

MARCH 2019

# THE BELL

THE STORIES OF A PEOPLE CALLED ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

PICK UP A COPY OF *THE SHAPE OF LENT* TODAY. FAST, PRAY & SERVE TOGETHER THIS SEASON.

WE WILL  
BE THE  
HOPEFUL



*Teach us to care and not to care  
Teach us to sit still  
Even among these rocks.  
Our peace in His will*

TS ELIOT,  
ASH WEDNESDAY

STORIES FOR LENT AND EASTERTIDE





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The Rev. Travis Hines, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. David Wilson, *Pastoral Assistant*

The Rev. Dr. Stu Phillips, *Priest Associate*

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David Madeira, *Director of Music*

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Thanks to Margy Roark for selecting the  
poetry for this edition of the Bell

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# SPRING IS COMING



WORDS MATTER  
Sally Chambers

Director of Communications  
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The daffodils!!!!

Thanks be to God for the sunshine-yellow daffodils that bloom with gusto at the end of one of the wettest and grayest Februarys in middle Tennessee history! This past week they seem to be everywhere. I don't even like yellow, but my soul is so glad to see them. People, spring is indeed coming!

Something similar happens in my soul as Lent approaches. All parts of me, in unison, seem to let out one giant sigh of relief. Finally, the time has come to release all that doesn't matter and turn back towards that which matters most.

For the early church, Lent wasn't a season defined by the question, "what will I give up?" Lent wasn't a rainy February or a cold and gray 6 weeks. Lent was the season of daffodils. Lent, derived from a saxon word meaning "spring," was the springtime of the church – a time when the days were lengthening as the soul was renewed with light and joy. It was understood as an opportunity to return to "normal, human life" - life restored from the fall, life lived in communion with God. <sup>1</sup>

With all this in mind, the pages that follow have been crafted as a gateway into the Lenten, "daffodil," season through which God invites us to return home, slow down, catch our breath, and do some spring-cleaning in our lives – I would argue that the Konmari method is as applicable to our habits as it is to our closets.<sup>2</sup>

Augustine of Hippo said, "God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them." So my prayer for us this Lent is that we would release what fills our hands (and lives) so that we would have space to receive the good things God wants to give us.

After all, daffodils are just the beginning. Spring is coming. Aslan is on the move. And God is making all things new.



1. *Thoughts inspired by the chapter on fasting in Marjorie Thompson's "Soul Feast"*
2. *See Marie Kondo's "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up." or Netflix's "Tidying Up with Marie Kondo"*



## THE GUEST HOUSE

This being human is a guest house.  
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!  
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house  
empty of its furniture,  
still, treat each guest honorably.  
He may be clearing you out  
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing,  
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,  
because each has been sent  
as a guide from beyond.

-Rumi







FOR THE LIFE  
OF THE WORLD  
Fr. Sammy Wood Rector  
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# PRAY WORSHIP SERVE

AN INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

The other day I read this from Nadia Bolz Weber: "Ash Wednesday is my favorite day of the church year and Lent is my favorite season."

Her *favorite*. Really? Not sure that's the first word I'd think to use about the season we enter on Ash Wednesday.

But perhaps it *should* be. Every year on Ash Wednesday, it's my duty to stand in the church and invite us all into Lent with these words:

*I invite you . . . in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.*

While we primarily think of Lent as being a time of penitence and preparation for the Resurrection at Easter, we can also approach it as an opportunity for renewal.

Christians have always assumed a variety of spiritual disciplines to renew us so we will better follow after Jesus, and during Lent, we re-dedicate ourselves to these practices, sometimes making them a bit more rigorous for a time. This year, we will again print *The Shape of Lent at St. Bartholomew's*, a little booklet with suggested readings, prayers, and practices of abstinence – or "fasts" from particular foods or activities – we will join in together as a parish family. You're invited to pick up one of those booklets or download a pdf from the website to pray about whether God is calling you to join others in living that shape of life for forty days.

Lent also coincides this year with the launch of Life Groups here at St. B's. These groups actually grow out of another small group Renee and I led a couple years ago where we read *The Restoration Project* by Fr. Christopher Martin. The premise of Fr. Martin's book is that our souls are kind of like the faces in Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting of the Last Supper – God fashioned us with infinitely more care and skill than Leonardo could muster in painting the faces, but our God-given beauty is obscured by layers of sin and corruption, like the faces in the painting were obscured by soot and dust years after the masterpiece was finished. We were beautiful, made in God's own image, but now we are glorious ruins. Fr. Martin concludes: "We need restoration if we are to become what God intended – and what we already are beneath the decay and grime."

Lent is an integral part of God's great restoration project. And for these 40 days, you're invited to take up three simple practices God can use to accomplish his purposes: Pray 20 minutes a day. Worship 1 hour a week. Serve 1 day a month.

Worship. Pray. Serve.

Three simple commitments for our parish this Lent, commitments to help us cooperate with God's grace in our lives and follow Jesus with abandon.



## A Lenten Practice for Renewal

First, **Pray** 20 minutes a day — Prayer is how we attend to our relationship with God, spending time with him, offering our attention and energy in response to his grace in our lives. We can do this by praying the Daily Office, with the prayers in The Shape of Lent booklets, or in whatever practice of prayer you find meaningful in your own life.

**Worship** One hour a week — This commitment is to be at mass every Sunday, unless by good cause prevented. The Prayer Book establishes Holy Eucharist as “the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord’s Day and other major Feasts” for Episcopalians. Worship brings us together as a family to hear our stories re-told, to sing our songs and pray our prayers, and to be nourished by receiving Christ’s body and blood in Holy Communion.

And, lastly, **Serve** the poor one day a month — This is where the rubber hits the road for the Christian. Jesus cared for the poor and the sick, fed the hungry, and loved the least and the lonely. He calls his followers to do the same. And the remarkable thing is that in serving the least among us, we find that we are serving Christ himself. (Matt. 25.31-46)

I can’t say I’m naturally inclined to share Nadia Bolz Weber’s feelings about Lent, but I do love this season. And I agree Lent is incredibly important for the Church to enter wholly, willingly, and with settled intent. No other time in the church year are we as aware of our own brokenness and our deep, deep need for God. Nadia says “To me, there is actually great hope in admitting my mortality and brokenness because then I finally lay aside my sin management program and allow God to be God for me, which is all any of us really need.”

This year, may that be so for us here. Won’t you join us for this season of renewal?



Fr. Sammy welcomed Fr. Rick Britton to St. B's in February as guest preacher.

**NEW SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR JUNE & JULY**  
ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.  
NURSERY FOR INFANTS - 3 YRS.  
CHILDREN'S HOMILY FOR 4 YRS. - 6TH GR.  
*QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? PLEASE EMAIL FR. SAMMY AT [SWOOD@STBS.NET](mailto:SWOOD@STBS.NET).*

# THE GIFT OF LIFE TOGETHER



## LIFE IN CHRIST

by Fr. Travis Hines  
Associate Rector  
[thines@stbs.net](mailto:thines@stbs.net)

The time has come to re-seed small groups within the life of St. B's. Most people already are aware of the importance of small groups both for individuals and for the overall health of a church. The vision for Life Groups arises out of this awareness, along with the understanding (out of Ephesians) that St. B's is a community (re)created in Christ to be a dwelling place for God experienced in our *life together*. Our hope is that each *Life Group* will provide an opportunity to experience that *life together*, revealing God's presence to each other and to the communities of Nashville.

*The idea for Life Groups is simple: Groups of 6-12 people gathering weekly for deepening connections with God and each other through sharing food, conversations, and prayer.*

### The Vision

We are calling St. B's into greater flourishing through participation in *Life Groups*. These groups are expressions of God's purpose for the church as described in Ephesians: To be a dwelling place for God in Nashville where the uniting of all things in Christ is experienced in our *life together for the sake of the world*.

### The Values

*Life Groups* will cultivate:

- *Hospitality* through welcome and food
- *Trust* through commitment and structure
- *Connection* through risk and responsiveness

- *Worship* through gratefulness and praise

### The Format

- ★ **Re-member:** People gather together in a welcoming environment and share food and drink together.
- ★ **Re-orient:** The group centers in Christ through participation in a simple liturgy.
- ★ **Receive:** The group listens to each other and the Spirit through sharing of conversation.
  - ★ These first 10 weeks, one or two members each week will respond to the prompt, "Tell 2-3 brief stories of when in your life you have felt closest to God." Or, "Tell 2-3 brief stories of when you have experienced a strong sense of gratitude in response to a gift, a person, or an event in your life."
  - ★ And discussion on how the practices of "Pray. Worship. Serve." and *The Shape of Lent* are affecting our lives.
- ★ **Respond:** The group concludes with gratefulness and praise to God (through music, liturgy, or prayer).
- ★ **Return:** The group returns to their calling in the world.

The initial commitment is for 10 weeks, but we are hoping that that this will be the beginning of a new season of ongoing life together in small groups at St. B's. Our desire is for *Life Groups* to grow into sub-communities of St. B's where we flourish in our worship of God, in our love for each other, in the exercise of our vocations, and in our service to others.





## HOW CAN I KEEP MYSELF FROM SINGING

by *David Madeira*

Director of Music  
[dmadeira@stbs.net](mailto:dmadeira@stbs.net)

Pay careful attention to the ways music is used to support our liturgical journey from Lent through the Easter season. Music has a powerful ability to stir our emotions and turn our attention to the various moods and postures of our liturgy, one of the reasons it has for so long been used as a ubiquitous component of worship.

For this past year's Annual Report, I was asked to count the number of different pieces of music prepared and performed during Holy Week

# A MUSICAL JOURNEY BEGINS

last year, and was astonished to find the number to be EIGHTY-SEVEN. That's right: 87 different pieces of music between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, all a part of the process of proclaiming and enacting the story of God as it unfolded in the Christ Event and continues to unfold here and now among us.

As we enter the season of Lent this year, you will notice some subtle changes to our music. The texture may be thinned - fewer instruments used to create more austere arrangements. Rather than singing a Gloria or another hymn of praise at the start of our service, we will sing the Trisagion every week. "Trisagion" means "thrice holy," and is a prayer that repeats three times the following petition: "Holy God, holy and mighty,

holy immortal one, have mercy on us." In Lent our music will match the focus of the season: hymns during Communion will be a bit more self-reflective and penitential, asking God for forgiveness for our sins and to breathe into us the new life of the Spirit.

Say a prayer for our choir and musicians who will be working hard to support our liturgies with all of this wonderful music! It is a big endeavor, but one that always in the end gives more life than it takes. And shouldn't that be the case? Isn't that, after all, the story we are telling?

I look forward to taking this musical journey with you!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE  
TO JOIN THE PARISH  
CHOIR FOR HOLY  
WEEK SERVICES

MORNING WORKSHOP ON  
MARCH 9 AND REHEARSALS  
BEGINNING MARCH 13 ON  
WEDNESDAYS AT 7 P.M.

# BURYING THE ALLELUIAS



## THE WONDER OF IT ALL by Carla Schober

Director of Children & Family Formation  
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Put on the black cloth, bang those pans, use your best wailing voice – welcome to the tradition of Burying the Alleluias.

**What is "Burying the Alleluias?"** Sometime around the middle ages, the western church began omitting the word "alleluia" during Lent. Because alleluia was considered an Easter word meaning "God be praised!" This omission became a type of verbal fast, creating a sense of anticipation for its joyful exclamation on Easter.

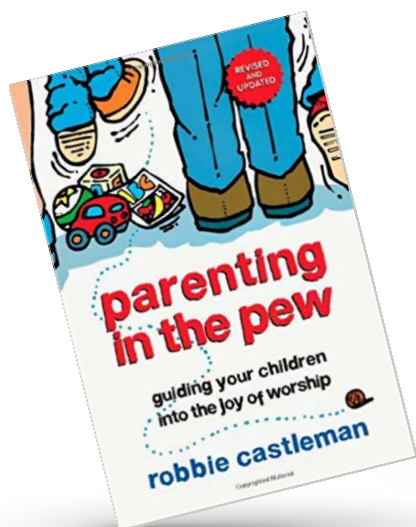
**Why bury them?** So that they may be dug up on Easter Sunday and proclaim Christ's resurrection.

**How do we do this at St. B's?** Last year Fr. Sammy instituted a new tradition regarding the alleluias during Lent. On the last Sunday of Epiphany, children are given Alleluia coloring sheets in their formation classes. These coloring sheets are then paraded through the parish hall building on the first Sunday of

Lent accompanied by wailing and the banging of pans. The procession continues downstairs to where the casket awaits. After a few words of blessing by one of the clergy, the children then bury their alleluias in the casket and the lid is ceremonially closed - not to be opened until Easter.

Let's enter Lent together, burying our alleluias in anticipation of the joy of His resurrection.

**BURYING THE ALLELUIAS**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 10 A.M.  
BEGINNING IN WALLACE HALL.  
COME AND JOIN THE PROCESSION



## Parenting in the Pew Seminar

Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m. - Noon at St. Bartholomew's

RSVP required for childcare by April 1.  
Infants - 4th grade, \$5 per child/\$15 max per family



# MEET TWO OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

## Welcome to the Church!

**Alice Nichols baptized January 6**

**Parents: Chas and Kyla; brother, Logan (age 2)**

Both Chas and Kyla started at St. B's as singles. Kyla remembers coming in late 2011. She and Chas met off-site, and in early 2013 they both started attending. They were married at St. B's in October 2014.

When Chas and Kyla were asked what the most meaningful or memorable part of participating in the Baptism of their child was, they both had similar reactions. For Chas, Alice's baptism was "getting to share the bond with not only her but God and Logan as well." He added, "Epiphany is a special time for me and our children because we were all baptized on the same day that we celebrate Jesus's baptism. I love that we share that common bond." Kyla added that Alice was baptized on Epiphany because it was also the same day two years earlier that Logan and Chas had been Baptized.

What would the Nichols like other parents to know about having their child baptized? Chas said he appreciated the love of the community that goes along with it. "The whole congregation stands behind



you and your child to support you in your life in Christ. No pressure. You don't have to do this alone."

Kyla said she was grateful to have her own family there along with St. B's Butch and Karen Burtch as godparents. She then wanted parents to know, "this isn't a moment of stress, it's a moment of joy. Don't worry about the details, or if something goes "wrong." Nothing can go wrong, really. It's just a moment when the church family is celebrating with you for this life."

What did little Logan have to say? Kyla said he kept asking if Alice was "appetized" just like he was. Sounds about right.



# MARKED & SEALED AS CHRIST'S OWN FOREVER



BAPTISM BY CANDLE LIGHT? YES, PLEASE!  
ON THE EVE OF EASTER, AS PART OF THE VIGIL, THE CONGREGATION  
WITNESSES BAPTISMS AND VOWS TO DO THEIR PART WITH CANDLELIGHT.  
INFANTS, CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS — IT'S A GREAT NIGHT TO BE BAPTIZED.



## **Margaret Marie Settle baptized on January 13**

**Parents: Zac and Meg**

The Settle family have attended St. B's for approximately three years. According to Margot's Dad, Zac, they were drawn to St. B's because its community drew them in. "Getting to interact with pleasant and welcoming folks kept us coming back while we figured out the church. And then as we got invested in those people, it drew us all the deeper into the community."

And what was the most meaningful part of the baptism? Zac responded, "I'd say the most meaningful part of the baptism was actually the preparatory work and conversations that led up to the event itself. Meg, Margot, and I all met with Fr. Sammy to talk through the meaning and nature of baptism as we understand it at St. B's, and he pressed the mysteriousness of that sacrament on us. It was a really helpful conversation that spun into more conversations between Meg and me as well as broader friends and family. And it set us up well for the baptism. We got to celebrate whatever and however God was working in that moment while resting in the mystery of what we still don't understand."



# WELCOME TO ALL THOSE BAPTIZED

**Boram (Ku) Martin** baptized on November 25.

**Alice June Nichols**, parents Chas & Kyla Nichols., baptized on January 6

**Margaret Marie Settle**, parents Zachary & Meg Settle, baptized on January 13

**Marilyn Sadie Lee**, parents Joshua & Lindsay Lee, baptized on January 13

# THANKS BE TO GOD FOR

**Etta Dowel**, parents Alfred & Abigail, born on Dec. 14.

**Walter James Nunley**, parents Adam & Elizabeth, born Jan. 18.

# SHELF LIFE AND MORE

WITH HEATHER, MORGAN, MARY LOVE, KARA, TOM, & DOC

## Heather Wills

**What Are You Reading?** *Becoming* by Michelle Obama and *Sing Unburied Sing!* by Jesmyn Ward

**Where is your favorite places to go in Nashville?**

Hike/run any trail in Percy Warner Park, or hike the Ridge loop at Radnor Lake.

**What helps you rest and recharge?** My in-law's Monteagle Cottage, anywhere with my husband; he's the best trip planner EVER, and a silent retreat

## Morgan Wills

**What are you reading?**

*The Year of Our Lord 1943: Christian Humanism in an Age of Crisis* by Alan Jacobs and *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn

**What movie would you recommend as a "must see?"**

Jordan Peele's "Get Out", a 2018 Oscar nominee

**What's your favorite part of the Sunday liturgy?** The moment of silence after the sermon. It's a vital time to digest, reflect, and begin to respond to the ministry of the Word.

## Mary Love Richardson

**What Are You Reading?** *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

**What are you listening to?** Paul Simon

**What are you watching?** *The West Wing*

## Kara Smith

**Where is your favorite place to go in Nashville?** To see any performing art: Live ballet, classical music, and theater

**What helps you rest and recharge?** Lots and lots of laughter with people I love. Sunshine.

**What's your favorite part of the Sunday liturgy?** The Collect for Purity. It's always the same, a quiet and steady reminder that in all seasons, our purpose and our transparency before God are unchanging.

## Tom Mahan

**What are you reading?** *Peace of Mind* by Joshua Loth Liebman and *Excellence: Can We Be Equal and Excellent Too?* by John Gardner

**What are you listening to?** *The Older I Get* by Alan Jackson

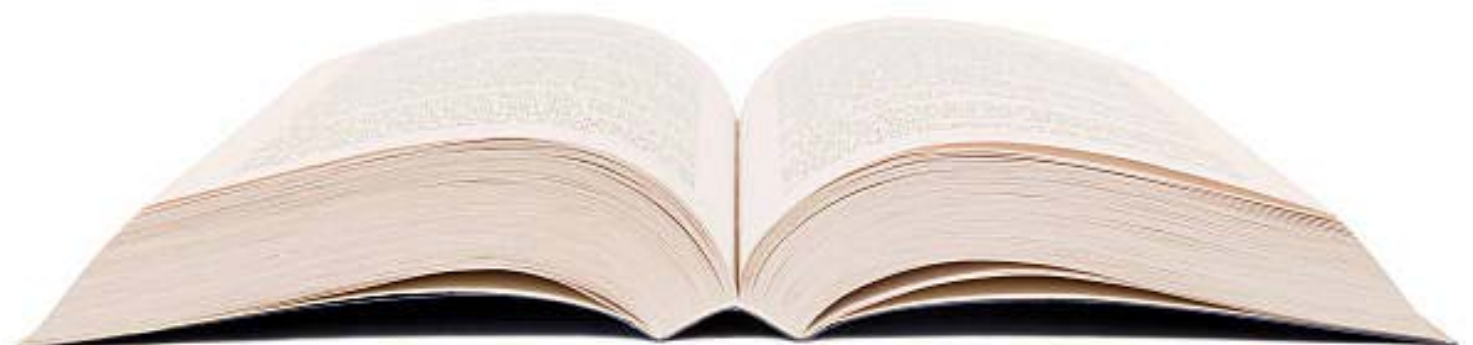
**What helps you rest and recharge?** Travel, reading, golf, friends, Edradour Scotch

## Doc Martin

**What are you reading?** *Poland*, by James Michener

**What are you listening to?** *The Sunset Tree* by the Mountain Goats

**What are you watching?** Sailing videos on YouTube







## CHRIST'S PART

Christ, He requires still, wheresoe'er He comes  
To feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms:  
Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part  
Of all the house: the best of all's the heart.

-Robert Herrick



## PASTORAL CARE by Robert Smith

Assistant for Pastoral Care  
[pastoralcare@stbs.net](mailto:pastoralcare@stbs.net)

# A GLIMPSE OF GLORY

## AND A GLIMPSE INTO PASTORAL CARE

When Kirk and I were new to St. B's we joined a Supper Club. There we met Leslie Ewing. Full of life and mystery, she exuded warmth and welcome! I was intrigued learning of her upcoming extended trip to Michigan to spend time with family. I really looked forward to hearing of her adventures in Michigan. As it would turn out, adventures were the subject of many of our conversations

As the days went by, we maintained our friendship. We visited together routinely. When she transitioned to Morningside Assisted Living, I continued to visit. She was no longer driving and transportation sometimes was difficult. Routinely we would share the Eucharist, when she was unable to attend services at St. B's, and speak of issues and activities pertaining to the Parish and her everyday life.

I remember in 2015 during a visit, Leslie shared the story of a neighbor, Evelyn, who was having a variety of medical problems ... in and out of the ER, home visits, etc. She shared that Evelyn was a communicant at Christ Church Cathedral but was not receiving communion regularly. "Could we share that with her sometime when you are here?"

Thus began a regular routine of sharing Communion together. This celebration/visitation continued even when Evelyn's medical situation required her relocation to a medical facility in Ashland City. This became our (Leslie and my) pastoral care mission ... initiated by Leslie. We made a commitment to travel to Ashland City, visit with Evelyn, listen to her story, and share the Eucharist. We discussed family, church and even a recipe or two! Oftentimes Leslie and I would visit a famous local

catfish restaurant after visits with Evelyn. Here we would review our visit and share thoughts as to how to be a greater asset for Evelyn.

Our visits became more frequent when Evelyn's health declined. Chatting, sharing, praying and ... listening! It seemed to be a boon to all involved! But Evelyn's health continued to decline, even though her spirits were bright whenever we visited. Then one day we received word of Evelyn's death, shortly after one of our visits.

There is no doubt that Leslie and I were a positive point in Evelyn's day. We visited, listened and shared communion. We laughed, we cried, we prayed. We nurtured each other. There was no pressure; there were no requirements. We were a team. Pastoral care at its finest. Glimpses of glory.

Now Leslie, too, has "crossed over to Glory." Her sage spirit, her confident wit, her wry smile will be missed. But most of all, I will miss her willingness to share herself with those less fortunate, to be that beacon of hope. She personified "pastoral care" in her daily life, whether it be at book club, card games, Bible study, Supper Club or any of the other activities that she so enjoyed, she brought the Spirit with her always and shared it humbly and fully!

"Rest eternal be granted unto her... and light perpetual to shine upon her!"



# TEN WAYS LESLIE EWING WAS A RENEGADE FEMINIST HERO

A TRIBUTE COMPILED WITH LOVE

BY HER FAN CLUB

1. Leslie lived and worked on a farm as a child. She weaned calves, planted gardens, and even drove a tractor, all near Marquette, Michigan. The winters in that region are not for the faint of heart!
2. Leslie graduated from high school at the age of 16, well ahead of her peers.
3. Leslie was a masterful card player. This was one way she connected with the people around her.
4. Leslie wanted to participate in the 2017 Women's March but reluctantly decided it would be too inconvenient with her walker.
5. Leslie loved a good Hallmark movie. As she said, "Every now and then you need a story that you know will end well."
6. Leslie was one of the last surviving WWII vets in the Diocese of Middle Tennessee. She served in the Waves from 1944-46.
7. Leslie worked in the transportation industry most of her life. She entered the field to show that women could do the same work as men, "and probably better."
8. Leslie visited more than 50 countries. She rode camels twice!



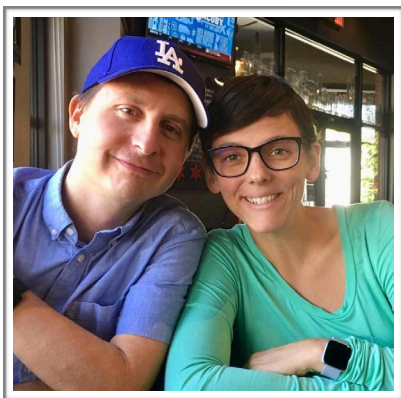
*Leslie died on January 30 at 94 yrs. old. A memorial service was held at St. Bartholomew's on February 18.*

*Pictured above with Mimi Heldman (seated) and standing, Janie Hemmings (left) and Kara Smith (right).*

9. Leslie chose "I'll Fly Away" to end her memorial service because she was to be flown back to Marquette for burial.
10. Leslie lived her life exactly as she felt called to live it. She never let others define her, set priorities for her, or push her to compromise her beliefs. As she said, "people worry a lot about what others think about them, but mostly the others are just thinking about themselves."

## CONGRATULATIONS

Boram Ku and Andrew Martin who were married at St. Bartholomew's on January 19.



**BEING KNOWN**  
Michelle Andrade  
michelle.w.andrade@gmail.com

# AVAILABLE FOR GOD

## KNOWING DEB WHITESIDE

If you have ever met Deb Whiteside you know there's something unique about her. Her bright blue eyes draw you in, and as soon as you start to talk with her you hear passion, knowledge, and love. I first met Deb Whiteside just before she was going to work with St. B's Homeschool Tutorial. I did not know her prior and was curious who was going to be working with our children. She and I met for coffee and I was instantly amazed by her stories and the work she does.

Deb came to Nashville more than 25 years ago. St. B's was considered charismatic at the time, but was also known for being a place of healing. When she first came she was shocked to see hands in the air, people speaking in tongues, and people falling out in the aisles, but she stayed and found a space of healing. She had experienced great heartache. She had lost a child in her second trimester a year before coming to St. B's. The pain of this loss was devastating in many ways. She ended up sharing this part of her story with a Sudanese friend who, in turn, asked her to be her baby girl's godmother, saying, "I will share her with you."

**"Look for blessings in the everyday."**

Deb's love of children brought her to a place of service in our church, in the nursery, Sunday School, and Godly Play. She was a part of the choir (as a "filler," she says)

and always loved the music "floating over us and the congregation." She also played catcher on St. B's women's softball team, "Lilies of the Field." She served with RITI, as a greeter, with Missions and Outreach, and with the Sudanese Ministry. She was a part of the International Sudanese Convention for Healing and Restoration, hosted by St. B's in 1998. At that time, the Sudanese Ministry team had people that would make home visits to newly arrived refugees (before there was a South Sudan). The Sudanese community was more integrated into our services, sharing their songs and music, and St. B's had an active group that went on



Deb teaching a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd lesson in an atrium downstairs.





Deb has always loved children and thought that she would have her own someday. A year before coming to St. B's, Deb lost a child in her second trimester. She worried about what happened to her baby's soul. God in his mercy, showed Deb a prayer vision of Jesus holding her baby, surrounded by her family in heaven. It gave her such peace. Later, Deb shared this with a Sudanese friend from St. B's and she asked Deb to be godmother to her baby girl. She said, "I will share her with you." That baby girl, Aout, just turned 18!

missions to one of the refugee camps on the border of Kenya. Deb was a part of this community, fostering friendship and shared faith.

### **"Do small things with great love."**

Deb is now semi-retired, however she serves as Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at St. B's and works as a part of St. B's Homeschool Tutorial. She says, "I love Benedictine spirituality. The contemplative nature of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd feeds my soul. It is an experience where the catechist is merely a guide and conduit for the Holy Spirit." St. B's Homeschool Tutorial affords her the opportunity to continue using her science and nursing knowledge and spend extra time with children.

### **"Listen for the quiet, still voice of God."**

Deb loves to read, walk, hike, and kayak (her latest love). She loves art, and is a phenomenal artist. She has loved traveling since she was young. She has many stories to share about being abroad, one of which involved the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall. Her family, although scattered, is so important to her. Her nieces and nephews are like the children she never had. She is still very close with her goddaughter, Aout, and her Egyptian friends, Gigi and Mirna.

### **"When we fall, pick each other up."**



The memorial plaque for the backstop on the softball field. "Jesus is not interested in your ability only your availability" is another one of Deb's mantras.



# WE'RE BUILDING A MISSION HERE

BELOVED, PRAY FOR US -1 THESS. 5:25

## VESTRY CORNER

*Yvonne Poindexter*  
[YVONNE.POINDEXTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:YVONNE.POINDEXTER@GMAIL.COM)

In January, St. B's parishioners gathered again in Wallace Hall. Sitting in rows on folding chairs, we listened as leaders reviewed church aspirations and events from the year past; we politely looked at presenters' slides, had a few laughs, and then, the tradition continued: we trusted God in a matter of great importance—electing by lottery the newest members of the vestry.

If you've been to an annual meeting at St. B's, you know how this goes. Once the vetted vestry nominees are introduced in the front of the room, several helpers hand out small squares of paper that resemble home-printed bingo cards gone wrong, with random numbers printed in columns and rows. There's a prayer and a hush as attendees prayerfully (we trust) proceed to circle the requisite number of numbers (four this year), thereby electing individuals by their assigned number.

Having served on the vestry for two years, I've witnessed this quirky leap of faith and how it plays out first hand, and I'm heartened by its results. I'm grateful to serve, of course, but I am not talking about that. Rather, I'm encouraged by the makeup and faithfulness of the vestry as a body.

First, it seems that the vestry makeup shifts with its needs – sometimes even mid-year, when a vestry member steps down or moves away, and an alternate takes his or her place. Although the vestry is governed by static bylaws,

there's dynamism at play, too, when you consider that the church's needs change in real time. In the season of St. B's rector search, each member of the vestry, in our varied talents, opinions, resources and approaches, seemed very right for the task (dare I say, "all take a bow" in that we hired Father Sammy?). Similarly, last year, it seemed the team was again tweaked in a way that made the body especially equipped to tackle the issues at hand and lead the way to a new era (special thanks to Shannon Truss, last year's senior warden, for bringing a steady confidence and calm during this time).

Reflecting on the work of the vestry after this year's election, Andy Michel, our newly elected Senior Warden, had this to say: "For the season of each member's service, they labor in this good work so that [parishioners] might be free to worship in peace."

Practically speaking, this means that if the vestry helps keep the lights lit, the staff paid, and the rector and his family happily housed and supported (for example), Sunday mornings will probably run smoothly, and we will be able to worship without distraction.

But it also means so much more. Consider Philippians 1:6: "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

The work of the vestry is ours—and yet not ours. It is the work of St. B's as a whole—and yet not St. B's. As Father



## New Vestry Members

**Winston Edwards** has been attending St. B's since 1996, when he and Allyson were married. He has served as an usher for many years at church, and a youth soccer coach in the community, and a PTO officer at his daughters' schools.

His hope for St. B's is that it remains the same welcoming and positive church he found 20 years ago when he first started attending and that it continues to be today. By serving on the vestry, Winston hopes to develop a deeper connection to his church.

**Andrea Sullivan** has attended St. B's since August 2006; and has served as a member of the search committee to find Fr. Sammy "with fabulous, compassionate, talented people!!" She has also served as a greeter, scripture reader, member of youth vestry, RITI volunteer, in children's ministry, cooking Passover dinner for the youth (her favorite job!), and treasurer of the St. B's Preschool/PDO program since 2013.

Andrea prays that St. B's would be ready to move into a season of outward growth where our community knows us and our witness as believers draws others to know Jesus. She looks forward to praying together for the parish, working with and getting to know better the other vestry members, and the privilege and weight of sharing together the church's concerns.

**Brea Cox** has been attending St. B's since about 2004; and has served in the music ministry (singing with the Parish Choir and helping with St. B's Kids Choir), Children's Ministry (currently, the nursery), and Women's Ministry (assisting with retreats and other functions).

Brea's hope for St. B's is that we continue to love all who come through our doors and provide a space where all can learn and be connected with God's will and grace, ever, present and thriving. As a member of the vestry, she looks forward to working with Father Sammy and other vestry members, representing St. B's faithfully and prayerfully, making our church family to be the community that God has called us to be.

Sammy said at the annual meeting, "St. B's does not exist for us."

It's the vestry's sincere hope that in all we do collectively, we are led by the Spirit, and that this enables us in small but fruitful ways to help St. B's accomplish the real "good work," the kingdom-building sort. We hope for a great year ahead as we seek to make good on Father Sammy's vision: "We're building a mission here."

Let this article be a welcome and introduction to our four new vestry members (below) – and an expression of gratitude to the body of St. Bartholomew's. Dear friends, please, keep us in your prayers.



Elected new vestry members from right to left: Andrea Sullivan, Winston Edwards, and Brea Cox. Brian Roark had filled a vacancy on the Vestry earlier in 2018. He was elected in January to serve a full, three-year term.

# FOR THE LOVE OF MEETINGS & CONVENTIONS



**CHUMNBAWUMBA**  
by Hughes McGlone

Director of Youth Formation  
[hmcglone@stbs.net](mailto:hmcglone@stbs.net)

True Confession, I love annual meetings at churches. It's a time intentionally set aside for all of the congregation to gather and learn about our church. We hear from representatives of the various ministries within our church as they report on what has happened in the year past, and what's to come in the year ahead. We elect new vestry members to represent us and support the church. We encourage all members of church to vote, and cast lots for our new vestry members. This includes our confirmed youth, ages 16 and older. We had four teens vote this year.



St. B's Annual Meeting was held on January 27 in Wallace Hall.

Much like our own annual meeting, our diocese holds an annual convention. At the annual convention all Episcopal churches in our diocese come together for two days. Each church is represented by their priest and two delegates. We hear from our Bishop who reports on the state of the diocese. We elect new members to be a

## **A Lenten Prayer**

Last semester on Wednesday evenings, the youth studied different ways to pray. Below is one that easily lends itself to Lent.

### ***The Jesus Prayer***

Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

This prayer comes from the Eastern Orthodox family and is rooted in the parable of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18: 10-14). It's a great driving prayer; stuck in traffic prayer; taking a shower prayer; waiting on the elevator prayer; going for a walk prayer or lying in bed prayer.

The Jesus Prayer is designed to be prayed in rhythm with your breath and repeated over and over again.

*How to Pray:*

- Inhale while silently praying: Jesus Christ, Son of God
- Exhale while silently praying : have mercy on me a sinner
- Repeat.
- Repeat again.
- and again.
- and again.

The Orthodox tell a story about a pilgrim who set out to discover the secret to Paul's admonition to pray ceaselessly. He was told to say the Jesus Prayer 6000 times a day and then 12000 times. Soon he was able to pray without ceasing, his footsteps matched the prayer; his very breath, the force that keeps us alive, was a prayer to God.



part of the many committees that help to run our diocese. The annual budget is presented and approved. Convention is also the place for resolutions or decisions to be brought forward, discussed and voted on. Convention is also a time for individual churches to be reminded that we are part of the larger body of Christ in Tennessee and the world. Convention reminds us that we are all striving to do the same work. Convention is a chance to see the nuts and bolts of how the church works: sometimes it's messy, loud and confusing – but it is an important process to be a part of.



Youth gather for compline on at MidWeek on Wednesdays.

By the way, we're hosting it – that's right, no kidding, once again! **Delegates and clergy from every parish in the Diocese of Tennessee will converge at 4800 Belmont Park Terrace, January 24-25, 2020 for the 188th Annual Convention.**

A religious painting depicting a figure in a red robe, possibly a priest or saint, holding a small child or figure. The figure has a long white beard and is looking down at the child with a gentle expression. The background is dark and textured, suggesting an interior setting. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

**DAY OF RECONCILIATION**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**  
**8 A.M. - NOON**  
**1 - 6 P.M.**

*BRING WHAT'S HEAVY & WHAT'S BROKEN.  
BRING YOUR SINS & YOUR CONFESSION.  
COME, BE HEARD. COME, BE FORGIVEN*



# THE LENGTHENING OF DAYS

by Roger McCoy

Although Tennessee possesses a number of distinct plant community types, in the broad sense, much of the state occurs within the eastern deciduous forest region. Flowering plants within deciduous forests have a narrow window of warm temperatures yet adequate sunlight prior to tree leaf growth and forest canopy closure.

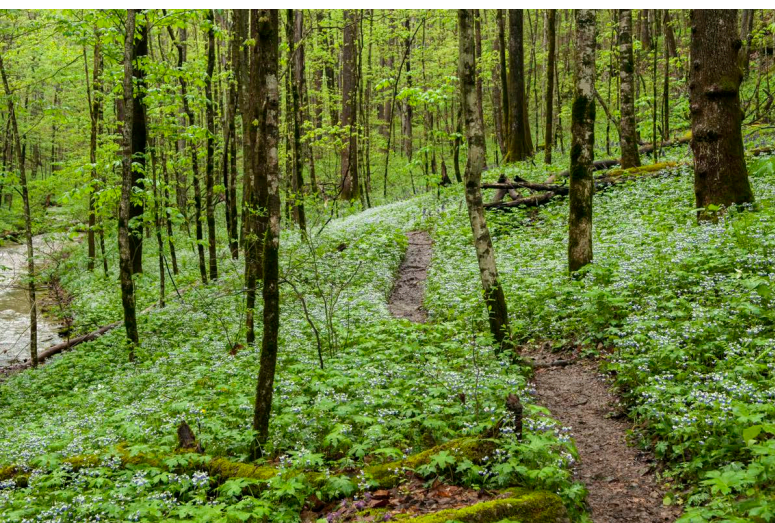
Certain spring wildflower hotspots definitely fit the "blooming garb" descriptor, and environmental factors, soil type, and historical land-use influence spring wildflower displays. Within forests with showy spring wildflower displays, small differences in habitat - as well as the role of pollinators and animals that disperse seeds - influence where species occur. Saxifrage grows directly on limestone cliffs or large boulders (the genus *Saxifraga* means "rock breaker"), sweet Betsy trillium tolerates a bit drier sites or sites that experienced some past disturbance and thus is Tennessee's most common trillium while large-flowered trillium favors more pristine locations. On the moisture gradient, gentle areas along streams provide ideal habitat for Virginia bluebells while shooting star requires sunnier slopes.

Familiar to many St. B's parishioners, Radnor Lake State Natural Area provides a good example of how differing topographic features possess different levels of floral diversity. Some of the best spring wildflower viewing at Radnor occurs along western sections of the South Cove Trail and South Lake Trail (the brilliant purple flower is dwarf larkspur). This relatively steep area helped protect it from past disturbance prior to state acquisition. It possesses basic soils, and its north-facing lower slope allows for sufficient water and protection from excessive heat. Along these trails,



FAIR ARE THE  
MEADOWS.  
FAIRER STILL THE  
WOODLANDS ROBED  
IN THE BLOOMING  
GARB OF SPRING





When not serving as a vergier on Sundays at St. B's, Roger works for Tennessee State Parks as the Director of Natural Areas. This includes beloved Radnor Lake located not far from the church.

Facing page: Painted Trillium  
Top: Showy Orchis  
Bottom: Trail with Blue Eyed Mary

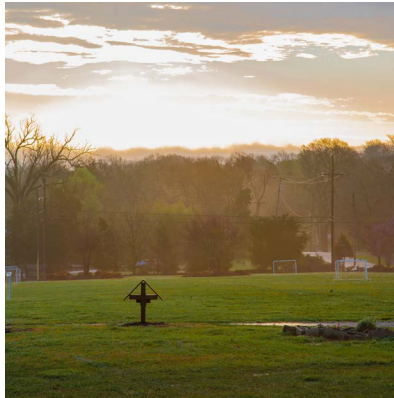
walkers enjoy early spring flowers including trout lily, rue anemone, Dutchman's breeches, large patches of spring beauty, and the stunning yellow of celandine poppy. Contrast the wildflower diversity along these protected slopes with what exists in upper portions of Radnor along the Ganier Ridge Trail.

Ecologists can explain the differences in species' assemblages and can even use computer models to predict ideal habitat for certain species. A modern understanding of plant ecology, however, does not diminish our Lord's creative hand and loving care for these species. As both the gospel of Matthew and Luke remind us, if he cares for the wildflowers in nature, how much more he must care for us.

Along with Radnor Lake, Metro-Nashville's Beaman Park located just northwest of downtown, Edgar Evins State Park about 65 miles east of town, or Short Springs State Natural Area outside Tullahoma each contains a rich spring flora. Those wishing to venture further afield will not be disappointed with Frozen Head State Natural Area near Wartburg where among other showy species, the beauty of the huge, maroon flowers of Vasey's trillium cannot be overstated. The ultimate wildflower experience is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage where participants can choose from over 150 different guided wildflower hikes and nature programs ([www.wildflowerpilgrimage.org](http://www.wildflowerpilgrimage.org)). As part of our duties, my colleagues and I within the Division of Natural Areas lead wildflower walks and other nature outings and post these outings on the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas website.

If you wish to directly contact me about nice places for wildflower viewing or guided excursions, feel free to do so.





*I am the one whose praise echoes on high.  
I adorn all the earth.  
I am the breeze that nurtures all things green.  
I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits.  
I am led by the spirits to feed the purest streams.  
I am the rain coming from the dew  
that causes the grasses to laugh with the joy of life.  
I am the yearning for good.*

-Hildegard Von Bingen

# Holy Week Services

## Palm Sunday, April 14

8:30 am Holy Eucharist with Nursery

9:45 am Palm Cross Making

10:30 pm Holy Eucharist with Nursery

*Nursery for 3 yrs. and under. All ages are invited to participate in the procession of the palms. No formation classes*

## The Triduum

### Maundy Thursday, April 18

7 pm Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing and the

Stripping of the Altar

*Childcare for 4 yrs and under*

*A prayer vigil will begin following the service in the sanctuary and last through the night.*

### Good Friday, April 19

5:15pm Stations of the Cross

*Outside, weather permitting*

7 pm Good Friday Liturgy

*Childcare for 4 yrs and under*

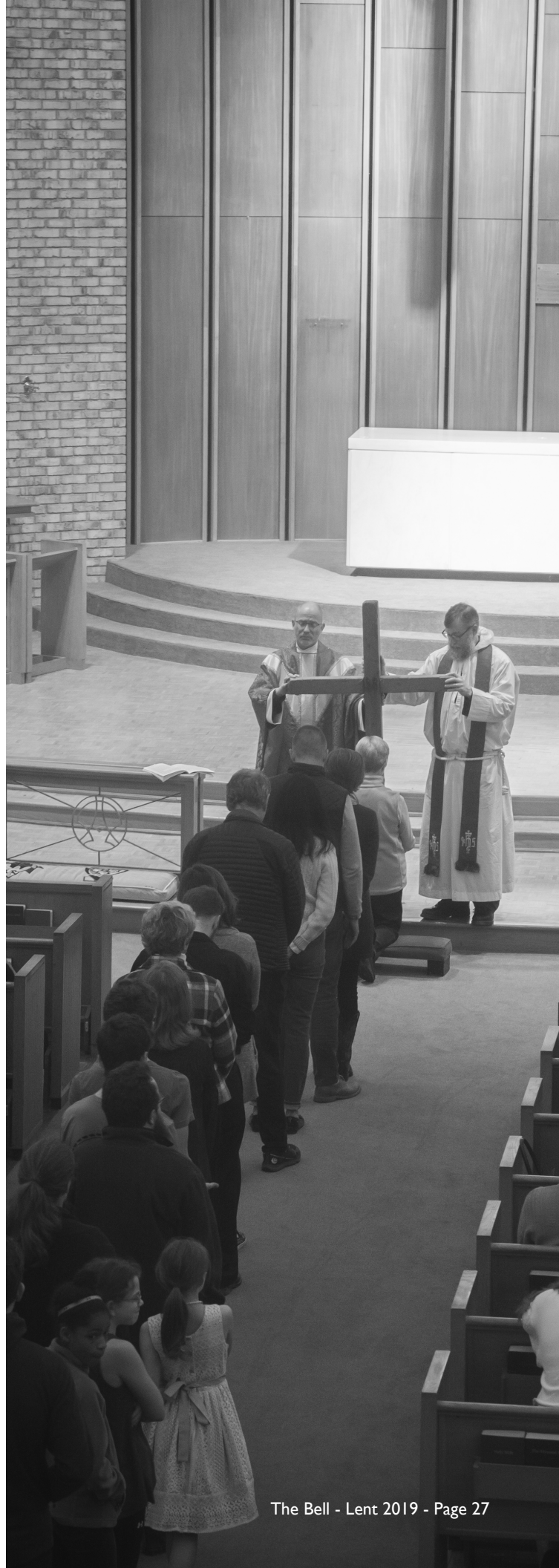
### Holy Saturday April 20

7 pm The Easter Vigil with candlelight, Baptisms, and the first Eucharist of Easter

*Childcare for 4 yrs and under*

RSVP for childcare by April 14  
[churchoffice@stbs.net](mailto:churchoffice@stbs.net).

FOR DETAILS ON EACH LITURGY  
PLEASE SEE THE SHAPE OF LENT GUIDE





# F O M O

## FEAR OF MISSING OUT

### HOLY WEEK AT ST. B'S



#### WALK THIS WAY by Bev Mahan

Verger & Assistant to  
the Rector for Liturgy  
[verger@stbs.net](mailto:verger@stbs.net)

I have barely caught my breath from the joy, wonder, activities, and celebrations of the Advent and Christmas seasons, when peeking around the corner on the calendar is Lent and Holy Week, jam-packed with Palm Sunday, the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) and Easter. It is a theological, liturgical, and emotional marathon that makes me weary just thinking about it. And yet I feel compelled to be at our church home for every special service. For me, that is the brilliance of Lent. Lent is to Easter as Advent is to Christmas, a time of preparation for the feast, to deliberately make myself ready for and available to the Paschal mystery of our risen Christ.

Every year I see members of our community participating in all the liturgies that are offered, so I asked some of them why they do it.

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.**

Whitney Stone is a regular participant in the Maundy Thursday service. She says, "I love that it starts with all of the lights on as a regular celebration of Eucharist would. As the service continues the magnitude sets in. We remember the Last Supper and recreate the foot washing in a humbling act of service. After the Eucharist, the lights are turned off as the priests strip

the altar and clean it in a very symbolic gesture of preparing the tomb for Jesus. It is moving and powerful."

Jamieson Simpson volunteers every year to acolyte on Maundy Thursday because it is hard, physically and emotionally. He likes the challenge, and doesn't want to miss it.

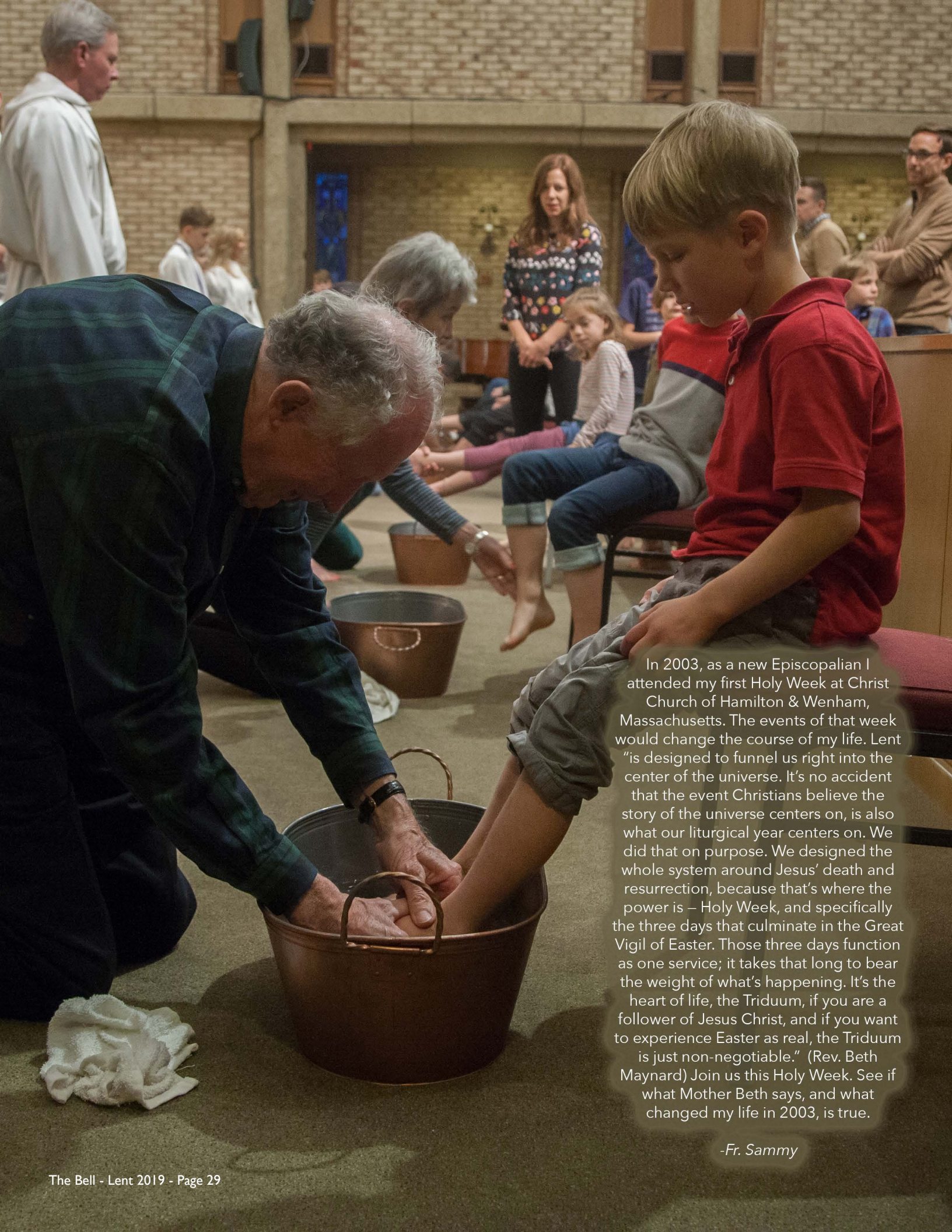
#### **Stations of the Cross, Friday, April 19, 5:15 p.m.**

Matthew Sullivan and family are at the Stations of the Cross every year, with Matthew trying to create some order out of the chaos of kids carrying a heavy cross around the grounds. He loves how all ages can participate, and is so moved by the visceral experience of nailing his sins on the cross.

#### **Good Friday Liturgy, April 19, 7 p.m.**

Fr. Sammy added a new element to our Good Friday service, the veneration of the cross. So many of us who attended found that to be a new and incredibly moving experience. As Shannon Truss says, "What I will always remember was the opportunity to venerate the cross. While I've been to the cross many times in prayer, it was moving to do it in real life. It





In 2003, as a new Episcopalian I attended my first Holy Week at Christ Church of Hamilton & Wenham, Massachusetts. The events of that week would change the course of my life. Lent "is designed to funnel us right into the center of the universe. It's no accident that the event Christians believe the story of the universe centers on, is also what our liturgical year centers on. We did that on purpose. We designed the whole system around Jesus' death and resurrection, because that's where the power is – Holy Week, and specifically the three days that culminate in the Great Vigil of Easter. Those three days function as one service; it takes that long to bear the weight of what's happening. It's the heart of life, the Triduum, if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, and if you want to experience Easter as real, the Triduum is just non-negotiable." (Rev. Beth Maynard) Join us this Holy Week. See if what Mother Beth says, and what changed my life in 2003, is true.

-Fr. Sammy



was moving to do it in real life. It brought home both the sacrifice and the gift of Good Friday."

One night after dark, I saw Kyla and Chaz Nichols leaving the church with their toddler following a long Good Friday service. I asked how they could do it, and they said it was important enough to them to be there that they found a way to make it work. They made no commitment to future years, but they were present because they could and because they wanted to be.

### **The Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 20, 7 p.m.**

I marvel that the whole Weedman family is there for the long Easter Vigil, only to return the next morning for the Easter celebration. But that is where they want to be. For Audrey, a frequent vigil torch bearer, "because we really do bring the light to the whole church!" Clara says, "It is a monumental service. In fact, it's my favorite of the weekend, because we get to go from dark to light."

The Episcopal Church in general, and St. Bartholomew's Church in particular, are communal. We pray as "we," not "I." "We believe in one God." "In peace, let us pray to the Lord." We confess that we have sinned." Jesus' sacrifice for me is demonstrated over and over as each of you come forward to venerate the cross. Washing my own feet is not humbling. It is your presence that enhances my worship. Without the community, I cannot finish the marathon that is Holy Week.

In her reflection on the Triduum published in The Episcopal Café, Laurie Gudim echoes the essential nature of community in our liturgies.

"Together we turn, facing away from the outer world, to experience once again the core of that which we profess to be true. Together we prepare to experience a mystery. In liturgy that has evolved over hundreds of

years, we will taste and smell, hear and walk through the story that defines us most profoundly.

Jesus will say to his disciples, 'be servants to one another.' And we will dare to be those people whose feet are washed and who wash the feet of our neighbors. Jesus will say, 'Eat this bread; here is my body. Drink this wine; here is my blood.' And we will risk taking that bread and that wine into our mouths, knowing full well how life-altering that act can be, how it opens us to the needs of all the world.

We will presume to shout, 'crucify him!'; even while we deny him three times, run in fear and hide ourselves, help him carry his cross, wipe his face, witness his torture, and weep as he dies. And these acts will join us with all suffering and all death...The Triduum will engulf and clarify us. For we are the people who engage in these liturgies."

My prayer for St. Bartholomew's is that we all feel FOMA, the fear of missing out. I pray we are compelled to be together during Holy Week to express our love for each other and our Heavenly Father, to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior Jesus, with the faithful expectation of a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us.

**LET MY PRAYER BE DIRECTED AS  
INCENSE IN THY SIGHT: THE LIFTING  
UP OF MY HANDS, AS EVENING  
SACRIFICE. -PS. 141:40**

INCENSE WILL BE USED AT ALL OF OUR  
SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK. . FOR THOSE  
WITH A SENSITIVITY TO INCENSE, WE ARE  
USING LESS AND ADDING SALT TO THE  
CHARCOAL TO HELP MINIMIZE ITS EFFECTS.  
THE THURIBLE WILL ALSO BE REMOVED  
FROM THE SANCTUARY. WE STILL  
RECOMMEND THOSE WITH SENSITIVITY TO  
SIT ON THE OUTSIDE AISLES .

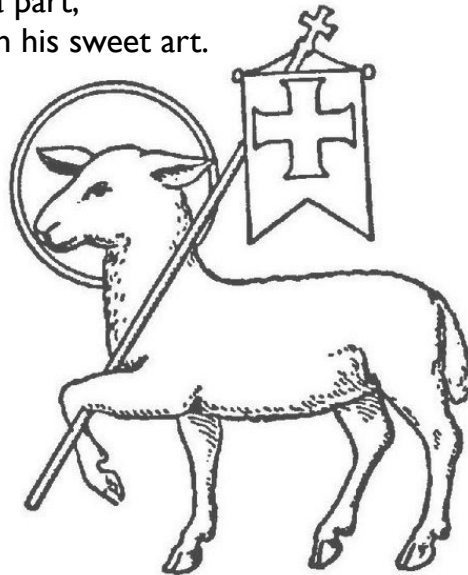


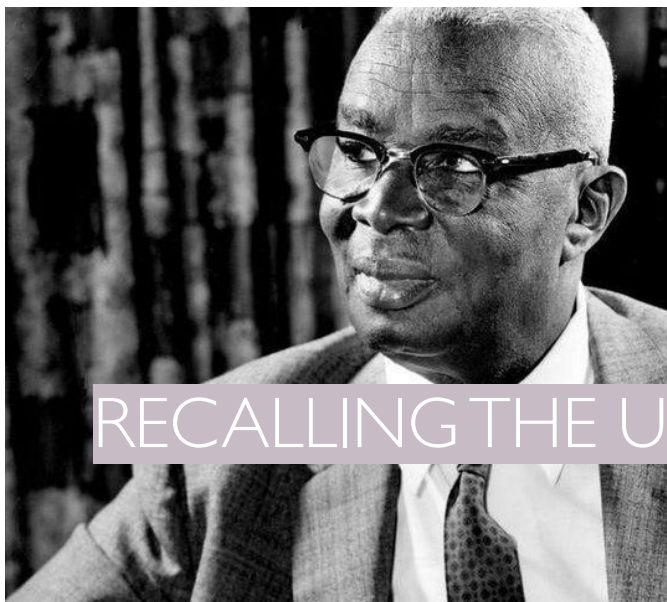
## EASTER

Rise, heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise  
Without delays,  
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise  
With him may'st rise:  
That, as his death calcinèd thee to dust,  
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.  
Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part  
With all thy art.  
The cross taught all wood to resound his name,  
Who bore the same.  
His stretchèd sinews taught all strings what key  
Is best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort, both heart and lute, and twist a song  
Pleasant and long:  
Or, since all music is but three parts vied  
And multiplied,  
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,  
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

-George Herbert





# WALK IN LOVE

## RECALLING THE UNTOLD STORY OF ATTY. Z. ALEXANDER LOOBY

by *Natasha Deane,*  
[natadeane@gmail.com](mailto:natadeane@gmail.com)

What most people don't know about Atty. Z. Alexander Looby was that he was an Episcopalian. Some are aware that Looby and his family narrowly escaped death when their Nashville home was bombed by white supremacists on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1960. That is the day our city recognizes Diane Nash, C.T. Vivian, John Lewis, and thousands of members of Nashville's Black communities for their peaceful march to the Public Square to confront then Mayor Ben West protest of the city's treatment of their communities. The reasons that the community marched are not often taught.

### Who Was Z. Alexander Looby?

Z. Alexander Looby was a lead attorney in the de-segregation of public schools across the state of Tennessee. Looby was also a principle lawyer for the Non-Violent Student Movement in Nashville in the late 1950's. While students planned and conducted sit-ins at downtown Nashville lunch counters, it was Looby who defended them after their arrest. Before that, Looby was an Episcopalian from the British West Indies, faithfully attending Holy Trinity Church in Nashville.

In the midst of the struggle for justice that characterized his mature life, Looby donated a plot of land adjacent to his home on Meharry Blvd. to the Diocese of Tennessee to be used to erect a chapel for area students. It was in that chapel that Looby and his wife would hide on April 19, 1960, when his home was bombed in an act of cowardly terror. The chapel on that land is now known as

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church. St. Anselm's is the only predominantly African-American parish in the Diocese of Tennessee today.

Along with Thurgood Marshall (our nation's first African-American U.S. Supreme Court Justice), Looby was a principle lawyer defending African-Americans who were arrested and tried following the deadly 1946 "Mink Slide" race riot in Columbia, Tennessee (a riot instigated by an attempted lynching). It was Looby who rescued his colleague at the banks of the Duck river where Marshall was forcibly taken to be lynched following his successful defense of those who had been accused in that trial, held in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. At a 2017 dedication service, I witnessed the unveiling of the mural "Justice Served," by Summertown artist Bernice Davidson, at the Lawrence County Courthouse. The mural depicts Marshall defending African-Americans accused of instigating a riot, and the unveiling was attended not only by city officials and family of the defendants, but by our own Bill Gittens, a West Indies Brother-in-Christ from St. Anselm's Church, representing Looby, Marshall, and the common thread of Episcopal tradition through the Islands cum Nashville.

And so it was that I became involved in the remembrance of this brave Episcopal brother, who gave so much to the city of Nashville by his faith and action, only to be rewarded with a bomb and a vaguely regarded historical oblivion.





### Remembering Alexander Looby: The "Walk In Love"

Joining with Chaplain Mary Murphy of the Center for Contemplative Justice and others from the community, we recognize the life of Z. Alexander Looby in an annual interfaith commemorative prayer walk. The "Walk in Love" is a 2.2 mile walk beginning at St. Anselm's church, leading up Jefferson Street, through the middle of the Bicentennial Mall, up the hill past the "Witness Walls" at the Courthouse and ending in the Public Square.

Since the original "Walk" of 15 or so participants, the event has grown to about 50. It now commences at Tennessee State University, stops briefly and joining with others at St. Anselm's as dictates historical record, and continues on to the courthouse steps. Many from St.

Bartholomew's have supported the march in the past. It is our prayer that many will again participate as we witness to the city our high regard for our brother in Christ, Atty. Z. Alexander Looby, remembering his full story, not just the parts that give us comfort.

As it happens, this year April 19 falls on Good Friday. Because of this, the "Walk in Love" will be held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm. We pray that you will join us. If you have questions or would like to make a financial contribution please contact [walkinlove2019@gmail.com](mailto:walkinlove2019@gmail.com). Contributions go to educational efforts and outreach, including t-shirts for youth groups and students at TSU and Fisk who participate.



# THE HANDS OF JESUS

SETTING THE TABLE  
*Thorunn McCoy, Altar Guild*  
[tmccoy@usn.org](mailto:tmccoy@usn.org)

On Easter morning four years ago, Vic Meyer, my next-door neighbor throughout my childhood, died. He was preceded in death by his wife Joan, who died on All-Saints' Day. Jesus doesn't mess around with being subtle about his servants; he sent as strong a message in their lives as on the dates of their deaths.

Simply put, Vic and Joan Meyer were the hands of Jesus to me.

Mrs. Meyer's firm but gentle fingers taught mine to knead flour, milk, yeast, and butter into dough and then roll it into small balls for Joan's famous cloverleaf rolls. "A sign of the Trinity!" she would exclaim as we dropped them into slightly dented muffin tins. Our impromptu baking lessons generally happened when I'd wander over after a tough day at school, the kind where I never felt smart enough or quick enough, and in the solace of that kitchen, I felt special. Joan hugged me tightly to her, her floured hands marking me as loved and welcomed. Each year at Christmas, a bag of freshly baked rolls appeared on our doorstep. Their yeasty flakiness tasted of acceptance and love—the gifts of Joan Meyer's hands.

Mr. Meyer, her husband, spent his days as an engineer with Gulf and his weekends digging in the Virginia clay, making their suburban yard a wonderland of plants. Unlike many adults, Vic Meyer would stop what he was doing to speak with children, and his earnestness in asking me how I was doing was genuine. He really meant it; he really wanted to know what I was reading, feeling, experiencing, and waited for an honest answer. And, in turn, I was rewarded with his. He told me about pachysandra (a type of ground cover), Roman aqueducts, his sons, and always how God was the architect of all of it. There was a marvel in his voice and eyes when he'd think about the wonder of it all.

As Greeters, Joan and Vic's hands were the ones you'd first shake at Truro Episcopal (now Anglican) Church in Fairfax. Although both would eschew such a formal greeting for anyone they knew, preferring instead the bear hug, resplendent with a noisy smackeroo kiss from Joan. But, with them, people weren't strangers for long. They used this gift at the Lamb Center, sharing God's love and food and care and showers with the homeless in Northern Virginia, and in our home group Bible Study. They carried meals to the homebound with Meals on Wheels and, dressed as Fric and Frac, their clown alter-



egos, brought happiness to those in the hospital or nursing home. Their hands created, served, held, and blessed countless people.

Even after growing up and moving away, time spent back at the Meyer's home was special. Before Roger and I came to Nashville, Joan and Vic and their Bible Study group laid hands on us and prayed for God to find us the right church home, a place where we would bloom. At the end of the prayer, someone said, "You need to go to St. Bartholomew's."

Our hands are miraculous—27 bones, 3 different types of nerves, muscles that help us move digits in tandem or individually. They work, cup, caress, grasp, snap, pull, and wave, allowing the work of God to happen here on earth. Caked in mud or flour, holding a steering wheel or another person's hand, grasping us in hugs, or holding a pencil to communicate ideas on a page, our hands serve God's purpose here on earth. As Vic and Joan taught me, we just need to reach out in love. Jesus will do the rest.



Thorunn with her neighbors, Vic and Joan.

This Lent and Eastertide, I'm thinking about how Jesus offered his calloused hands on the cross for me. And, although He isn't here any longer, through the Holy Spirit, Jesus continues his ministry, working through our hands, not just Vic and Joan's but countless others. My prayer is that we look at our hands and offer them up to God to use for His purpose—to bless, to create, to help, to hold, and to work.

At the end of each day, Vic and Joan asked themselves two questions. Where did you see Jesus today? Where did you need Jesus today? I never got to tell them that, for me, I saw Jesus and His love in their kindness in their hands. But, somehow, I think they know.

## EASTER FLOWER REMEMBRANCES

DONATIONS TOWARDS THE EASTER FLOWERS CAN BE OFFERED IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR IN THANKSGIVING FOR A BLESSING OF THIS LIFE AND WILL BE LISTED IN THE EASTER BULLETIN.

*DONATIONS AND WORDING SHOULD BE SENT TO [CHURCHOFFICE@STBS.NET](mailto:CHURCHOFFICE@STBS.NET) OR PLACED IN THE COLLECTION PLATE WITH A NOTE INDICATING EASTER FLOWERS BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10.*

# Easter

— with us —

Sunday, April 21  
8:30 & 10:30 Choral Eucharist

*NURSERY FOR INFANTS - 3 YRS.*

Egg Hunts at 10 a.m.

*TODDLERS - 2ND GR.*