

THE BRANCH

The Newsletter of St. Bartholomew's Church



Philip Reasor enjoys the fun and games at the Jambalaya Jazz Fest. Photo by Pam White. Story on page 8.

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

This Eastertide has been a season of budget cuts, difficult good-byes, and reexamining our priorities as a family.

In the midst of much change and uncertainty, it has also been a season of answered prayers, changed lives, and God's faithfulness to us being made known in profound and new ways.

In the words of *The Book of Common Prayer*, we "rest in His eternal changelessness."

Our goal for this issue of the Branch is that it be a reminder of the good news. It is a telling of the stories of God's goodness among us - stories of redemption, renewal, and community. As we rest in His changelessness, we continue to tell His story. We invite you to join in and be a part of its unfolding.

June 2009

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

John 15:5,8 NIV



Our Mission

We are a family of believers (kingdom community), on a journey to the fulfillment of our God-given purpose.

Our mission is:

- 1) To bring people to know Jesus Christ;
- 2) To provide clear and life-changing discipleship training;
- 3) To help people discern their life's purpose and provide opportunities for them to fulfill that purpose in ministry and mission. The fruit of our endeavor is that God be glorified in all the world (worship).

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4800 Belmont Park Terrace
Nashville, TN 37215
Phone: 615.377.4750
Email: churchoffice@stbs.net

Staff

Clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith, Rector
The Rev. Dixon Kinser, Assistant Rector for
Youth & Young Adult Formation
The Rev. John Awan, Sudanese ministry
The Rev. Albino Gur Maror, Sudanese ministry
The Rev. David Wilson, Pastoral Associate

Office:

Pam White, Director of Operations
Jane Long, Office Manager
Annie Heyward, Administrative Assistant
Erin Somerville, Director of Communications
Becky Hornsby, Childcare Coordinator

Parish Ministry:

Carla Schober,
Director of Family and Children's Formation
Aaron Mayo, Children's Ministry Assistant
Carmen Hall, Preschool Coordinator
Meredith Flynn, Nursery Director
Kristin Kinser, Elementary Coordinator
Shelby Haggard, Sunday morning leader
Steve Lefebvre, Assistant Director for
Youth & College Formation

St. B's Bookstore:

Allison Hardwick, Manager

Preschool & Mother's Day Out:

Suzy Floyd, Preschool Director
Mary Ellen Ratcliffe, Preschool Exec. Assistant

Music:

Eric Wyse, Director of Music
Tom Howard, Associate Music Director
Teresa Robinson, Administrative Assistant
Henry Martin, Sound Engineer

Vestry Members

Andy Valentine, senior warden
Charlie Reasor, junior warden

Greg Daniel, Dick Jewell, Vanessa Hardy, Adam
Wirdzek, Carmen Hall, Dorman Burtch, Denise
Kemp, Jud Laughter, Ashley MacLachlan, Paul Miller,
Charlie Reasor. (Officers: Dan Cleary, treasurer and
Gary Mumme, clerk)

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Photo by Pam White

Articles and photos for the next issue of
the Branch must be submitted
no later than July 20.

Articles can be sent to:
editor@stbs.net



Running the Race

For the past four springs I have publicly commended those ambitious and disciplined folk who have run in the Country Music Marathon. This past winter I was challenged to join a small group who were training for this year's run and I (foolishly) accepted the invitation. Little did I think I would actually run in the race, nor did I expect, if I did, that I would finish.

My body defies that of a runner. I have never run before, with the exception of across the road to beat traffic or (as a teenager) to hide from some authority.

I am too old to try something new and even family members thought it craziness.

But I did (train) and I did (run) and to my own surprise I did finish the 13.1 miles!

More importantly I did learn some really important lessons that I am embarrassed to confess, I ought to have learned much earlier in my Christian journey.

When St Paul wrote, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." (1Cor 9:24) he was encouraging all of us to take on the attitude and discipline of an athlete in order to have the stamina and focus necessary to remain faithful to Christ for the whole of the pilgrimage. Using this metaphor he was implying some vitally important things.

Firstly, we need to acknowledge that accepting the invitation of Jesus to be part of his family isn't a cakewalk. There is necessary training and the

exercise of life changing discipline involved. I couldn't anticipate running the full 13.1 miles without making some life altering choices. How utterly foolish to think we can continue living as we

KINGDOM TALK

by Fr. Jerry Smith

Rector



a disciple or standing in the garage makes me a mechanic.



Fr. Jerry is joined by Meredith, his daughter-in-law, for some late-run encouragement. Photos by Marjie Smith.

I was directed by those who invited me to join them, to a website for beginners and not only told to trust the coach but was encouraged weekly (often more like daily) to trust the coach. Funny how I assumed I knew what I needed to do! It became quite clear to me early that I was the beginner and others, even though much younger than me, were much wiser and I needed to 'suck it up' and listen rather than be the expert. Was this hard on my pride? No kidding.

No matter what our age, we need to be surrounded by those who have been followers of Jesus longer than we have, both to train and encourage us. Frankly I was (and still am) impressed by the intentional encouragement given me by folks who could just as easily have been off doing their own thing and ignoring me. How easy it is for us to become so self focused that we miss the very opportunities which God presents to us to encourage and even disciple people newer to the journey than we are.

There were times, in the early stages of training, that much more seasoned runners would slow up in order to come along side the 'newbie'. Their very presence running

Continued on next page



Running the Race (continued from page 3)

with me was support enough to make the next mile.

Are we ever willing to leave our friends on Sunday morning to come alongside a visitor or new member of St B's to be that kind of encouragement?

Interesting to me was the way the training slowly built from a simple walk/run a mile a day to slowly accumulate more and more miles until the week before the race. I was not encouraged to do more than I could, but I was challenged to stretch a few more strides to complete the expected distance prescribed. I remember David West saying Saturday after Saturday that the goal was to finish. It didn't matter whether I ran or walked, the goal was to finish.



The team of St. B's runners, the night before the big run.

Our goal as followers of Jesus is to finish. We want to be able to say with Paul, "I have run the race and finished the course" but in order to do that we need also to be willing to "go into strict training" and not be like the one who is "aimless".

I trained with a group of people that made the preparation a lot easier. I am sure that some can do it alone but I think I would have packed it in quite early had I not been aligned with some of the runners from St B's. Some disciples can indeed make it alone as well, but this is not the norm or is it advisable. There is both encouragement and



accountability in a group and my running friends served as both to me.

I didn't believe I was actually ready to run when the half marathon was upon us. We had only run 10 miles the Saturday before the race and I was sure the last 3.1 would be the end of me come race day. I was assured that adrenaline would see me through, although I found that hard to believe. On race day, when I arrived at that same 10 mile marker I quickly realized I was right. There was no way I had either enough adrenaline or pride to make the last 3 miles but I hadn't counted

on the encouragement of the crowd. "Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses" is exactly what those lining the streets were at that point.

With one and a half miles to go I was sure I was going to die. Marjie took some pictures of me at this point in the race and they attest to this observation! Much to my joy and surprise, my daughter-in-law began running beside me just to 'be there' and frankly that is what it took to keep me going. She only ran with me for a half mile but that half-mile got me over the hump.

I realized afresh that we can't possibly make this journey with Christ alone nor are we expected to. As a family of fellow runners, we are invited to be a constant encouragement to one another in order to run to completion the race set before us.

Simply a pilgrim on the journey,

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



Great is Thy Faithfulness

A Day in Kibera



Editor's Note: This entry is not specifically from a blog, but an email. My dear friend and St. B's parishioner, Suzie Johnson (who, as many of you know, works for Compassion International) sent me an email last week while in Kenya, simply retelling the events of her day. This small excerpt was something I thought the whole St. B's family needed to read. It's printed with her permission.

We got in last night after a long trip and spent the day today in Kibera, which is the largest slum in Africa and what I'd describe as hell on earth. There are over 1 million people that live in 6 square kilometers, which is the size of Central Park. It's hard to comprehend and I've seen it (or I should say "experienced," as it hits all of the senses) multiple times. We visited a church there that had been burned to the ground during racial riots spurred by their presidential election in December 2008. They are

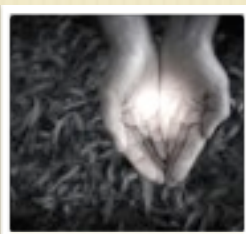


in the midst of rebuilding the church and their lives. Out of 300 kids - 146 were misplaced during the violence - many of them had to flee for their

lives. They are all back, all but 14 of them, who have moved away for good. I never know how to even process after being in the slums. But I don't think I'll ever forget this morning as an eight year old girl named Kathy shared her hymnal with me. As we sang one of my very favorite hymns "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," she sang at the very top of her lungs, "All I have needed, Thy hand has provided...." Needless to say, the song took on new meaning today as I listened through my tears. It was beautiful!

Benevolence Fund Established to Help those in Need

In 2008, the vestry, in cooperation with Fr. Jerry, established a Benevolence Fund to assist parishioners who have fallen on difficult times and need financial assistance larger than our current Clergy



Discretionary Fund can provide. Thanks to recent donations from individual donors, the fund now has money in it. A Benevolence Committee has been established by the vestry to manage the disbursement of the fund and is comprised of the following lay leaders: Ashley MacLachlan, Don Cason, Zena Caruthers, Bob Garth, David Logan. If you are in need of assistance, please contact

the church office and schedule an appointment with one of the clergy. You may contribute to the Benevolence Fund by writing a check to St. Bartholomew's with "Benevolence Fund" in the memo line.

If you have an interest in helping with the committee, please contact one of the committee members above.



The Widow's Mite

A Study on Giving



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

by Carmen Hall

Vestry Liaison for Children and Family Formation

The widow's mite. You've read the story or heard it in the lectionary. Four memorable verses begin Luke 21.

As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor woman has put in more than all the others." All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

I find myself mentally returning to this story over and over—with an almost morbid curiosity because it challenges me so deeply. I refer to it as a story, but perhaps I should say the event and narration. For what is so stirring is that this really happened; it was not a parable that Jesus told to make a point. This real woman as a widow was in a most vulnerable position, "alone" in this world. What is so rattling is that Jesus emphasizes that she put in all she had to live on. I don't read this as a euphemism or exaggeration. This was the living Son of God speaking, the one who read the secret thoughts of the Pharisees, the one who saw Nathaniel under the fig tree before Philip brought him to Jesus. This Jesus, the One who knew all things, says that she gave all she had to live on.

And that's it. That's all he says. Every time I wonder, "Well, then, what happens next?" He said specifically

that she put in all she had to live on. So does that mean she goes home and starves? After all, she has no husband or pension plan. Is that how the story really ends? Somehow, I can't believe

When Jesus lifts up this woman as an example, we experience dread—certainly, Lord, not this. And He reveals that our need is actually much greater than the widow's. For where she has faith, we have fear.

that it ends there. I think a Paul Harvey journalist would find that the "rest of the story" is actually far more interesting. How did God show up to meet this woman's need? How did His faithfulness meet up with her faith? And, yet, significantly, Jesus does not share the rest of the story with us. Instead, we are left with that nagging pit in our stomach—and that is where God reveals the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts. When Jesus lifts up this woman as an example, we experience dread—certainly, Lord, not this. And He reveals that our need is actually

much greater than the widow's. For where she has faith, we have fear.

Jesus lifts this woman up as an example because of her giving. Why is giving even that important? Does God need our giving? We have all heard the psalmist's declaration that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. When I quoted that to my six-year old daughter, Kyrie, she corrected me, "Actually, mom, He owns the cattle on all the hills."

Sound theology tells us that our God is the self-existent one, all knowing and all powerful. Knowing who He is, it seems absurd that we as frail creatures, not much more than dust, could add anything to His existence. Yet, at the same time, God has chosen to intertwine His deeds and His kingdom with our involvement. At the end of Matthew 13, we read of Jesus visiting his hometown of Nazareth, where He is without honor. Verse 58 says, "And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief." I have always been struck by Mark's wording of this same account: "He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And He was amazed at their lack of faith." (Mark 6:5, 6)

Lately, I have been reading some books by Professor John Gottman. It was interesting for me to read his take on his faith of Judaism: "In Judaism prayer is primarily used either for thanksgiving or to praise. Yet the religion claims that God does not require endless praise, flattery, or thanks. So what is the purpose of these prayers? They are not meant for God's benefit but to help the person who is praying."

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The Widows Mite (continued from page 6)

Similarly, it could seem that our giving, a true expression of faith, may be more for us than God. When I'm operating in fear, I am in a form of bondage. I may think I am protecting myself by hoarding, but in actuality I am keeping my soul tightly locked up. I think of the Scripture, "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet loses his soul?" In our worldly mindset, it's hard for us to understand how a freely flowing hand of giving is a spring of life. And, yet, it all goes back to seeing our Shepherd rightly. When we let go of the things and cares of this world, we open our hands to hold His. I believe His desire for us to give flows out of His never-ending love for us. He longs that we would know the joy of relying on Him with no pitiful substitute to try to fill us. Will we be disappointed if we give up all else for Him? Was the widow? These are questions with which we wrestle. And, yet, the mystery is that to increase our faith, we must take the first steps to exercise our faith.

Actually, I don't like speaking of giving in terms of a dichotomy—something is not for us or God. We are hidden with Christ in God. There is a bigger picture in the Kingdom of God—a large canvas that weaves God and His body together for a greater purpose. Our giving is not just about us, but we participate in His beautiful story. Just as the all-powerful Jesus made Himself "dependent" on the faith of the people in Nazareth to perform His deeds, He entrusts much of His purposes to us.

One of my kids and I were talking about the idea of trusting God. I thought it interesting when my child said, "Well, it's easy for you, because you've seen how God provides." He had remembered me telling stories of my childhood. When my mother

became a single parent, when I was eight, we entered a period of severe financial hardship, living in actual poverty—yet seeing God's provision. Before that, I had been attending a



The widow's coins would have looked something like the coins pictured above.

special and expensive private school—one that was best suited for this odd little scholar. My mother, a Spaniard, had bartered and had been their Spanish teacher in exchange for my tuition. But she wouldn't be able to teach Spanish when she got a real "minimum wage" job! And there certainly wouldn't be anything left for tuition. The woman, who started and directed the school, was a quirky lady and not a business woman. She never made any money from this endeavor. She could not afford to do what she generously offered—she gave me a complete scholarship. We never paid another cent, from then through my graduation from high school.

During our years of depravation, I never experienced hunger, though I do believe my mother did, sacrificing so I could eat. At various times, like when my mother's old car would break down, it seemed we would not be able to make it. She needed that car to get to work in another town. On such occasions, my mom might receive a

financial gift in the mail that allowed us to survive. What my child recognizes, as do I, is that all these provisions were from God. And, yet, it was never money dropped from heaven. I have never seen God provide apart from people giving. He has chosen to use the hands of others.

The more I think of giving, the more I realize how powerful it is. Through it, we experience spiritual freedom, letting go to hold on to Jesus. And, beyond that, we actually participate in fulfilling God's purposes. An amazing privilege.

Hospital Care and Births

Help the St. B's family care for your family. If you or a family member is sick, in the hospital, or scheduled for surgery, please let us know by contacting the church office (377-4750) so we can best care for you.



Also, please let us know if you're expecting a baby. We want to be ready to welcome new births and notify the Meals for New Mom's ministry so we can provide your family with meals.



Jambalaya Jazz Fest Raises \$200 for the Music Ministry

The 2nd Annual Jambalaya Jazz Fest took place on Sunday, April 19th. The event was held in the gymnasium due to the stormy weather. Even though it was inside, 150 people attended. Those who did attend enjoyed delicious New Orleans cuisine and music provided by Adam Wirdzek's jazz band. We also had face painting, balloon making, and a bounce house for the kids to enjoy.

Crawfish was flown in from Baton Rouge, cooked on the grounds and enjoyed by those who reserved their order ahead of time. The event raised \$200 for the St. B's Music Ministry.



Jambalaya Jazz Fest



Photos by Pam White

Enough Already: A No-Nonsense Financial Update



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

by Pam White
Director of Operations

I know many of you may be tired of hearing about the finances at St. B's and what needs to be done to resolve our current cash flow issue - cut expenses and increase giving. It is nothing new to the majority of you who are putting these same measures in place due to your own reduced income or job loss as a result of the current economic situation.

As the Director of Operations at St. B's for the last 8+ years, and a church member for the past 13 years, I have often tried to put myself in a regular member or visitor's shoes when communicating about "church business." I have asked myself what (if anything) would I want to know about the church finances right now?

With all the recent communication about tithing from the leadership at St. B's, I would want to know that the money the church is receiving is being used wisely, furthering the Kingdom of God, and ministering to those in need.

I would want to know that as I have had to cut expenses due to my own personal job / income situation, the church has done the same. I would also want to know who

made the budget-cut decisions and if I should redirect my giving to other more stable charitable organizations. I only have so much I can give and I want the dollars that I am giving to make a difference.

With all the negative information in the media and with the recent concerns over the church financial situation, I want to provide you with hope for the future. Please know that although St. B's is in a tight cash position, we are stable, financially sound, and on track with the recent actions made by the vestry and staff to end 2009 in a favorable position. God is still on the throne and we are not! There are many wonderful spiritual and practical things happening at St. B's and God has not abandoned us. He is blessing us and is calling us to persevere and focus on the positive. "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is fair, whatever is pure, whatever is

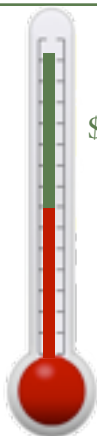
acceptable, whatever is commendable, if there is anything of excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy - keep thinking about these things. (Philippians 4:8)

When we began 2009, the vestry and staff knew that we would need to keep a tight reign on the day-to-day expenses at the church due to the aggressive budget we approved for the new year amid the U.S. recession. Rightly so, in April (after reviewing 1st quarter financials and our cash in bank), the finance committee recommended to Fr. Jerry that we reduce the 2009 budget by \$150,000 May - December, which would be comparable to our 2008 total annual giving. This is exactly what we did. The revised 2009 budget is now \$1,237,317, a 12% reduction over the original budget of \$1,401,186. Where exactly the budget cuts would come from were recommended by Fr. Jerry, with input from the Director of Operations, Vestry Wardens, and Treasurer in certain areas. The revised budget was reviewed and approved by the vestry in April. The budget cuts were not done hastily, but with wise counsel and a great deal of prayer.

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Why the New Thermometers?

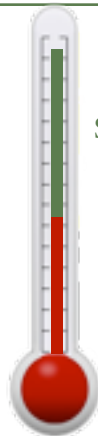
The thermometer on left will always show income needed to meet our monthly goal (green) vs. our actual current income for the current month (red).



\$103,109.77
needed

\$65,303.99
received

The thermometer on the right will always show income needed to meet our total 2009 full year budget (green) vs. income received year to date (red).



\$1,237,317.23
needed

\$482,677.69
received

You may have noticed this new section in *St. B's Weekly* the last few Sundays. In an effort to keep the parish updated in regards to our finances on a more consistent basis, the Weekly Financial Report will now be a feature included in the *Weekly* each Sunday. We hope that the Month to Date and Year to Date thermometers will help both simplify the numbers and give parishioners a good visual update of how we're doing in relation to our budget.



Enough Already (continued from page 10)

We penny-pinched in some areas, but realized that the only way to get our expenses back in line with our giving was to reduce them in the largest budgeted areas - Personnel, Mission and Outreach, Parish Operations (facilities) and Office.

Some of these cuts you will feel and others you will not. The summary of budget items eliminated or reduced in May - December 2009 are as follows:

Personnel – reduced by \$64,817:

The position of Assistant Rector (Fr. Randy's job) was eliminated May 1st. No salary increases were given to the staff in 2009. A reduction in medical benefits and increase in deductibles were implemented May 1st. Other cuts that have been made in the area of personnel have been done so voluntarily by individual staff members making financial sacrifices in order to help reduce costs. I tell you this to assure you that for the staff of St. B's, this is not just a job, but a family in which we are a part and each member is doing all that he/she can to help with the current situation.

Mission and Outreach – reduced by \$24,686:

In M&O, contributions budgeted for May-December for specific Christian based organizations were eliminated. The organizations that were cut from the budget for the rest of the year are Episcopal Church Mission, Anglican Frontiers Ministry, SOMA, Rock the World, Trinity School for Ministry, Charis, Interface and Campus for Human Development. Ministries where we reduced giving are Rooftops, Intersarsity and St. Luke's Community Center. Seminarian support for Fr. John Awan (Sudanese Priest) was eliminated effective July 1st due to his

graduation from University of the South in May. Support for Kakuma Scholarships (Sudanese in Africa) and Michael Yemba (Sudanese advisor) were also eliminated. Additional voluntary sacrifices were made by individuals receiving support from St. B's. All other areas of giving for mission and outreach remain the same including the Chapmans (Liberia), The Powells (Germany), Campus Crusade for Christ, Siloam, US Center for World Mission, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, and the Diocesan Pledge.

Although St. B's is in a tight cash position, we are stable, financially sound, and on track... to end 2009 in a favorable position.

Church operations (facilities) and Office – reduced by \$57,388:

Retire one of two debts and eliminate 'unexpected repairs' budgeted amount with the endowment from the Hazelwood Estate to be received late summer for the Nehemiah Fund. Reduce mailings for youth ministry and church overall and convert more communications to email. Increase the temperature of the parish hall and church buildings during the summer (will be warmer in the sanctuary so dress accordingly) and decrease the heat in the winter. On May 1st, we switched coffee vendors from Starbucks to Seattle's Best to reduce expenses, reduced outside printing costs for the remainder of the year, renegotiated the monthly telephone

contract, computer / network support, and no longer print the Branch (monthly newsletter) in color. We've also reduced non-essentials in lawn care (weeding, plantings etc.), and have delayed updating our website and replacement of our current phone system until 2010.

Special Events, Clergy expenses and Ministries- reduced by \$7,533:

We have reduced or eliminated the costs associated with Special Events May-December in 2009. The goal is to have each event at minimum break even. We have eliminated the budget for St. B's Art Exhibit in 2009 and will not be having it this year. The budget for the July 4th celebration has been reduced, as well as the Jambalaya Jazz Fest and other church-wide events. Clergy business expenses have decreased partly due to the assistant rector position being eliminated, as well as church VISA rewards points being used and redeemed for restaurant gift cards to be used for volunteer and pastoral care meetings outside the church. The budget for the St. B's softball team was taken out as donations from individuals have been made to cover the league and uniform costs.

Other- Miscellaneous expenses reduced by \$9,445:

The youth ministry budget was reduced in various areas by \$4,200 and other miscellaneous expenses were cut by \$5,245.

That is it in a nutshell. Rest assured that your church staff and vestry are doing all we can to keep our expenses down with minimal impact on the ministry and mission of our church, just as each of you are doing in your own families.

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The Way of St. Bartholomew: Lessons Learned



A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Fr. Dixon Kinser

Assistant Rector for Youth & Young Adult Formation

Pilgrimage was Best!

When asked what was the best part of this experience, most participants answered immediately, “the pilgrimage”. This was so pleasing to me because the pilgrimage we ended up taking was very different from what I had initially envisioned.

Our initial plan was to make pilgrimage to a

Continued on next page

Nine months ago a group of twenty-two teenagers and adults embarked on a journey. It was a journey of spiritual formation that involved taking vows, making a rule of life and living it out in community. This experiment was called the Way of St. Bartholomew and it has just now come to a close.

For the next two issues of the Branch I want to report and reflect on how it all went. Many of you were there when we took our vows and may have even forgotten about the whole thing. That is understandable. However, I want to tell what our experience of this “Way” has been like so that when we offer to do it again (and we will next fall) you can decide if you would like to be part of it. So here we go...

Rule of Life?

To remind you briefly what this whole thing was about, the Way of St. Bartholomew’s is centered around five vows.

Prayer: Involving weekly devotion and study, anchored in the Holy Scriptures.

Presence: Face-to-face meeting for worship and spiritual direction.

Practice: Pursuing personal development in your chosen Christian discipline

Poverty: Choosing to live simply, openly and generously with your possessions.

Pilgrimage: Taking time once during this season to seek God on retreat.

The content of each participant’s vows were unique and constructed with the help of The Way’s Spiritual Director (The Rev. Dixon Kinser). Once taken publicly (which we did during worship at St. B’s) the group lived out their vows both individually as well as during a weekly gathering of worship, study and prayer. The keeping of these vows made up our rule of life and we opted to keep ours from October 2008 until Easter 2009.

Lessons Learned

Following the Way of St. Bartholomew’s has been one of the best things I’ve ever done for my Christianity. The mix of communal and personal elements coupled with the rigors of the Way’s consistency was extremely helpful for me. When we gathered last month to debrief the experience several things surfaced as lessons learned.



Photos of the Pilgrimage by Chris Somerville



The Way of St. B (continued from page 12)



desert monastery in New Mexico. However, when the economy changed so dramatically we had to rethink our plans. As a result we ended up making a “day trip” pilgrimage to Thomas Merton’s monastery, the Abbey of Gethsemane, in Kentucky. This turned out to be a most wonderful option because it allowed for maximum participation from the group (almost everyone was able to go) and afforded many of the touchstones of the historic pilgrimage. This included traveling in community to a destination of religious significance and visiting the relic/grave of a saint (Merton is buried at the Abbey). Our group loved praying with the monks and really met God during our time on the monastery grounds. Throw in a great dinner at a Greek restaurant on the way home and you’ve got the makings of a winning experience.

My Alliteration was Worst

The part of the experience that needed the most improvement was the way our naming of the vows created confusion for the participants. In my zeal for alliteration I chose five words for the vows that sometimes made it hard to remember what one had promised to do. There were lots of comments like, “How is the ‘prayer’ discipline different from my ‘practice’ one? Can I have something related to prayer for my ‘practice’ vow? I’m confused.” Noted.

In the future we’ll revamp the names and concepts in order to streamline the ritual and enable helpful promise keeping.

Community Really Matters

Everything we did as part of The Way was anchored in community. By that I mean we met most weeks to process our experiences together and many of us had vows that required communal participation (for example, I chose to divulge every personal purchase I made over the nine months to the entire group). More than this we found that meeting together every week brought home the fact that were not alone in our Christian practice, nor can we do it alone. This idea runs counter to the reigning cultural story where freedom is equated with self-sufficiency. The gospel challenges this and we

were all freed to “need” each other in ways that, had we not made these vows, would not have been possible.

In closing, I would like to extend an invitation to any of you who are interested in submitting to The Way of St. Bartholomew’s this Fall. We are tweaking the Way here and there based on our experience this year (for example we are adding a service component) and plan to invite the entire community to participate next time. Pray and send me an email with any questions you may have.



One of the last pieces of feedback we got was how helpful the intentionality of the Way was for everyone. Christianity is something to be done on and with purpose. The Way of St. B’s is a great tool for intentional Christian practice, but like any tool, it will not be useful unless it is used. Consider if you’d benefit from using something like this. Formation in the way of Jesus takes training and intention. It is something to be done on purpose and we would be honored if you joined us next time.

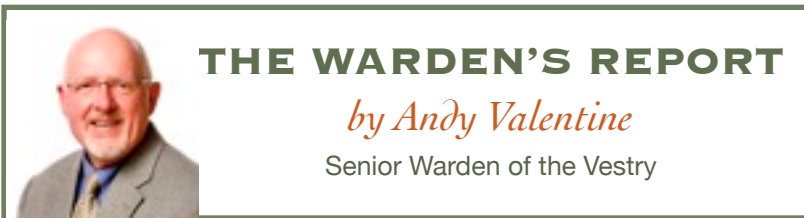
Peace in Jesus.

(Next month: Testimonies from participants in the Way of St. Bartholomew.)



God Must Be From Texas

Trusting that He who owns it all will provide



I sat down on the porch steps that I had just finished shoveling free of snow and looked at the car parked at the curb. The hood was up and I could see antifreeze dripping onto the asphalt under the car. It was 1977 and I was young, married, a new father and broke beyond broke. It was bitter cold and the ancient Oldsmobile had made a loud pop when I tried to start it. The temperature gauge moved up into the red zone with the speed and jerky movement of the second hand on a cheap watch. Even with my limited mechanical ability, I knew that there was something really wrong with the car. I went inside and called a mechanic who attended church with me.

After describing the problem, Joe decided that I either had a ruptured radiator hose or something worse. So I sat on the steps and prayed. It was not an articulate prayer, not something I thought about or talked to God like I talk to a friend about. It was a desperate cry from the heart of a scared kid who did not know how he was going to pay the electric bill, much

Currently the vestry is doing its work, revising the budget, making difficult and painful cuts that affect our parish family in ways we don't even realize. Yet, we know that God owns the cattle of a thousand hills and there is nothing He cannot and will not provide.

less a car repair. Then God spoke into the situation. He told me to go drive the car.

I got in the car, turned the key and the car started. I pulled out into the street slippery with snow and started toward my office. Within a couple of blocks steam started coming out of the vents on the hood. I kept driving. Halfway to

my office the temperature gauge started dropping toward normal and by the time I parked the car the steam had stopped. Over the next three years that I owned the car I am sure there were other mechanical problems but I can't recall them. What I remember is that I never again had a problem with that Oldsmobile overheating.

Now, you may want to explain my "miracle" away. I could probably explain it away myself if I was willing to live my life without miracles; but I'm not. All I know is that God answered my prayer and I am going to leave it there.

Currently the vestry is doing its work, revising the budget, making difficult and painful cuts that affect our parish family in ways we don't even realize. Yet, we know that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and there is nothing He cannot and will not provide. Faith is not believing that God can, it is believing that God will. And I know that even now God is speaking into this situation. There will be volunteers and funding, wallets and hands, to do the work that God has set out for St. Bartholomew's.

A Texan friend of mine once said jokingly "God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, He must be from Texas." I could not resist reminding him that while Texas may have the cattle, Tennessee has the hills.

Enough Already (continued from page 11)

The vestry will be providing weekly updates in the Sunday announcement section of your bulletin, as well as giving periodic updates on how we are doing against our revised budget. You'll also see a greater focus on

communicating to the parish on the exciting things happening at St. B's and through St. B's not relating to finances. We have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to in 2009. May St. B's be a place of personal

encouragement for you and your family as we persevere through these uncertain times together confident in God's love and faithfulness.

“Hey, Tim”



RUMINATIONS

by *Marjie Smith*

msscribber@comcast.net

as we pass the car weaving across three lanes of traffic, huffing in righteous indignation,

His Collarship is one of these people who drives down the road and does inventory of points of interest at the same time. You're driving through eternities of forest and he says, “Did you see that one-legged hawk?”

“Where?”

“In the top of that tree.”

He has been known to drive into the back of another car while leaning out the window and yelling, “Hey, Tim,” at a friend riding his bicycle while wearing a cast. For some time, “Hey, Tim,” was the kids’ back-pocket phrase they pulled out whenever they wanted to comment on their dad’s habits behind the wheel.

When I’m the passenger, I suppose my job should be giving the travelogue. But, other than reading maps (back when I could see them), keeping the offspring from committing back-seat fratricide (back when they were the kids) and handing the driver all those things he seems to need ... I tend to get lost in reverie and wouldn’t notice if a tornado picked us up and deposited us backwards on a busy one-way street.

In fact, I’d probably come out of my haze and say, “You’re going the wrong way!”

Distractions notwithstanding, I’m seldom the one who spots deer chowing on farmer’s fields three miles away.

When I’m doing the driving, my observations are more like, “Bets on that this guy’s on his cell phone?” And,

“He’s texting!”

When the kids were small and traveling with us, I’d do traveling French lessons, reading highway signs in French and asking them what they meant. Trouble was, they knew, and then would proceed to correct my pronunciation.

His Collarship doesn’t read highway signs in any language. It gives him more time to look around.

His observation skills reached their peak, 30 years ago, on Manitoulin Island. He was the pastor of a multi-point parish and we were beetling it to church No. 2. It was mid-winter, and the snow was piled up along the roadside.

As we drove, we scared up two deer that seemed to think the dotted line was a Starbucks and were holding conference in the middle of the road. Being fleeter of foot than of brain, they dashed into the ditch and were jumping the wire fence as we cruised by.

His Collarship, who was, of course, watching them in the rear-view mirror, saw one of them snare its foot in the wire strands. He braked and backed up. Church was going to be late in the town of Mindemoya this morning.

He expected he could lift the wire and free the thrashing animal. But the wire had buckled over on itself trapping the hoof. It was a job for wire cutters. And he happened to have a pair with him. He waded into the deep snow commanding the deer to hold still.

Unbelievably, it did.

It was definitely a miracle. He’d been using that same tone of voice on the kids for years without results.

Realizing this was a good photo for the Manitoulin Expositor, I grabbed my camera. (You’d be surprised what else we had on board.) To get a good shot, I had to stand in the ditch, up to my waist in snow.

As His Collarship cut the last strand and the deer dashed away, he found himself faced with another trapped mammal: his wife. In my dash for a prize shot, I had neglected my physical state. Being eight months pregnant and as buoyant as the Titanic, I was cemented into the snowbank.

It was more of a job for a tow truck, but a winch was the one thing he didn’t happen to be taking to church. It was only after the beached whale reached safety, we found a characteristic of corduroy, other than covering billowing bellies.

I no longer looked like the cat that ate the Canary Islands; I looked like the cat that ate them then rolled in whipped cream. The liquid remains of half the snow from the Hilly Grove ditch ended up sloshing into church with me that morning.

But the Expositor got its front page photo. Jerry got his sermon material. And, one month later, I got Aaron.



Small Group Headed to Liberia, Germany

On June 6, Father Jerry and his wife, Marjie, will embark for Liberia as travel guests of John and Natasha Deane, their daughters Nicole and Alexandra, and family friend Julia Carruthers-Thorne, all parishioners of St. B's. They will be visiting our outreach ministers Keith and Kristin Chapman and family. The Chapmans, as most of you know, have set up a dental mission in Monrovia, the nation's capital.

The purpose of the trip is to provide moral support to the Chapmans and increase their profile in the church. The Chapmans first served on the Mercy Ships before deciding to open a permanent practice in Monrovia. With the country recently emerging from two decades of civil war, the weakened infrastructure needs shoring on many fronts. Medical is one of them. The Chapmans heeded the call to establish a mission, but do any of



us understand the daily pressures they face in a country that for so long was held together by an over-structure of NGOs while violence and terror reigned? The Chapmans deal with daily frustrations that we cannot even begin to imagine. In the midst of this, they have built a home and clinic and

continue to raise a family as they minister. The Chapmans have three children, Lauren, Taylor and Samuel. Kristin has a heart for orphans and will be fostering Liberian babies.

To understand more fully the recent turmoil in Liberia, you can read first-hand accounts of the civil war years such as *Blue Clay People* and *The House on Sugar Beach* or novels such as *Redemption Road* and *The Darling*. The president of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has just recently released a biography, *This Child Will be Great*.

The Smiths will stay one week with the Chapmans and the Deanes will stay longer. On the way back home via Brussels, Belgium, Father Jerry and Marjie plan to rent a car and drive up to Germany for two days to visit St. B's outreach ministers Mark and Susan

Powell, and their children Meredith, Ethan and Evan. The Powells minister at Black Forest Academy, an international school for missionary children.

Please pray both for those doing outreach work overseas and for safe travel for those visiting them.



Follow the Liberia trip online

Julia Carruthers-Thorne has set up a site that will feature updates from the group as they travel. Check it out at:

<http://web.me.com/julia.anne/Liberia/>



April & May Vestry Highlights

A Summary of the April & May Vestry Minutes

Each issue of the Branch will briefly summarize key points from the previous month's vestry meeting. Here are highlights from both the April 20 and May 11 meetings.

April 20 Highlights

The meeting was opened by considering Psalm 1, reminding the Vestry the primary focus is on the things of God.

It was asked the minutes from the previous meeting be revised and this has been done.

Motion was made and seconded to accept Dan Cleary as Treasurer and the motion passed unanimously.

The financial report was presented, indicating less was collected than budgeted, however the staff has done an excellent job in holding down expenses the first 3 months of 2009.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

The prayer team was present and the Vestry asked them for prayer.

Motion was made and seconded to thank Steve Thorne for his interim work as Treasurer. Unanimously passed.

The Chair of the financial committee indicated the ambitious budget was encouraging but needed to be reconsidered. There was an overall shortfall of \$62,543 in 2008.

It is projected the church will run out of money before end of year 2009.

One of the biggest issues is designated vs. undesignated giving.

There needs to be \$154,000 in budget cuts from May to December

The possibility of fund raisers was discussed.

There needs to be \$74,192. cut from personnel budget. Father Randy has considered his position being cut as he is the only full time staff who has a spouse who works full time and he is employable as an interim within the diocese.

Cuts were discussed from other areas.

A revised budget will be presented to the Wardens and new Treasurer with recommendations from the finance committee.

Emphasis was made that Father Randy understands his involvement in budget cuts and is okay with whatever decision is made.

It was discussed that the parish needs to hear from the Vestry.

Challenge was made that the Vestry needs to tithe as a model.

There will be a cash crunch for the church and there may be a need to obtain a loan or do fundraising.

With expenses running at \$25,395 a week each parishioner would need to give \$50.52 a week. The Vestry needs to tell the story so the parish will step up to meet the need.

Motion was made to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation based on the anticipated \$250,000 shortfall of needing \$150,000 in budget reductions. The motion reads,



VESTRY SUMMARY

by Gary Mumme

Vestry Clerk

“Recommendation of the Finance Committee in its 03 30 09 report to the Vestry be accepted and approved and are to be implemented in conformity with the proposed budget reduction May -Dec 2009 spreadsheet distributed to the Vestry, as amended at its 04 20 09 meeting; further, at its next Vestry meeting the staff will distribute a revised contributions and expenses budget loss overview implementing these changes starting from 05 01 09 to 12 31 09.”

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee was approved.

The difficult decision was made to release Father Randy from ministry at St Bartholomew's and it was stressed there needs to be a time to honor Father Randy for his work and character.

Consideration was discussed as to a line of credit with Pinnacle Bank to pay expenses for interim working capital. Condition of the bank for approval of credit line was a revised budget.

May 11 Highlights

Father Jerry opened the Vestry meeting with thoughts from Psalm 95, reminding the Vestry to be sensitive to the voice of God.

The March financial report was presented, complementing the staff on a great job of cutting expenses.

Continued on next page



Vestry Highlights (continued from page 17)

More has been spent to date than actually collected, but the church was \$15,832 under budget in April 2009.

A Motion was made to accept "that the Treasurer, Director of Operations and finance committee should begin formulating the parish's 2010 budget recommendations the second week in Jan, the proposed 2010 budget should be submitted to the Vestry at the Feb 2010 vestry meeting, and the 2010 budget should be approved no later than the March 2010 vestry meeting, The parish should use first quarter 2009 actual expenses as the budget for the first quarter 2010. New vestry members should be seated by April 1, or upon the first vestry meeting that takes place after the 2010 budget has been approved by the sitting vestry, whichever is later. So as to stay in compliance with national and diocesan canon, the parish should continue to

report the prior year's financials to the diocese and conduct its yearly audit based on the calendar year, but for purposes of budgetary planning, the parish should use an April 1 to April 1 fiscal year. Motion was seconded and carried.

Motion was also made to accept the finance committee's recommendation that cash held in the parish's general operating accounts representing the balance of the Nehemiah Fund and of the Walking Path Memorial Fund should be transferred to a new bank account established for the holding of funds on which use restrictions have been placed. Motion was seconded and carried.

Motion was made to authorize St. B's Warden to establish a line of credit in Pinnacle Bank in the amount of \$125,000 according to the terms of the

04 13 09 letter from Pinnacle Bank to Charlie Reasor and to take actions incidental to establishing of such LOC. Motion was seconded and passed.

The church is still over budget even with cuts (Father Randy's salary and benefits) and the LOC would alleviate more cuts to expenses.

Much good news from the Rector. Two more parishioners have completed their vocational discernment committee. The Reemployment and Finishing Well seminars were very successful and the spiritual temperature of the parish is good.

Denise Kemp is working on the celebration for Fr. Randy and Kathy.

INTRODUCING ST. B'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT THIS MONTH
FR. RANDY & KATHY HOOVER-DEMPSEY CELEBRATION
PRESENTED BY THE VESTRY PREMIERES FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 7:00PM
DESSERT AND COFFEE, FOLLOWED BY CARS

RSVP TO CHURCHOFFICE@STBS.NET
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO BRING DESSERT FOR 10
BRING YOUR OWN BLANKETS OR CHAIRS



Life on the Mountain



THE WONDER OF IT ALL
by Carla Schober
Director of Family & Children's Formation

This past weekend my family and I visited my parents' cabin in California's High Sierra Mountains. The reason was bittersweet. It had been my Dad's wishes to have his ashes scattered in the place he most loved on earth and it was our responsibility to fulfill his wishes and memorialize them to the Lord.

It was a weekend of memories. We visited some of the places where Dad had shown my brother and I how to fish, to hike, to camp. We remembered a Dad who loved nature and made sure we knew the importance of admiring and respecting it. We remembered how he loved to sit at the top of a mountain and imagine a God who created everything as far as he could see. And we remembered how he loved to share this same passion and his love of God with us and anyone else he knew would listen.

There were also other more personal memories that came to mind this

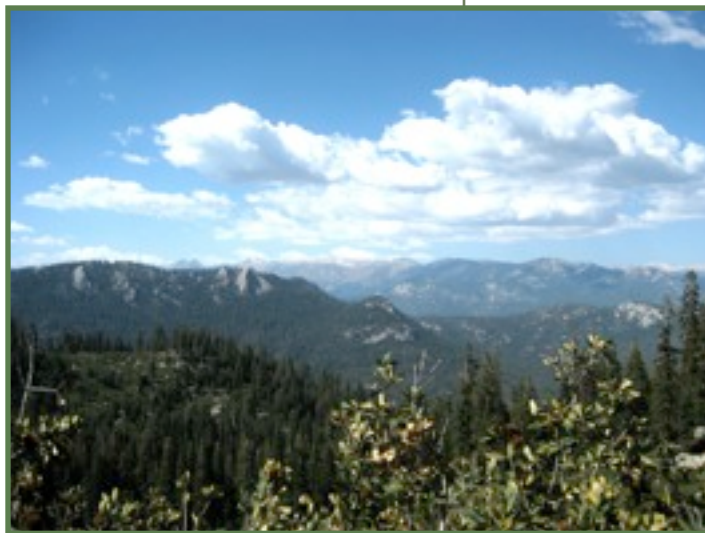
weekend. I remember at age 11 being scared of death and darkness. We were at the cabin. I went upstairs to say goodnight to my grandmother and hoped she could comfort me. She was reading her Bible and stopped when I entered her room. I told her I was scared to go to sleep that night because it was so dark. There were a lot of noises outside and that I felt very alone. My grandmother hugged me and read some verses to me. I don't remember which verses but I do remember going back to my room, laying down and telling Jesus that I knew He was there, that I knew I needed Him and that I wanted His peace. I remember distinctly a feeling of calm flowing into me and at that moment knowing I was His and He would always be with me. I have never doubted His love and acceptance from that night on.

It's interesting how the end of a life can remind us so much of what living should be. If we choose to see it, God's creation, His redemption, His life is everywhere around us. It's in our memories and it's in the present. It can



show itself in the obvious – the magnificence of a giant Sequoia tree or small meadow flowers breaking through the melting snow. We can feel or hear it in the hugs and kind words of those close to us or the unexpected kindness of a stranger. We can see God's redemption looking back over hard times and tears and remember how the Lord brought us through our circumstances. And, if we choose, we can see in faith, through difficult times, that the God of creation and of life will see us through again and again.

It was hard leaving the mountain. As our car rolled down the driveway a light rain began to fall. Our middle son, Michael said the rain made it feel God was letting us know He had Grandpa (my Dad) with Him now. He saw God's life and our hope.



What's Cooking at St. B's this Summer?

Heat up the kitchen, have fun, and make some new friends

by Annie Heyward,
St. B's Administrative Assistant

St. B's is yet again offering a panoply of cooking classes this summer. Whether you are a food connoisseur, aspiring gourmet chef, or completely inept and clueless when it comes to all-things-kitchen (yes, that means some of us), there is a place for every skill-level. These classes not only provide a fun and interesting avenue through which to learn; they expose you to new faces and new relationships! Interactive and hands-on, each class is stimulating and engaging.

Pat Bowlby can attest to this. She and her husband Bill participated in Harry and Phyllis Xanthopoulos' class, "My Big Fat Greek Dinner," back in April. When asked for her thoughts about the class, she replied: "Everyone really loved it. About 12 or 13 people were there. Informal. Everyone would gather round and watch what Phyllis was doing, and she had everyone doing something, so everyone got to participate." According to Pat, the class made a delicious Greek dinner of grape leaves, spanekopeta, and Galaktoboureko (custard dessert with filo). Pat said, "It was just delightful! All was really good and so fresh. Phyllis learned how to cook these dishes from her mother-in-law. I had experimented with filo dough once, but it was really hard. Phyllis gave me some good tips; she did it a lot easier. She knew what

to do and did it very well. I'm very much a novice!" I was particularly interested to hear the last part, because I am very much a beginner when it comes to cooking, so I was glad to hear the classes were helpful

Quick Facts:

Remaining Spring Classes

Friday, June 5

"French Country Cuisine"

Taught by Thorunn McCoy

Friday, June 12

"Easy Entertaining"

Taught by Thorunn McCoy

Friday, June 19

"It's Friday! Come to Dinner"

Taught by Ann Denson

Saturday, August 22

"Heat Up the Kitchen with Tasty Tex-Mex & Latin Appetizers"

Taught by Malcolm & Pam White

and fun! Pat also mentioned getting to meet some new people from St. B's she didn't know before taking the class.

There are four classes remaining (all of which have spots available).

Friday, June 5th, Thorunn McCoy will be offering a class, "French Country

Cuisine," where you will learn how to make wholesome, warming food from the



French countryside, including delectable coq au vin and hearty beef burgundy. Thorunn will also be teaching a class, "Easy Entertaining," on Friday, June 12th. In this class you will learn how to entertain a party of six and still be a guest at your own dinner, while you prepare a Mediterranean feast and an easy Italian dinner that works for both small and large crowds. Ann Denson is instructing the June 19th class, "It's Friday! Come to Dinner," where you will be making delicious roast chicken, home-made mac & cheese, green salad, and Texas sheet cake. Wine is included in many of these classes, so you can simultaneously relax and enjoy yourself as you hone your culinary skills.

Personally, I am looking forward to Pam and Malcolm White's class, "Heat Up the Kitchen with Tasty Tex-Mex & Latin Appetizers," on Saturday, August 22nd. What sounds more appealing than tortilla soup, guacamole and cool, sweet sangria on a hot summer's night? Sounds like a fun date idea, too! I'm a novice when it comes to cooking, so I welcome the opportunity to learn new dishes and refine my culinary acumen.

If you haven't already, I'd encourage you to sign up and participate in these fun classes with other St. B's family members. Who knows? We might have some Rachael Rays and Emerils hiding in our midst.



ECW Plans Ahead

Exciting events in the works for women of all ages

by Sue Pichert

St. B's ECW (Episcopal Church Women) is having a blast planning monthly events to socialize, study, and serve. Your response and participation have been wildly enthusiastic. We kicked off the year with a potluck at the rectory, then ate Mexican at Mazatlan, "retreated" at St. Mary's in March, hit the Frist in April, and did the bike/walk in Shelby Bottoms Park in May. One of the most exciting aspects of our get-togethers is that new faces show up each month.

Most events have had an attendance between 20 and 50, but overall more than 75 women have taken part in events over the past 4 months! And we hope that number will increase as we continue to plan a variety of different types of happenings.

Save the dates below and watch for an "Evite" from Tara Moore. Tara is our "Event Coordinator" but we have also been spectacularly blessed by more than a dozen other women who have helped organize and run specific

events. Hooray for the Women of St. Bartholomew's and the Spirit of God moving among us!

If you have a suggestion for a specific event for us to look into, need more information about anything, wish to give feedback or want to volunteer to help out with any of these plans please email stbsecw@yahoo.com.



Upcoming ECW Events

June 28:

The Nashville Sounds baseball game. Faith Night and Purity Sundae Sunday (sundaes for \$1.00). Come and bring your family, friends and neighbors! Watch the E-news, St. B's Weekly, and your email for more details on how to request tickets. Game starts at 6 p.m..



July 11:

Summer mini-retreat at St. B featuring Kristen Kinser. Join us at 9:15 in the Parish Hall for coffee and fellowship. Kristen Kinser, who shared part of her personal testimony at the spring retreat, will be our speaker. Afterwards, we will break up with options to continue with Kristen, join Pillsbury Million Dollar Bake-off Winner Denise Yennie for a cooking lesson preparing our lunch, or participate in a service project (again, watch for details). We will all join together for lunch and fellowship and be out by early afternoon.

August:

At the moment no specific event is planned for August. We may take a "summer vacation" or look for some very low-key, minimal planning event.

September 19:

St. B's ECW will be hosting the Diocesan ECW convention. Watch for more details and consider attending or volunteering to help host our sister ECWs from across our diocese.

October 10:

Annual Fall Kick-off Luncheon. Short business meeting and elections, followed by a speaker. Watch for more details.



The Far Reaching Impact of St. B's

by Susan Powell

Did you know that St. B's has a ministry supporting pilots in Africa, church planters in Slovenia and leadership and wellness trainers in Bosnia, just to name a few? Your support of our family and our ministry to missionary kids at Black Forest Academy means that countless works for Christ can continue. Let us introduce you to a few of the "frontline" missionary families that are supported by our work at BFA:

The Krause Family

Jerry and Gina Krause and their children Nathan, Alyssa and Jessica have lived and served in Africa for over 17 years, first in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, then Kenya and most recently in Mali, West Africa. Jerry is a pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship, a mission organization that trains pilots to serve in remote locations throughout the world. During their time of service, Jerry has done everything from flying medical missionaries to remote villages to delivering bibles in



Jerry, Jessica and Alyssa Krause, during one of Jerry's recent visits to Germany to see his daughters play basketball.

many African countries. All of the Krause children have either graduated from or are currently attending BFA. The Krause family is grateful for BFA's role in supporting their ministry as well as the way in which their children have thrived here.

The Bell Family

Randy and Joan Bell and their daughters Bethany, Lydia and Lizi have been on the mission field for 17 years. They are currently serving as church planters in Maribor, Slovenia.



The Bell Family

BFA has been especially meaningful to the Bells and their ability to stay on the field. Joan shared with us recently that their oldest daughter has a learning disability and that were it not for BFA and the caring teachers there, they would have had to leave the field to ensure that their daughter's educational needs were met. Randy and Joan have two of their daughters currently attending BFA with plans to send their youngest when she starts high school.



The Shady Family

The Shady Family

Mark and Vivian Shady and their children Monique, Naomi, Esther, and Max serve in Mostar, Bosnia. Mark is the assistant director of a Bible institute and teaches leadership courses to national church workers all over Bosnia. Vivian is a wellness coach serving women in the town of Mostar. She seeks to educate women in the area of fitness and healthy living. In addition, the Shadys attend and serve in a local church that provides a place in which many cultures blend and worship together. Through their church, the Shadys minister to Croats, Serbs, Catholics and Muslims and seek to provide healing to the citizens of this war torn city and country. All of the Shady children have either graduated from or are currently attending BFA.

These three families represent many others that are serving across the globe, teaching, preaching and providing relief to those that need it most. We are privileged to be the bridge, the ministry partners, that link St. Bartholomew's Church with all of these amazing works for Christ.



From Glory to Glory

The title "From Glory to Glory" comes from Paul's revelation into God's eternal destiny for each of his children. "And we...are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory."



JUNE 2009

Anniversaries

Christopher & Kendra Thorpe	6/6
Rev. David & Katrina Wilson	6/8
Ben & Becky Hornsby	6/11
Eric Wyse & Dawn Rogers	6/11
Dan & Jessica Bauchiero	6/13
Bob & Shirley Garth	6/14
Thomas & Katherine Petillo	6/14
Randall & Lynn Ferguson	6/15
Brett & Emily Kinzig	6/15
Aaron & Rachel Sefton	6/20
Jim & Sue Pichert	6/22
Steve & Lisa Craig	6/23
Richard & Kristi Hunter	6/23
Harry & Phylis Xanthopoulos	6/23
Al & Nita Andrews	6/24
Brian & Karen Hampton	6/24
Bob & Tamara Rowland	6/25
Tony & Bethany Bakker	6/26
Dan & Kristi Cleary	6/26
Steve & Nancy Hindalong	6/27
Greg & Ashley MacLachlan	6/28
Whit & Shari Smyth	6/30

Birthdays

Millicent West	6/1
Jack Sullivan	6/1
Jeffrey Martin	6/3
Dennis Holt	6/3
Rachel Goodman	6/4
Ellie Schober	6/4
Jerry Minshall	6/4
Ella Hunter	6/5
Julia Price	6/5
David Thornton	6/5
Wilder Max	6/6
Grace MacLachlan	6/6
Joe Flynn	6/7
Priscilla Rowland	6/8

Olivia Hughes	6/9
Daniel Martin	6/9
Karen Hampton	6/9
Mary Winston Edwards	6/10
Anna Hayden	6/10
Jared Russell	6/10
Winston Edwards	6/10
Owen Hughes	6/11
Don Cason	6/11
Bert Hardwick	6/12
Max Sale	6/13
Christopher Hornsby	6/14
Missy Wood	6/14
Ava Hunter	6/15
Heidi Nobles	6/15
Abigail Tylor	6/15
Tony Earley	6/15
Nancy Hyer	6/16
Bill Bowlby	6/16
Gates Gustafson	6/17
Hillary Seavers	6/17
Elizabeth Jewell	6/17
Robert Pullen	6/17
Aidan Sullivan	6/18
Deedee Ewubare	6/18
James Robinson	6/19
David West Jr	6/20
Elijah Qoe (Eli) Daniel	6/21
Lori Quinn	6/21
Judson Abernathy	6/22
Miriam Michel	6/23
Jaisie Castellon	6/23
Jeremy Roe	6/23
Brannon Huddleston	6/23
Jonathan Stone	6/24
Dr Monique Ingalls	6/25
Betty Ashton Mayo	6/27
Brea Cox	6/27
Thorunn McCoy	6/27
Owen Wood	6/29
Zachary Wood	6/29

Eldon Honeycutt	6/29
Nathan Clair	6/29
Celia Jones	6/29
Caroline Allen	6/30
James Peden	6/30
Jerry Castellon	6/30
Bob Floyd	6/30

Baptisms

4/26/09

Audrey Elise Louise Wirdzek
Parents, Amy & Adam Wirdzek

Ruby Susan Puckett
Parents, Susan & Joshua Puckett

5/10/09

Lucy Beatrice Wood
Parents, Kelly and John Wood

5/31/09

Dylan Richard Combs
Parents, Claire & Danny Combs

Births

Erin and Shaun Shankel welcomed
Stella Dale Shankel on April 2nd

Missy and Asher Wood welcomed
Presley Otto Wood on April 22nd

Katie and Carlos Cooper welcomed
Beckett Andrew Cooper on April 30th

Angela and Tim Lauer welcomed Stella
Hope Lauer on May 6th



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

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**ST. B'S SOCCER ACADEMY ENDS THE
SPRING SEASON WITH A BANG**



The 2nd St. B's Developmental Soccer Academy season ended their final game of the spring on Saturday, May 23rd. The academy enrolled 165 children from the surrounding neighborhood and beyond and also offered full scholarships to those in need. Sam and Zoe's provided food served out of the shed to parents attending games on Saturdays. This is a wonderful outreach for the community. The fall soccer season will begin after Labor Day.

