



THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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St. Patrick's Long Beach moves into new church building

By David Knight

On a glorious Pentecost morning the people of St. Patrick's, Long Beach, along with a throng of well wishers from around the country, celebrated the first service in their beautiful new buildings. A standing room only congregation dressed in red, prayed, sang, laughed, and cried as St. Patrick's began their new life at their new location in Long Beach.

St. Patrick's facilities were completely destroyed, down to the foundation, by Hurricane Katrina. They have held services primarily in the gym at Coast Episcopal School (when it housed Katrina volunteers) and in the Camp Coast Care volunteer center dining hall over the last 45 months.

Insurance proceeds and donations from around the country have helped finance the new building, built on 14 acres a few miles inland from the Gulf. The new location, at 310 N. Cleveland Ave., includes a large multi-purpose space to be used for worship and as a parish hall, a small chapel / parlor space, kitchen, offices, and wonderful Christian Education space.

The EYC / Outreach room is quite large with flexibility to host many service ministries, as



On Pentecost Sunday, the Rev. David Knight celebrated the first Holy Eucharist at St. Patrick's new church. The Rev. Lynn Hough (left) serves as Deacon at St. Pat's.

well as providing excellent space for the youth group to meet. The size of the property allows for future growth.

The people of St. Patrick's are forever indebted to the many, many supporters across the country who have helped us in our time of need, and especially to Bishop Gray, the diocesan office, and the people of the Diocese of Mississippi.

"When the Lord restored the fortune of Zion, then we were like those who dream, then our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy."

For more information, please go to www.stpatrickslongbeach.org to view a video that highlights our journey so far. You may also listen to sermons, including the one from the special service, and to see pictures from the day.

The Rev. David Knight is the rector of St. Patrick's, Long Beach.



Joe Gurmeck/photo

St. Patrick's parish moved into their new building in Long Beach on Friday, May 29th. Landscaping will begin soon.

All Saints' Episcopal School property now regional home for AmeriCorps

By Scott Lenoir

After more than a year of negotiations between the federal government, the Diocese and the City of Vicksburg the former All Saints' Episcopal School in Vicksburg will soon become the newest regional home for the training of young people to do service work in partnership with local communities.

In a recent article in the *Vicksburg Post*, it was reported that 160 young people will be moving to the campus in early July to begin training. Another 140 AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Campus members will arrive on July 31.

The ages of the young people joining AmeriCorps are 18-24. The members will tackle projects including environmental, public safety, educational and responses to other needs as well. Habitat for Humanity is one organization among other non-profit agencies which will use the AmeriCorps members. A full 50% of the group's service is devoted to disaster relief according to Southern Region Director, Gary Turner.

Members will begin work on projects in Mississippi in September after a short, intensive training period. Members are enrolled in the program for 10 months.

The eleven states served by the new center are: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

The Diocese of Mississippi leased most of the All Saints' campus to AmeriCorp including the dormitories, the chapel and other buildings. The Diocese has retained 25% of the grounds for its own use.

There are four other regional centers of AmeriCorps located in Denver, Colorado; Perry Point, Maryland; Sacramento, California; and Vinton, Iowa.

Eleven diocesan resolutions filed for repeal of B033

By Scott Lenoir

At the end of General Convention 2006, then Presiding Bishop Frank Griswald and Presiding Bishop Elect Katharine Jefferts Schori put strong support behind a resolution regarding the election of bishops which passed. Now there is an effort underway to repeal that resolution.

Resolution B033 passed in 2006 asked that all standing committees and bishops "exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion."

The resolution passed with many deputies and bishops offering reluctant support. There are at this writing, eleven dioceses which have filed resolutions having something to do with repealing B033 according to Gay Jennings, the chair of the House of Deputies Committee on World Mission which processes the resolutions dealing with B033.

Bishop Gray III, who voted for B033, said recently, "It was an extraordinary difficult decision that was made with the support of the Presiding Bishop of the time, Bishop Griswald, and the Presiding Bishop Elect, Bishop Jefferts Schori, who acknowledged that this will be painful for

some parts of the church."

Gray said that the 75th General Convention felt that it was important for the church to step back for a time for practices that were being condemned by the Anglican Communion.

Resolution B033 in essence gave a nod of support to the Windsor Report's call of providing a time for "healing and reconciliation", especially in view of the then upcoming 2008 Lambeth Conference.

With Lambeth 2008 now behind us, the Diocese of Atlanta, the Diocese of Los Angeles, the Diocese of Maine and the Diocese of El Camino Real among others filed separate resolutions calling for the repeal of B033.

The explanation section of Resolution C010 filed by the Diocese of Atlanta states, "Resolution B033 was an attempt by The Episcopal Church to help continue the discussions prompted by resolutions passed at Lambeth Conferences in 1978, 1988 and 1998 and in response to portions of the Windsor Report and the requests of the Primates of the Anglican Communion. The resolution did little to achieve those goals. Yet it did extreme damage to the spiritual well being of the lesbian and gay members of The Episcopal Church and had the potential for limiting the response of those members to any

call to the episcopate they might have felt from the Holy Spirit."

Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori does not believe that B033 should be revisited.

In a recent interview with *Episcopal Life*, Schori said, "It is far more helpful for us to say something significant about where we are in 2009. Conventions have passed resolutions in the past and they have rarely been revisited. New resolutions have been passed that state where the church is at that point."

"Far more productive, I think, to have the hard conversations involved in claiming our current position and identity," she said.

Bishop Gray concurs with the PB adding, "It is not unrealistic to provide for a space of graceful restraint. I continue to be supportive of B033."

The Rev. Chip Davis, the chair of the Mississippi Deputation, said "Personally, I don't see the need to repeal resolutions, but others may disagree."

The 76th General Convention meets in July in Anaheim, California. Proposed legislation for General Convention may be viewed by going to the convention website <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm>.

The website also contains information about the process which legislation goes through. Much like any legislative process, what is filed is more often that not the final form which passes.



Notes & Quotes

by Maria Watson



Happy summer, all!

I write this on May 31, Pentecost, when almost everyone I saw in church this morning was wearing red, or some version of it. Quite a sight as the congregation

was instructed to wave red and yellow streamers at each mention of the word, "Spirit" during the service. As you can imagine, there was a "whole lotta wavin' goin' on!" Well, it was fun and it was the official launch of summer - a season of relaxation for so many, although numerous church activities continue.

At this point, I have very few of your newsletters from which to draw information for this column, which has an especially tight deadline. The first Tuesday of this month falls on the second day of the month, so if I don't have your newsletter, either in my snail mail box or my email inbox now, your news won't make it in June. As always, I'm looking toward the future and events that will be happening *after* the current issue of *The Mississippi Episcopalian* goes to press, although you may find a few reports on happenings past.

Mississippi Episcopalian Editor Scott Lenoir and I have agreed to my doing 10 columns a year instead of 12 which means I won't be writing for the January issue, traditionally the Council issue, or the July issue. I'm also trying to limit the length of the column to a maximum of 1,000 words. Everyone seems to be saving something these days and we are saving on space, pages and printing costs.

As for your Diocesan doings: Vacation Bible School is coming up in a number of parishes. At All Saints, Tupelo, it's scheduled for July 6-10 at "Camp EDGE-Experience & Discover God Everywhere." Mediator-Redeemer, McComb, is also "going to" Camp EDGE June 22-26 along with Centenary United Methodist Church and

J.J. White Presbyterian Church. St. Andrew's Cathedral's VBS will "Do the Desert," a trip through the Old Testament desert, July 12-16. St. Alban's, Vicksburg's VBS is scheduled for July 13-16.

St. John's, Ocean Springs' Daughters of the King are offering a break from life's busyness Saturday, June 27, with a Quiet Day with Deacon Cindy Obier of the Diocese of Louisiana. St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport, is co-sponsoring a blood drive with the Gulfport Kiwanis Club July 15. All Saints, Tupelo's pastoral care family groups are hosting brunch between the services June 21-August 23. At Trinity, Natchez, Dr. Ed Bond is offering a Church History seminar on Wednesday nights from June 10-July 29, beginning with the Church in Colonial America and ending with the Church in the Early and Mid-20th Century. Mediator, Meridian, is looking ahead to September with a "Vision for the Mediator" weekend September 11-13 to involve the church in a process of sharing the best of the Mediator of the past, celebrating its present and envisioning its future.

Holy Trinity, Vicksburg, will hold its annual golf tournament to benefit the Red Cross July 31. The Men of Grace, Canton, have a prayer breakfast, begun in Lent, the last Sunday of every month. Using proceeds from its Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Mediator-Redeemer, McComb's EYC has purchased two flocks of chickens to donate to Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) for use in its ministry. St. Patrick's, Long Beach, now in its new church, sponsors a Community Dulcimer Group.

NOTABLE QUOTES...

"Whenever we do something out of the ordinary, some big task, some hard work, something that is going to tire us or make our bodies sore, it is easier and less work and more joy, if we do it for God, if we remember we are serving others in His name..." (St. Matthew's, Kosciusko). "Sorrow looks back; worry looks around; faith looks up." (Grace, Canton).

Bloggashere, Twitterverse: what does it have to do with us?

By Scott Lenoir

Blogging has been around for a while, but the practice is catching on with many clergy lately.

For those of you who do not use a computer, the word "blog" is short for weblog. Blogs can function like an online journal or a personal webpage where one logs in his or her activity for the day. Or a blog can be used to weigh in on any political or religious issue. Blogs may have pictures and links to other websites or other blogs.

Blogs are usually open to the public; although, some blogs are restricted.

Only a few Episcopal clergy in Mississippi have blogs and they use them in various ways.

The clergy who blog in the Diocese of Mississippi are: The Rev. Dr. Bryan Owen and the Rev. Annie Cumberland, St. Andrew's, Cathedral; the Rev. David Knight, St. Patrick's, Long Beach; the Rev. Brian Seage, St. Columb's, Ridgeland. Although not in Mississippi, the Rev. Timothy Schenck, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Briarcliff Manor, NY has good Mississippi connections, and he is a quite a blogger.

The earliest blogger of those listed is the Rev. David Knight. He began his blog, *Much Ado About Nothing*, in June of 2002 after graduating from seminary.

"My first blog was encouraged by seminarians who still had a year or two left. They asked me to blog my experiences as a Curate, so they could have an idea of what it would be like for them. So those blog posts were all related to my experience as a newly ordained priest," said Knight.

The focus of Knight's blog changed after



Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Through his blog, Knight shared the journey of St. Patrick's with people around the nation, many of whom volunteered work on Coast in the recovery effort. "In that way [the blog] has definitely impacted my ministry."

Knight is a self confessed computer

geek with over 21 years spent in data processing prior to entering seminary; however, other clergy with blogs regard themselves as being anything but computer savvy, or able to run the programs.

"I'm decidedly *not* a computer geek," says New York priest Tim Shenck, author of the blog *Clergy Family Confidential*, which is subtitled *Finding God in Domestic Chaos*.

"Fortunately, blogging programs such as Word Press (which I use), Blogger, etc are incredibly user-friendly. With a few clicks of the mouse anyone can be blogging within minutes."

Shenck is the author of numerous articles as well as the book, *What Size are God's Shoes: Kids, Chaos and the Spiritual Life* (Morehouse, 2008). "I view my blog as a "sketch pad" of sorts. Some of the writing I do on my blog has ended up in essays or articles in expanded form," said Shenck who also confesses to having some fun with blogging.

"It's a much less formal medium than, say, preaching so it lends itself to gentle sarcasm. Ultimately, it's a forum where I can be seen taking my faith, but not myself, seriously."

Blogging,
Continued on page 6

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Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have
blessed us with the joy and care of children:
Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as
we bring them up, that we may teach them to
love whatever is just and true and good, follow-
ing the example of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen
BCP pg. 829



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15 Scholarships Awarded to Outstanding Students



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Doreen Ndishabandi



Dorothy Ndishabandi



Lila Schaffenburg

By Peggy Jones

The Diocesan Scholarship Committee is happy to announce that fifteen outstanding young students have been chosen to receive scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year. Selections for a variety of scholarships are made each year by the Scholarship Committee composed of the Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi, the Dean and Wardens of St. Andrew's Cathedral along with members of the Executive Committee and Trustees of the Diocese.

The Okolona Scholarship:

The Trustees of the Okolona College Endowment established annual scholarships to be awarded to specifically African American college students. Preference is given to Episcopalians but members of all churches may apply. The Willie Mae Raspberry Scholarship is awarded to the most outstanding female student among those applying for the Okolona Scholarship. This year the Willie Mae Raspberry Scholarship goes to Carolyn Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed L. Cole and a member of St. Mark's, Jackson. Carolyn wishes to acquire a degree in Secondary Education/English at JSU. The James L. Raspberry Scholarship, presented to the most outstanding male student among those applying for the Okolona Scholarship, is



William Schaffenburg



Kendra Schneider



Mary Alex Street



Timothy Umeofia



Edwin Young

presented to Lemnyy Bernard Nyuykongi. Lemnyy, son of Lemnyy Fabian and Lemnyy Evangeline, is a Jackson State University student majoring in Computer Engineering and attends All Saints' Church, Jackson. Also receiving Okolona Scholarships are: Doreen and Dorothy Ndishabandi, daughters of the Rev. and Mrs. William Ndishabandi. Both young ladies are members of All Saints' Church in Jackson. Doreen, attending Tufts University, would like to work in international relations and foreign policy. Dorothy is majoring in Biology at Jackson State University. Okolona recipient, Timothy Umeofia, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Christian Umeofia, attends East Carolina University majoring in Biology. Edwin Gerrard Young, II, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerrard Young, also received an Okolona Scholarship. Edwin attends Mississippi Valley State and attends the Church of the Redeemer, Greenville.

The Capers Scholarship

The Charlotte Capers Scholarships are presented

to those who are pursuing a liberal arts degree.

This year we have four Capers Scholars all attending the University of Mississippi. Catherine Grace Cox, interested in music, voice, piano and international studies, attends Trinity, Hattiesburg. Mary Katherine Kitchings, majoring in Liberal Arts with an emphasis on Communications, attends St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson. Kendra J. Schneider, a double major studying Philosophy and Religion, attends St. Paul's, Meridian. Mary Alex Street, interested in public policy leadership and Southern Studies, attends St. Peter's, Oxford and St. James', Jackson.

The Misticos Scholarship

Misticos Scholarships are awarded annually to girls and boys of either the Greek Orthodox or Episcopal faiths. The late Alexander Misticos established these scholarships as memorials to members of his family. This year's recipients are Lila and William Schaffenburg, the son and daughter of The Rev. and Mrs. Karl Schaffenburg

and are members of Church of the Incarnation in West Point where their father serves as Rector. William attends Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and is working towards a degree in Biochemistry with plans to attend medical school. Lila attends the University of Mississippi and is working towards a B.A. in History in preparation for law school.

The Warren Scholarship

The late Robert Warren of St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral established the Warren Trust Scholarships. The three Warren Scholarships are given to Virginia Cochran, Olivia Feeney and Amanda Frazier. Virginia, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David T. Cochran, Jr., plans to pursue a career as a teacher in Special Education or Occupational Therapy and attends St. James', Greenville. Olivia, the daughter of Mr. Fred Feeney and Ms. Andrea Feeney, plans to major in Biochemistry at the University of Southern Mississippi in hopes of becoming a dermatologist and attends St. Patrick's, Long Beach. Amanda, the daughter of Ms. Patricia Henley Taylor, attends the University of Mississippi majoring in Psychology and attends All Saints', Grenada.

Peggy Jones is the Assistant to the Bishop and Canons at the Allin House.

Reflections on St. Peter's, Oxford EYC Lenten Program

By Maggie Mallette

For some people, Lent is a time to be calm; to others it is a time to give up something that means a lot to their daily lives. This year, for the EYC at St. Peter's it means something much more complex than that. Lent was a time for community projects, for happiness; togetherness. More than even that, it was a time to run around Oxford, completing service projects.

One of the things we love most about Whitney Moore, our youth director, is her ingenuity. She turned service projects such as feeding the hungry, visiting the disabled, and brightening up the days of the homebound parishioners of our wonderful parish, into something fun, something worth remembering. When we saw how our unselfish acts made people feel overjoyed, we found a sense of peacefulness and of happiness.

The first time we gathered for our Lenten youth group services, we did not know what to expect. Even so, what we found was spectacular. Whitney had started a service to help others, while still having fun! The challenge for this group was to devote a small amount of our lives to 40 hours of service during the 40 days of Lent, *seeking and serving Christ in all persons,*

as that was part of our baptismal covenants. Many of us signed a sheet that said, "We accept the CHALLENGE!" I did, and I am happy with the decision I made.

We chose five groups to help: the mentally or physically disabled, the hungry, the needy, the homebound, and the children. Our first visit was paid to the disabled at NMRC. We went and worshipped with them, all equals, all brothers and sisters in Christ. Our youth group acted out the story of the fish and bread. We explained that when you share, there is always enough for everyone.

For the hungry, we had an event that was more competitive. Whitney divided her youth group into two teams, sending one group with one adult, and the other with another. We drove all around Oxford, knocking on our



St. Peter's EYC visited home bound parishioners as part of a comprehensive Lenten program.

friends' doors, and collecting items for the Oxford Food Pantry. Different items, depending on how much demand in the pantry, were worth a different number of points. We got back to the church and tallied up points. The other team won by a landslide, yet in a way, we all felt as if we were winners.

Next, we went to All Saints' Episcopal Church in Tupelo, for an overnight stay. We fell

asleep past midnight, and woke up the next morning, before six. We then went into their parish hall and prepared pancakes and sausage for those in need. We realized that just because people are less fortunate, that does not mean that they are not happy.

Our fourth group to which we gave our services was the homebound parishioners of our parish. We made pretzels for those who were

not able to come to church anymore. They were so open to us. They wanted to make sure we were as comfortable as we could be. In a way, they were perfect. We could see they were happy, and that, however small, we had made a difference.

Our last group was the children of our parish. During the Easter season our older EYC group presented an acting of the Stations of the Cross. It was our turn this year. We presented our stations, and to the children's delight, offered vinegar and even let them touch the nails! We could tell the children loved it, for you could see their joy on their beaming faces.

The Lenten service projects were a great experience for me, and for everyone else in our group. We helped others, but it felt to me like we were helping ourselves more than anything. Our EYC realized that when you want to help someone, there are so many little things you can do. I am glad I got the chance to do this service, and hope we can do it again next year. It was spectacular, and we owe Whitney a huge "Thank you" for making our Lent so special.

Maggie Mallette is a parishioner at St. Peter's, Oxford and member of the Jr. High EYC.

Bishop Gray Calls Delta Missioners to serve five churches

The Rev. Robert Wetherington and the Rev. Betsy Baumgarten are a husband and wife team who will serve five Delta-area churches beginning July 1st.

The couple will live in Sumner and serve the Church of the Advent; St. John's, Leland; Church of the Redeemer, Greenville; St. Mary's, Lexington; and St. Paul's, Hollandale.

Baumgarten graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria in 2008. Wetherington received his Masters of Divinity from Virginia last month.

While many dioceses in The Episcopal Church have used missioners who have several churches to care for, this is the first time in recent years that the Diocese of Mississippi has opted for such a plan.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to provide consistent, ordained pastoral presence in these congregations," said Canon to

the Ordinary, the Rev. David Johnson. "This model actually harkens back to an earlier time, when clergy routinely served multiple congregations in smaller communities."

"Bishop Gray has been searching for the right people to assume this ministry for several years and we were very fortunate to find Betsy and Robert," Johnson said. "They are delightful, energetic, creative, and ready-to-go."

Wetherington, from the Diocese of Atlanta, has a background in business and accounting. He will be ordained to the priesthood on June 28 at St. Philip's Cathedral in Atlanta. Bamgarten, who was ordained priest last year, has been serving as assistant rector at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in McLean, Virginia and has previously worked with counseling and youth programs in the Diocese of Minnesota.



Bishop Gray meets with the newly-appointed Delta Missioners, the Rev. Robert Wetherington and the Rev. Betsy Baumgarten, during a recent visit to Mississippi.

David Johnson/photo

St. Paul's calls first rector



Ann Benton Fraser

The Reverend Ann Benton Fraser has accepted the Vestry's call to serve as the first Rector of St. Paul's Church in Corinth. Ann is currently serving as a Lilly Fellow and staff priest at St. James' Church, Madison Avenue in New York City. She and her husband, Andrew, will be moving to Corinth in early July. She will begin her duties at St. Paul's on August 1.

Ann is a native of St. Francisville, Louisiana, and is a 2007 graduate of the School of Theology at the University of the South, and a 2002 graduate of Louisiana State University.

Paul releases second disc in a series of Bach suites

By Anne McKeown

John Paul, Organist and Choirmaster since 1965 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral, has just released Volume Two in an anticipated 7-disc set of Bach's suites, performed on his double lautenwerck. Paul told the *Clarion Ledger* in an article written by Sherry Lucas and published May 10 that his unique, complete series of recordings of J.S. Bach keyboard suites gets back to the basics of the music that's performed on an instrument whose heyday harks back to the early 1800s.

Paul immigrated to the United States from England in 1965 after studies with a stylistically mixed set of teachers ranging from Harold Craxton to Thurston Dart.

Recorded at St. Andrew's, the CDs will be released at about 4-month intervals over the next year with a boxed set at the end, through record stores, St. Andrew's bookstore, and Lyrichord's website. Lyrichord is the label under which the CDs are released.

"The lautenwerck", says Paul, "also known as the lute-harpsichord, was a keyboard instrument of the Baroque period. Its gut strings, with a more mellow tone than a harpsichord's metal strings, were intended to represent the sound of the lute, the plucked string instrument originally from the Middle East."

Bach owned two of the instruments at the time of his death. Cost, maintenance, and ease of tuning were advantages, plus Bach had a cousin who made them. Paul says, "It's much simpler, and lends itself to casual use for pleasure," Paul said.

Paul has a special interest in the plucked keyboard instruments and has toured as a harpsichordist since 1980, presenting concerts, workshops, and performances in the United States, South America, and Europe.

Paul recommends listening to the music on low volume. That adds to the intimacy of this quiet, expressive instrument.

John Paul was awarded the prestigious Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts by the Mississippi Arts Commission in 2002.

Anne McKeown is a staff member at St. Andrew's Cathedral.



St. Andrew's Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster John Paul



The Rev. David Knight and the Rev. Lynn Hough, Deacon, administer Holy Communion to St. Patrick's communicants on Pentecost Sunday. This was the first service held in the new church building. St. Patrick's used the facilities of Camp Coast Care at Coast Episcopal School to hold services after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the church building in Long Beach in 2005.

New Daughters received in Vicksburg

On Mother's Day, 2009 four members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Vicksburg, Mississippi were received into Daughters of the King after 10 weeks of study. The existing members of the Chapter took this opportunity to study and to renew their vows along with the new Daughters. Each new member was presented with the cross of the order by the Rev. Denny Allman. Daughters of the King is a lay order for Episcopal women who take vows of prayer and service. St. Mary's Chapter was chartered in 1995.



Daughters of the King members at St. Mary's are (l. to r.) Eunice Lewis, Linda Tolliver, Rita Wyatt, Norma Allman, Elva Smith, Lorissa Tolliver Alice Young and Hilton Gordon.

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A Reflection on the Honduras Medical Mission Trip 2009

By Cathrine Rickett

"I am a changed man," George Jackson emailed to us, and I wanted to know, "how do you know, how did you process all of this so soon?" I was still full, and silent, not knowing how to find the words for mission trip from which we had just returned.

I have a picture frame - you know the ones - the ones from a local store that provide a ready-made collage in the frame. I have one that I was going to use for my ordination photos, was saving it just for a collage of that occasion. Well, my Honduras photos arrived, and the first thing that I realized was that my "ordination" photo frame was going to become the Honduras photo collage. I was not ready to put all of those images away. I wanted to visit those faces and places each day. I could not put them away, leave them behind. By looking through my photographs, one would think that I saw a lot of animals on that trip - horses, roosters, dogs, monkeys - and I did, I guess. It will surprise no one who knows me that my photos capture the animals. There are many photos of the village of San Joaquin, a village so hard to describe - dirt and dust and people wearing modern T-shirts while chickens run through their homes, around their feet. We saw women, babies at their breasts, looking for fashionable reading glasses, "mas pequeño, por favor," so that they can see to do their homework.

Even in the poorest mountain areas of Honduras, modern culture has reached them so that the villagers want fashionable glasses with small lenses in order to complete homework, to read Bibles, or to sew in the factories of the distant city.

Out of date glasses do not correct vision as well as the modern ones; we know that oh-so-well. We who thirst for Ray Bans and Chanel and whoever is the designer of the day know that out of date lenses would not work at all. Not at all. We are so spoiled, and our television has made its way to the poorest of the poor and spoiled them, too. Más pequeño, por favor. Smaller lenses, please. "It is more important that you can see," we would offer. Yes, but "mas pequeno, por favor." And we understand. We really do. People see better out of the smaller lenses that they see on MTV. We cleaned out the boxes of glasses, keeping many unfashionable ones, discarding the broken ones, taking inventory so that the supplies could be replenished. And somehow we found glasses for every person who needed some and who came into the eye clinic. "Más pequeño" or not, we found glasses out of which people could see. Most of the time, vision overcame vanity. When people could see more clearly, they accepted their new eyeglasses. They giggled or laughed and self-consciously accepted their new look, their better vision.

We did see all sorts of God's people: old, young, villagers, mountain people. We saw caballeros, cowboys. Fashion did not matter to these men - they were happy to see the trees, to see once again that trees have individual leaves that make up the foliage. To those who wear glasses: do you remember that feeling? Do you remember getting glasses and seeing the individual leaves on a tree? I remember that feeling. The trees had leaves - and I could see them. I could see the leaves and the blackboard in math class and there was a renewed world in front of me. And the caballeros said "puedo ver." I can see. I can see out the window, I can see the trees, I can see the people, I can see you. Wonderful are those words, "puedo ver." We learned along the way to ask if people could see with a particular pair of glasses instead of asking if they could read. Not everyone could read, and some would not admit that to us ... so we talked about seeing clearly rather than reading words. We learned a little more each day.

We wept together, hugged one another, blessed each other with God's grace, and sent one another on our way. In one small way, the world had changed. We were in a renewed world. We were and are connected by God's grace to us in God's world.

The blessings of the trip happened everywhere. I celebrated the Eucharist in Spanish, a language that is not native to me but which brings depth to my worship life. "Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo"; "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name." Shared prayer books and knowledge of our common prayer got us through our bilingual services. God was worshipped and glorified. The dogs were in the aisles, the children were wiggling in the pews, the men were gathered at the door - it was a noisy worship setting, full of music and the Holy Spirit. God is in that holy place.

I thank God for George who found words at a time when I could not. I thank God for those who give of their lives each year for this people in Honduras. I thank God for the grace to know that this life is a blessing, and that we are to enjoy it each step of the day and in each opportunity of our lives. I hope, as Joan said, to return to Honduras "every year until I die," to offer to others a little bit of the abundance with which God has blessed me. I can see, and I am renewed.

The Rev. Cathrine Rickett is the Vicar of St. Stephen's, Columbia, and St. Elizabeth's, Collins.



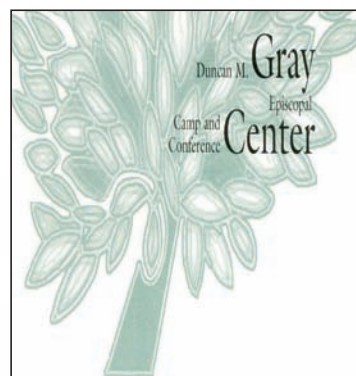
A family waits to be seen by a doctor from the medical mission in the clinic at San Joaquin, Honduras.



Processing out from their ordination service to the diaconate are the Rev. Jody Burnett, the Rev. Carol Mead and the Rev. Judy Morris. Burnett graduated from Virginia Seminary and will be remaining in Virginia for the immediate future. Mead, a graduate of Yale Divinity, will serve as Curate at Resurrection, Starkville and Chaplain to Mississippi State University. Morris graduated from Sewanee and will serve as Curate at St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Brandon.



The Rt. Rev. Joe Burnett, Bishop of Nebraska, processes from St. Andrew's Cathedral after ordaining three deacons on May 30 including his son, Jody. Bishop Burnett served the Diocese of Mississippi for 25 years before become Professor of Pastoral Theology at Sewanee in 1999. Burnett was consecrated Bishop of Nebraska in 2003.



Limited offer!

If you have a friend who has never been to Camp, or hasn't been in the last 2 years, your friend will receive a 50% discount! off of a Camp Bratton-Green session. Simply send your application together with your friend's and mark "A friend of mine" on the friend's application to receive the discount.

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Librarians needed in Sunday School? You bet!

By Janet Nail

It is probably a good idea for every church to schedule a Sunday school class that covers preparing for death—the housekeeping details, as it were. We all know that the worst time to arrange things is when you need to.

The priest would discuss the funeral service from the prayer book and the director of music would offer suggestions about music.

A funeral director could discuss the options for the burial.

A lawyer would offer suggestions about wills and legal matters, while a banker could tell you how financial matters would be handled after a death. Perhaps a doctor could join him/her to discuss advance directives and the possibility of being an organ donor.

Oh, yes you need a librarian.

A librarian?

Yes, you definitely need a librarian.

Oh, I see your puzzled face; why on earth does anyone need a librarian to prepare for a funeral.

Well, it seems that many people would like a memorial poem read at their funeral. I realized this when a delightful gentleman in town saw me at the post office and sang out, “Sunset and evening star/And one clear call for me!”

I responded, “And may there be no moaning of the bar,/When I put out to sea.”

He beamed. “Remember that I want that at my funeral!”

Well, that was easy. Victorian literature was my specialty in graduate school. But alas! It is not always so.

Usually it is the family, but it may be someone in the funeral home.

“Grandpa/Mr. Smith would like a poem for his funeral. I think the title is ‘No Regrets.’”

Dutifully I check the Granger; I regret to see there is no title “No Regrets.” I call them.

“Oh, maybe the title is ‘Remember Me.’ I think it has a line that says “Remember me when the summer breezes blow.”

Hmm. Well, Granger yields one poem, “Remember”, by Christina Rossetti. I go through every anthology of poetry we have and then go to the internet. PoemFinder is blocked; our system seems to think it is shopping. I google the words; there is a poem that might be the one. To be on the safe side, I also print the Rossetti poem, and all the poems on a site of memorial poems.

All this took about five hours.

The librarian in your class will look sternly at everyone there and say, “If you want a poem at your funeral, write down the title if it is a literary poem. Don’t depend on your family to remember that “Sunset and evening star” is from

“Crossing the Bar” by Tennyson; they will be having trouble remembering your middle name. And if you saw something in a magazine or an Ideals book or on the internet, copy the whole thing and put it in your funeral instructions!”

Now you have covered all the important matters of preparing for death.

BEFORE DEATH HAPPENS is a program in the A-V Center that is an excellent resource for the class.

This program, from the Diocese of Colorado, offers a format for the details of death.

Part One of the video deals with the reasons planning ahead is a good idea, with emphasis on wills and advance directives. Part Two discusses the importance of communication with family and friends, and deals with grief and personal feelings. Part Three explains the practical choices around funeral arrangements, and Part Four encourages people to leave clear instructions so that their funerals can be a true reflection of their lives and faith.

Why are we afraid of talking about death? Perhaps we like to pretend it won’t happen to us. Or maybe we feel that making plans will make it happen. Yet no one can deny that planning ahead makes things easier for those you love.

In the second part, participants are encouraged to face the facts of death: you will grieve. It will hurt. This is not bad.

In the third part, we hear about the practical choices. What kind of funeral do you want? What about your casket? What are your feelings about cremation? A funeral director who spoke to our class at Trinity said that it is hard to get people to express what they want; most of them will say, “Oh, just throw me in a ditch somewhere.” This is not an option, people. You need to say what you want while you are here. And write it down!

Finally, the program examines the “sure and certain hope” that the Episcopal funeral embodies.

The guide includes a form to file at the church that lists information that will make your funeral reflect your personal faith.

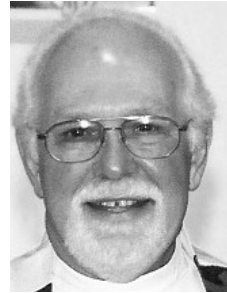
Do not choose ODE ON INTIMATIONS OF IMMORTALITY FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD by William Wordsworth to be read at your funeral. Trust me.

If you would like to borrow this program or discuss any programs dealing with death (especially death by suicide), please call me at 662-746-5557 or e-mail me at grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com.

Janet Nail is the Director of the AV Center housed at Trinity Church in Yazoo City.

Ring Around the Collar

By Denny Allman



This month we pause from the usual fare for a short commercial break about one of my favorite things: small groups.

Over six years ago a group of us gathered to discuss “Is there life after EfM?” EfM, Education for Ministry, had spawned all of us. Some of us were former mentors, others graduates of the four year program. After all of the years together we felt the need for some continuing education and regular spirituality sessions. We agreed that we would meet the following Tuesday. That meeting led to meetings that have been held regularly these last six years. The group has sometimes been as few as four or as many as what we have now, eight. We have studied many books of the Bible, the Creed and other parts of the BCP. We have watched movies (most of Michael Moore’s) and discussed them. We have discussed Huston Smith’s “World Religions.” We have had lively discussions about many things but all of them, ultimately, theological.

It has been my experience that small groups, which meet regularly, away from the church are the most effective means of Adult Christian Education. Why away from the church you might ask? Because people are much more prone to attend meetings in other folks’ homes than those held at the church. These groups require commitment from their members that they will attend all meetings except when something dire interferes with their attendance. (Finals of *American Idol* do not constitute dire!)

If you are a member of one of these small groups you will discover that your knowledge of Christianity and your own spirituality will be greatly enhanced. You don’t need to be a graduate of EfM to enjoy these groups. You don’t need an ordained person as a member. Any person on a spiritual journey can participate. The only requirement for attendance is to find others on a similar journey, almost none of whom will be any where near the same place you are. You don’t even have to have a leader. Most programs which are available require no leader. The participants lead one another. Membership in these groups is such that members can move in and out as their interest expands or wanes. New members can be integrated without having any knowledge of what went before. Another great by-product of these groups as that many life-long friendships may be made. All small groups require confidentiality. What is said in the group stays in the group. This encourages all members to express what is really on their minds without reservation.

If any of this sounds interesting I encourage you to invite a few friends, whom you think might like this experience, to your home for an exploratory evening. To begin with don’t pick a topic that can’t be dealt with in one evening. Longer topics can emerge. Discussing a TV program such as *Saving Grace* is one good way to start. I truly believe that once you have tried it you will be hooked as are the rest of us in our Tuesday group. Just remember that Jesus said “For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18.20)

Blogging

Continued from page 2

Annie Cumberland is the Curate for youth and families at St. Andrew’s Cathedral and she began a blog at the beginning of the year to facilitate her ministry.

“I blog to keep everyone aware of EYC events and news. It is another method of communication with the youth and their parents.”

The Rev. Brian Seage also has a more utilitarian approach to blogging using the micro blog Twitter. Twitter keeps St. Columb’s communicants up to date by using the service which is restricted to only 140 characters of information. Short and sweet is the tweet. Parishioners are encouraged to get a Twitter account and then join the St. Columb’s twitter group.

The Rev. Bryan Owen, Canon for Parish Ministry at St. Andrew’s Cathedral has a full blown blog called The Creedal Christian and he makes regular posts on events that catch his eye

or on issues being discussed in the church.

“Blogging is an outlet for me to share thoughts, concerns, convictions, and hopes. It’s also a great way to connect with other people in and outside of the Episcopal Church and across the theological spectrum,” said Owen.

Owen admits there is plenty of division and disrespect in the blogosphere, but states that he’s discovered a deeper unity “in the midst of differences with people who comment on my blog and with persons whose blogs I regularly read.”

Bryan says that blogging is enjoyable for him and that he wishes other clergy would engage the practice.

“It would be nice if more [clergy blogged], mainly because blogging offers a window into a person’s passions. It reveals a deeper level of what makes us tick, not just as clergy, but as Christians and just as persons.”

You are invited to view the following clergy blogs:

The Rev. Dr. Bryan Owen: www.creedalchristian.blogspot.com

The Rev. David Knight, Much Ado About Nothing: www.knite.blogspot.com

The Rev. Tim Schenck, Clergy Family Confidential: www.frtim.wordpress.com

The Rev. Canon Annie Cumberland: www.cathedraleyc.wordpress.com

The Rev. Brian Seage: www.twitter.com/stcolumbs

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DIOCESAN CALENDAR

(Sabbatical Leave for Bishop Gray III is April 1 - July 31, 2009)

JUNE

- 17
• Diocesan Trustees - 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 19-21
• Camp Bratton Green: First Camp (grades 1-2)
- 20
• Fresh Start - 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
• Gray Center Board - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton
- 21
• Bishop Shannon Johnston visits: St. Stephen's, Indianola
- 21-26
• Camp Caritas, Gray Center, Canton
- 23-29
• Camp Bratton Green: Regular Session III (grades 5-6)

- 26-28
• Diocesan Prison & Justice Committee: Alternatives to Violence Workshop, Jackson

JULY

- 3
• Allin House closed in observance of Independence Day
- 3-9
• Camp Bratton Green: Regular Session IV (grades 7-9)
- 7
• Deadline for submittal to *The Mississippi Episcopalian*
- 8-17
• 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, Anaheim, CA
- 11-16
• Camp Bratton Green: Regular Session V (grades 3-4)
- 16
• Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference - 12:00 noon

- 18-24
• Camp Bratton Green: Regular Session VI (grades 5-6)
- 22
• Deacon's Council - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 27-August 2
• Camp Bratton Green: Special Session II (ages <36)
- 28-August 2
• Mississippi Conference on Church Music & Liturgy, Gray Center, Canton
- AUGUST**
- 1
• Bishop Gray returns from Sabbatical Leave
- 2
• Bishop Gray visits: St. Mary's, Lexington - 6:00 p.m.
- 3
• Gray Center Executive Committee - 5:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 4
• Deadline for submittal to *The Mississippi Episcopalian*

- 5-8
• Commission on Ministry
- 7
• Standing Committee - 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Gray Center, Canton
- 9
• Bishop Gray visits: St. John's, Aberdeen - 10:30 a.m.
• Bishop Gray visits: Church of the Good Shepherd, Columbus - 5:00 p.m.
- 15
• Celebration for St. Patrick's, Long Beach
- 16
• Bishop Gray visits: Church of the Mediator and Our Redeemer, McComb/Magnolia - 10:30 a.m.
• Bishop Gray visits: Church of the Holy Trinity, Crystal Springs - 5:00 p.m.
- 20
• Finance Committee - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson

- 21-22
• Adults Working With Youth (AWWY) Workshop, Big House, Gray Center, Canton
- 21-23
• Center for Formation & Mission: Spiritual Renewal Annual Retreat, Gray Center, Canton
- 26
• Diocesan Trustees - 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 26-30
• Cursillo #118, Gray Center, Canton
- 29
• Gray Center Board - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton
- 30
• Bishop Gray visits: Grace Church, Canton - 10:00 a.m.
• Bishop Gray at Cursillo #118, Gray Center, Canton - 2:00 p.m.
• Lets Eat Shrimp for Mississippi (LESM) - 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., The Cedars, Jackson



FAITHFUL DEPARTED

by Peggy Jones

Gilbert Stillman Macvaugh, 71, communicant of St. James', Greenville, died April 4, 2009.

Fourth Annual Spiritual Retreat to be led by VTS Professor

The fourth annual spiritual retreat, sponsored by the Diocesan Committee on Ministry with Gay and Lesbian Persons and The Center for Formation and Mission, will be offered at Gray Center, on 21-23 August.

The retreat leader this year is the Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke, Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Virginia Theological Seminary.

Please watch for more information that will be in *The Mississippi Episcopalian*; and also emails, direct mailing to parishes and missions as well as on the Diocesan web site.

Financial assistance is available. For additional information you may contact: the Rev. Debo Dykes in the Diocesan Office (601-948-5954) or John A. Lever at jalever@live.com.



The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke

The Mississippi Conference on Church Music & Liturgy

By Bryan Owen

This summer marks the 34th year for the Mississippi Conference on Church Music & Liturgy. Beginning on Tuesday, July 28 and running through Sunday, August 2, the conference meets at Gray Center and will include workshops, reading sessions, and rehearsals for an Evensong at St. Philip's Episcopal Church and Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's Cathedral. It's also a great opportunity for fun and fellowship with choristers and church musicians from around the diocese and the larger Episcopal Church.

The theme for this year's conference is "Waiting Upon God: Advent Promise, Advent Promise." One of the richest seasons of the Church year, Advent poses many challenges for laity and clergy charged with planning and leading worship. This conference will address those challenges with fresh and creative ideas for music and liturgy.

The Clergy Day for this year's conference will be on Wednesday, July 29, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will provide an opportunity for deeper reflection on the music and lectionary readings during Advent, and the implications for liturgy and preaching they raise. In addition to the practical advantages of reflecting upon such matters in the company of preachers and musicians, clergy who attend this day will also receive credit for Continuing Education.

The following conference faculty will help conferees explore this year's theme:

❖ Joel Martinson is the Director of Music Ministries and Organist at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas, Texas. He coordinates the vibrant musical life of the parish, including choral and instrumental ensembles for all ages, and a music series. His compositions have received many awards and been featured at conventions all over the country.

❖ Monte Mason is Organist/Choirmaster at St. Martin's by-the-Lake Episcopal Church in Minnetonka Beach, Minnesota. He also serves as the Director of the Youth Arts Program and is founder and director of the Gregorian Singers. Monte served on the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, and in 2003 he co-edited with Judy Dodge *Enriching Our Music 1 and 2*. That same year he was responsible for all of the music at General Convention in Minneapolis.

❖ The Very Rev. Joy Rogers serves as Provost of St. James' Episcopal Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois. She has taught homiletics at seminaries, diocesan deacon schools, and annual preaching conferences for Episcopal seminarians. She lectures on the theology of worship and the meaning of liturgy. Joy's sermons have been published in *Sermons That Work* and in *The Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians*.

For more information and to register for the conference, go on-line to <http://www.mississippiconference.org>. And for more information about Clergy Day, contact the Rev. Dr. Bryan Owen at (601) 354-1535, or at bowen@standrewscathedral.org.

The Rev. Dr. Bryan Owen is Canon for Pastoral Ministry at St. Andrew's Cathedral and the chaplain for the Mississippi Conference of Church Music and Liturgy.



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Rain did not dampen the spirits of 350 Bishop's Barbecue attendees. In fact, the children seemed to have more fun in the rain than in prior years when it didn't rain!

Hats off to the Bishop's Barbecue Committee, especially Crystal Skelton and Greer Proctor-Dickson, and all the volunteers and visitors who made this year's event the success it was.

Below are some pictures of the BBQ, courtesy of Hank Lamb, Nativity, Greenwood.

“Sunshine? Sunshine? We don't need no stinking sunshine!”



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A Centering Prayer Retreat for Licensed Lay Ministers and others

October 16, 17, & 18, 2009



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The Rev. Thomas R. Ward, Jr.

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**The Committee for Licensed Lay Ministers
and The Center for Formation & Mission of
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There is something in the depths of the human heart that yearns for a connection with something greater. There is a spiritual hunger that is quenched only by God. There is Something More, Something Deeper, a deep awareness of God that is revealed through the practice of Centering Prayer.

The Rev. Tom Ward, University Chaplain for the University of the South, Sewanee, TN, from 1994 to 2005, will present a three-day centering prayer retreat, Oct. 16 - 18, that will invite participants to let go, let be, still the mind, and experience the profound in the silence of prayer. Centering Prayer is the inward journey toward the supreme mystery that is God. St. Augustine says that God is "more intimate to us than we are to ourselves."

This retreat might serve as an introduction for the beginner in Center Prayer as well as a deepening experience for those who have been practicing Centering Prayer for some time. Periods of instruction will be alternated with intensive periods of silent prayer.