION
REPENTANCE
RESTORATION

ReLent

SUNDAY, MAR. 5, 6:30 P.M.

A SERVICE OF READINGS, SILENCE, AND MUSICAL OFFERINGS

CHILDCARE FOR 4 YRS. & UNDER IS OFFERED WITH PRE-REGISTRATION TO CHURCHOFFICE@STBS.NET BY FEB. 26

Mothers and Lent

Lord Make Us Better

Recently I went out of town to care for my mom. She has moderate dementia and over the past few months her paranoia has grown as well as her inability to filter her words. She has grown increasingly mean and surprisingly selfish. That's not the mom I know. Heartbreaking!

Anyone who has dealt with a friend or loved one with dementia understands the emotion wrapped around seeing a person familiar by face but rarely recognizable by word or action. As a family caretaker one must realize that there is no longer any purpose in correcting a memory, telling them they've repeated themselves, or taking anything they said personally. It's hard to keep quiet and show support when at any moment the same cycle might begin again. So how can lessons learned as a caretaker apply to everyday life?

As I thought about it, if dementia has taught me anything, it's that when

dealing with my mom my patience grows thin. I say things I don't mean and often in a condescending tone. I become someone I don't like. And if I do that with someone I love, how much easier can it be to grow impatient with those I don't know or have relationship with?

That brings up a few thoughts on Lent. Lent is a time to examine current habits and the ways in which we think, and align them back with Christ. It's a time to seek God's direction, not just rely on our own instincts. In choosing my personal Lenten disciplines this year, I am asking the Lord to show me His ways to become a better person not only for my mom, but for anyone that He has placed in my path.

If you and your family are looking for Lenten practices this year, St. B's offers a Family Lenten guide. This guide provides many options for



THE WONDER OF IT ALL

by Carla Schober

Director of Children & Family Formation
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study and activities focused on the Life of Christ. Many of the options can be done individually or as a group. It will be available online on Ash Wednesday.

Lastly, if you are someone dealing with dementia in your own family, please feel free to contact me for prayer support. You're not alone.



Sacred COMMUNION

*A series of classes for 2 - 4th graders and their parents on the wonder and meaning of the Eucharist
Wednesdays in Lent
6:30 - 8 pm.*

REGISTER BY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1
CONTACT: DEBORAH.WHITESIDE@CATECHESIS@STBS.NET

What Does Lent Look Like?

Liturgical transformations during this season

Every season in the church year has a specific emphasis and aims to set a particular mood. For the forty days of Lent, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by Satan, the focus is on self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter. Our worship services are designed to support these themes, in ways that are both obvious and a bit more subtle.

The liturgical color for Lent is purple, because it is associated with mourning and as such anticipates the pain and suffering Jesus endured in the crucifixion. So all the linens, including the altar frontal, the priests' stoles and the chasubles, and the banners are purple.

There are no flowers in the church during Lent, which helps achieve a more austere, stripped down worship space, and helps set a penitent mood.

Our Director of Music Dave Madeira selects music that is more austere with a focus on penitence. Psalms are chanted or spoken. Service music is toned down, and some things we typically sing are spoken. The clergy wear black cassocks and surpluses instead of white albs.

At St. B's, the Rite I liturgy is used during Lent. It uses more traditional language, and because it is less familiar to us, it requires more of our attention. Traditionally, we do not use the Alleluia response during Lent.

Taken together, our Lenten worship is simplified, and encourages us to observe a, "holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (BCP pg. 265)

If you have any questions about any of this, stop me one Sunday or email me at verger@stbs.net



WALK THIS WAY
by Bev Mahan
Verger & Assistant to the
Rector for Liturgy
verger@stbs.net

LEANING INTO PRAYER THIS LENT

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday at 7:30 a.m.

Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 7:30 a.m. during Lent someone will be in the church leading Morning Prayer, a tactile and historic way to practice being open to the work and voice of God. Join us when you can beginning March 2 for this short service of prayer and scripture.



It All Goes Back to Little League

Vulnerability as a Lenten Fast



When I was twelve years old, I was the team captain on my Little League team. Going into the season, I wanted to be a role model to the younger kids like my favorite Christian athletes I'd seen on TV. So, that season, before every at bat, I took a knee at home plate and said a short prayer. Looking back, it was a rather demonstrative thing to do on the sandlot of my small town's community park.

In remembering that baseball season and my long history of taking myself too seriously, I pity my younger self because I know now exactly what I was doing. I was an insecure and lonely middle schooler. Middle school was brutal on my sense of self-worth. Everything, from acne to being bullied to my parents' marriage troubles, left me with deep doubts about my own lovability. For me, taking a knee at home plate was my bizarre and pious way of wanting to be special. And since then, whether I was putting on the mask of self-righteousness or pursuing toxic friendships, ill-fated romantic quests, drinking too much, being on websites I shouldn't be on, overeating, or lying, I was always coping with my self-doubt.

Growing up, I was told that God loved me, that I was perfectly and wonderfully made, but I rarely believed it. My whole life the Spirit has been whispering in my soul, 'you are enough, be who I made you to be and stop with all this self-consciousness,' but I continued to try and bandage my broken pieces with accolades, superstitions, and poor choices. For me, taking a pious knee in the middle of a Little League game is a rather embarrassing example of the extremes I've always been willing to go to, to avoid being authentically vulnerable.

Traditionally, on Ash Wednesday, we read Isaiah 58. In it, the prophet paints a scene of Israel's elites going on fasting benders. Spending days not eating and making life miserable for everyone around them with the hope that God will turn things around for Israel. By this point in Isaiah's timeline, the Persians have conquered the Babylonians and the emperor Cyrus has allowed the exiled Jews to return to their homeland. Except, it's nothing is like they remember. They ask for a message from God, something that will point towards a restored kingdom. Isaiah tells them the same thing he's been saying for centuries, 'Stop oppressing and neglecting the vulnerable.'

If we read this passage as a call to do more social justice, we miss the point. For generations, Israel's sin was constantly gaming the economic systems and hedging their bets with foreign alliances at the detriment of the poor and vulnerable. The prophets continually called them to return to God's vision, insisting God provides enough for everybody. However, through many generations, instead of faithfully listening to God's warnings and promises, Israel's leaders took to rigorous superstitions with foreign gods and put their trust in treaties with evil superpowers. They were willing to do anything but trust the socio-economic and communal vision of God's will.



WHOLENESS MATTERS

by Steven Lefebvre
Director of Youth and Young Adult Formation
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continued on pg. 8

Little League

continued from pg. 7

So, what is your sin? What is that one place of brokenness in your life that God is constantly calling you to deal with because it's driving a wedge between God, yourself, and others? What is that one thing that you would be willing to do anything, I mean anything, instead of deal with that pain head on? The irony is, we ignore the voice that says, "If you bring your darkness to the light, you will find rest, satisfaction, and restoration." Instead, we give authority to our shame that says, "Hide! Your true self is worthless and unlovable."

As you consider your discipline this Lent, are you bargaining with God? In what ways are your rituals of giving up coffee or television just a superstitious piety that is trying to bargain with God instead of letting God into your true place of dysfunction?

On Wednesday nights with our high schoolers, we provide sacred space to address our fear and shame head on. Do you have a space like that? Later on in this Lenten season, we will host a Day of Reconciliation: it's a day set aside for confession with a priest. Is there something you need to

confess, say out loud and be assured of God's unfailing love and forgiveness?

Perhaps, this season, instead of trying to impress God with that difficult thing you want to give up, you take a hard look at that one thing you've lost hope in healing. *That* would be a true fast: 'Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.' (Isaiah 58:9).

you shall cry for help, and he will say, "here i am."
Isa 58:9



Day of Reconciliation

Wednesday, April 5
10 a.m. - noon
4 - 6:30 p.m.
in the sanctuary

Bring Your Confession
Be Heard & Be Forgven

Appointments can be arranged with the clergy for other times. Preparation sheets will be available on the day or at www.stbs.net

He is There. He is Not Silent

Remember. Reorient. Receive. Respond

REMEMBER
REORIENT
RECEIVE
RESPOND

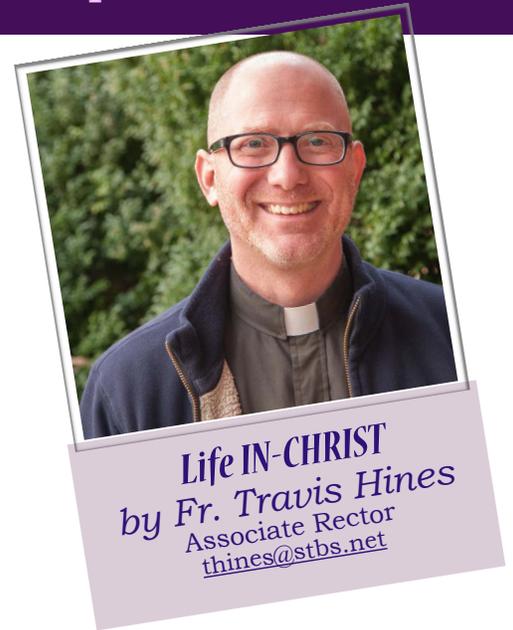
These four words have become my personal “rule of life,” a way of remaining open and responsive to the movement of the Holy Spirit. For example, I often carry a cross in my pocket. I’ll be in conversation with someone, and insecurities begin to distract me....

- I touch the cross, and I *remember*: Jesus is present, caring for me and this person.
- A quiet breath and prayer, and I *reorient* my internal posture toward God: Father, what are you revealing in this moment?
- As the conversation continues, I open myself to *receive* what the Spirit is giving – insight? direction? wisdom? questions?
- And then the invitation is to *respond* to what God is revealing, rather than merely react to my insecurities.

To use Ruth Hayley Barton’s phrase, this is my “concrete way of opening to the activity of God,” whether in a moment of the day or in an extended season of life.

The liturgical seasons of our church calendar invite us to cultivate such spiritual disciplines. Whether walking through the self-examination and repentance of Lent, or walking with Jesus through his Passion during Holy Week, or walking into the reality of the Resurrection in Easter, or walking in the power of Pentecost – each season provides us with the opportunity to *remember* what is Real. As Christians, our lives have a source, shape, and call beyond what we often see, hear, and experience in our culture, and we need to be reminded of who we are, whose we are, and how we are called to live. What do you need to be reminded of in each of these seasons?

Each season provides us with the opportunity to *reorient* ourselves toward our living, involved, Triune God. “He is there and he is not silent,” as Francis Schaeffer used to declare. Remembering this Reality calls us to shift our attention to God himself, listening for what *he* is saying, watching for how *he* is moving,



waiting for what *he* is doing. What do you hear and see God saying and doing in each of these seasons?

Each season provides us with the opportunity to *receive* what God is giving. It is in the very nature of the Trinity to be giving of themselves into each other and into the people of God. This is not just a concept; it is reality. In each season, what is the Lord offering to you that you are to receive from him?

Each season provides us with the opportunity to *respond* to what God reveals. As your understanding deepens of the voice and movement of God, there comes also the call to think, see, and live according to the mind of Christ. Notice how Paul writes his letters: revelation of the outpouring of God’s mercy, grace, and love in Christ, which then engenders a responsive life of increasing wholeness and holiness. How are you to respond to what God is revealing in each of these seasons?

As we move through Lent all the way to Pentecost, I encourage you to choose spiritual disciplines that will help you remember, reorient, receive, and respond. And I encourage all of us to do this as a community. The goal is never merely individual holiness. “Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we** are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom **the whole body**, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes **the body** grow so that it builds itself up in love” (Ephesians 4.15-16).



Anglicanism 101

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 - 8 P.M.
BEGINNING MARCH 8 WITH FR. TRAVIS
REGISTER AT CHURCHOFFICE@STBS.NET

CHILDCARE FOR 4 YRS AND UNDER WITH PREREGISTRATION BY MARCH 1



WATER BLESSINGS

downstairs

The practice of blessing with holy water will be a Lenten focal point as families or individuals head downstairs for classes either service or in between. Positioned against the wall as you come down the stairs will be fonts filled with sacramental holy water. These fonts can to be used to bless each other in Jesus' name. This is not just for parents to use to bless their children.

Children can bless their parents. Friends can bless each other.

It is unlikely that we will deepen our relationship with God in a casual or haphazard manner. There will be a need for some intentional commitment and some reorganization in our own lives. But there is nothing that will enrich our lives more than a deeper and clearer perception of God's presence in the routine of daily living.

William O Paulsell.



PRAYER WALL

in the narthex

Similar in concept to the Western Wall in Jerusalem, slips of paper and pens will be provided for individuals or families to write down their prayer requests each Sunday morning during Lent. Papers can then be slipped into the holes provided along cracks in the wall. Pastoral staff will pray for the requests during the week.

Welcome and Thank You

Changes in membership come this time of year to vestry



Welcome to our four new vestry members that were elected through the casting of lots at the annual meeting held on January 29, 2017. Andy Michel, Yvonne Poindexter, Steve Heaston, and Pat Bowlby (above L to R), thank you for being willing to serve.

Pat Bowlby: Pat and her husband, Bill, have been at St. B's (with a 2 year absence) since 1993. She has taught Sunday School, assisted with Catechesis, and served on the Women's Board of St. B's. Currently she is an usher and a greeter on Sunday mornings at the late service. Pat loves that condemnation doesn't exist at St. B's and hopes that our church continues to be a safe place to hear God and renew our minds and hearts.

Steve Heaston: Steve and his wife, Elizabeth, have been at St. B's for around four years. Steve serves regularly as a reader in the liturgy. He has also served on the M&O and the Facilities Committee for three years and has put many hours helping to renovate the offices, the Ministry House, Celebration Hall, and the sanctuary lighting. Steve loves the spirit of mutual respect and acceptance that characterizes our church family and hopes we can develop a long term growth plan in the coming year.

Andy Michel: The Michels have been at St. B's since 2007. Andy has served in the children's ministry as a teacher, as a lay reader, and even in the bookstore. He has also attended the diocesan convention on 2 occasions as a delegate. Andy loves the contemplative invitations of our communal worship and hopes that those who are part of the St. B's family can find their personal ministries supported through the life and strength of our shared devotion to Christ.

Yvonne Poindexter: The Poindexters, Yvonne, Michael, and their daughters, Olivia and Ava, started attending St. B's in 2003. Yvonne has helped to teach the 3-4 year old class, worked in the nursery, and served as a lay eucharistic

ministry. Off and on, she also launders and irons the albs. Yvonne currently is a member of the Youth Parent Advisory Committee and the intercessory prayer group. She loves seeing the chalice held high in invitation toward the end of communion and hopes to see a movement towards more small groups in the coming year.



Enormous thanks to our retiring vestry members: Chris Prichard, Jim Russell, Molly Dillingham, and Gregg Allen. For their leadership and service, we are grateful!

Sharing the Language of Hope & Healing

Taking care of our neighbors at the other end of the street

From the Mission and Outreach Committee

“Jail gives you time to think.” A young woman spoke up after hearing the Scripture and continued, “I’m 23 and my father has been in prison my whole life. One of my brothers is in prison, and my other brother is dead. I know Jesus loves me, but I lost my way for awhile. I’m the only family my mom has left, and I want to get out of here so I can be there for her. Please pray for me, I go to court tomorrow.”

Truth and tears, regret and redemption are all part of the discussions at the “Wild Ones” Bible study in a women’s unit at the Davidson County Jail. This study is one of the recent programs sponsored by Send Musicians to Prison, a ministry led by Nathan Lee, a member of our St. B’s family, with a small group of volunteers. Their mission is to “share the language of hope, healing, and forgiveness with the imprisoned...through music.”

To support this work, St. B’s gives funds through Missions and Outreach. Since the jails housing men and women are just off Harding Place, Nathan refers to our support as ‘taking care of our neighbors at the other end of the street.’ And he wants St. B’s to know he is grateful.

Send Musicians To Prison has a wide ranging ministry, both program-wise and geographically:

- In Nashville, they hold monthly events in the men’s jail with Men of Valor and host cookouts/Bible studies for former inmates, as well as the new women’s program described below.
- In New York, they sponsor a week of programming once a month for both adult and adolescent inmates imprisoned at Rikers Island and monthly weekend aftercare retreats for former prisoners.
- Four times a year they hold events in facilities in California
- Twice a year they hold events in facilities in North Carolina.

As wardens see the positive impact on their inmates, they want Send Musicians to Prison to provide even more events and programs. And this ministry doesn’t just bring hope to prisoners; wardens and guards are encouraged as well. Nathan is asked regularly to come early or stay after an event to lead a Bible study with correctional officers.

While there has been continued growth in the number of jails they serve and in varied kinds of programs, the ministry has not been able to grow its staff due to funding constraints. After seven years, Nathan is still the only full-time employee. Time spent on serving people, planning

events and coordinating volunteer artists and other volunteers, leaves him with little time or energy for fundraising. Funds are always needed for basic operations, travel expenses, and basic necessities, leaving much less for new or expanding programs.

The new outreach to female inmates in Nashville started in 2016 due to a request from the Davidson County Sheriff. Every Tuesday afternoon, a team of volunteers goes into one of the women’s units to learn from the Bible and meet in small groups for discussion and prayer. The studies are based on stories of people such as Joseph, Jacob, the Samaritan woman and others whom God met in their darkest time with hope and the promise of redemption. In the words of Joanna Lampa, the women’s coordinator for Send Musicians to Prison,

In our discussion time we process through grief, loss, addiction, abuse, fears, answered and unanswered prayers, and how amazing it is that God chooses us while we were yet lost to be His. We pray together for addictions to be healed. We pray for court dates to go well. We pray for gaping holes of death and loss to be healed and mothers to be comforted. We’ve had many of our women teach us greater forgiveness through their life than we’ve ever had to know. There is a hunger in this group for truth and healing that I have never experienced before. At the end of every class we play music, worship mostly. We can almost tangibly feel the heaviness breaking off at the end of the class and each song. More than anything else, we feel so deeply how much God loves these women.

continued on pg. 13



Volunteers from St. B’s with Nathan Lee (L) preparing to lead studies in the prison

Once a month there is a live concert for women in all of the units to hear songs of redemption and hope.

Nathan isn't sure what lies ahead for Send Musicians to Prison. He never planned to run a non-profit or to fund-raise; Nathan is an artist called by God to bring His message of forgiveness, love, and peace to the incarcerated. He shares the gospel through music with people locked in some of the darkest places in our communities; letting people that are often written off know that they are not forgotten by God. Please support Nathan and his ministry with your prayers, and consider if God is calling you to partner with them. To learn more, visit SendMusicianstoPrison.com.



CHARIS
MINISTRIES

Lenten Canned Food Drive March 5 - 26

Charis Ministries delivers a box of food and a Bible to any caller in the Nashville area who needs help when an unexpected shortfall arises. Their purpose is to ensure that mobility, health or job schedules are not barriers to receiving needed help.

In March, the St. B's family will help Charis with much needed donations of canned foods. Shopping lists of the most-needed items will be provided. Charis welcome St. B's members to help with food deliveries on Saturdays. For more information and to sign up, please visit charisministries.net.

WELCOME LUNCH

FOR THOSE NEW TO ST. B'S



Sunday, March 26
IN WALLACE HALL
AT NOON

RSVP to churchoffice@stbs.net. Children welcome. St. B's 101 will follow lunch

Be Still and Know that I Am God

The Women of St. B's Annual Retreat

by Sue Pichert

How often have you said "I wish I could just find some time to spend with God?"

Well, this year's women's retreat at St. Mary's, Sewanee is all about spending time with God – alone and in community.

"Be still and know that I am God," (Psalm 26:10) is on the front our St. B's bulletin every Sunday morning. But when do we take the time?

Friday, March 31 – Saturday, April 1 the women of St. B's have the chance to do just that.

The retreat will be led entirely by members of St. Bartholomew's. We will be actively praying, using the prayer pneumonic of ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication). Each session will begin with a short exposition followed by a block of time in which all women will get to spend time praying individually. Then we will re-gather to worship and share in testimony, song and corporate prayer.

Session teachers are Pam MacArthur, Heather Wills, Ladonna Mullins and Ginger Gross.

Prices have dropped from last year and St. Mary's is allowing us to come early on Friday and stay later on Saturday! Registration brochures are available in the Narthex or online at www.stbs.net. Payment is by check or online at www.stbs.net/give. The deadline for registration is Monday, March 6.

This is a perfect time to get to know other St. B's women better and also to spend some time away from daily demands and focus on talking to God.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer a short testimony of God working through prayer in your life please contact Sue Pichert at spichert@yahoo.com.



Last year's community of women at the annual retreat at St. Mary's, Sewanee

Annual Women's Retreat

Mar. 30 - Apr 1

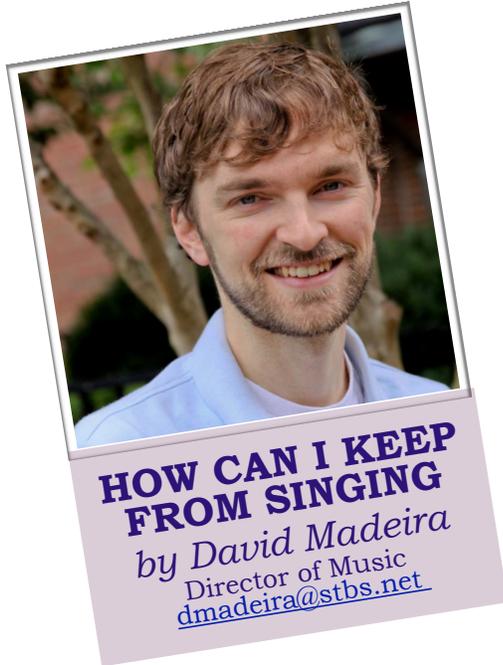
led by women from St. B's

at St. Mary's in Sewanee

Register by Mar. 6

How Awesome is This Place

Lo! God is here! Let us adore...



I've said it before, and I'll say it again: God has a great sense of humor.

Last July, at the end of a long work week and after bulletins had already gone to print, the A/C in the sanctuary decided to go kaput and we were forced to move our Sunday worship services to the gym.

The *gym*. Our altar sat underneath a folded-up basketball goal. We prayed under the droning hum and sickly color palette of fluorescent lights. We couldn't use our organ. And we consecrated the elements in the exact spot where sweaty ladies in spandex dance to the music of Jazzercise several times a week.

Yet somehow—and I shouldn't be surprised at this—God took this "inconvenient" circumstance and to do what he always does: draws us in, binds us together in community, communicates his love for us, and speaks into our hearts and minds through word and sacrament.

But not without his characteristic moments of humor. As the service began, Julia McGirt sat at the electric keyboard, masterfully adapting her organ arrangement to the synthesized sounds of Yamaha. And as the introduction led us into our processional hymn's grand first line, we all sang out together:

Lo, God is here! Let us adore, and own how awesome is this place.

I did my best to stifle whatever shape my mouth was trying to form—smile or cringe, I'm not sure. "How awesome is

this place!" Our gym? These are lines intended for vaulted ceilings, stained glass, the smell of incense, and the blast of the pipe organ, not for make-shift "pews" from rows of red chairs in the same room where we eat chili, talk about the budget, and where kids carom off of each other between services and on Wednesday nights. As someone who spends a lot of time carefully planning what words we sing and when, my immediate thought was: of all the weeks of the year I could have planned this hymn, to open worship with these powerful lines, it just had to be the week we end up in the *gym*.

Enter once again the God of the universe, who is much, much wiser than I am.

It wasn't long into the hymn that God began to speak to me and to show me my own incorrect assumptions about worship. Our worship space is not made any more sacred by its architecture, its décor, its choir loft. Our sacred space is wherever we gather to worship God, to hear his voice in Scripture, to respond to him in prayer, be nourished by his sacraments, and renew our sacred call to be agents of his kingdom in the world. We can do all this whether we are in St. Peter's Basilica or a parking lot. When we sing "how awesome is this place!" it is not the decorative trappings that make the space awesome, it is the presence of the living God calling us to a face-to-face meeting with him, and that can happen anywhere. Indeed, part of our worship theology is that when we come before God in worship, when we "lift up our hearts to the Lord" and sing "holy, holy, holy," we believe that we are truly being lifted *out of* wherever we happen to be and up into the heavenly realm, the temple of God where he is unceasingly worshiped and adored by a countless heavenly host.

CAMP OUT TIME!

BE PART OF AN EMERGING TRADITION AT ST. B'S BY CAMPING OUT ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS FOLLOWING THE EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY, APRIL 15. NO RSVP NECESSARY.

contact *kaci allen* for more info at kaciallen@mac.com

How Awesome

continued from pg. 15

That realm is so holy, so sacred, and so beautiful, that in truth, the grandest cathedrals that humanity can build are no closer to heaven than our gymnasium. Neither one renders God any more or less capable of aweing us with his presence. Does that mean it is meaningless or unwise to devote time, energy, and resources to curating a beautiful worship space? Of course not. A well-curated worship space is like our liturgy; its design is full of meaning and symbolism that help to focus our attention away from the present material world and onto the heavenly realm. We should love and be grateful for our beautiful church, and we should take care to maintain it. But it is also true that when the power goes out or the A/C dies, when the roof is leaking or anything else happens

that requires us to relocate, we need feel no less able to worship together in spirit and in truth. Where two or three are gathered in Christ's name, he is there with them, and wherever that place is, from the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to a gym on Belmont Park Terrace, we can look around in wonder and sing together:

*Lo! God is here: let us adore,
And own how awesome is this place!
Let all within us feel his power,
And humbly bow before his face.*



Join the Parish Choir on Palm Sunday & Easter

Morning Workshop:
Saturday, March 4

Rehearsals:
Wednesdays, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
beginning March 8

No audition required! Sight reading is helpful, but not a must. Anyone who can carry a tune and loves to sing is welcome. For more information or to sign up, please contact Teresa Robinson at stbsmusicadmin@stbs.net

Holy Week Liturgies

An invitation to live the story this holy week

Palm Sunday | Apr. 9

8:30 & 10:30 A.M.

Live the story by waving a palm branch and singing hosanna, by listening to the dramatic reading of the Passion narrative, and crying "crucify." This liturgy will begin with the Procession of the Palms. Nursery is available at both services for 3 yrs. and under. Children will take part in the procession with their families and then proceed to their classes.

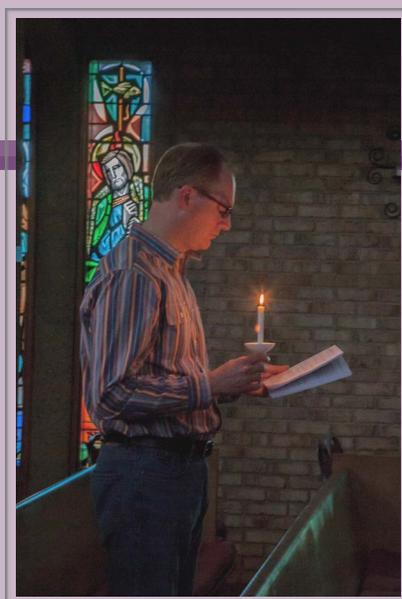


Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday April 13 6:30p.m.

Maundy comes from the Latin word for *commandment* referring to Christ's words to love one another as I have loved you. Live the story through the washing of feet, Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar. A participatory and family friendly liturgy.

Childcare offered for 4 yrs. and under with an RSVP to churchoffice@stbs.net by Monday, April 10.



The Easter Vigil

Good Friday April 14

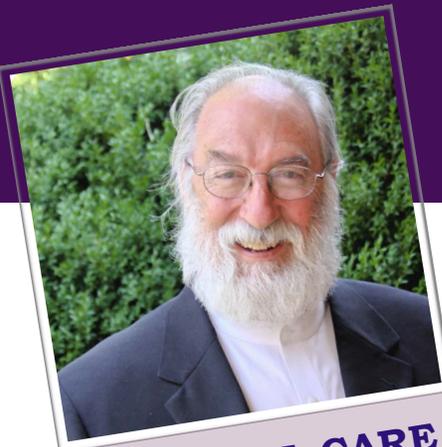
We have two liturgies on Good Friday one at noon that is quiet and solemn; and Stations of the Cross at 5:30p.m. Stations is also a participatory, family friendly liturgy usually held outside. No childcare is offered.

The Easter Vigil April 15 Saturday, 7:30p.m.

Live the story on Holy Saturday with an ancient liturgy that begins in darkness. The light is then processed, marking Christ's resurrection in the night. The story of salvation is heard, baptismal vows are renewed, and the first Eucharist of Easter is celebrated.

A Story about Four Bodies

Caring for the St. B's Family



PASTORAL CARE
by Robert Smith

Assistant for
Pastoral Care
pastoralcare@stbs.net

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

I don't know who penned this, but I ponder over how fitting this is for us today. Pastoral Care is like this story. Everybody wants somebody to do it. Anybody could do it, yet sometimes nobody does. And then often somebody gets upset as it is everybody's job to love one another.

We need *somebodies* willing to pray with fellow family parishioners at the **Prayer Desks** during communion on Sundays.

The same is true of our **Manna Ministry** that prepares meals for those in the St. B's family who are sick, injured, or other difficult circumstance. **Meals for New Families** specifically caters to families with newborns.

The **Bereavement Ministry** assists families of those who have recently died. They help with visitations, receptions, and funerals usually by providing food and hospitality at the church.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned at the end of the Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month. They take communion to those who are unable make it to the liturgy on Sundays or Wednesdays. They also develop a meaningful relationships with those who are physically apart from the church body.

So, I encourage you this Lent to respond to the needs that are vocalized in our community and be the one that says, *somebody* needs do that, and that *somebody* is ME!

To find out more information on any of the ministries listed here, please email me at pastoralcare@stbs.net.

St. B's Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 16, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

for toddlers to 2nd grade



To participate please drop-off 12 or more treat-filled eggs (no chocolate) to the church by Good Friday. Hunts will be divided by age. Toddlers - 4 yrs will meet at the statue at 10:00 a.m (immediately following the early service); 5 yrs. - 2nd grade will meet at the bell at 10:10 a.m. Children in 3 - 6th grades are invited to help hide the eggs. This year we need 2 volunteers to oversee the hunt and 4 additional helpers, teens or adults. For more info or to volunteer, please email Carla at cschober@stbs.net.

From Glory to Glory

Celebrating the glory that grows within us and among our community

Births

Emmeline Ruth 12/3
parents Micheal & Mary Lauren Neel

Charlotte Elizabeth 12/8
parents Ryon & Sarah Suiter

Olive Ruth 12/24
parents Hannah & Brock Starnes

Baptisms

Elizabeth Grace Larson 12/18
parents Judd & Amy Larson

Lovell Daniel Lefebvre 1/8
parents Steven & Heather Lefebvre

Logan James Nichols 1/8
parents Chas & Kyla Nichols

Charles Graham Nichols 1/8
parents Thomas Nichols & Sharon Crow

Camille Pamela Jones 2/12
parents: Rod & Amy Jones

Sarah Caroline Jones 2/12
parents: Rod & Amy Jones

Colleen Keene Perutelli 2/12
parents: Adam & Vanessa Perutelli

Andrew Boyd Kipp 2.12
parents, Aaron & Eleanor Kipp

Deaths

Ed Schoenberger 2/3



Easter Sunday

April 20

6 a.m. sunrise service

8:15 & 11 a.m. choral eucharist

10 a.m. egg hunts

live the story
the lord is risen indeed



ST. B'S CHILDREN'S FORMATION

KALEIDOSCOPE

A DAY CAMP FOR RISING K - 6TH GRADES | JUNE 5 -8, 1 - 4 P.M.

COST: \$25/CHILD; \$15 FOR SIBLINGS. REGISTRATION STARTS MID-MARCH



where heroes are real and saints happen

PENTECOST
AT ST. B'S
SUNDAY, JUNE 4

ONE SERVICE
9:30 a.m.

PICNIC ON THE LAWN
11 - 12:30 p.m.

#stbsisfamily

