

IT'S OUR ANNUAL HARVEST FEST



JOIN US!

Saturday • October 15 • 5-10 p.m.

Admission: \$5 (proceeds to the Northfield Township Food Pantry)

Meet in the community garden at 5 p.m. for the blessing

Potluck harvest meal begins at 6 p.m.

Entertainment begins at 7 p.m.

Sign up in the narthex to help with set up/clean up, decorations, and food.

See Jim Brooks for more information.

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Our Schedule

Sundays

Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:00 AM

Christian Formation 9 AM

Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:15 AM

3rd Sundays of the Month

Healing & Anointing

at both services

September Vestry Retreat: Focus on Ministries

The focus of our Vestry Retreat, September 9 and 10, was to discuss and decide on a direction for parish leadership and ministry structure. From time and talent stewardship efforts to the Ministry Narratives project, there are meaningful activities and commitments at St. Giles. During the retreat, we recognized them and considered how to best continue these efforts and work together toward a common goal.

We had a casual dinner in the undercroft on Friday and then shared in a fellowship exercise – a directed opportunity to talk one-on-one with a randomly chosen partner. We all discovered that even with many opportunities for talking, sharing, and socializing over many years, there are always details and stories about one another that we don't know. Some of what we learned about one another was just fun to hear, but other information was important to know about, since it explained why we originally



**St. Giles
Episcopal Church**

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Northbrook, IL 60062
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Fax: 847-272-7664
www.saint-giles.org

Office Hours

Monday: By appointment
Tues-Thurs: 9 AM - 2 PM
Friday: Office closed

Vestry

Bill Perley,
Senior Warden

George Miller,
Junior Warden

Ellie Bonebrake

Jim Brooks

Cindy Conrad

John Hanzel

Curt Jones

Martha McGuire

Gloria Simon

Nancy Stoddard

Linda Williams

Tracey Solano, Clerk

Gloriann Harris, Treasurer

Ned Libby, Bookkeeper

Tom Page, Parish
Chancellor

Staff (Oct. 1 - Dec. 1)

The Rev. Cynthia J. Hallas
Rector (on sabbatical)

The Rev. Belinda Chandler
Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Lee Gaede
Deacon

The Rev. Virgil A. Robinson
Assisting Priest

Jim Brown
Director of Music

Esther Freilich
Parish Administrator
admin@saint-giles.org

Rector's Reflection: God, Gratitude & Giving Back

Ah, fall! The air is crisp, the leaves are turning bright colors, sweaters and jackets come out of hiding, apples and pumpkins appear at farmers' markets. In fall the church's fancy turns to thoughts of ... stewardship. I've been to two Diocesan stewardship workshops in recent months, the more recent one in the company of several parishioners. Ways of communicating the importance and need for faithful stewardship (read: "stewardship campaigns") vary, but the theology of stewardship is consistent: everything we have belongs to God and is given to us in blessing by God; in *gratitude* we are intentional about returning a portion of that so that God's work may be done in and through the Church. Both workshops rightly emphasized that true stewardship and generosity arise out of that gratitude; without it, our giving is sterile and rote, and it lacks true investment of self. We're all aware of this, but from time to time it's helpful to make a list of those things for which we are grateful. Here is mine, in no particular order (and certainly not exhaustive!):

- our faith community: I love its diversity (on so many levels), and the fact that new members bring us fresh perspectives while our long-term members (parish historians all) help us to recall our heritage
- the way that music enhances our worship
- a vestry whose members hold differing opinions and practice different pieties, but who see those differences as enriching the parish rather than threatening its peace
- the amazing leadership of Bishop Lee and the staff at St. James Commons
- the commitment of our youth and children, encouraged by their parents and teachers/mentors, shown in many ways: active participation in liturgy and the creation of the St. Giles icon are two that come to mind
- the strong leadership and service of our staff – both paid and non-stipendiary
- the Garden of Feedin': it has more than doubled in size in just three growing seasons, drawing our neighbors in and contributing to the welfare of the larger community
- the regular learning opportunities offered by our Diocese; each time one or several of us attend such gatherings, we come away enriched with new ideas of leadership and ministry that shape our common life
- the continued expansion of the Hunger Resource Network, and the prompt and enthusiastic response by parishioners to several "frozen chicken rescues" held during the past year

This year's Stewardship Team (George Miller, Mike Piskel, Mary Reid, and Bob Robinson) is already at work, and you will be hearing more from them during the next six weeks or so. In the meantime, I encourage each of you to spend some time reflecting on your gratitude to God; if it helps, make a list.

One more thing I am grateful for is the opportunity to take the next two months for refreshment and renewal. I am grateful to the vestry, the sabbatical planning committee and the sabbatical team, and to the parish for this blessing – thank you all!

God be with you 'til we meet again,
Cynthia+



Vestry Retreat (cont. from page 1)

joined St. Giles and why we remain committed to this church. On Saturday we went out to St. Mary of the Lake, a wonderful site on a day nice enough that Bill Perley rode his bike all the way to Mundelein! Once, our vestry was a group of managers; today, it's similar to a board of directors. I think we took a more "corporate" approach when talking about theory, planning, and doing – with the intention of coming up with a focused plan by the end of the day. And we did.

We started by building a flow chart with 16 nodes; barely 10 minutes into that exercise we had drawn so many lines in so many colors, both solid and dotted, that our markers had dried out. This was great since it proved we need a better leadership and ministry structure – that we really have to break away from what we've always considered the norm for so many years. Changing a light bulb (or the sign out front) and planning a picnic are important, but they are important parts of something larger. With a focus on ministries, we ended up with four of them: **Common (or Community) Life, Love & Care, Worship, and Evangelism.** Areas can be grouped under these ministries, and skills and efforts – time and talent – can be better used. We will need to find leaders for these areas and share our efforts to achieve more and burn out less – a concern often expressed. This type of restructuring has been mulled over for years, and this is the first step that we have been looking for.

The most important part of the vestry's efforts, and conversations and decisions to come, is to remember that we are always focusing on supporting a larger ministry and not just a single goal. We have strengths that God has shared with us, and we need to share them with others.

— John Hanzel



“Festival!”

An Interfaith Summit focused on Food, Faith & Active Living

The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation invites you to join them on Monday, October 10 (Columbus Day), for “A Festival Celebration” from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Brookfield Zoo. The day will include a session on “Wisdom for Eating Well Across Religious Traditions” as well as workshops about composting, healthy cooking, feeding the spirit, how to get a garden started in your congregation (it seems we at St. Giles are ahead of the curve!), and many other topics. Cost is \$18 for adults and \$9 for school-aged children and includes lunch, parking, and access to the zoo for arrivals prior to 10 a.m. Visit www.advocatehealth.com/festival or call 1-800-323-3513 for more information.

October Guest Preachers

On October 9 we welcome the Rev. Kenneth Erickson, Director of Church Relations and Major Gifts for Holy Family Ministries, who will preach at both services and be on hand at our Second Sunday breakfast for informal conversation about the organization that oversees Holy Family School, the Lutheran school that merged with St. Gregory's Episcopal School in 2009. On October 23, our very own George Miller will offer a personal testimony about faith and stewardship.

SABBATICAL COVERAGE

- The Rev. Belinda Chandler is priest-in-charge during October and November. She will oversee the worship and spiritual ministries and concerns of the parish.
 - Pastoral emergencies: During regular office hours (Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.) please phone Esther Freilich, parish administrator, in the church office at 847-272-6622). At other times, please phone the Rev. Lee Gaede, deacon, at 847-702-0891.
 - Property and financial concerns: Contact Bill Perley or George Miller, wardens.
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Gratitude: Memory of the Heart

A new season is moving in. Across the land truckloads of harvested fruits, vegetables, and grains make their way to market. Our own Garden of Feedin' has freely yielded the bounty of her summer. We have filled our baskets and our wagons with its abundance. And we have shared its generosity with others. Sometimes it is only when produce is gathered or grain is caught into wagons that the harvest is seen in its bounty. We too are meant to count our blessings even when the reaping at first looks sparse and lean.

Harvest is a time for us to reflect on God's grace. It is a time to observe what has been placed in the granary of our hearts and marvel at the abundance. During the month of October, you are invited to take time to consider the grace in your life by pondering the following poem from *Out of the Ordinary* (Ave Maria Press: 2000).

As you reflect on the poem, consider the following questions: What is the golden goodness found within the field that is your heart? What are the daily gifts that turn your inner room into a harvest of plentitude? As you reflect on your bounty, try to look beyond the obvious gifts. Look in the struggles, the weariness, the heartaches, the frustrations and irritations and mine the gold that lies deep within. After you have spent some time reflecting, give thanks for the gifts you have discovered.

— Belinda Chandler



Cornstalks once tall and green
Are now brown, dried, and surrendered,
Ears of corn with full kernels
Shaped and turned golden
In a summer of sunshine and rain.
They fill to fullness wide wagons,
Falling now into tall, round bins,
Copious in their generosity,
Abundant in unrestrained harvest.

This plentitude of the land
Signals my own gathering of grain

As I turn to the bounty
Found in the field of my heart.

All those daily gifts
That grace my humble path,
Come tumbling forth,
Like a corn harvest
Of golden goodness.

— Joyce Rupp

Feasting on Gratitude

From October 2 through November 6, a series of inserts from The Episcopal Church will be in your bulletins. This series, "Feasting on Gratitude", will offer stewardship reflections based on the lections for that Sunday. Please read them prayerfully as you consider your stewardship response for 2012.

All Saints' Sunday, November 6

Please remember to submit names of departed loved ones whom you would like to have included in the necrology (list of names to be read) at both liturgies on this day. (Members of the parish who have died since November 1 of last year are automatically included.) Names must be sent to Esther Freilich by October 27 to be included. Email to admin@saint-giles.org or call 847-272-6622.

Privacy Issues

In the last several years, privacy approaches have changed regarding healthcare issues. Hospitals are no longer allowed to be forthcoming with information about their patients. In many ways, this is very good. It allows the patient or the patient's family to control the flow of information regarding the patient's condition. Please keep in mind that **hospitals no longer notify churches when parishioners are admitted**. The clergy wants to be with you, even for same-day surgeries, but should be notified by you or your family members in order for that to happen.



October Birthdays/Anniversaries

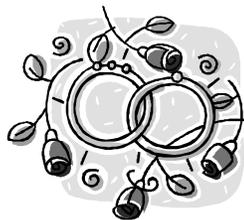
Birthdays:

- 7 Melly Schwartz
- 12 Mary Grant
- 15 Gloriann Harris
- 18 John Dygos
- 23 Ian Hallas
Noel Hanzel
- 24 Millie Kolar
- 27 Colette Dim
- 28 Bill Moulder

Anniversaries:

- 19 Chris DeWitt & Jan Hutchins-DeWitt
- 26 Tracey & Nick Solano

Don't be shy! If we don't have your family's birthday and/or anniversary information on file, we can't list it here! Send it to admin@saint-giles.org or call 847-272-6622.



October Lectionary Readings

Find the readings at <http://www.lectionarypage.net/#october>
The psalms can be found in *The Book of Common Prayer*

October 2 (16 Pentecost)

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80: 7-14
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 9 (17 Pentecost)

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 16 (18 Pentecost)

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9
I Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 23 (19 Pentecost)

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
I Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

October 30 (20 Pentecost)

Micah 3:5-12
Psalm 43
I Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

Inscribing the Divine: The St. John's Bible

For the first fifteen hundred years of its production, every copy of the Bible was handwritten—some magnificently illuminated with gold leaf and paint. Contemporary calligrapher and illuminator Donald Jackson revived the tradition beginning in 2000 to produce a new bible for the Benedictine monks of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. From now through October 23, Loyola University Museum of Art on North Michigan Avenue will exhibit thirteen bifolia from the books of Pentateuch and Psalms, including the illumination of the seven days of Creation. This is a wonderful and rare opportunity to see a modern sacred masterpiece. For more information visit http://www.luc.edu/luma/flash/saint_johns_bible_2011.html.

Diocesan Convention, November 18 & 19

For more information visit www.episcopalchicago.org. Details will follow in the November Bells.



For Everything There Is a Book ...

Being a thoroughly modern 81-year-old, I naturally have an iPod. Last week I was listening to a recent hit by Pete Seeger called "Turn, Turn, Turn" [maybe you've heard of it?] when I realized that the lyrics – which I'd never really listened to before – were from the King James Bible: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. I also realized that almost everything mentioned is covered by our St. Bede's Library, that lonely collection of books in our undercroft. Take a look:

To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Seasons of the Spirit, by Robert Runcie (call number 252/RUN)
Atonement in Our Time, by Martin Jarrett-Kerr (234/JAR)

a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

He that Cometh: the Birth of Jesus in the New Testament, by Reginald Fuller (232.9/FUL)
On Death and Dying by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross (306.9/KUB)
On Saints and their Flowers, by Gladys Taylor (246/TAY)

a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up;

Who Killed Jesus? Exposing the Roots of Anti-Semitism in the Gospel Story of the Death of Jesus,
by John Dominic Crossan (232.69/CRO)
Beauty for Ashes: Receiving Emotional Healing, by Joyce Meyer (248/MEY)

a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Crying in the Wilderness, by Desmond Tutu (261.8/TUT)
Laughter for a Woman's Soul: Revive Your Spirit with Women of Faith, published
by New Life Clinics (248.82/NLC)
I Know Just How You Feel: Avoiding Cliches of Grief, by Erin Linn (155.9/LIN)
To Dance with God: Family Ritual and Community Celebration,
by Gertrude Mueller Nelson (263.9/NEL)

a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

Keeping the Church Year, by H. Boone Porter (263.9/POR)
What You Should Know and What You Can Do During Times of Loss,
by Martin M. Auz & Maureen Lyons Andrews (155.9/AUZ)

a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

Search for Silence, by Elizabeth O'Connor (242/COS)
C. S. Lewis, Speaker and Teacher, by Cardyn Keefe (920/LEWK)

a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Love: Christian Romance, Marriage, Friendship, by Diogenes Allen (241.4/ALL)
Michael, Michael, Why Do You Hate Me? by Michael Esses (248.2/ESS)
Faith in Time of War, by S.C. Carpenter (230/CAR)
A Guide to True Peace, by Malawians Fenelon (248.4/FEN)

Well, perhaps some of these are a bit far-fetched, but it clearly demonstrates that our St. Bede's Library has a book for almost everything.

— Doug Downey, Saint Bede's Assistant



Music News

THE HYMNS THAT WE SING

The Episcopal Church is fortunate to have a rich and wonderful variety of hymns to choose from for worship. The following hymnals are approved by General Convention for use in the Episcopal church, and St. Giles regularly takes advantage of these resources. The first two hymnals are, of course, in our pews: *The Hymnal 1982* and *Wonder, Love, and Praise* (a supplement to the Hymnal 1982); in addition, there is *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* (an African-American hymnal), *Voices Found* (hymns and spiritual songs by, for, and about women), and *El Himnario* (for Hispanic congregations). For a picture of the diversity of hymns sung at St. Giles, here is what was recently sung on St. Giles Day, September 11:

- The Opening Hymn (#680) is a perennial favorite, “O God our help in ages past” (St. Anne). The text was written by Isaac Watts and is a paraphrase of Psalm 90. The music was composed by William Croft in 1708, while he was organist at the Church of St. Anne in Soho (London), hence the name of the tune. This powerful hymn provided a focus as our parish came together after the summer and also on the remembrance of the tragic events from 10 years ago.
- The Presentation Hymn (#607), “O God of every nation” (Llangloffan), is a Welsh carol or ballad tune, which appeared as a hymn tune in *Llwybrau Moliant (The Paths of Praise)*. That collection of tunes for use by Baptists was edited by Lewis Jones and published in Wrexham in 1872. Llangloffan is named for a town in Glamorgan, Wales, at one time presumably the location of a church that honored St. Cloffan. This sturdy tune in a minor key is a perfect match for the text by William Watkins Reid, Jr., born 1923 and a native of New York City. The son of an hymnodist he did his undergraduate work at Oberlin College and received the (BDIV) degree from Yale Divinity School. He served as a Medic in the second war and ended the war as a POW in Germany. When he returned to this country he pastored Methodist churches in North Dakota and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. “O God of every nation” is his most popular hymn.
- The Communion Hymn (#407), “Most high, omnipotent, Good Lord” (Lukkason) was new to just about everyone, including the choir! The wonderful text is by St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) and is known as his Cantic to the Sun. The tune was written by Calvin Hampton (1938-1984), a leading American organist and sacred music composer. A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory (1960) and Syracuse University (1963), he served as Organist and Choirmaster of Calvary Episcopal Church, Gramercy Park, New York City, from 1963 to 1983. His “Fridays at Midnight” organ recital series, running from 1974 to 1983, was one of the most famous and popular organ recital series in American history. Before his death, Eric Routley, a noted authority on church music, called Hampton “the greatest living composer of hymn tunes.”
- The Closing Hymn on St. Giles’ Day was #410, “Praise, my soul, the King of heaven” (Lauda anima). As noted in the bulletin that day, the text of this well-loved hymn was written by Scottish born Henry Lyte, who suffered from frail health and weak lungs. Despite this, he established a Sunday school for 800 children in Brixham. In 1834, he published a small book that included this now-famous hymn, based on Psalm 103 (the appointed psalm for September 11). It was later chosen by Princess Elizabeth for her wedding at Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947 – the 100th anniversary of Lyte’s death. The tune was composed by John Goss (1800-1880), who served as Organist at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London beginning in 1838, and upon his resignation in 1872 was knighted by Queen Victoria.

— Jim Brown

August Treasurer’s Report

Pledge and other income for the month of August was \$11,428.96. Total expenses for the month were \$11,602.74 resulting in a deficit of \$173.78 for the month and a year-to-date deficit of \$13,178.65.

A complete copy of the August financials can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex. As we enter the fourth quarter of the year, we thank you for your faithfulness in giving! Third-quarter contribution statements (January through September 2011) will soon be available. Look for them via email if you receive them that way or in the narthex if you don’t.

— Gloriann Harris, Treasurer



Poetry Musings

NOT SO SIMPLE?

I have treasured this poem for a long time. It tells the story of a simple person, Aunt Mabel, who lived a simple life and had a simple faith. When I first read the poem, I thought that it was clear and straightforward with few, if any, subtleties. But as I have read it again and again over the years, I have begun to see that Aunt Mabel's simplicity has depth and power. Look at what she says, what she does, how she relates to other people. Her everyday life is holy. Her simple words and actions reflect the most important words of Jesus. And isn't that what we strive for but find so elusive sometimes?

A note on the structure of the poem—it is more than it seems as well. It looks like a simple form that we have seen before (four-line stanzas with regular rhyme and rhythm). But notice that sometimes there are rhymes, but sometimes there aren't. Some stanzas end with a period, but some don't. The rhythm changes from line to line. One stanza has just three lines. If you like, think about how these details might relate to what the poet is saying.

William Stafford (1914-1993) was an important American poet who was much loved and who influenced the work of many younger poets.

The Way It Was Then

Aunt Mabel used to say,
 "Hands are for giving."
 She gave away all she had
 while she was living.

She drove an old Dodge
 that wouldn't shift into reverse,
 and she had to swing it outward
 when she went to church.

The most vulnerable person
 in all our town—
 her belief and her love
 combined into one;

So everyone cheated her.
 And when she died
 I saw strange people sneak
 to her graveside

And cry quietly—afraid of the law
 but come back to visit
 Aunt Mabel once more.

When I go back there now
 I still see her store:
 "Hay, Grain, Feed, and Seed,"
 an old dog by the door.

&

Such a long time ago—
 what is there left
 for us to remember
 of Aunt Mabel's gift?—

The flowers on her hat,
 the old car she drove,
 the smell of the hay,
 her voice: "God is love."

William Stafford
A Scripture of Leaves

From the Deacon's Desk



I have been with you now for about nine months – some of the fastest months ever. Thank you for being the wonderful community that you are. In some recent conversations, I find that there may still be some questions as to who a deacon is. One of the reasons for confusion can be attributed to the fact that there are really two kinds of deacons. There are transitional deacons who are ordained deacon for a period of six months to a year prior to being ordained priest. The second kind of deacon is merely called a "deacon" since we are deacons for life. Priests and deacons are equal orders, just different. There is a move to replace the transitional diaconate with direct ordination to the priesthood. In theory, I support that notion, but in practice, until we have a deacon in every parish, it is useful to have our priests also ordained deacon. I like to describe the difference between priests and deacons as those who work within and those who work without. The job of the priest is to build the people up from within so that they are strengthened to follow the deacon out into the world where being the church is of utmost importance.

At our ordinations, deacons vow to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by word and example, to those among whom we live, and work, and worship. We are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. We are to assist the bishop and priests in

continued on top of next page



Deacon's Desk (cont. from page 8)

public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and are to carry out other duties as assigned from time to time. At all times, our life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

Deacons rarely receive a salary for the work they do in the church. Those who do receive a salary are performing a function like that of parish administrator or parish educator. Therefore, deacons are out in the world listening for the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world so that we can report them to the church and you, the church, can take action. At present, I take care of my two granddaughters, ages 3½ and 6, five days a week. In that role, I have become unofficial chaplain at the preschool. I hear a great deal from teachers, young parents, and other grandparents doing what I'm doing. Talk about needs, concerns, and hopes!

The deacon has three principal functions in the Eucharistic liturgy which mirror our functions in the world. We proclaim the Gospel, we set the table, and we dismiss the people. Deacons proclaim God's love to the world, that is, they proclaim the gospel. I do that while holding the Gospel Book during the liturgy, but I also try to do so in daily life. At our best deacons model living a life that is a joyful response to the gospel while caring for our neighbor, whoever that may be. Just as deacons set the table for the Eucharist, we are symbols of Christ's servanthood ministry in the world. On the day of our ordination, in addition to the Bible we receive from the bishop, we receive a towel from either the bishop or the archdeacon. That towel is both the waiter's towel and the towel used by Jesus to wash the feet of his disciples. Christ washed the feet of his followers to model servanthood ministry. Deacons are called to do that same modeling in our churches today. It is difficult to pinpoint what these servanthood ministries are, since the Holy Spirit uses each of our passions so there as many ministries as there are deacons.

Finally, liturgically the deacon dismisses the people. Rather than being an ending, the dismissal is the beginning of the work of the people for the week to come. Normally, deacons dismiss from the back to symbolize leading the people of God out into the world to be the church. I work for the bishop and am assigned by him to St. Giles. So, unless the Bishop changes his mind, I will be here with you for the next two or three years admonishing you and leading you out into the world to be the church.

— Lee Gaede

Junior Warden's Report

In May we sent a letter to those of you who were able to make a pledge toward our capital campaign, "Restoring God's House, Renewing God's Mission." The response has been terrific, with 87% of what was planned for this year received as of August 31. Thank you for your generosity, and thanks also to Bob Schultz and the campaign committee for their ongoing effort.

I am also happy to report that Walk Club has been active this spring and summer, preparing for CROP Walk on Sunday October 16. With all of its members now able to walk and talk simultaneously, Walk Club promises to provide mobile banter for all those who wish to participate (can't promise witty banter). A CROP Walk sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Walkers, donors, and sit-down volunteers for check-in, etc., are welcome. Thank you all very much!

Gratefully yours,
— George Miller, Jr. Warden

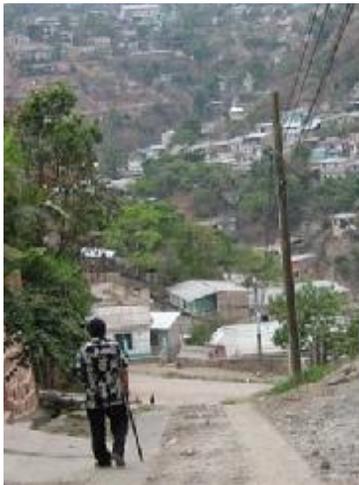


From a Fellow Laborer in God's Garden

Pamela Hanson, who gardens with us, is a family physician who grew up in Glenview with her three siblings. She moved back to this area last year to care for her elderly father. She lives in Northbrook with her brother John and they belong to the Winnetka Covenant Church.

Greetings! This summer my brother John and I have been blessed to be part of the St Giles Garden of Feedin'. The empty plots in the garden have done what comes naturally, growing a LOT of weeds, a thick, matted, deep-rooted, going-to-seed mess. Recently, as the community was "weeding and seeding," I mentioned my work as a foreign missionary in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and George Miller asked me to write this article. Perhaps it was being down on my knees in the mud, but I see a lot of parallels between the garden and my time in Honduras. Here in Northbrook, we had yanked weeds out of half a bed before realizing another strategy was needed – to smother the weeds with landscape fabric and leftover mulch. Hoping for a fall crop of vegetables, we seeded half a bed with short-season plants.

Later, resurgent dandelions were easy to identify, but I couldn't be sure at first if the sprouts I saw were weeds or vegetables. After nearly three weeks, a few squash, chard and spinach seedlings were clearly distinguishable, allowing me to pull the weed seedlings with confidence.



Down in Latin America, the Holy Spirit has been showered abroad for about 30 years, producing revival throughout the continent. A lush growth of churches has sprung up. My ministry partner in Honduras, the late Pastor Rafael Maradiaga, M.D., had the vision to equip and encourage pastors in the slums on the surrounding mountains. They are centers of influence who can strongly impact their communities and multiply themselves. As Pastor Rafael and I came alongside these men and women, needs became evident, such as little or no training, lack of organizational backing, illiteracy. They had the same family, economic, and health struggles as their parishioners.

Pastor Rafael patiently disciplined them, often walking the mountains with them despite partial paralysis from a stroke. They turned to him for encouragement and counsel in the daily struggle. I was privileged to join him, learning from them and sharing in manifesting the Kingdom. God provided resources for a ministry training course and programs for literacy, micro-loans and scholarships. We facilitated constructing septic pits, and helped those in common-law marriages get legally married.

Pastor Rafael going down the mountain

Our work in this "garden" was not easy. There seemed to be a lot of weeds – especially in me. Frequently the Gardener appeared to be doing some drastic pruning. Growth was slower than I had hoped, and distinguishing good fruit from bad was surprisingly hard. We made many missteps and had to adjust our strategies. "Natural catastrophes" seemed to threaten the plantings – I was called back to the U.S. to care for my father in his final illness, and 50-year-old Pastor Rafael passed away suddenly in April from heart disease. But God is faithful, and He continues to work in and through us, with and without our physical presence.

I visited in early August and was able to encourage the "gardeners" in the slow, patient task of ministry. Some of our projects have borne fruit, others have withered away, while God has opened up some new fields, such as training in communication/relationship skills. I am now based in the U.S. and will travel there 3-4 times/year. The details of what will happen are fuzzy, but I know that the Gardener will be faithful to complete the work that He has begun.

If you'd like to hear more, or join me in going, please contact me at hansonpm59@gmail.com.

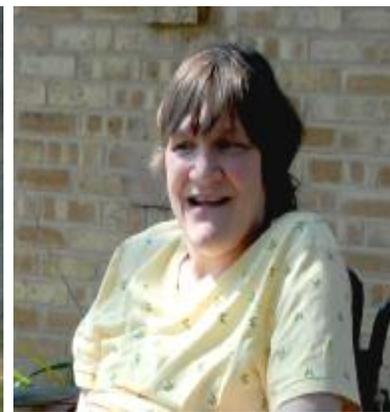


ST. GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH ~ OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Campanella Choir uses the church Sundays, 5 - 8 PM</i></p>						<p>1 Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM OA 10:30 - 11:45 AM</p>
<p>2 16 Pentecost 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	3	4	<p>5 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 AM Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM</p>	<p>6 Extraordinary Kids, 11:15 AM - 2:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>7 Office Closed</p>	<p>8 Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 AM-1PM</p>
<p>9 17 Pentecost 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: 2nd Sunday Breakfast 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	10	<p>11 Cathedral Shelter Pick-Up</p>	<p>12 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 AM - 2:45 PM Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM HRN Director's Meeting, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>13 November Bells Submissions Due Extraordinary Kids, 11:15 AM - 2:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>14 Office Closed</p>	<p>15 Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 - 11:45 Harvest Fest 5-10 PM</p>
<p>16 18 Pentecost Healing & Anointing 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II CROP Walk, 12:30 - 4:30 PM</p>	17	<p>18 Vestry Meeting, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>19 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 AM - 2:45 PM Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM</p>	<p>20 Extraordinary Kids, 11:15 AM - 2:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>21 Office Closed</p>	<p>22 Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 AM-1PM</p>
<p>23 19 Pentecost 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	24	25	<p>26 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 AM - 2:45 PM Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM</p>	<p>27 Extraordinary Kids, 11:15 AM - 2:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>28 Office Closed</p>	<p>29 Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 - 11:45 AM</p>
<p>30 20 Pentecost 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>31 All Hallows' Eve</p>					



St. Giles Day ...



Sabbatical Commissioning ...



It's been active out and about our church as of late — from St. Giles Day on September 11 to the Rector's sabbatical commissioning on September 25 to birthdays and other celebrations. Thank you to our resident photographer John Hanzel for capturing these events!

... and a Birthday!



St. Giles Church
3025 Walters Avenue
Northbrook, IL 60062-4399

www.saint-giles.org

Look for us on Facebook!

Time-Sensitive Material



Parish Devoted: Forgiveness

School started August 24 at Glenbrook North, where one of the first assignments for Social Studies students was to consider news of the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorists attacks. My son, a Glenbrook North freshman, was asked to research two specific people killed in the attacks and write details of their lives on two index cards which, along with the hundreds of others prepared by fellow students, would then be assembled into a flag to display at the school as a memorial tribute. At St. Giles, the new formation season actually began on Sunday, September 11. After greetings and the customary donuts, Mother Cynthia talked to the children and parents about our lectionary. We then studied Matthew 18:21-35, that day's Gospel reading, which begins: *"Then Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No!' Jesus replied, 'seventy times seven!'"*

Of course, the children did the math, and then we continued to discuss the need to forgive – friends, "enemies," parents, even our own selves – in order to heal and be healthy. To free ourselves from the prison of anger or hurt, forgiveness is the key. It was a great lesson for young and old alike, and I encountered it again on September 15 as I sat in the waiting room of a car repair shop, reading a battered copy of *Newsweek*. The magazine contained essays from people personally touched by events of that day. One essay began: *"When my mom died in Tower 2 ..."* It told the story of Nicholas Lanza, whose mother, Michele Lanza, 36, died on 9/11. Nicholas was 7 then and for years suffered from grief, anger, depression, and what he calls "unforgiveness." Only after attending a church camp in high school was he able to heal. He concluded his essay: *"After I was redeemed at the church camp, I had a new desire ... to tell bin Laden that I forgave him for the hideous crime he committed against me. When I heard he had been killed, I was crushed because that dream would never come true. Forgiveness is essential to really moving on from any tragic happening. I came to learn this through studying the word of God, prayer, and real-life experience.. Looking back, I see just how hate-driven and how mentally distorted I was. Is this what everyone else affected by 9/11 feels? I couldn't tell you. Do they need to be that way? Absolutely not."*

In Bishop Lee's reflection on the anniversary of 9/11, he invites us "to give thanks for the many ways that the religious imaginations of millions of people throughout the world have proven stronger than deadly-certain hatred." Thank you to Bishop Lee, to Nicholas Lanza, and to all the other teachers mentioned here who, like Jesus, lead us along the way.

You are most welcome to contribute to this column by sharing your thoughts, prayers, or writing. Thank you.

— Tracey Solano (trsolano@comcast.net)