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October 2007 - An edition of Episcopal Life, Vol. 18, No. 10 - www.dioms.org

What would Jesus do?

There's more to St. Francis
than the statue in your garden

by Janet Nail, Trinity Church, Yazoo City

You see it everywhere: bracelets, baseball caps, t-shirts, pens and pencils, shoelaces. Everyone who wears it feels he or she is truly asking this of any decision they face.

The trouble is, they—we—usually convince ourselves that Jesus would just love those designer shoes, that He would drive a Hummer if He were given the chance, that He would love a McMansion in the most exclusive area of town.

This is not what Jesus would do.

But suppose someone actually tried to live by asking "What would Jesus do?"

Someone did.

He was the most unlikely person to embrace religion and faith whole-heartedly. He loved rich clothes, singing, parties, carousing with his friends.

But he felt that he was destined for greatness. He thought that his fame would be found in military exploits—and he spent a year in a dungeon in Perugia before his father ransomed him.

He returned home, his health broken as well as his dreams. But as he lay in bed, recuperating, he still dreamed of greatness. He had another chance: he would go forth as a knight in the Pope's army, riding against the imperial troops backed by the princes of Germany. His father approved of this

exploit, and paid dearly for armor and a horse.

And he set out for glory.

Before he could join the army of Pope Innocent III, however, a voice spoke to him: Why do you follow the servant, when you should serve the Master? He gave his armor and his horse to an impoverished knight, and

returned home to consider what the voice told him.

Then he heard it again: If you want to know my will, you must hate and despise all that

which hitherto your body has loved and desired to possess. Once you begin to do this, all that formerly seemed sweet pleasant to you will become bitter and unbearable, and instead, the things that formerly made you shudder will bring you great sweetness and content.

He went into seclusion to pray. He sought to know what Jesus would do.

When he came out he was ready.

Oh, there were a few false starts. When God told him to repair His church, he took it literally, and began rebuilding and repairing San Damiano. He even took bolts of cloth from his father's shop and sold them, and tried to give the money to the priest in the church. The priest prudently refused, sure





Faithful Departed

by Catherine Johns

Charles Edwin Holmes, Jr., 71 died July 24, 2007. He was a communicant of Church of the Nativity, Greenwood. **Jeanne S. Barkley**, 65, communicant of Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia, died August 5, 2007. **Monroe Morgan Wright**, 66, died August 21, 2007. She was a communicant of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson. **Thomas Hastings Greer, Sr.**, 94, communicant of Church of the Resurrection, Starkville and former delegate to Annual Council died August 25, 2007.

It is the responsibility of each church to submit the names of the Faithful Departed directly to Catherine Johns in the diocesan office for timely publication in the newspaper.

Administration and Finance

by Kathryn W. McCormick

Communications Survey

Many changes are being made in the communications world and the Diocese of Mississippi is evaluating its ways of communicating the mission and ministry of the diocese to all Mississippi Episcopalians. Traditionally, the printed word in a monthly newspaper, *The Mississippi Episcopalian*, has been the primary means of communication to Episcopalians, publishing diocesan news, reporting special interest stories and announcing the bishop's visitations and diocesan calendar. There are many electronic ways of communicating news and events; however, not everyone has access to the internet. The diocese is seeking a balance of print and electronic media to publicize all news and special events of particular interest to Mississippi Episcopalians.

Because of a partnership with *Episcopal Life*, *The Mississippi Episcopalian* is mailed monthly with a copy of *Episcopal Life* to each household. The survey asks for your feedback to the value of this partnership and an interest indicator for both publications.

We invite your input and offer several ways of participating in the survey. Each church has been sent a survey for distribution. If you have internet access, we welcome you to complete the survey on-line. Enter the following link to connect: www.dioms.org/survey.html.

Your input is very important and your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you in advance for your participation. If you have any questions, please call Annette Kirklin in the diocesan office, 601-948-5954 or akirklin@dioms.org.

From Where I Sit...

by Lauren Wilkes Auttonberry

Communication as Liturgy

For some of you, this issue of the newspaper brings first tidings of the Communications Survey, distributed to churches and posted to the internet, mentioned in the article at right. It seems appropriate to take a moment to encourage each of you to take the time to complete a copy of the survey and return it to the diocesan office, even if this comes to your attention past the requested October 1 deadline. The results of this survey, in addition to assisting the Executive Committee in making decisions about the development of methods and modes of our continued communications work, will also, hopefully, illustrate for all of us working at the diocesan level, your wants and needs in our overall communication strategy. Remember, too: there is a Task Force working on Diocesan Reorganization which should find this information helpful as they continue to contemplate the ways which we can more efficiently bring information into your home and into the pews.

Moreover, as a member of the Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communications, I hope to find additional insight into my assignments for this triennium: gathering information on how we can consider the ministry of Communications as "Liturgy." Just as the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer outline and shape the form and flow of our worship, how can our work as local, diocesan and national Communicators better shape how news and information pertaining to our common life is gathered and disseminated to the wider church?

For those of us serving on the Commission, this concept has raised truly intriguing questions. Not only the ever-present, "How can we do what we already do well - better?" but deeper questions of journalistic ethic, how we interact with one another at the diocesan and national levels, and why we do the communications work which we are compelled to do.

Working as a Communicator is a deeply fulfilling and exquisitely challenging assignment. Finding the most relevant and interesting way to tell a story is only the merest thread in weaving a communicator's tapestry. Constantly following up on deadlines and trying to get accurate information on upcoming events, planning future publications around our diocesan activities and national events - it is all fast-paced and sometimes exhausting, yet exuberant, joyous and intriguing work.

There is now an opportunity to find out more about how my work - combined with the efforts of many others on a regular basis - affects and equally, effects, the members of our churches, by promoting the survey being offered by the Canon for Administration and Finance. I encourage everyone to download it from the link in the article at right, or request a copy from your

Continued on page 8

Heartfelt Thanks

to the thousands of volunteers
who've left their mark on
the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Two years after Katrina, thousands of Mississippi families are still not back in their homes. Skilled volunteer plumbers, electricians, carpenters, painters and quick learners are still desperately needed!

Here's your chance to be God's
Hands, Feet, Eyes and Heart!

Rebuilding the Mississippi Gulf Coast,
for Faithful People, It's a Labor of Love. ~
Volunteer today!



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CAMP COAST CARE - LONG BEACH (228) 234-5193

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As we continue our mission of serving children and families in crisis, we encourage you to give your own gift of support this joyful season. Help ensure that every child at Saint Michael's will open a gift this holiday.



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Prayerbook offers insights to St. Francis' companion

by the Rev. Ann Whitaker, Creator, Clinton

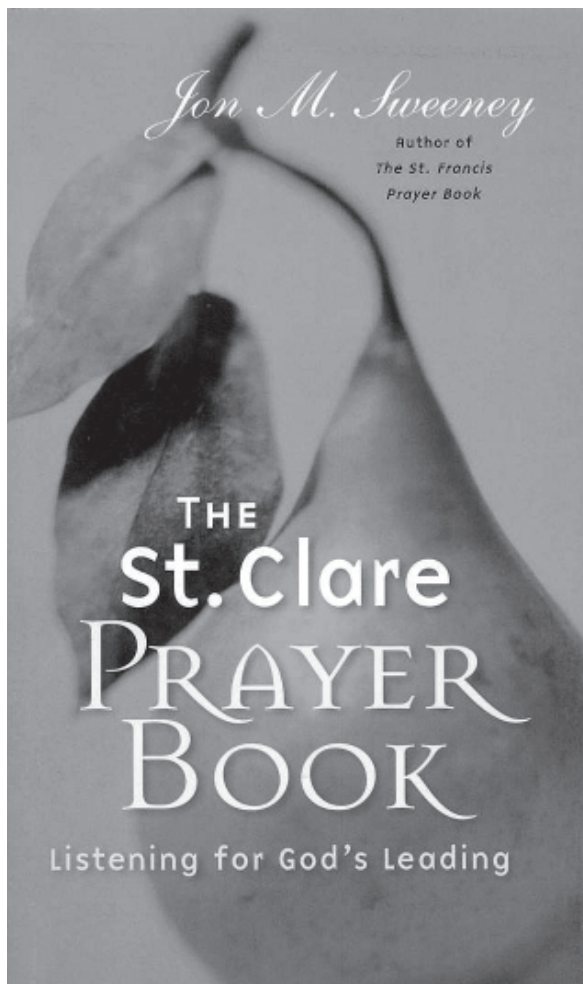
The St. Clare Prayer Book: Listening for God's Leading by Jon M. Sweeney, Paraclete Press, 2007, ISBN 13: 978-1-55725-504-4

August 11 found many of us dining at the Bishop's BBQ. It was a sultry summer day, but one filled with good spirit and good food. Fun as it was, my attention was also attuned to the Feast of the day: August 11 is the Feast of Clare of Assisi.

Clare, companion of Francis, is coming to light. Scholars are uncovering the depths of her life, the richness of her prayers and a spirituality that complements St. Francis. Clare has often been designated as the Patron Saint of television and computers. I have invoked her name often in working at my own computer. Allegedly, near the end of Clare's life, when she was too ill to attend Mass, an image of the service would be displayed on a wall of her cell. Hence, she is often called the Patron Saint for television.

Jon M. Sweeney, author of *The St. Francis Prayer Book* has delighted readers with a second volume of prayer; this one containing the words of Clare. It is rich. Divided into five sections, Sweeney's book draws one into a deeper appreciation of Clare's love for Jesus. He cites the historical events surrounding Clare's life, and presents the depth of her spirit and prayer in the context

of a Daily Office. Books containing St. Clare's prayers are very rare; she is often overshadowed by St. Francis. Sweeney writes, "Evelyn Underhill once referred to Clare as 'the hidden spring' of Franciscan spirituality, an apt description because Clare's



wisdom was a spring for Francis and the first generation of Franciscans."

Housed within Sweeney's work is a play by Laurence Housman. Housman wrote dozens of one act plays about events in the life of St. Francis. The play included in Sweeney's book is simply called "Saint Clare." It is based on the night that Clare joined the friars to live out the remainder of her life.

It has been said that we are a "people of the book" and thanks be to God, we have *The Book of Common Prayer*. Sweeney's book, however,

that Pietro Bernardone would be along shortly to demand his money.

Pietro dragged his son to the bishop and denounced him for his wasteful ways. But Francis found his strength; he stripped off his clothes, and, standing naked before the crowd, he announced that henceforth Pietro Bernardone was not his father. He had no father save his Father in Heaven, and Him alone would he obey. The bishop covered him with his own cloak as the crowd turned on Bernardone.

Francis donned a castoff tunic given to him by the bishop's gardener, and he set out, singing, to follow his destiny.

He never thought to find followers. He never thought to establish an order. He wanted only to serve his Saviour by embracing Lady Poverty and living among the

adds to the richness of our tradition and can bring vitality to the routine-ness of our life of prayer. "The Daily Office" section of the book sets forth a theme for each day: Embracing Christ, Purity, Listening with the Heart to name a few. Mindful of the embedded Franciscan spirituality deep within these pages, the reader is invited to know the wisdom and devotion of Clare while seeking a deeper walk with Jesus.

This portable volume is one of discovery of a delightful Saint who is no longer overshadowed by Francis, but

The man behind the statue

continued from page 1

poorest of the poor. He wanted to find his joy in service, in love, and in praise.

Francis of Assisi may have been trivialized by the twentieth century as people focused on his preaching to the birds and taming a wolf. He is beloved for his genius in setting up a living crèche to teach people the glory and awe of the Nativity. He is loved for his songs and his simplicity.

We forget that he simply asked "What would Jesus do?" and did it. He embraced the poverty of our Lord. He praised the beauty of God's creation. He embraced all as God's children.

He served in humility and obedience.

And he calls us today to follow him in serving God.

Listen. You may hear his voice, and the voice of God.

What will YOU do?

presents Clare in her own light.

In Francistide (Francis' Feast day is October 4), I am still reflecting on the Bishop BBQ of August 11 and my own feasting on sumptuous barbequed chicken. I did not forget Clare, and her wisdom. Jon Sweeney's book invited me to remember Clare with prayers of her very own.

The Rev. Ann L. Whitaker has been a professed member of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis since 1997.

Copies of The St. Clare Prayerbook are available from the St. Andrew's Cathedral Bookstore.

continued at bottom of next two columns



Putting A Human Face on the Storm's Aftermath, Sustaining Momentum

Most of us still have vivid and daunting memories of images on our television screens that captured the ravaging and devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. Across the world people were riveted by the horrific human suffering flashing before their eyes. Hurricane Katrina was, indeed, an equal opportunity destroyer... homes and lives of the rich and poor were dismantled. However, one of the storm's side effects was the graphic exposure of another national tragedy, not caused by wind or water: poverty. Hurricane Katrina ripped the blinders off, people were also forced to see what poverty looked like... the disparities and negative consequences.

Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi (LESM) was among one of the first disaster response teams deployed, with sites on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in Jackson, MS. Because of the sheer magnitude of the devastation, LESM's Hurricane Katrina recovery and relief work has become its primary focus. This work has helped to shape and strengthen the organization's other statewide services and ministries for at-risk people. With the help of thousands of volunteers and dedicated staff, over the past two years LESM and its affiliate camps have been a major contributor in the efforts to rebuild the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We have grown from one camp to four, housed over 30,000 volunteers, repaired and rebuilt homes and helped hundreds of hurricane survivors obtain basic needs for self sufficiency.

Recently, LESM was awarded \$500,000 from the Mississippi Realtor Hurricane Relief Fund for affordable housing renovations. These funds will help to expand our rental property repair program and address one of the most critical needs, affordable housing. There are still more than 60,000 people living in FEMA trailers, and they are facing yet another FEMA mandated move to hotels. Of this number, the majority are individuals who previously lived in rental property and/or federally subsidized housing. Clearly, many, many Katrina survivors are in dire straights...they are still waiting...still hurting. According to the LESM Evacuee Resettlement staff, more than 700 households have received some form of direct service... housing, utility payments, transportation, childcare and employment. (More than 75% of these clients are single women with children.) There are hundreds with unmet needs who remain on a waiting list.

It is reported that the psychological impact of Hurricane Katrina is unparalleled to any American disaster. Through our work we have come to believe that the future well-being of the Mississippi Gulf Coast will not only depend on the rebuilding of structures, but will also depend on whether we are willing and able to "put faces" on the survivors, especially those most vulnerable; address their needs in a holistic manner; offer them compassionate care and concern; serve as their advocates; and,

effectuate positive and sustainable changes in their lives. This conviction permeates all of LESM's services and ministries... disaster response/preparedness, evacuee resettlement, children's education or restorative justice.

LESM's mission is: Guided by Christ's love and grace, we serve as an instrument seeking to bring dignity, healing, justice, hope and encouragement to all. At LESM our services and ministries are a heed to God's Call. The people that we serve are our brothers and sisters in Christ. They each have a face and a story that expresses their personal struggles, immense sense of loss and their walks of hope and faith. We are pleased to share with you some of their stories as they are the best examples of LESM's services and ministries. These stories speak to the heart and explain why LESM's work must be sustained and why your continued prayers and support are needed. We are not without challenges...additional funds are needed for: direct services to Katrina survivors as there is always a shortfall; books, supplies and equipment for our at-risk children's programs, Storybook and ENRICH.

Their Stories... In Their Own Words (real name withheld).

Hurricane Katrina survivors comments

"I had a God sent experience with LESM. After evacuating due to Hurricane Katrina I moved to Jackson. I had only enough money for my first month's rent. When that ran out and while waiting on FEMA, I found LESM and that's when my blessings began. My case manager helped me find a job working nights. I had no transportation and the city buses stopped running at 6 p.m. I couldn't drive so she helped me learn to drive and then helped me get approved for a car through Red Cross. Miracles do happen!" Doris

"We lost everything due to Katrina. It was very hard on me and my children. I was really down and had no hope until I received a call from a case manager at LESM. A gift from God... she drove 75 miles to see me and my children. She encouraged and motivated me to get my GED, but I got my school diploma. It was not easy but I did it. LESM helped me get a car and I am now going to attend certified nursing class (CNA). Words can not explain what she has done for us... but caring, sharing and devotion to her work come to mind." Beverly

"This place (LESM) saved my life". Sylvia

"I thought that I was one of the forgotten people that slipped through cracks of Katrina's wrath. I was displaced to Jackson after the storm. I lost my home and I am severely disabled. It was so hard that I started to lose hope and faith. Then an angel for God...my LESM case worker entered my life." Joyce

An ENRICH parent said, "My son attended ENRICH and he

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Oxford Jams for Sudan

EYC raises \$3000+, hits MDG goal for squatter settlement school

By Wil Oakes, excerpted from post to www.nefdev.org

"St. Peter's Church is a beautiful old church in a small college town, just a block off of the town square and a few blocks from the gates of the University of Mississippi. Much more important than these physical things, however, are the people that make up our parish. I came to work here in August of last year and realized right away what an amazing group of people the members of St. Peter's are.

"My job here is to work with the young people of the church, and throughout the year we've had lots of opportunities to have fun and grow as people, and so much of that is due to the tremendous support that I can count on from the parents and other adults of the parish. At no time throughout the year did I find this to be more true than when my youth group decided this spring to take on the challenge of raising money to help those in need elsewhere in the world.

"Our church is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, a diocese that has been involved in working with Sudanese refugees for a while. Several years ago, while I was working at our diocesan summer camp, we had a group of about twelve teenage refugees come join us through the work of the diocese.

Since then, I've had the chance to meet several other refugees that have been helped out by our diocese and the experience has been wonderful, both because of the friendships made and the opportunity to learn more about the situation in Sudan.

"More recently, our bishop, Duncan Gray, put out a challenge to the churches of

Mississippi to each find a way to address the Millennium Development Goals. One of our local parishioners mentioned the challenge to me and suggested that perhaps the youth of the church should lead the way for St. Peter's.

"From the moment I pitched the idea to the students I

work with, they were enthusiastic and ready to do what needed to be done. I have a group of about thirty high school students; nearly everyone played some role in making our fund-raising effort a success. We have a number of talented musicians in our group, so we decided that a musical event was the best way we could mobilize the community. From this idea, 'Jam for Sudan' was born.

"We chose a date and began planning. Our musicians began arranging the entertainment. Other students contributed by recruiting parents and teachers to

provide food and other supplies for the event. Still more worked on finding avenues for publicity in school newspapers and through on-line social sites like facebook and MySpace. Our flyers were all over town and we received coverage on local television and radio. During the lead up to the event, we started collecting contributions from members of the church.

"While we were trying to raise money to help provide

All of this time made the project about much more than simply raising money, and it helped us get excited for our big day.

"Then the day came, and it rained! I have to admit, I was very disappointed in the weather. It was at this moment that I was fortunate to have such a great group of kids to work with. They were undaunted by having to move the event indoors and kept their spirits high. The bands were incredible, the food was a

great selection of Southern favorites, the energy was positive, and when all was said and done we had raised fifteen hundred dollars even as the rain came down, all in about two hours.

"At that point, the kids had already done all I had asked them to do, and yet they continued to work, getting more donations from members of the church and from a few local businesses here in Oxford. We had set the date for the end of our drive for May 23rd. When I came in to the church that day and asked our financial secretary for the total in our Sudan account, we had reached almost three thousand dollars.

"The thing that has been most exciting in all of this for me has been seeing all the different niches in our church come together to make the project successful. We received support from nearly every ministry that the church sponsors, from the college students to the seniors group. The wide range of support ... brought us all together behind

JAM FOR SUDAN
FRIDAY, MAY 4 4:30-7:00
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

What YOU CAN DO TO HELP!

- \$18** By law, Sudanese students should have school uniforms. Most of the students at El Tagwa do not. \$18 provides a uniform that can be passed down from one student to the next. \$4320 clothes the entire school.
- \$50** The mud brick buildings that house the school are all ways in need of maintenance and repair. \$50 covers one month of adequate maintenance for the entire school.
- \$100** Students at El Tagwa sit and work on the floor or in chairs they drag from home. Tables and benches are badly needed, and \$100 provides a set. \$600 fills one classroom. \$4800 fills the entire school.
- \$250** Most classrooms have almost no supplies. \$250 provides a set of blackboards, crayons, pencils, and paper. \$2000 supplies the entire school.
- \$350** There are no doors or windows on the school building, which is especially troublesome when the weather is bad. \$350 provides a classroom with doors and windows.
- \$420** Teachers at El Tagwa teach their students with limited or no resources. Providing a set of books to a teacher at the school will cost \$420. To provide all eight teachers with their own books is \$3360.
- \$1500** Perhaps the most urgent need at the school is for latrines to be put in. For \$1500, this very basic need can be fulfilled for the students and teachers at the school.

Medical Mission:

The next generation

by Cassie Cole

For the past eight years, I have held the Honduras Medical Mission very close to heart. My mother, Debbie, has been a part of the Mission since 1999 and every year from that time, I have desired to also be a part of the Mission. After years of anticipation, 2007 turned out to be the year I was finally able to be an official team member. I felt a great deal of honor to be chosen for this Mission. With this feeling of honor came nerves.

February came and I gathered everything I needed for the Mission, and met the other team members at the airport, minus my mom. I felt a sense of relief once meeting up with my mom in the Houston Airport; however, I continued to feel those same nerves. In spite of the nerves, I knew in my heart that I was being called to serve the people of Honduras.

The night before heading up the mountain, I began second guessing myself. I began fearing the unknown



Cole, back row, second from left, and another participant in last year's Honduras Medical mission with some of the children in San Joaquin.

and what the people of San Joaquin and surrounding villages would see in my presence. I worried that, as strong as my relationship with Christ was, they would not be able to see it.

As we arrived in San Joaquin, my eyes filled with tears as the children ran up the mountain alongside the bus

with smiles on their faces and waving to those whom they had made friends in the years past. At that very moment, my fears drifted

away. I had not been in the village for ten minutes, and I had already seen Christ in each child's eyes. Stepping off of the bus, I realized how great of an adventure I was about to embark on.

The week was full of hard and tiring work. However, no matter how exhausted I was, I never found it difficult to have a smile on my face or open

arms for a hug from one of the many children. This was one of many small signs shown to me that week that God works in mysterious ways.

I found it very difficult to leave Honduras at the end of the week. I went on the Mission expecting to change the lives of the people of Honduras. However, after leaving, I quickly realized the impact that the people of Honduras left on my life was much greater. I arrived in Honduras with a strong relationship with Christ, and I was leaving with an even greater bond that I never knew existed. I will forever be thankful of this gift that was given to me by the people of San Joaquin.

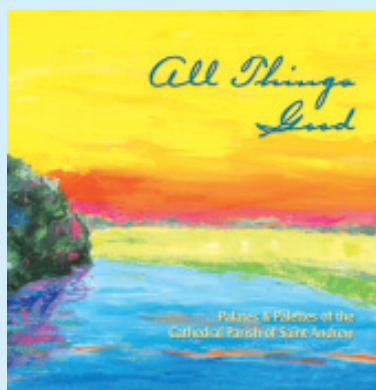
I find it extremely rewarding and a true blessing that, at age 21, I had the opportunity to serve others in a completely selfless way. Because of this, I look forward to serving the people of Honduras in the many years to come.

Available from
www.standrewscathedral.org

\$26.95

or by mail to

St. Andrew's Cathedral
P.O. Box 16965
Jackson, MS 39236-6965



The coffee-table quality cookbook features recipes submitted by St. Andrew's parishioners and works of art by Mississippi artists from the collections of cathedral members.

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Ring Around the Collar

The Rev. Denny Allman



St. Francis is more than the plaster statue in the garden, usually holding a bowl or a basket in which to put birdseed. He was a monk in the thirteenth century and the founder of the Order of Friars Minor, or Franciscans. That is a neat, one-sentence definition.

There was much more than that to the man. Born into a wealthy family, Francis came to embrace poverty and humility, not only for himself but also for those who would enter his order. He did this in order that he might better love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Poverty is always relative. People who are said to be living in poverty in the United States would be considered middle class or better in some third world countries.

Growing up in the Great Depression I began to think we lived in poverty compared to some of my friends. But my dad always had a job and we always had a decent house and a decent car so we were never poverty-stricken. Francis, on the other hand, believed in true poverty. He divested himself of everything; having only one robe and one pair of sandals and living on alms.

According to his authorized biographer, St. Bonaventure, Francis often slept on the ground. For those men desiring to enter his order he required that they divest themselves of all worldly goods by giving all to the poor. If one of these would give his goods to family or friends Francis would not accept him. He was truly a strange man by today's material standards.

Francis was not unique in those medieval times. There were many who practiced poverty and humility as did he; yet, Francis carried his practices to something of an art form. But like many, he became prideful in his humility and poverty. Sort of an "I can

be more humble than you" attitude. That, having been said, at least he practiced what he preached. He lived a very humble and poverty stricken life striving to be like Jesus. He is quoted as having said: Jesus; use words if you must.

As with many of the mystics of the time, Francis is credited with many miracles, both major and minor. Many of these seem somewhat bizarre by modern standards. I commend any good biography of Francis, particularly that of Bonaventure to discover for yourself what some of these are.

Francis is remembered today as the patron saint of animals and the founder of the order bearing his name. I like to remember him for a prayer attributed to him which you can find on page 833 of the Book of Common Prayer. For me it is the essence of what he believed:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

LESM

continued from page 5

is a different child!! He now feels more confident about his ability to cope. His grades have improved because he was taught a new way to look at solving math problems and how to get a better understating of what he was reading." Jared's Mother.

For more information on LESM, visit www.lesm.org.

From where I sit...

continued from page 2

local church office. Although the multiple choice questions allow for a very quick reply, it is your personal and thoughtful comments which are accommodated at the end of each section which will truly let us know what we need to be doing or perhaps, doing better. Let us know, in very specific terms, how we can take this ministry of communicating and make it as relevant to your life as an Episcopalian as the familiar words of Rite I and Rite II.

As always, your questions, comments and suggestions concerning the newspaper and DioGram and welcome and appreciated, whether snail mailed to me at the diocesan office or sent via email to lwa@dioms.org. It has been a privilege and an extraordinary experience to be your diocesan Communicator over the past five years, and I look forward to remaining so for many more.

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Bro and 2 Sisters Trio



Episcopal Relief and Development

The Rev. Diane Livingston, Diocesan Coordinator

Episcopal Relief and Development continues to be busy and therefore in need of your gifts since that is how ERD is able to keep responding to disasters. Within the past few weeks contributions from Episcopalians around the country have allowed ERD to respond to such disasters as flooding in North India, Bangladesh and China, an earthquake in Peru and Hurricane Dean. Please make sure that your parish includes the inserts that come to your church office so that those attending worship will be reminded to pray for persons who are suffering from disasters and be reminded to give in order to help many who basically start their lives over after a disaster.

Order Gifts of Life catalogs for your parish so that parishioners have a readily available way to give alternative gifts at Christmas or at other significant times. Items from this catalog help families earn an income and feed themselves year-round and help provide the basics for life (food, water and health care). Buy Bishops Blend Coffee to support the work of ERD and if ordered through a parish account, to support local outreach AND....

Please accept a personal invitation from the camp director of Camp Coast Care (ME!) to give the gift of yourself by gathering a few other folks from your parish or your community and scheduling to

come to Camp Coast Care to volunteer some labor time to help other Mississippians get into a house. (I began serving at the end of August following the interim summer leadership of Luther and Janet Ott who did an outstanding job.) Two years is way too long to live in a FEMA trailer! Camp Coast Care, which is supported by ERD through Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi, needs plumbers, electricians, carpenters, painters, quick learners. Camp Coast Care has evolved through various stages of emergency relief and now long-term development (non-emergency) work. Volunteers sleep in air conditioned dormitory-style quarters and are provided three good meals a day. If you have come before or if you have never come, please call 228/234-5193 or go to www.campcoastcare.com to sign up to be God's Hands, Feet, Eyes and Heart for many who will truly know hope if YOU come and share yourself to help rebuild houses. If your team is a youth one, contact Butch Jones at Mission on the Bay which is our youth site in Bay St. Louis. Youth groups are scheduling for fall, winter, and spring breaks as well as for next summer. Mission on the Bay is linked through the campcoastcare.com web site or you may email Butch at missiononthebay@yahoo.com.

Last, but certainly not least, here is my contact information: 228-265-4794; dianelivingston@hotmail.com or dlivingston@lesm.org

Jam for Sudan *continued from previous page*

one good idea and raised some awareness as well.

"Now that we have wrapped up our project for this year, there is already chatter about next year's Jam for Sudan. How can we make it bigger? How can we make it better? How can we do even more for the people of Sudan? Hearing these questions coming from our young people is the most encouraging thing of all: they have taken an interest in reaching out to people, not just in their own community but around the world, which will be the biggest gain from this project in the long run.

"We are all looking forward to partnering with the Near East Foundation again in the

future, and hope our story will encourage other churches and community organizations to see how they can take on similar projects.

"Please pass on to the students at El Tagwa that we are very happy to help them with their school and that, though they have not been aware of it, they have given us a great deal in exchange. We hope the best for them and that we will be able to do even more in the future. Many thanks to you and the Near East Foundation for providing us this opportunity."

Visitors' Weekend set at Seminary of the Southwest

by Bob Kinney

Are you considering attending seminary to prepare for lay or ordained ministry?

Visitors Weekend at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest October 26-28 gives you the opportunity to join fellow seekers who are striving to be faithful to Christ.

Throughout the weekend you will get a feel for the seminary campus and its community. There will be small group activities that allow for discussion of formation and vocational discernment, community life, finances, housing and academics. Students will be available to discuss why they

chose the Seminary of the Southwest and the impact of that choice.

Offered annually, this event begins on Friday afternoon and concludes midday on Sunday.

Visit www.ets.edu/VisWeekend07.shtml for more information and registration.

The Seminary of the Southwest is committed to the multifaceted mission of the church. The curriculum reflects that missionary focus by combining theory and practice with personal experiences in a variety of multicultural settings.

Upcoming Events at the Center for Formation and Mission

Clergy Conference
October 1—4

Hope Among the Fragments
with
the Rev. Ephraim Radner
November 4—6

“Seeing the Face of God
in Each Other”
Anti-Racism Training
December 7—9

2008

The Trinity Institute
National Theological
Webcast Conference
“Religion & Violence”
with James Carroll, James
Cone, Susannah Heschel,
Tariq Ramadan, &
Katharine Jefferts Schori
January 21—23

New Vestry Members
Retreat
February 22—23

Needles & Knitting with
Song & Prayer Conference
March 17—19

Annual Wardens’
Conference
March 28—29

*For more information
on the programs of
The Center for
Formation & Mission
of The Episcopal Diocese
of Mississippi,
contact
The Rev. Debo Dykes,
Program Coordinator, at
601-948-5954 x107, via
email to debo@dioms.org
or through
www.dioms.org*

Creator Summer Youth Theatre presents ‘Godspell’

by Jolene Shirley, Youth Coordinator, Creator, Clinton

I’ve had many theatre experiences in my lifetime, from elementary school plays to Lincoln Center and everything in between, and I’ve felt God navigating me through auditions, rehearsals, and performances. But never have I felt His/Her presence as clearly as I did this past July when a new Youth Ministry was launched at Creator, Clinton.

Creator has always had an abundance of talented, creative parishioners from painters to potters. Two years ago a wonderful pair of young people, Bill and Morgan Cruse, were led to us and began to build an amazing EYC program.

Morgan and I, both dyed-in-the-wool theater persons, joined forces and produced 101 Dalmatians last summer for Vacation Bible School. (

Beginning to feel a big nudge from God, Morgan and I decided to add a second production for summer 2007; VBS for elementary age children and Creator Summer Youth Theatre for EYC and college age Youth. With no Jesus, (actor, I mean this production was definitely His idea and I think he attended every rehearsal), a mixed bag of kids from the Clinton area half of them weren’t Episcopalians, and one was Jewish! - and a gifted accompanist, (Shirlene Gill), we began in earnest our two week journey into bringing *Godspell* to life.

With the help of parishioners young and old, the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department, and a local

construction company our Sanctuary was transformed into an urban work zone including scaffolding, orange webbed fencing, street signs and a lighted city scape. Our

mother for letting him be a part of this Jesus story, she replied, “Oh, I know someone who goes to this church. We knew James’ religion would be respected here.”



The cast of Godspell

young cast was building a Beautiful City and it was a joy to see it emerge in their voices and bodies through rehearsals.

With the awesome musical talents of The Rev. Charlie Deaton on electric guitar, Logan Cowart on bass and violin and Shirlene on the piano, our awesome group of young actors and singers, including Jesus, who arrived in the form of a nineteen year old female college student, donned hard hats, vests, and other downtown apparel, to bring the parables of Jesus to us in a compelling, contemporary manner.

I am happy to say that it was a HIT! We were so proud of this production and the new friends we made in our small community where the Episcopal Church is not always overtly visible or understood. One of our actors was Jewish and I when I thanked his

We envision this ongoing addition to our youth ministry as a way to be inviting to our community as our Bishop has asked us to do, but also as an avenue to deepen a growing community among our own Creator Youth while having the Jesus life played out on stage and in their lives.

A few days after the production, my thirteen year old daughter said to me, “Mom, I’ve made a decision. I’m going to apologize to my friend.” (This friend had made many disparaging remarks about my daughter, and frankly, she about him).

“I just keep hearing Jesus saying Love, love, love, love your enemies and pray for your persecutors.”

What better way for us all to get Jesus into our being act it out, live it out!

DOK meets, presented with new banner

Twenty-five Daughters of the King from the chapters of St. John's, Laurel; Ascension, Hattiesburg; and Trinity,

Hattiesburg gathered at Trinity on Saturday, September 8, 2007 for a morning of worship, fellowship and good food. The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, III,

Chaplain for the Daughters of the King, gave an inspirational teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and presided at the Eucharist. Walley Kimmel, Diocesan President greeted

the group and discussed possible study programs.

A new banner for Daughters of the King,



Mrs. Barbara Parker of Trinity, Hattiesburg, with the banner she made for the Daughters of the King.

Diocese of Mississippi, which was made by Mrs. Barbara Parker, Trinity, Hattiesburg, was unveiled and blessed by Bishop Gray. The Rev. Dr. Bill Stroop and the Rev. Dr. Susan Bear participated in the program and the service.

A current DVD about the development, purpose, and work of the order was enjoyed by all.

“Sesqui Sundays” revisit Sewanee History

by Peg Palisano

A walking tour recalling Sewanee buildings and roads a century ago and a guided hike exploring Shakerag Hollow will kick off a series of “Sesqui Sundays” tours exploring the history of the University of the South as part of Sewanee’s 150th anniversary celebration this year.

Coming events in the “Sesqui Sundays” tours include:

October 7, 2007-Sewanee One Hundred Years Ago (a reprise of the first tour, including both the hike and a tour and coinciding with the Founder’s Day activities)

October 28, 2007-Sewanee’s Cemeteries

February 3, 2008-The School of Theology

March 2, 2008-History of Sewanee as recorded at All Saints’ Chapel

April 13, 2008-The Village, the Domain, and the University (includes a hike)

All tours will depart from the Heritage House at 2 p.m. “Sesqui Sundays” are part of the 150th anniversary celebration of Sewanee’s founding, directed under the auspices of the University’s Sesquicentennial Committee. The year-long commemoration of Sewanee’s rich and unique history kicked off with a July 4 celebration highlighting the role of the Episcopal Church in Sewanee’s founding and ongoing development and honoring the families who donated the original land. It will continue with a special Founders’ Day Convocation in All Saints’ Chapel on October 9.

For information about the Sesquicentennial or “Sesqui Sundays,” please call 931.598.1186, or visit www.sewanee.edu/150.

*“O God,
you have bound us together in a
common life. Help us, in the midst
of our struggles for justice and truth,
to confront one another without hatred
or bitterness, and to work together with
mutual forbearance and respect; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.”

BCP pg 824

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TIMELINE

Bishop's schedule & diocesan events

December 24-27

Allin House closed in observance of Christmas

December 27-January 1

Winter Solstice, Gray Center

2008

January 21

Allin House closed in observance of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 25-27 2008

181st Annual Council - Natchez

February 13-17

Cursillo #115

February 22-23

New Vestry Members' Conference

March 6-13

House of Bishops, Camp Allen, TX

March 10-19

CfFM trip to Jerusalem for Palm Sunday

March 23

Easter

March 28-29

The Bishop's Annual Conference for the Wardens

April 10-13

NAAD Archdeacon's and Deacons' Director's Conference in tandem with the Diocese of Mississippi Spring Deacons' Conference, Gray Center

May 26

Allin House closed in observance of Memorial Day

May 27-28

The Bishop's Annual retreat for Retired Clergy and Spouses

July 29-August 3

The Annual Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy at Gray Center

October

1-4

Clergy Conference, Gray Center

3

Congregations for Children at St. James', Jackson

7

Bishop Gray's visit to St. Paul's, Woodville, 10 a.m.

9-10

Sewanee Trustees

11

Standing Committee, 11 - 3 p.m.

14

Bishop Gray's visits to Holy Trinity, Vicksburg, 10:30 a.m. and St. James', Port Gibson, 4 p.m.

17-24

Bishop Gray's extended visit to the Old River Convocation.

17

Bishop Gray's visit to Redeemer, Brookhaven, 6:30 p.m.

18-21

Cursillo #114, Gray Center

21

Bishop Gray's visits to St. Alban's, Bovina, 10 a.m. and at the closing of Cursillo, 2:30 p.m., Gray Center

21-23

Presbyter POC, Gray Center

26-27

Gray Center Board and Work Weekend, Gray Center. Call 601-859-1556 or visit www.graycenter.org.

28

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Congregations for Children at St. Timothy's, Southaven

31

All Soul's Day

Deacons' Council, 11-2 p.m.

November

1

All Saint's Day

Bishop Gray's visit to All Saints', Jackson, 6:30 p.m.

2-4

Junior High DOY weekend at Camp Bratton-Green

3

Diocesan Confirmations, St. Andrew's Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.

4

Bishop Gray's visits to All Saints', Grenada, 10:30 a.m. and All Saints', Inverness, 4 p.m.

5-9

Bishop Gray's extended visit to the Sowashee Convocation.

6

Election Day

9-10

Annual ECW Conference and Vacancy Consultation Conference locations to be announced

9-11

Happening #66 at St. Peter's by-the-Lake, Brandon and Happening Reunion at St. Philips', Jackson.

10

Annual Budget Hearings, Allin House, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m..

11

Bishop Gray's visit to St. Timothy's, Southaven, 10:30 a.m.

16-18

Annual Presbyter Spouses Retreat, Gray Center

18

Bishop Gray's visits to St. Peter's By-the-lake, Brandon, 10:30 a.m. and Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, 5 p.m.

21-25

Allin house closed in observance of Thanksgiving

25-27

Presbyter POC, Gray Center

27-30

Province IV House of Bishops

December

1

Commission on Ministry, Gray Center

2

Bishop Gray's visits to Grace, Rosedale, 8 a.m.; Calvary, Cleveland, 11 a.m. and Ole Miss, 5:30 p.m.

4-7

Fresh Start Facilitators' Conference, Gray Center

5

Trustees, Allin House, 2 p.m.

8

Gray Center Board, Allin House, 9 a.m.

9

Bishop Gray's visit to St. John's, Laurel, 10:30 a.m.

11

Finance Committee, 11:30-3:30 p.m.

13

Standing Committee, 11 - 3 p.m.

16

Bishop Gray's visit to St. Thomas' Diamondhead, 10 a.m.

18

Executive Committee, 11:30-3:30 p.m.

24-27

Allin House closed in observance of Christmas

27-January 1

Winter Solstice, Gray Center

visit www.dioms.org for other news & information