

The Epistle

September, 2001

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Spirituality and Community: A Way Forward

One of the challenges of completing the construction of our building is knowing where God is leading us as a community next. The call to deepen our life together is palpable. There is no deeper place than our life in God.

The Vestries and Rectors of St. Ann's and St. Mark's have joined together to bring the Reverend Dr. Jerry Doherty, rector of Ascension, Stillwater, Minnesota for some conversation and discernment. Jerry's parish utilizes Celtic spirituality traditions to deepen the heart of their community, while simultaneously deepening their individual commitments to prayer, work and study. We are inviting Jerry to be among us on Friday, September 21, from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm for the overview of

concepts of Celtic Spirituality and how it connects with parish life and again on Saturday, September 22, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm to learn from his experience and to begin to engage our task of growing as a congregation from an openly spiritual base.

We envision this weekend as a sort of parish retreat at home which will enable us to begin to think about growth and development in new ways. We will also be planning for how our insights might take flesh in our own congregations. All communicants are invited to participate and we especially encourage parish leaders to come. Sessions will be held at St. Ann's beginning on September 21st at 7:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

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Reaching Out and the Arts

On September 29th Rediscover East! will once again be hosting the Shelby Bottoms Boogie, a 10K run and walk. Proceeds will go to fund the work of Rediscover East!, a coalition of neighborhood groups, businesses, and religious institutions which work together to improve the quality of life for all in east Nashville. The Boogie will begin at 7:30 a.m.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. the first East on Parade Arts Festival will be held at Five Points, the corners of Woodland St. and 11th Street. Visitors will help create a public mural, be entertained by local poets and musicians and have an opportunity to buy wares. St. Ann's is joining with other east Nashville congregations to have a presence at the Festival by staff-

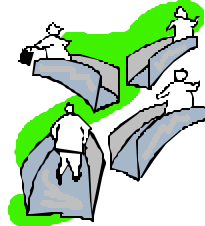
ing a children's booth replete with face painting and balloons. Our participation will be a chance to introduce ourselves to our neighbors who may have no church home by sharing information about our ministry. If you are willing to serve as a face-painter or a balloon blower upper, contact Lisa Hunt at the office, 254-3534.

Director's Notes. . .

I am way behind in writing this article and Jackie is ... uh ... asking politely for it. I have known I needed to get it written for some time – now that she is here; these seem to happen fairly regularly! – but every time I sat down to write something else came up.

Which brings me to the subject of priorities. The beginning of the new “church activities” year presents several challenges for St. Ann’s folk. “Which service should I attend?” “I feel like I should be doing more but I am already over committed in other areas.” “Does God really care if I go to church or sing in the choir or teach Sunday School or host hospitality once every 6 weeks.?”

The answer is ... I don’t know. I haven’t the foggiest notion what God wants for you. I can’t decipher what God wants of me half the time. In



fact, I am not sure that God “wants” at all! At least in the sense we tend to use the word. What I know is that when I serve, I am served. When I give, I receive. When I offer gifts ... time, money, talent ... those gifts are multiplied back to me, not as more of whatever the gift, but as deepening of it. When I give to another, the quality of that gift changes and somehow ... I find more.

So what? So good luck deciding what and when and where and how much you can give away, knowing that only by giving yourself away, letting go of “you”, can you experience your wholeness. Most importantly ... do something, Freely offer some part of yourself.

You’ll be glad you did ... (I think).

Blessings,
Sheldon Curry

Do You Know Where You Will Be Buried?

This question is one we tend to avoid contemplating, but St. Ann’s has a suggestion. Right here! Our new columbarium has been delivered. A columbarium is a place where ashes of cremated persons are interred.

The altar that was the gathering point of our worship for over 130 years was retrieved from the nave of the church after the 1998 tornado. When it was discovered that we would be unable to re-use it as an altar, the design committee decided, with the Vestry’s approval, to convert it into a columbarium. The result is a handsome piece which is poised to receive the remains of up to 39 saints. The Vestry has yet to determine the pol-

icy for the use of the columbarium. Questions of who can be buried at St. Ann’s, cost, and the trust for the proceeds have yet to be established. Within the coming six months a policy will be adopted.

The Episcopal Church recognizes cremation as an appropriate means of interring the body of a Christian. Traditionally, cemeteries have been a regular feature of church architecture, stemming from the recognition that from birth to death we are God’s. The widespread practice now of installing columbariums and scattering gardens within church buildings and grounds is the resumption of this former practice.

Safety Alert!

For the safety of the children of St. Ann’s, the gate in the fence stays locked to prevent access to the street. Before you allow your children to go outside, **make sure** the lower level door is unlocked. The key is hanging on the door for the adults’ use only. Do not allow children to use or play with the key.

Rector's Note

Dear People of God,

When I first moved to Nashville to attend Vanderbilt Divinity School, I sat on the edge of my bed and realized that I didn't know a soul in the city and that nobody either knew or cared about me here. There was a sense of panic and then gradually a sense of freedom that emerged from my heart. I could become anyone I wanted to here. There was no baggage, no history. I was also responsible for the person I chose to be.

I think there is a parallel in our life as a community here at St. Ann's. We have moved into new digs and completed the old work and now we are free to become the kind of community we choose to be. What panic, what freedom!

This month will find us taking significant steps forward in self-definition and discernment. We will be launching a new Sunday Eucharist, which is an initiative to grow our soul and body. We will be casting our work together from the perspective of offering our gifts and skills. We will be getting to know one another and committing to be intentional about that effort. We will be studying and creating new ways to nurture our individual spiritual lives in community.

While it is true that this congregation is over 140 years old, it is also true that like marriage, it is renegotiated every day. I hope that as the month unfolds we will each personally take responsibility for thinking a little more clearly about who we are individually and to move to offer that self to the glory of God in this community.

Peace, Lisa

Vestry Notes by The Reverend Lisa Hunt

At its August meeting the Vestry reviewed the financial state of the parish and found that our receipt of pledged offerings continues to be significantly behind what our communicants committed. The treasurer was authorized to contact persons whose pledges are in arrears so that corrections can be made to our expectations. Budget cuts will ensue if there is not a positive response.

The Vestry, in other action, approved the parking agreement with Community Impact! This non-profit group will staff our lot for all Titans games and will retain 100% of the proceeds. The profits will go to youth savings

accounts, which are matched 3:1 by local banks and to the Community Impact!'s scholarship fund. Parking licenses are still available.

St. Ann's is also negotiating with Mediation Works, Inc., a non-profit group which offers mediation to first time juvenile offenders and their victims so that restitution can be made in lieu of the children engaging the juvenile justice system, to house their office in our building and to offer prevention programs to youth. Mediation Works, Inc. would have use of an office on the lower level and Howe Hall occasionally.

On the basis of a recommendation from the Outreach Committee, the Vestry is requesting permission of our bishop to form a companion relationship with San Pedro Anglican Church in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Ecuador is our companion diocese. The relationship will include common prayer, sharing stories and traditions, and probably some financial support.

Get ready for Church School! by Jane Thompson and Vicki Brown

Get your children off on the right foot as Church School classes get underway on Sept. 9. Children's education is taking off at St. Ann's, as evidenced by Bible School attendance. This fall, we'll offer three classes for children from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Classes will be offered for younger children, ages 3-5, elementary from 1st grade to fourth grade, while middle school students from fifth grade up will have their own class.

The classes follow the seasonal liturgy, giving the children a chance to discuss at their own level what they heard in the readings and homily.

Children's church also offers the best opportunity for the young ones to form lasting relationships with each other and the adult teachers. Those relationships are a big factor in keeping the children interested in church as they grow.

Other plans underway for youth education include starting a youth group with East End United Methodist and other neighborhood churches. Watch for more on this.



End of Summer Gathering by Bev and Bill Weems

Once upon a time there was a St. Ann's tradition for the ending of summer and the beginning of Sunday School. It was a party at our house. We do not remember how the tradition became lost and that is probably the reason it did happen-no memory. As we face the possibility that this is our last fall at 4415 Alcott we want to renew the tradition. So after hospitality on September 9, please join us. We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Side dishes, deserts and drinks will be needed. Stay as long as you like.

For those of you new to the tradition, we have two decks, a patio and a deck around the pool, plus plenty of interior room for those who prefer it. Everyone is encouraged to bring his or her bathing suit and a towel. This is a fun, leisurely time well spent.

Coming from this church, take I-65 South and take the Harding Place West Exit. Stay on Harding across Franklin Road, Granny White, on to Hillsboro Road. At Hillsboro Road turn left and go 0.9 miles and turn right onto Hemingway. The 4th right off Hemingway is Alcott. When you get near our house, in the middle of a curve the road will go up a short steep hill with a Dead End sign. Go up the hill and our driveway is the first on the left. If you prefer not to drive on the interstate you can drive across town to 21st Avenue. Turn left on 21st and take it all the way to Harding Place. Then follow the directions above. Our phone number is 665-1204.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Parish Nursing

The Center for Parish Nursing and Health Ministries will offer a training program for nurses beginning a health ministry. The program will run October 1—5, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (with Thursday being a longer day). Tuition of \$475 includes materials, meals & breaks. Registration deadline is September 21, 2001. All sessions will be held at Scarritt-Bennett Conference Center in Nashville. For additional information and registration, call Sharon Adkins, MSN, RN at 615-343-2019.

The New Liturgy needs a Few Good People by Lisa Hunt

The third Sunday Eucharist will begin on September 9, 2001 at 11:30 a.m. This initiative is designed to allow our community greater liturgical freedom, but also to grow our congregation spiritually and numerically. To meet those goals we need at least 30 people to agree to support this Eucharist for six months, attending regularly and engaging in the ministry it invites.

We invite folks with gifts of welcoming to serve as greeters. We invite gifted readers and folks who have a little of a ham in their hearts to serve as actors. We invite folks who can pray and those who can serve communion. We invite folks with gifts of hospitality to handle refreshments. We invite quiet folks who like to do and not be seen to handle our altar guild needs. We invite singers who can

lead others to offer their own song. We invite people of all ages.

It is important to see this liturgy not as something we are offering primarily for ourselves. Instead, this Eucharist is a pioneering effort of extending our community in depth and breadth in service to others we do not yet know. We offer it as an invitation to worship God and know one another in different ways.

Some have asked me what this new liturgy will be like. The answer is: "Come and find out." The staff and a special liturgy committee have been working to create a structure that will encourage the congregation to see liturgy as the "work of the People" which is what it literally means in Greek. Consequently, while we have formulated a basic structure

of the Eucharist, we intend to make many revisions as we pray through it. The structure, however, in essence will carry forward the tradition we have received.

Some have assumed that it will be a prayer and praise service. While the music will be accessible to most, the focus of the liturgy will not be the music. While prayers by and from individuals will be encouraged, this is very much corporate prayer. The hope is to build the whole body and not to center on evoking individual emotional response.

We're encouraging folks to sign up for the Eucharist so that we can commit to one another and to help our planning. The sign up sheet is on the kiosk in All Saints' Hall.

Eat, Drink, and Stretch

On September 23 during the 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. liturgies we will be offering our ministry festival. This is a chance for the various ministries of St. Ann's to share with you the opportunities they offer you to give who you are to God through service in our community. Everyone will have a chance to gain an overview of our common life and to consider what gifts each of us has to offer uniquely.

The Stewardship Committee is firm in its conviction that each of us is gifted. Through our baptism, Christ resides in each of us, enabling us to grow and to give. The ministry festival is a way to begin to individually name and offer our gifts. So often groups and committees at church have seen their task to be solely performing a function and that any warm body will do. Stewardship involves being responsible and responsive with what we individually are given; we are not cogs.

We are Christians growing in spirit and in gifts. Each ministry of the parish will be offering opportunities to exercise our individual gifts. They will be outlining the kinds of gifts they need. You will be invited over the next month to contemplate and pray about what gifts you wish to offer or grow in yourself for the common good.

Also on the 23rd at 6:00 p.m. we will host a parish dinner to kick off our extracommunion groups (aka the Supper Clubs!). This year we are experimenting with different formats for the groups. Traditionally, Supper Clubs were small groups of parishioners who met monthly in members' homes to share dinner. However, we are going to try to offer more flexibility: groups that might meet for breakfast, or on a specific day of the week, or groups that won't eat at all, but may focus on activities. Look for sign ups on the kiosk and plan to bring a side dish or dessert on the 23rd!

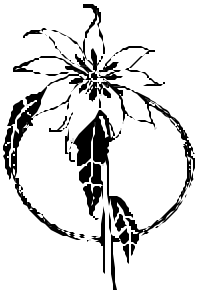
SEASON'S GREETINGS FOR CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER!



At St. Luke's, they are already preparing for the annual toy drive to be held this year on December 10-12th. The holiday season can be an especially difficult time for children whose caregivers cannot afford to provide anything special for them at Christmas. St. Luke's Community House for the past twenty years has offered a Toy Store program to benefit the "working poor" families who are earning an income below the poverty level. This program allows the parent, grandparent, or caregiver to pick out three toys, one book, one stuffed animal, and a stocking stuffer at St. Luke's for each child living in the household. It is made possible only through contributions which are so desperately needed each holiday season, but yield such a wonderful gift of love and joy to these children. Last year over 1000 youngsters from infants to age 16 were the recipients of these gifts through St. Luke's. Hopefully, these gifts helped in some small way to give these children a moment of joy and happiness they would not otherwise have experienced. And the joy is multiplied by allowing the grateful parents to actually do the giving!



The children of St. Luke's can really use your help. If members of the parish would like to contribute either a financial or toy donation contact the office.



Culturally Diverse Dolls
Remote Control Cars
Spanish Bibles
Portable CD players
Board Games
Jewelry & Hair Accessories (Anything from *Claire's Boutique*)

WISH LIST

Gel Pens
Body Sprays
Roller Blades
C/Ds
Lego Sets
Journals
Glitter Gels
Scooters
Sportswear
Basketballs/Footballs

Spiritual Growth

St. Mary's Retreat Center, Sewanee is offering these programs in September.

- 1) Holy Gazing: A Way of Prayer with the Holy Icons
Thursday, September 13, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
Fee: \$35 Presenter: Pam Parks
- 2) Celebration of Discipline (Part III)
Friday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. — Saturday, September 15, 3 p.m.
Fee: 475 Commuters \$51.50 Presenter: The Reverend Canon Bob Brodie
- 3) Path of Growth, Way of Wholeness: Part II
Friday, September 14, 6 p.m. — Sunday, September 16, 11 a.m.
Fee: \$130 Commuters: \$90 Presenters: The Reverend Battle Beasley, Happy Jones, Sanford McGee

For more information call Carol Wray @ 615-373-0613 or email at: CarolWray@aol.com

Contemplative Prayer Outreach

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

The Contemplative Prayer Group has been enjoying the labyrinth this summer. It is called a Santa Rosa labyrinth. It is in the style of the Chartes Cathedral labyrinth. Designed by Lea Goods, it is slightly smaller and fits our space perfectly. We will continue to walk the labyrinth till the weather tells us to stay indoors.

There is no right or wrong way to walk the labyrinth. It is not a maze...the path leads in and then out. Here are a few suggestions that may help your experience. Take a minute or two to slow down. Take a few deep breaths. A question or issue may come to your mind. When you feel centered, begin your walk. Some walk fast, while others walk more slowly. It is okay to quietly pass someone or to let someone pass you. Some stop and sit along the way. Most stop in the "center" for a quiet moment. Be present to God. There is no "set" time.

The Contemplative Prayer Group meets every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Where ever you are in your journey...share a few steps with us.

Roger Ferris

Stewardship by Chris Klein

Thank you all for responding to the letter that went out with the pledge statements. Pledge income was up for July and helped get the budget back on track. Please continue to keep your pledge current as best you can, or inform the office, Chris Klein, or Gayle Bradley if you need to make a change.

The Stewardship Committee is planning a parish dinner to kick off the Fall Pledge Campaign. It will be held on one of the Sundays in October. We will present the "Wish Budget" for 2002, a narrative budget detailing our activities in 2001, and a new Time and Talent pledge form at that time. Please watch for details and plan to attend. We want to hear from you!

The Stewardship Committee meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. Our next meeting is September 13. For more information contact one of the Stewardship Committee co-chairs, Chris Klein or Gayle Bradley.

CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP

What: Presentation of an ancient discipline of prayer as silent communication with God beyond concepts, words, images. Serves as an introduction or refresher course. (*Presenters: Contemplative Outreach staff*)

When: Saturday, September 15, 2001
9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Where: St. Mark's Episcopal Church
3100 Murfreesboro Pike
Antioch, TN 37011
(Two blocks south of Bell Road)

Please bring a sack lunch.

There is no cost for the workshop.
Donations are requested.

Contact: Gretchen Miller 794-6720

Battle Beasley

Financial Highlights as of July 31, 2001 are:

Operating Budget Year to Date

| | Budgeted | Actual | Annualized Percentage |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Income | \$122,420 | \$113,433 | 54% |
| Expenses | 124,890 | 122,884 | 58% |

Remaining Capital Budget

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Total 2001 Budget | \$1,035,953 |
| Total 2001 Expenses | 654,786 |

Combined Balance Sheet

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Assets | \$366,821 |
| Liabilities | 30,472 |
| Equity | 336,349 |

MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR SEPTEMBER

| | <u>9/2/2001</u> | <u>9/9/2001</u> | <u>9/16/2001</u> | <u>9/23/2001</u> | <u>9/30/2001</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Acolyte | Bob Wyatt, Louis Claus | Troy Villager, Max Farrar | Leo Lindsay, Androlic Brooks | Charles Jones, Keith Hime | Terry Lawrence, Louis Claus |
| Altar Guild | Meg Sherrill, Sandra Bennett, Thomas Greer | Terry Lawrence, Gayle Bradley | Donna George, Cathy Sanford, Chip Boykin | Meg Sherrill, Sandra Bennett, Thomas Greer | Terry Lawrence, Gayle Bradley |
| Bread Guild | Sue Carpenter | Allen Finley | Robert Thomas, Jane Thompson | Maggie Thomas | Sue Carpenter |
| Chalice | Terry Lawrence | Rosemary Burdeshaw | Mike MacMillan | Lyn Bingham | Gayle Bradley |
| Counters | Laura Weems | Ned Overton, Jeff Swoner | Leigh MacMillan, Joe Taylor | Larry Brown, Pat Campbell | Laura Weems, Lee Perry |
| Greeters | Gayle Bradley Sandra Bennett | Ned Overton, Sandra Bennett | Robert Thomas, Jane Thompson | Larry Brown, Robyn Smith | |
| Lector | | Rosemary Burdeshaw | Leigh MacMillan | Shelia Reynolds | Sue Ross |
| Prayers | Anita Bugg | Bob Wyatt | Alvin Burt | Carol Downton | Gayle Bradley |
| Hospitality | | | | | |
| Altar Flowers (in memory of) | Barry Baird, Joe Taylor in celebra- tion of their union 9/4/92 | Sue Ross in thanksgiving for Joyce Peacock | | Leo Lindsay in celebration of the people of St. Ann's | |
| Evening Prayer Officiant | Lisa Hunt | Alvin Burt | Lisa Hunt | Andy Peterson | Gayle Bradley |

If anyone would like to be a Greeter, please call the office to be put on the schedule.

Education For Ministry? What is it?

EFM is learning who you are as a Christian, discovering your spiritual ancestors, and discerning your ministry.

Specifically, it is a four year program of study and worship divided into single 9 month sections, focusing on Hebrew Tradition (Year 1), Christian beginnings (Year 2), Church history (Year 3), and theology and ethics (Year 4). Using an adult learning model you work with a group committed to study scripture and tradition with whom you also share your own personal spiritual quest.

The commitment is the cost (\$325 per year), weekly assignments (2-3 hours), and participation in group meetings (2 hours). Four people expressed interest last week. We need at least 6 to make a group. The 8th person joining the group can get a reduced rate for the Tuition (\$145).

Call Tom Hardin at 255-5542 for additional information.

September, 2001

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Listings in italics are outside uses of the Church

1

2 8:30 Eucharist
9:30 Eucharist
10:30 Hospitality
10:45 Christian Ed
6:00 Stonewall Church

3 Labor Day Holiday

4 11:30 Women's Prayer Gp
6:30 Outreach Comm
7:00 Spiritual Direction
7:00 West Gallery Quire
9-12 Leo Lindsay's class

5 5:15 Young Child Choir
6:00 Evening Prayer
6:00 Strategic Planning
9-12 Leo Lindsay's class

6 7:00 The Peoples Choir
7:00 Contemplative Prayer
6:30 Girl Scouts

8 2:00 Wedding

9 7:30 *Titans*
8:30 Eucharist
9:30 Eucharist
10:30 Hospitality
10:45 Christian Ed
11:30 Eucharist
6:00 Stonewall Church

10

11 11:30 Women's Prayer Gp
5:30 Rediscover East
7:00 West Gallery Quire
12-2:30 Leo Lindsay's class

12 5:15 Young Child Choir
6:00 Evening Prayer
6:00 Strategic Planning
12-2:30 Leo Lindsay's class

13 7:00 The Peoples Choir
7:00 Contemplative Prayer
7:00 Stewardship Committee

15

16 12:00 *Titans*
8:30 Eucharist
9:30 Eucharist
10:30 Hospitality
10:45 Christian Ed
11:30 Eucharist
6:00 Stonewall Church

17

18 11:30 Women's Prayer Gp
7:00 West Gallery Quire
7:00 Vestry Meeting
12-2:30 Leo Lindsay's class

19 5:15 Young Child Choir
6:00 Evening Prayer
12-2:30 Leo Lindsay's class

20 7:00 The Peoples Choir
7:00 Contemplative Prayer

22 9:00 Jerry Doherty
3:00 Shower

23/30 8:30 Eucharist
9:30 Eucharist
10:30 Hospitality
10:45 Christian Ed
11:30 Eucharist
6:00 Stonewall Church

24

25 11:30 Women's Prayer Gp
7:00 West Gallery Quire

26 5:15 Young Child Choir
6:00 Evening Prayer

27 7:00 The Peoples Choir
7:00 Contemplative Prayer

29