

THE BRANCH

TELLING THE STORIES OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
EARLY PENTECOST 2015



Our Story

daily growing more in love
with God & each other

~

daily growing more in
awareness and willingness
to serve God & each other

~

daily growing into the
likeness of Christ,
compelled to see the
world reconciled to God





Staff

Clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith, *Rector*
The Rev. Travis Hines, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. David Wilson, *Pastoral Assistant*
The Rev. Dr. Stu Phillips, *Liturgical Assistant*

Office:

Leslie Hicks, *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 & Young Adult Formation*
Sally Chambers, *Director of Communications*
Bev Mahan, *Verger & Assistant to the Rector for Liturgy*
Robert Smith, *Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care*
Julia McGirt, *Organist*
Josh Martin, *Children's Formation Assistant*
Gaylene Latham, *Nursery Coordinator*
Elizabeth Madeira, *Children's Classes Coordinator*
Alicia Lewis, *Children's Catechesis Coordinator*

St. B's Bookstore:

Allison Hardwick, *Manager*

Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

Suzy Floyd, *Preschool Director*

Vestry

Melissa Culbreth, Heinrich Tischler, Nancy Cason, Molly Dillingham, Gregg Allen, Jim Russell, Chris Prichard, Kristin Chapman, Mimi Heldman, Ty Sparks

Natasha Deane, *Senior Warden*
Seth Swihart, *Junior Warden*
Bonnie Bashor, *Clerk*
Bob Garth, *Treasurer*

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SPIRIT ENTER IN

Pentecost Celebration
Sunday, May 24

ONE Service: 9:30 a.m.
Party & Art Fair: 11 a.m.

garden games, strawberry
shortcake, photo booth, music,
art fair

R e - i m a g i n e d L i f e

W e l c o m e t o P e n t e c o s t

I began coming into Anglicanism soon after college. Like many “Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail,” I appreciated being rooted in the ancient traditions and understandings of the Church, I found rest and re-orientation in the liturgy, and I began experiencing the presence of God in the sacraments. As I continued in this Anglican way of life in Christ, I found something else for which I had been yearning – a rhythm of life.

The Book of Common Prayer gave me the Daily Office, an invitation to a rhythm of prayer, morning, noon, and night. The Lectionary provided a rhythm of reading the fullness of Scripture. Holy Eucharist on Sundays created space for a weekly rhythm of entering with others into the reality of Jesus’ death and resurrection, drawing us into the life of the Trinity, and releasing us into God’s purposes for his creation.

Recently, I have been reminded of the rhythm offered to us through the gift of the Church Calendar. Throughout the year the seasons of the Church Calendar keep us present to the life of

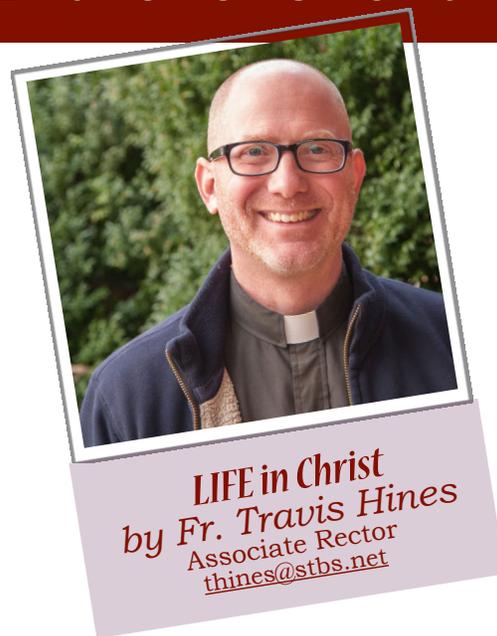
Christ, both his past reality and his present involvement. We’ve walked together through Advent and Christmas, remembering his first coming and preparing for his coming again. In Epiphany we’ve participated in the revelation to the world of his identity as Son and Savior. Through Lent, we’ve responded to Father Jerry’s invitation to be present to God as we engage in spiritual disciplines, walking with Jesus in his passion. During this Easter season we’re celebrating his Resurrection, re-imagining our lives as we reflect on a new way of seeing and being. And within the next few days we will come together as family to rejoice in Jesus’ Ascension and in Pentecost, recognizing the Lordship of our Older Brother and receiving new life in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

And what comes next? What is the culmination of the Church Calendar, of our life in Christ?

Ordinary Time.

The Episcopal Church, like many liturgical churches, refers to the season after Pentecost as “Ordinary Time.” The word “ordinary” in this context refers not to the usual or mundane, but to “counted time” – counting the Sundays between Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) and Christ the King Sunday (the last Sunday before Advent).

But I like thinking about this season with today’s understanding of the word “ordinary.” As the Church Calendar guides us into the life of Jesus throughout the year, we cultivate an awareness of the life of Jesus present in our ordinary day, in our mundane moments. From the encounter of Emmanuel in Advent through the resurrection of Jesus at Easter to the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost – we are given a new way of seeing and being in “Ordinary Time.”



Re-imagine your ordinary day. The circumstances that occur, the people you meet, the work you do – this all happens within God’s movement toward restoration in Christ.

Re-imagine your ordinary relationships. You are part of the family of God, sharing in the very life of the Trinity, called to love and to be loved.

Re-imagine your ordinary past. The wounds, fears, and failures of yesterday are brought to the Resurrected Jesus for healing, peace, and redemption.

Re-imagine your ordinary future. Your hopes and fears are woven into his coming Kingdom, culminating in "the webbing together of God, humanity and creation in justice, fulfillment and delight."¹

As the family of St. B’s, let’s re-imagine life together in this Ordinary Time. We do this best by being together, sharing life and sharing stories. And sharing food.

Seriously! This summer, I encourage you to invite members of our St. B’s family to your home for snacks, for dinner, for a cookout. Move toward someone you don’t know so well or



Fr. Jerry, Fr. Travis, and Joe Flynn raise the cross in the rain on Good Friday

Continued on pg. 4

Where's Jerry? Where's Carla?

And what exactly is sabbatical?

The word sabbatical shares the same roots as the Biblical word Sabbath, meaning to rest; to cease. Sabbath is *holy time* set aside for physical, emotional, spiritual and mental renewal. The practice of Sabbath is our answer to God's command once a week to take a break from the daily grind.

I have come to think that the recovery of the Sabbath is the most crucial and most demanding covenant command (spiritual discipline) now to be faced in the technological society.

-Walter Brueggeman, Old Testament Scholar

Likewise a sabbatical is simply an extended Sabbath, providing an opportunity to step off the treadmill for renewal of vision and hope, nourishing the soul and rebuilding the body. A sabbatical is time to disengage from our everyday lives in order to rest, travel, study, reflect,

pray, worship and renew relationships. It is far more than a vacation, it is a season of spiritual growth: a time to rest, renew and recharge.

The canons of the Episcopal Church specify that clergy and ministers are eligible for sabbatical time every 7 years. Originally Fr. Jerry was supposed to take his time last autumn, but due to staffing changes, it was postponed. Carla's sabbatical was always planned for 2015.

Fr. Jerry and Marjie began their sabbatical on April 14. Fr. Jerry will be back preaching at St. B's on Aug. 23. Carla's began on April 29 and she will return on August 2.

Be assured that everything continues status quo at St. B's while Fr. Jerry and Carla are away. Carla has a hard working children's ministry staff that will keep things moving this summer. And with Fr. Travis and the wardens, Natasha Deane and Seth Swihart, at the helm, the rest of us are also in great hands!

Please join us in praying for both Carla and the Smiths during their Sabbatical time.



Both Sabbath keeping and Sabbatical leave are part of a rhythm of life intended to refresh and renew all of creation so that all of creation will continue to reflect the face and will of God. (Clergy Renewal: The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning, p.3)

Left: Marjie & Fr. Jerry in Puerto Rico. Right: Carla in her garden.



Re-imagined continued from pg. 3

whom you suspect may need to be brought a little deeper into our community. But don't stop there. Include a neighbor or a friend who is outside our family! Every person you know needs a new way of seeing, a new way of being -- and eating together gives them the opportunity to experience the new way given in Christ.

We are entering into a season of living ordinary lives in Jesus, lives filled with the Spirit and embraced by the Father. Let's reflect on the rhythm of life in Christ cultivated by these seasons of the Church Calendar and shaped by the

Way of St. B's² and our personal rules of life. And let's invite others to join us in re-imagining life together.

Travis

1. These words come from Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., providing an evocative articulation of the Kingdom of God -- what was intended in creation, is breaking into our world now through the Spirit-filled body of Christ, and will be realized in full at the return of Jesus.

2. For those new to our St. B's family, take a look at <http://stbs.net/www.stbs.net/mediafiles/crafting-a-rule.pdf> then ask one of us for more understanding about our current expression of this ancient practice.

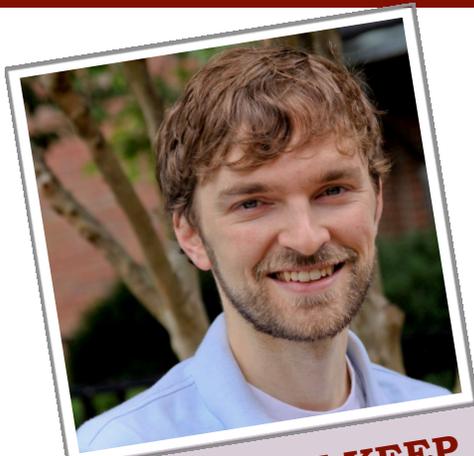


Fr Travis baptizing Gus Lee.



How Deep, How Broad, How High

H y m n s o f t h e E u c h a r i s t



**HOW CAN I KEEP
FROM SINGING**
by David Madeira
Director of Music
dmadeira@stbs.net

The Lord's Supper. Communion. Eucharist. These are all terms used interchangeably to refer to our "Liturgy of the Table," the sacrament of bread and wine that we share each Sunday morning. The different terms highlight for us that the meaning of the Eucharist is deep and broad, and each

of these terms emphasizes a certain aspect of the rite over others.

"The Lord's Supper" is a more solemn term, referencing the meal Christ shared with his disciples on the night before he died and emphasizing the atoning sacrifice of his body and blood. "Eucharist" literally means *thanksgiving*; we celebrate with gratitude because this meal is our salvation, Christ's victory over death and hell. Finally, "Communion" emphasizes just that--the *communal* nature of the meal. In this shared meal, Christ's presence is made known to us, as we commune with Him and with each other.

As a singing people, the vast ocean of hymnody provides great source material for celebrating all aspects of the Eucharist. Here are excerpts of three eucharistic hymns, each leaning toward one particular sacramental theology. Notice the different ways of looking at the exact same rite, and consider how these different hymns might be most appropriately suited to

certain seasons of the Church year over others.

The Lord's Supper: "Let thy blood in mercy poured" (Hymn #313)

This hymn, originally in Greek, comes from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. Note its primary emphasis on the sacrifice of Christ, his broken body and poured-out blood. Each stanza uses the wounds of Christ, his sacrifice, to point to his love for us, "boundless" and "unfailing". Then, the refrain directs us to the only response to such a love, such a gift: an offering of our selves back to Christ.

*Let Thy Blood in mercy poured, let thy gracious Body broken,
Be to me, O gracious Lord of Thy boundless love the token;
(Refrain) Thou didst give Thyself for me; now I give myself to Thee.*

*Thou didst die that I might live;—
blessed Lord Thou cam'st to save me;
All that love of God could give, Jesus by His sorrows gave me;— (Refrain)*

*By the thorns that crowned Thy brow,
by the spear wound and the nailing;
By the pain and death I now claim, O Christ, Thy love unfailing; (Refrain)*

Eucharist: "This is the feast" (Hymn #417)

No other hymn speaks as well to the meaning of the word "Eucharist"—*thanksgiving*—and its victorious, celebratory nature than "This is the feast." Here our focus is not on the suffering of Christ as it is about the victory brought about by that suffering. Verse 1 sets the premise: the "Lamb who was slain" has "set us free," and all the ensuing stanzas are a hymn of praise, borrowed from the book of Revelation, to the risen Christ.



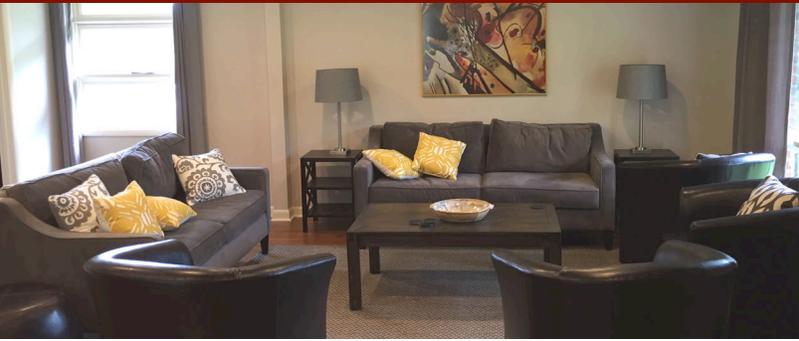
The Easter choir singing in the loft

Continued on pg. 7



A New Season of Connection

Intentional and authentic community



As Wardens of St. B's, we truly hope that all of you are feeling encouraged by life at St. B's. Even just a few short months into this new vestry cycle, we have seen God at work in our church body in many wonderful ways. Some of the more obvious blessings include the ability of Fr. Jerry to take a much needed and much delayed sabbatical, of Carla Schober being able to enjoy time away from Children's formation for rest and renewal, the arrival of Fr. Travis and his family into our congregation and the energy and passion for Christ which he brings with him. In addition to those staff developments we were able to celebrate the opening of the Rectory-turned-"Ministry House" on April 12th. Looking ahead, all things come together in a season of building greater connection within our community, both in intimate sacred spaces and in celebration as extended family. We want to share the development of this vision with you as well as the plans that have been laid out to welcome it together.

Ministry House

First, the vision for the re-working of the rectory into more workable space came out of years of a specific need for staff offices and private counseling space (Pictured above). Recognition of this need at the vestry level was followed by a time of concerted prayer and planning beginning in 2014 as the vision for the new space was developed. In many ways, the opening of the Ministry House is now a guiding image for the vestry as we work together to discern God's will for

our parish. As the reality of the Ministry House was realized, the vestry completed a discernment process in which building authentic community and intimacy within our community emerged as a priority. In keeping with the vision, the Ministry House is a sacred place for whatever healing or connecting or praying you may need in your life right now. The space is uniquely fitting for small group gatherings that offer renewal and community in Christ's name. We are excited to welcome you as you enter into the blessings of this space. The efforts put into making the Ministry House all that it is have been both trying and rewarding, all in the name of making a stronger community for St. B's. We especially thank Nancy Cason, Mimi Heldman, Steve Heaston, Heinrich Tischler and those who have contributed generously to St. B's Nehemiah Fund for facilities improvements for their faithful service in seeing this vision through to fruition.

Church Directory

Another development in the works for our community is the fully revised and updated Online Church Directory. This directory – under the direction of our talented Sally Chambers – will allow us not just to connect with one another, but to also see one another and our families. It really is a simple idea, but just think about how helpful this will be. Early and late service folks will now get to see that they do, in fact, attend the same church! Forgetting someone's name is no longer an issue! Parents with more than two kids can remind themselves



WARDEN'S CORNER

*by Natasha Deane
& Seth Swihart*

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of which ones are theirs! Regardless of how you use the directory, we believe this tool will facilitate greater engagement and connection within the church body.

Zip Code Events

As summer turns to fall, you can expect to hear about a "Zip Code Party" in your part of town. These gatherings may be large or small, with or without kids, with or without food, but the essential ingredient is gathering together to share each other, with each other. In fact, the fewer expectations placed on these events will allow them to be a relaxing, engaging time of connection. We hope that you are able to attend and possibly host one of these

Continued on pg. 10



*REFRAIN: This is the feast of victory
for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was
slain, whose blood set us free to be
people of God. (Refrain)*

*Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
(Refrain)*

*Sing with all the people of God, and
join in the hymn of all creation.
(Refrain)*

For the Lamb who was slain



The Youth Choir singing

*Has begun his reign. Alleluia!
(Refrain)*

Communion: "I come with joy to

meet my Lord" (Hymn #304)

Here Brian Wren's text opens with a "thanksgiving" emphasis, and then quickly moves to one emphasizing the communal nature of the feast. A "new community" is born from people of all races and walks of life, ending divisions and uniting us as family. We proclaim that "the love that made us, makes us one" and celebrate the reconciliation of the people of God, not just to God but to each other as well.

*I come with joy to meet my Lord
forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid
down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to
find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's
communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us
share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.*

All three of these hymns are "Eucharist hymns." However, they are quite



Amy Wirdzek sings during Holy Week

distinct from each other, emphasizing certain aspects of eucharistic theology over others. There are many other examples that fall at various points along this spectrum. Listen for them as we worship together, recognizing the breadth and depth of this holy rite, and just how much there is to sing about!

**ARE YOU WANTING A PLACE TO CONNECT?
DO YOU PLAY DRUMS OR BASS?
DO YOU PLAY GUITAR OR SOMETHING ELSE?
DO YOU WANT TO LEARN THE SOUND BOARD?
DO YOU SING?**

*the music ministry is always looking for people who would like to be part of our
active and intergenerational community. All abilities and skills welcome.
for more info contact Dave at dmadeira@stb.s.net*

CHURCH HAPPENS WHEN
WE GATHER TO TELL THE
STORIES TO EACH OTHER

STANLEY HAUERWAS

Being Single in the Church

CONNECTING AS A
CHURCH FAMILY
BY SHARING OUR STORIES

Further Thoughts

~Single at St. B's includes being unmarried, being divorced and being widowed. St. B's singles span an age range of 20's to 90's, all having different needs.

~Married people inhabit most of the pulpits and leadership positions in the Christian world yet around half of all adults in the U.S. are single. At St. B's, 25% of the staff are single and 16% of the vestry are single.

~Jesus was single.

Table for One *by Susan Houston*

There is one particular memory that always comes to mind when the topic of singleness within the church is mentioned. There was a funeral for a miscarried child that I attended, and although I grieved for the parents who had lost a baby, I looked forward and saw her head leaning on his shoulder and his arm around her, I inwardly (and truth be told, somewhat bitterly) thought, "At least you aren't facing it alone." The life of a single person is always colored by the thought of how differently things would be if there was someone to help carry the load.

I like to say that I am 95% content with my single state, and have no real desire to change it... but then the 5% comes to claim a portion of my daily life, and it's usually in the form of a broken down car, an oversized piece of furniture that needs moving, or plans for a solitary vacation. I am fortunate - I like to be alone; it's where I get my energy and enthusiasm to go back out into the world to engage with people. But I suspect that's not true of the majority. I have always been alone so I know no differently, but friends who have dated long-term, or been married and widowed/divorced, or are single parents, are more keenly aware of the difference of their single state.

I made a choice years ago in my 20's at a large area church, while sitting in a singles group one Sunday morning. I realized that the vast majority were there in search of... someone else. As a wise counselor once said to me about that time, "The guys are there for dates, and the girls are there for husbands." So often singles are partitioned off for that purpose. I knew that I just wanted to be folded in with everyone at my church and that while having a husband would be nice, it wasn't my reason for being there. So I left that class and never went back.

Unfortunately, it seems that churches all too often don't know how to incorporate their singles beyond sorting them by gender into Men's or Women's Ministry groups. They often encourage them to work with teenagers or in childcare. I've found the Episcopal Church (and in particular St. B's) does a better job at giving singles opportunities to plug in with choir, lectors, altar guild, acolytes, vestry, and so forth.

If I were to suggest any one thing that would help us grow as a community, it would be this: Be Aware. Be conscious of how life may be different for singles, and ask yourself, "Are we neglecting them? Are we marginalizing them? Is the event we are planning going to leave them out?" It may be unintentional, it may be forgetfulness, it may be habit. But singles are not meant to be secondary in the body of the Church, and a conscious decision to examine how you interact with them will hopefully go a long way in keeping them (to use a baking term) "gently folded in."



Susan Houston can be found singing regularly in the choir and on a mic in the loft.



Not Where I Thought I'd Be

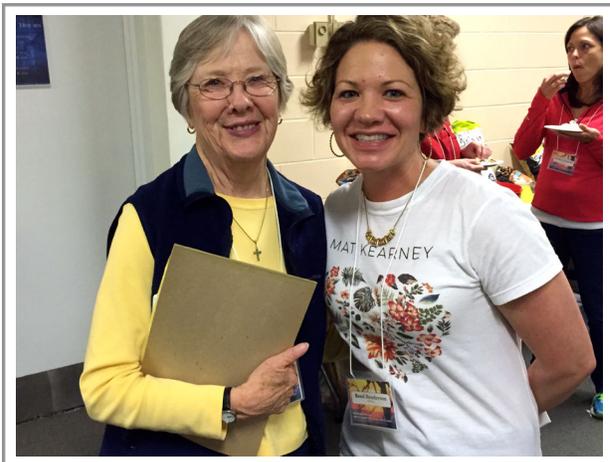
By Bond Henderson

I graduated from high school in 1995. Which means that this summer is my 20th high school reunion. And I'm not sure that I'm going. I went to my 10th and my 15th, and I loved every single minute of them. But this year's reunion feels like too much of a reality check for me. Because when I imagined where I'd be 20 years out of high school, I imagined a much different place. A place with a husband, 2.5 kids, a job I did part-time, a walk-in closet, a 4 bedroom home and a fenced-in backyard. The American Dream, if you will. My American Dream. And none of that has happened.

As I've walked/struggled through what has felt like a very long season, I've come face-to-face with a lot of lies that I've believed about Jesus and His love for me. Whispered words from the enemy that in essence come down to the idea that if Jesus really loved me I wouldn't still be single.

But as I've wrestled with these lies and in surrender brought them before Him, He's met me every step of the way. And offered me hope when I was ready to completely give up. I feel known and seen and loved by Him in ways that I never thought were possible. But I must confess that I am still just hoping He doesn't keep me all to Himself.

And what I've found at St. B's is a community of believers to walk beside me on this path of singleness. They have allowed me the freedom to engage the Lord in this part of my journey and shown me grace when it didn't look too pretty. Which is more often than I'd like to admit. They have encouraged me, challenged me, and spoken truth to me when the lies of the enemy get too loud.



Bond Henderson (R) with Mavis Harrop at the women's spring retreat

Getting Practical

How can we as a church family enfold our singles better?

~What if we made it a point to get to know some of the singles at St. B's? Or those we already know, what if we would regularly check in on them, like we might our immediate family?

~What if we invited singles over for dinner or to join in a family outing?

~What if we offered DIY skills regarding home repair and upkeep to our single homeowners? It can be quite frustrating and overwhelming to own a home when you're single.

~What if we intentionally asked singles to come to various church gatherings? Often times singles hang out on the fringe of the community not sure exactly where they belong.

~What if we could be aware that many holidays are family focused and can be hard and lonely when you're single?

Reflection from the Editor

It seems to me when I look at the history of God's people, God has always called some to be unmarried. This being said, it also seems to me that from the beginning, God has called very few to a life lived alone. So it makes sense that throughout our history, God has placed the unmarried in communities that function both like marriage and family.

What do we do with this in a world where for most people, married is the golden desire and unmarried is often a life lived alone, in both a metaphorical and practical sense?

Personally, I have spent seasons positive that I was called to singleness and the religious life. Ironically, these seasons have often been followed by one of dating. So aside from my inability to predict the future, I have learned that regardless of how I feel about it today, today I am unmarried and therefore God is giving me the gift of singleness. Who am I to know what gift God will give tomorrow, next month or next year? Despite how I might wrestle on some days receiving this, I do believe the Apostle Paul was right, singleness is a gift just as marriage is a gift. Both equally good.

I wonder if this tension is part of the reason Jesus gave us the church. New Testament scholar N. T. Wright refers to the church born at Pentecost as the "New Family." A community where the orphaned, the widowed, the singles and the poor are as much part of the family as those who share genes and homes. What would this community called St. Bartholomew's be like, if we were to think of ourselves not as individual families but as one big family who shared life, practically as well as spiritually?

Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me—a simpler life in many ways! But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is. God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others.

-Paul in his first letter to the church in Corinth, Ch. 7, vs 7, from *The Message*



events. Parish-wide coordinated Zip Code events are slated to begin in the fall but don't wait to be thinking about your role in participating in the launch! Contact a warden or vestry member if you are interested in hosting one of our Zip Code Parties in your neighborhood, and we will help you to plan!

Spiritual Focus

You also may have noticed that Father Travis has focused intentionally on building and sustaining community in his sermons over the past few weeks. This emphasis will continue as we head into Pentecost, and the celebration that is being planned for that day will be a day for the entire congregation to focus on and celebrate the community we see around us. On Pentecost (May 24th) we will worship as one body at 9:30 and then party as one body on the lawn afterward. It is our sincere hope that you use this time to intentionally reach out to new members of our community and welcome them into our church with warmth and enthusiasm.

Finally, on August 23rd, we will once again have one service at 9:30 and a party directly after to celebrate the Feast of St. Bartholomew. This will be a time of wholeness for the community. Father Jerry and Carla will be back with us from their sabbaticals and we can all celebrate the blessings which this community has given to all of us under an appropriately symbolic big tent.

The theme of this new season is connection – connect with your church family in intimate spaces and in our large celebratory gatherings this season. Come to know one another with some intimacy, come to care for one another and come to know God at a deeper level. We thank God for the vision and framework that He has provided for us in this season and thank Jesus for the grace to carry it out.

Suzy Floyd Celebrated

After 35 years of service, Suzy Floyd will retire June 1 as the Director of the Preschool. On April 25 & 26, Suzy was celebrated by both the preschool and church communities. The vestry honored Suzy's ministry here at St. B's by naming one of the hallways downstairs in the Parish Hall, the Suzy Floyd Formation Wing.

Kelly Hull has been hired to succeed Suzy as Director beginning June 1. Suzy will assist Kelly through out the month of June to help with the transition.

Thank you Suzy for loving our children so very well! And thank you to Joan Hutchinson and her committee for coordinating such a beautiful celebration.



Above: Vestry members, Seth Swihart and Jim Russell present Suzy with a copy of the plaque that will hang downstairs in the parish hall. Below: Suzy Floyd surrounded by teachers and friends.

ST. B'S FEAST DAY SUN., AUG. 23

9:30 A.M. WORSHIP
11 A.M. PARTY
CELEBRATING WHAT WE DO

Entertaining Angels and/or Humans

How do we say welcome?



There are mixed messages about St. Bartholomew's posture towards visitors. Some have come into our midst, were greeted warmly and immediately found this to be their church home. However, often times, new people come and will spend months sharing our worship and never speak to a single one of us. One of the larger reasons Nashvillians and people from the surrounding area are drawn to our parish is because it is a safe place to heal, recover, rejuvenate, and be one with our Creator. And many of them would prefer to not be stalked by a bunch of grinning people who are chomping at the bit to get them 'plugged in.'

This, however, does not get us off the hook. The Bible is littered with passages about welcoming strangers into the fold:

'You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.'
Leviticus 19:34

"Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."
Hebrews 13:1-2

Furthermore, hospitality is a significant part of our worship. Take for example



WHOLENESS MATTERS

by Steven Lefebvre

Director of Youth and Young Adult Formation
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in the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. In chapter 11 he rails on the congregation for leaving the poor out of the Lord's Supper and worshipping only for their own benefit. I don't believe it's too far of a stretch to also include those who are poor in community:

So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and

drink judgment on themselves. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

So with that said, how should we welcome strangers?

Identify your reservations. What is holding you back from saying hello to someone whom you share a worship space with but do not know their story? For most of us, it is fear and/or insecurity. I invite you to take Richard Rohr's words to heart:

"The fears that assault us are mostly simple anxieties about social skills, about intimacy, about likeableness, or about performance. We need not give emotional food or charge to these fears or become attached to them. We don't even have to shame ourselves for having these fears. Simply ask your fears, "What are you trying to teach me?" (from *Everything Belongs*)

Know and Be Known. You are good enough. St. B's isn't some corporate organism that exists in a vacuum; it is a community simply made up of *us*. You aren't trying to sell the church; you are simply planting seeds of attachment. Let someone get to know you and by knowing you, they will know a part of us. If the Kingdom of God begins with the faith of a mustard seed, then the simple act of letting someone know that could actually be far more significant than they can imagine.

Continued on pg. 12



They may already belong here. Belonging is in the eye of the beholder and we mustn't try and determine what qualifies someone to belong to our parish. Much like what Paul discusses in 1 Corinthians 12, we are one body with many members. We can't all be ears and feet. In the same way, people who come only a few times a year may feel as connected to our church family as one who serves on that altar every Sunday. Along these same lines, we mustn't worry about finding the right, tailor-made ministry for this person. At my previous parish, one of the groups I quite enjoyed belonging to was the archive committee. Every Monday morning, I would get together with people 40-50 years older than me and we would sift through old photos and church bulletins, sip coffee and try to organize all the clutter. So if you meet a young person and begin to panic because your not sure if we have anything for young adults or you meet a family of six while Carla is on sabbatical, relax. St. B's is a wonderful place that is NOT defined by its programs. Just let them get to know you and let God do the rest!

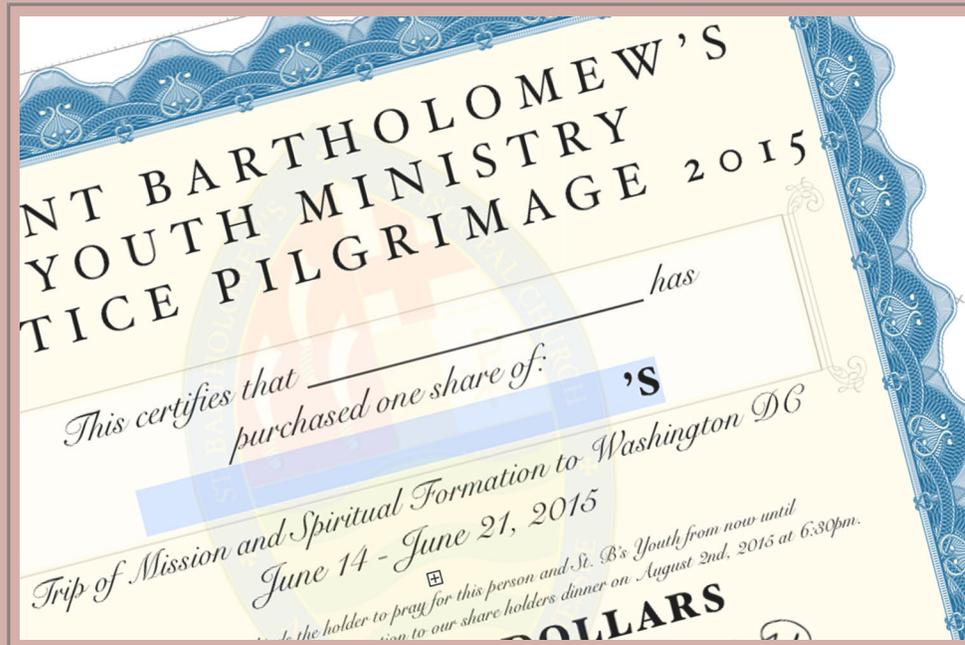


St. B's Youth community praying for their graduating seniors.

Congratulations to Chris Hornsby, Nathan Mennen, Patrick Howard, Brent Andrews, Alexis Solomon, Susannah Price, John Bowlby, Jane Metcalfe and Paige Wigington, St. B's graduating high school seniors.

Youth Ministry Shareholder's Fund Raiser

This year our youth are going to Washington D.C. on what we are calling The Justice Pilgrimage and they would love to tell you all about it. Now through Sunday, June 7th, the youth of St. B's will be approaching you with an opportunity of a life-time. For just \$20 you may purchase one share of our trip. What does it mean to buy a share? It means you will be personally responsible for praying for the youth whose share you purchased, leading up to the trip and while we are away. Furthermore, you will be cordially invited to the 'Shareholder's Dinner' on Sunday, August 2nd at 6:30 p.m., where we will give a very personal reflection on our time in DC. For questions and concerns ask one of the teenagers selling shares or email Steve at sfbevire@stbs.net.



Sum Sum Summertime

Children's Formation June, July & August

Hello, my name is Joshua Martin and I am the Assistant Director of Children's Formation to Carla Schober. We are really excited about this summer, and I would like to take a moment to tell you about myself and about what is happening this summer.

I came to St. B's four years ago looking for a family to connect with. Since I have been here, I am so thankful to say I have found just that. The staff and vestry here are incredible. They have, at least for me, been so supportive and uplifting and have helped guide me in my spiritual walk, as well as nourish those desires and talents in my life to be of service to this community. I love this church, and it's impossible to express the amount of influence that being here has had on my life, and through which I now have a closer walk with God. I love our children's ministry and all the wonderful moments we get to share with your children. Being here for this short amount of time has allowed me to see how our church welcomes new comers looking for a church home, so please take advantage of the life of our church here.

Children's Formation This Summer:

We will offer a children's gathering during the 10:30 service every Sunday for K - 6th grade in Wallace Hall from June 1 - Aug. 16. This children's program is going to start your child on their adventure through the Old Testament and the journey of God's people. It will be interactive and fun. Nursery through 3 yrs. will meet downstairs in their respective rooms.

During the 8:30 service, we will provide formation for nursery through 3 yrs. only. No classes for K - 6th grade.

If you have any questions while Carla is away, please be in touch with any of the children's formation staff: Alicia Lewis, Elizabeth Madeira, Celina Chanthachine, Gaylene Latham, Adria Lambert, Dawn Wyant or myself at childrensministry@stbs.net. Thank you for being here with us and we look forward to this summer with you! ,



Carla and her staff just prior to the beginning of her sabbatical.
From L to R: Celina, Adria, Gaylene, Josh, Alicia and Dawn
WyantAmy Wirdzek sings during Holy Week



**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Craft Workshop Days
Sat., June 13, July 11, Aug 8
9 a.m. - Noon**

Do you sew? Paint? Build furniture? Do you have hidden arts and crafts talents no one knows about? Do you want to learn any of the above? Then join us in Wallace Hall this summer to help make the materials needed for the children's catechesis classes. For more information, email Alicia at childrensministry@stbs.net.

Sharing Our Lives & Stories

St. B's Annual Women's Retreat



Over 60 women and one infant attended the Spring Retreat for St. B's Women on the mountain at St. Mary's Sewanee on April 17-18. This year's speaker was Kristen Kinser, former Women's President and long time member of St. B's before her move to North Carolina last year.

Led in song by Julia Carruthers-Thorne and coupled with the stunning beauty of the site (a spectacular sunset coincided with the beginning of our first session), Kristen contrasted the perils of turbulent waters in nature and in our lives with the potential power of still waters. Kristin shared many

practical ways to experience the abundant life that Jesus came to give us. Countering cultural messages such as 'resting equals laziness' and 'life to the full means filling your life', she encouraged us to learn to savor and make space for alone times with God. Using the image of a rock climber, she encouraged us to name and let go of our burdens so we can cling to God.

In addition to Kristen's talks, we enjoyed warm fellowship and reflection time; time to overlook the valley, the woods, to rest, to walk, to pray or journal and to nap.

Stories shared with one another increased our collective intimacy. Some of these stories are told below:

Natasha Deane:

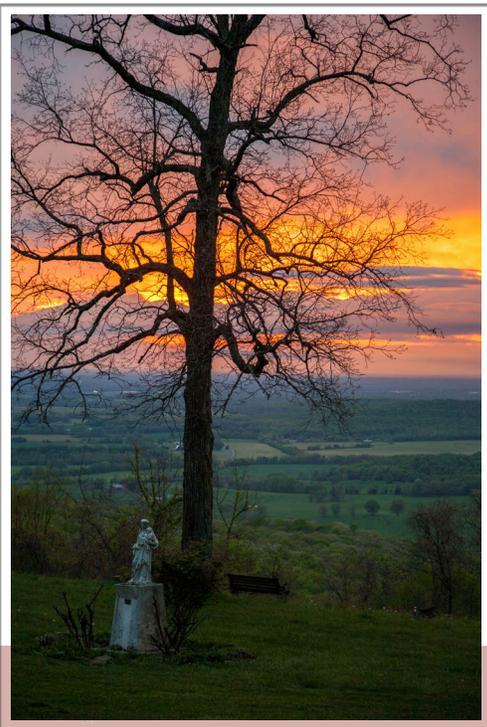
Kristen asked participants at the outset what motivated them to make the effort to come to the retreat. This year, I'd come yearning to listen to God: a practice I seemed to have lost along the way in the relative isolation of day to day life. God spoke through the scriptures and through fellowship, reminding me once again how to connect and receive. First, we explored the admonition in Galatians 5:1 that we are freed from slavery in Christ. Next, we re-visited the old testament story of Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and heard God's command to "be still and

await God's provision" as they were cornered at the banks of the Red Sea. We know that the freedom in Christ is what we seek, but we all struggle to receive it. In my case, as for others, the "busyness" with which we live our lives works against us when it comes to listening to God. I learned, exploring Psalm 23, that God in fact requires us to get ourselves to the still waters in order to lead us. There, the singing birds, the whispering winds and the vision of the quiet wooded land, speaks boldly of the larger story that He has for us.

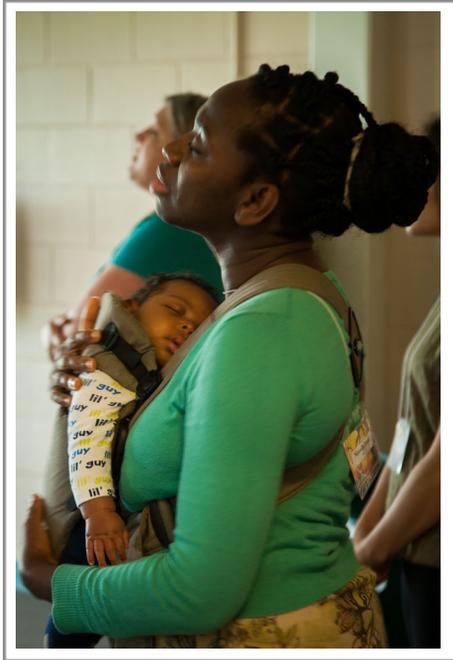
Novella Dean:

Novella came on retreat with her infant son David Ethan. She shared how precious it was to have freedom to worship. Raised in Trinidad where Christianity was often combined with other religions, she related how she experienced the call to give her life to Jesus as a teenager. Upon sharing her new commitment to Christ at home, she experienced severe opposition and was forbidden to attend Bible study or have Christian friends. As she was seeking deliverance from this oppressive situation, God gave Novella a promise from Deuteronomy 6 that He would supernaturally bring her to a new place where she would be free to worship, and that she would one day have a son to inherit this promise of freedom. A week after

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being told the logistics were impossible, Novella landed in the USA to study and to start her new life. Nineteen years later, she and her husband Danny welcomed their son, and she is able to see the complete fulfillment of God's life-giving promise of freedom. Her promised son is also living the promise!



Novella Dean with her son, David practicing the freedom to worship

Sue Pichert:

Sue spoke on the gift of freedom in Christ to love. She shared how family and life

experiences that have taught her that to be "free to love" can't be separated from freedom to BE loved. When God frees us to love it is a love without condition or selfishness. In Sue's words,

Here's the crazy thing: God loves us even when we don't love Him back, even when we do things He doesn't like, even when our opinion differs from His (not that I think of any of The Father's thoughts as mere "opinions.") And not only us: He loves all those OTHER people who sin, who insult Him, who disagree with me (I mean Him).

Likewise, by grace, He made provision to forgive my sin and his faithfulness to me is new every morning. Because He forgives me, I am free to forgive others. God loves us, so we are free to love others --- but that starts with loving ourselves and allowing ourselves to be loved by God. Even when we think we are unlovable. The ability to love others will follow.

Many thanks go to the able organizers of this year's retreat: Mary Ann Ruley, Becky Hornsby, Ashley McClaughlin, Nancy Coleman, Sue Pichert. Thanks to Julia Carruthers-Thorne for leading us in song and Kristen Kinser for her wisdom. Thanks be to God for this time of rest, growth and for another year of special memories.

If you do not receive the women's monthly emails, please sign up at stbswomen@stbs.net



Above: Leslie Ewing turns 91 Below: Julia Carruthers Thorne leads music

Magdalene is a residential program for women who have survived prostitution, trafficking, addiction, and lives on the street. The women of St. B's host the graduation ceremony and luncheon each year.

To help please sign up [here](#) or contact Mavis at stbswomen@stbs.net.



MAGDALENE GRADUATION
MAY 29, 10:30 A.M.

HELP - SERVE - DONATE
STBSWOMEN@STBS.NET

A Time for Prayer



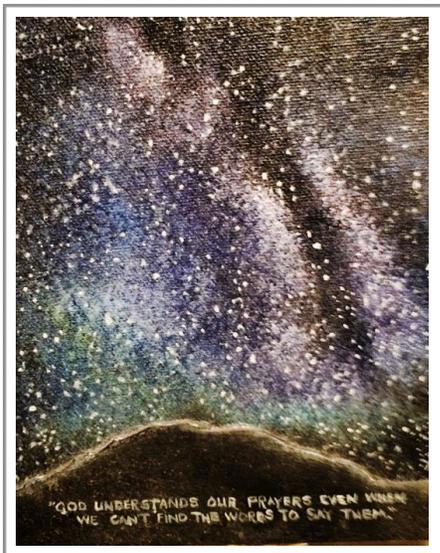
PASTORAL CARE by Robert Smith

Assistant to the Rector for
Pastoral Care
pastoralcare@stbs.net

I marvel at the power of prayer! And although I admit I have been skeptical in my past, I find myself much more confident in what happens when we pray. But how do we pray? And for what do we pray?

What is prayer?

In the BCP, prayer is defined as a response to God, by thought or deeds, with or without words. Which reminds me of a painting my daughter put together for me. On the painting, at the bottom was inscribed, "God knows our prayers, even if we don't have the words to speak them." I reflect on that daily.



What kinds of prayer do we encounter on our journey?

We share prayers of adoration where we lift ourselves up unto God, asking nothing but to bask in His presence. We praise God, not to obtain anything but just because He draws praise from us. We offer thanksgiving for all that God has given us... life, friends, family, everything. We pray for forgiveness, for our insatiable humanness, for our manifold sins and earthliness. We offer prayers of oblation, an offering of

ourselves, our lives and labors, in union with Christ, for the purposes of God. We pray in petition, where we present our own needs and desires, before God. And we pray for intercession, where we bring before God the needs and hopes of others.

As a body we join in all of these. Sometimes through the great music that we are so privileged to enjoy, sometimes through The Prayers of the People, sometimes through the Celebration of the Eucharist, sometimes at the prayer desk, and sometimes through participation in the prayer chain. There are many more ways that we experience prayer together, but the important thing is that we do so! We pray, solemnly, corporately, individually, aloud, in silence, in all the ways listed above. And in that we are blessed with His provenance. We do not and cannot direct God's will, but we can penitently and with common supplication request his Presence and interaction.

Our prayers matter:

I shared with the 140+ members of the prayer chain just how consistent, dedicated prayer can and does have an effect. I shared the long ordeal of a fellow parishioner, who at this time last year suffered a near fatal case of pancreatitis, coded multiple times in the hospital, remained semi-comatose for almost 6 months, followed by being completely bedridden and almost immobile for another almost 3 months, before finally being able to communicate. I visited with him shortly before his anniversary for spending a year under medical care. He had just finished walking unassisted with his walker. Where before we could not communicate the simplest of things, we discussed his kids, upcoming events he wants to participate in, and the love of his life, South Carolina sports. There were those amongst us

that feared that he would never recover, but we prayed on. Soon he will walk out of the facility under his own power (through the Grace of God!).

So, how do we become involved in prayer?

Moment by moment in your everyday lives you can petition and pray. As mentioned in my daughter's painting, voicing is not necessary. God understands all, even our deepest thoughts.

The prayer chain is a group of people that, via email, are appraised of petitions and asked to pray confidentially. The prayer desks are staffed every Sunday during communion on either side of the altar. Anyone is welcome to come forward for prayer at either desk.

If you have something or someone that you wish the prayer chain to intercede for, email pastoralcare@stbs.net. If you would like a name added to the prayers that are read aloud during the Eucharist on Sundays, email Fr. Travis at Thines@stbs.net. If you would like to be part of the prayer chain or scheduled to staff the prayer desk, email pastoralcare@stbs.net.

Please join us in prayer.



Caring for ALL of Creation

Re - i m a g i n i n g o u r e f f o r t s



CREATION CARE by Chris Prichard

Vestry Rep.
csprichard@yahoo.com

As the seasonal transition from Easter to Pentecost occurs, you will notice a renewed focus on Creation Care at St. Bartholomew's. Earlier this year, the Vestry collectively felt that it was a significant enough topic that it should become a Ministry of our Church. Your first thought might be "I thought St. B's already did that". Well, we still do.

When my family first visited St. B's five years ago, I was impressed by the facilitation of means for our parish to be environmentally conscious. Signs are still posted and recycling bins are available, however, the focus seems to have diminished. In recent years, a few dedicated folks have been champions of the cause and were looked upon as the owners of Creation Care. In reality, we should all be owners of this mission.

Through conversations with fellow parishioners and personal reflection, I pondered the focus loss of this important issue. Drawing from personal career experience, it occurred to me that a primary reason may be ownership. I compared it to my stint as a Quality Manager for an automotive components manufacturer

where the production workers performed their job by sending parts down the line regardless if the parts met customer specifications, knowing that the Quality Control technicians would correct any flaws or scrap the parts altogether. My job was to shift the factory from a "Quality Control" mindset to a "Quality Assurance" culture where the production workers were responsible for the quality of the parts being made. As with most changing conditions, it was difficult, but we got there. The message I hope you take away from this anecdote is that Creation Care is a parish responsibility, not just that of a few dedicated individuals.

A Creation Care panel has been assembled with parishioners who are passionate about this Ministry and are working to develop and implement ideas that will make it easy for the rest of the parish to participate in this common objective. Our approach is to begin with small, iterative steps which entail standardizing recyclables signage and disposal locations for items that should not be placed in a trash bin. As we become more adept at caring for the environment, future activities will be added to enhance our Creation Care mission. Additionally, we will create an events policy to address the disposal of materials used during our wonderful St. B's gatherings. Through God's grace, the result of our mission will be to instill a culture of ownership and stewardship for Creation Care by the church.

My friend and fellow parishioner Bonnie Bashor recently shared with me through Romans 8:19-23 that the health of God's creation is subjected to humans' will. Just as our transgressions are redeemed by Jesus, the Earth awaits redemption from us! What better time to re-launch a new focus on Creation Care but through the continued wonderment of the New Creation that resulted from the Easter season!

If you would like to be part of relaunching this important ministry, please email Chris at csprichard@yahoo.com

The panel is particularly looking for help at the Pentecost Party on May 24.



Please help us welcome back Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy LeMarquand from the Horn of Africa to St. B's on Sunday, June 21.

More information on their ministry can be found here at www.grantandwendy.com



From Glory to Glory

Celebrating the glory that grows within us and among our community

Anniversaries

Michelle & John Andrade	7/6
Nancy & Don Cason	8/2
Kristin & Keith Chapman	7/21
Donna & Brian Darnell	9/9
Donna & Luke Easter	8/10
Meredith & Joe Flynn	7/22
JanaRuth Ford & Heinrich Tischler	8/19
Lois & Langley Granbery	9/21
Ginger & Don Paul Gross	7/13
Travis & Leslie Hines	7/10
Joan & Thomas Hutchinson	8/3
Virginia & Peter Lamothe	8/4
Angela & Tim Lauer	9/12
Deen & David Logan	7/27
Cindy & Rick Lundgren	9/2
Beverly & Tom Mahan	7/18
Diane & John Marshall	8/6
Dan & Patty Norem	7/19
Lisa & Robert Rhea	8/2
Carla & David Schober	9/15
Marjie & Jerry Smith	8/19
Kirk & Robert Smith	7/2
Sarita & Robert Stewart	7/13
Mary & Jonathan Stone	7/20
Jane & James Stranch	7/2
Miriam & Seth Swihart	8/18
Gail & Bruce Waters	7/19
Jule & David West	9/15
Kimberly & Christopher White	8/30
Sandy & Rick Wood	7/31
Holly & James Zaher	9/29
Jessica & Sharif Zakhary	7/28

July Birthdays

Barmer, Jude Adam	07/08
Carruthers-Thorne, Julia	07/31
Darnell, Brian	07/27
Darnell, Jess	07/08
Darnell, McKenzie	07/01
Dunaway, Abby Grace	07/20
Easter, Donna	07/22
Ferguson, Lynn	07/27
Garth, Bob	07/29
Grant, Rusty	07/21
Griffith, Joel	07/05
Headley, Katie	07/12
Hines, Jesse	07/10
Hutchinson, Thomas	07/22
Jewell, Ellen	07/14
Kimble, Monty	07/31
Kintz, Elizabeth	07/10
Kipp, Athalia Mae	07/24

Krogman, Melody	07/17
Langlinais, Maxim	07/02
Leo, Kathy	07/21
Lewis, Alicia	07/23
Lewis, Lily	07/21
Logan, Deen	07/10
Lowell, Finn Everett	07/30
Madeira, David	07/14
Martinez, Mirrean Star	07/29
Michelson, Joel	07/15
Miller, Brian	07/20
Minshall, Jan	07/24
Moore, Chad Thomas	07/26
Morreale, Tony	07/30
Pendarvis III, Lee Allen	07/11
Petillo, Lola Rose	07/29
Price, Jeanie	07/27
Quinn, Connor	07/22
Rhea, Alex	07/29
Robinson, Mary Ruth	07/09
Seaton, Hannah	07/29
Sheffield, Diane	07/07
Smith, Sharon	07/29
Stannard, Diane	07/08
Stewart, Robert	07/02
Thorpe, Christopher	07/24
Trone, James Abram	07/29
Villager, Nyala	07/30
Ward, Howlet Paris (Howie)	07/08
Williams, Maggie	07/13
Wills, Heather	07/15
Wilson, Katrina	07/12
Wirdzek, Adam	07/31
Wood, Katherine	07/14

August Birthdays

Black, Mary Ellen	08/17
Cade, Meredith	08/29
Chambers, Sally	08/12
Chapman, Samuel	08/07
Cropp, Kate	08/31
Cruz, Xavier Manuel	08/07
Darnell, Donna	08/20
Dennison, Anne	08/30
Dunaway, Thomas David	08/20
Edwards, Lillian Hazel (Hazel)	08/24
Ferguson, Randall	08/19
Fink, Jerry R.	08/19
Flynn, Jack Dunham	08/23
Granbery, Langley	08/12
Granbery, Margaret	08/05
Green, Randi	08/21
Gross, Don Paul	08/06
Gross, Olivia	08/01
Hayden, Joseph Calhoun	08/16
Headley, Laura	08/07
Hines, Georgia	08/24
Insani, Christopher	08/27
Jewell, Dick	08/24
Kintz, Andrew	08/09
Krogman, Jerry	08/22

Langlinais, Madeline	08/04
Lee, Lindsay (Mahan)	08/17
Locorriere, Caroline	08/04
Lowell, Asher	08/19
Lowell, Micah	08/19
Lyons, Bob	08/30
Mason, Emily Hazel (Milly)	08/24
Mason, Evan	08/07
McDowell, Mary Katherine	08/18
Muckala, Aaron	08/14
Pichert, Jim	08/28
Poindexter, Michael	08/27
Price, Grayson Henry	08/08
Rhea, Lisa	08/19
Schoenberger, Ed	08/25
Seaton, Charlie	08/18
Smith, Marjie	08/03
Stewart, Sarita	08/13
Sullivan, Nora	08/04
Swihart, Seth	08/09
Thornton, Andrew	08/13
Thorpe, Caleb Gerard	08/07
Truss, Bekah	08/24
West, Lydia Loree	08/26
West, William Henry	08/15
Wilhoite, Jackson	08/14
Wills, Isaac	08/10
Wills, Jessie	08/20
Zadick, Jonathan	08/17

September Birthdays

Ashcraft, Ric	09/14
Bishop, Ann S.	09/06
Bradley, Michelle	09/18
Burgess, John Paul	09/10
Buxton, Lila Grace	09/07
Chapman, Keith	09/24
Chapman, Lauren	09/18
Cooper, Juliet	09/11
Cruz, Isabella Natalia	09/18
Darnell, Megan	09/10
Ferrell, Brent III	09/17
Ferrell, Owen	09/07
Granbery, Abigail	09/11
Hildreth, Phyllis	09/02
Hines, Julia	09/23
Holt, Hunter	09/14
Kelly, Sibley	09/14
Kennedy, Tracy	09/25
Kinzig, Brett	09/24
Kinzig, Wren E.	09/16
Langlinais, Natalie	09/10
Lauer, Tim	09/05
Lee, Josh	09/06
Lowell, Sonja	09/14
Madeira, Elizabeth	09/06
Marshall, Diane	09/10
McDowell, Trip	09/09
Michelson, David	09/04
Miller, Morgan Elizabeth	09/21
Morant, Victoria	09/20

Being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory.
from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, chapter 3, verse 18.



From Glory to Glory

Celebrating the glory that grows within us and among our community

Pollitt, Nancy	09/25
Quinn, Walt	09/28
Ramsay, Beth-Ann	09/21
Ramsay, Thomas	09/16
Schober, David	09/08
Schroeder, Ainsley Vaughan	09/04
Shay, Sonnie	09/20
Simpson, Jamieson Lewis	09/29
Smith, Jerry	09/22
Smith, Jessica	09/09
Southwood, John	09/11
Southwood, Leslie	09/27
Stranch, Jane	09/17
Suiter, Smith	09/26
Swihart, Grant Thomas Holland	09/02
Weems, Marshall	09/23
West, Dave	09/20
Wilder, Matt	09/17
Wood, Rick	09/27
Wood, Sandy	09/25
Zaher, Ellie	09/03

Baptisms

Charlotte Devora <i>parents Kevin & Mary Dunn</i>	4/4
Luke Thomas <i>parents Tom & Denise Thurman</i>	4/4
Denton August <i>parents Joshua & Lindsay Lee</i>	4/26

Births

Charlotte Devora <i>parents Kevin & Mary Dunn</i>	1/27
Denton August <i>parents Joshua & Lindsay Lee</i>	2/16

Thomlin Bradley <i>parents Steven & Heather Lefebvre</i>	2/23
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Easton Wylde <i>parents Andy & Corinne</i>	4/2
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Gus Thaxton <i>parents Matt & Leigh Garrett</i>	4/23
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Deaths

William Wirdzek	4/5
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Confirmation
Sunday
with the
Bishop's Annual
Visitation
Sunday, June 14



Please join us
at a reception
for the Bishop
and the newly
confirmed in
between services



God Willing
The Right Reverend John C. Bauerschmidt, D.Phil
will ordain

Robert Eugene Rhea

to the Sacred Order of Deacons

Saturday, June 6, 2015
at ten o'clock in the morning at
Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

Your prayers and presence are requested
Reception to follow





the
MEETING
in the
MIDDLE
sundays this summer
in between the services

connect intentionally with others this summer

Join us again this summer in between services for an informal time of coffee, yard games, conversation and relaxing together. Bring a blanket and a book. Bring your favorite game to play. Bring some snacks to munch on. Bring your family and your friends. Meet us in the middle this summer!

regular formation classes for all ages return aug. 30