

# The Sentinel

## Priest's Ponderings

Driving to church the other day I noticed how the trees have their leaves again. So many weeks in my travels over the past months I observed gray skies and forlorn landscape. I became accustomed to it. Now everything is different. New life is with us.

Such is the true spiritually for us, as well, as we head through the month of May. The Easter celebration that came after a long Epiphany and trying Lenten season has brought a new world to us. Hope replaces despair. Joy triumphs over grief. Life conquers death. Jesus is truly all he claimed to be.....and even more! The 50 days of our Easter celebration encompass the entire month of May. Pentecost will come in June, so we can spend all of May rejoicing in the new life that God gives us.

Did we do anything to make the flowers bloom or our yards to be alive and flourishing? Nope. God did. Just as God influences nature, so he is always in the fabric of our lives, bringing new possibilities and new beginnings.....even the miracle of Easter. Sometimes he is involved at our request, but other times, he does so in spite of us ☺

Gray skies are now blue. Green leaves are on branches previously barren. Flowers and other shrubbery adorn our landscapes. Spiritually, we are new people. New life abounds!

So in May let's take a look at our world and our lives. We are not the same as a few months ago. God has been at work again. Alleluia!

RSC+

## Stewardship Homework

It is stewardship time already? Actually, stewardship occupies every moment of every day for all of us. George Mickle reports that this year's stewardship theme is "Believe". He wants everyone to draw a cross on a piece of paper and write something pertaining to stewardship. It can be ornate or plain, and we will hang the artwork in the church on the windows, close to the Stations of the Cross plaques. He will make an announcement about two weeks prior so we can bring them in on kick off day, but you might as well start thinking about it now.....whilst we celebrate Easter!

## Saint of the Month - Bede the Venerable, Priest, Monk, Scholar 735

Feast Day May 25 - At the age of seven Bede's parents placed him at the monastery at Jarrow in Northeast England where he received his education, and spent the rest of his life. He was ordained deacon at age nineteen and priest at thirty. He was the first person to write scholarly works in the English language. His best-known work is his *History of the English Church and People*, a classic still available in print. It gives a history of Britain up to the year 729, and speaks of the Celtic peoples who were converted to Christianity in the first three centuries of the Christian era.

He also wrote hymns and other verse, the first martyrology, letters and homilies and works on grammar, and astronomy. He knew that the earth is a sphere, and he is the first historian to date events ANNO DOMINI (AD), which is now known as CE (Common Era). He is called the greatest scholar of his time. *(Continued on page 2)*



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## Calendar

All Wednesdays in May  
Choir & Grief Group at 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Youth Group at 5:30 pm

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Dustin Denning Dinner  
at Old Hickory Country Club

Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm

Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Deadline for articles  
for the summer *Sentinel*

## Birthdays

Jimmie Scott ..... 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Lacey Lyons..... 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Vera Lock ..... 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Harrison Pace ..... 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Kay Womack..... 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Rick Webb..... 27<sup>th</sup>  
 James R. Webb ..... 27<sup>th</sup>

If we have failed to include your birthday this month, please let us know. Our list is continually evolving ☺

## Saint of the Month *(continued from page 1)*

He received the unusual title of *Venerable* more than a century after his death. According to legend, the monk writing the inscription of his tomb was at a loss for a word to fill out the couplet:

*Hac sunt in fossa  
 Bedae --blank-- ossa  
 This grave contains  
 the --blank-- Bede's remains*

That night an angel filled in the blank: *Venerabilis* (Venerable)

## Member of the Month: *Debbie Hays Denning*

I am a life-long Episcopalian and have been a member of St. James the Less since it was started as mission in 1958. My parents, O.C. and Sue Hays, were among the original group who started the St. James Mission which was originally located in Inglewood. My mother grew up attending St. Ann's in East Nashville and we attended there until the St. James mission began. I was seven years old at the time and have fond memories of the excitement felt by everyone involved in that endeavor and the many fun Sunday School and church family activities I so enjoyed as a child. St. James later located to our current Madison location and I

*"Faith is the art of holding on to things our reason has once accepted, in spite of our changing moods." C. S Lewis*

## Lay Assignments

### May 4th:

Eucharistic: Jane Emery & Jim Cate  
 Lector: Harry Spain  
 Crucifer: Joel Sinha  
 Ushers: Rick Webb & George Womack

Altar Guild: Karen Cate & Joan Wells  
 Coffee Hour: The Lyons & Lane Families

### May 11th:

Eucharistic: George Mickle & Cindy Reese  
 Lector: George Mickle  
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy  
 Ushers: Larry Emery & Joe Reese  
 Altar Guild: Mary Elizabeth Womack & Betty Odom  
 Coffee Hour: Some Nice Volunteer ☺

### May 18th:

Eucharistic: Tony McFarland, O.C. Hays, & Sarah Mace  
 Lector: Tony McFarland  
 Crucifer: Joel Sinha  
 Ushers: Rick Webb & George Womack  
 Altar Guild: Sandra Womack & Janet Deweese  
 Coffee Hour: Another Nice Volunteer ☺

### May 25th:

Eucharistic: Rick & Cindy Webb  
 Lector: David Gaines  
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy  
 Ushers: Larry Emery & Joe Reese  
 Altar Guild: Cindi Spain & Judy Stewart  
 Coffee Hour: A Wonderful Soul ☺

remember the hard work and faith by all the families and priest to make that transition.

My parents had five children, and St. James was always an integral part of our life. There was another church family with five children and people would often laugh and say "when the Hays' and Swans' arrive on Sunday morning, we can then start Sunday School!" Growing up, I was actively involved in Sunday School functions, youth choir, EYC and Camp Gailor-Maxon summer church camps. Donnie and I started dating in High School, and he began attending church and EYC activities with me. He joined our church and we were married in the church in 1970. In fact, our wedding was the first wedding held in the new church structure with the Reverend Peter Keese officiating.

Through the years at St. James, I have taught Sunday School, served as EYC sponsor, very active in the ECW group, served on many committees and more recently served on the vestry and was Senior Warden. My hope and prayers are that St. James the Less will exist for many years to come and continue to serve God, the church family members and reach out to our community to share our faith. We have been blessed to have had many wonderful, dedicated priests who have guided us in our faith through the years.

Donnie and I have two sons, DJ and Dustin, who grew up in our church and were very active in all programs. I know through God's guidance, their grandparents and St. James' family had a part in making them the wonderful young men they are today. DJ and Shana have two sons who enjoy their visits to St. James with us.

As to my 'life away from church' – After school, I initially worked for Commerce Union Bank for about 10 years; stayed home awhile; and, after Dustin was born, started working for the State Legislature and then the Governor's office. I currently work for the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation where I am involved in government and public relations. Donnie and I are blessed to have been married for almost 44 years. Outside of our professional life, we stay busy enjoying all types of activities with our family and many friends.

## ***From The Loft***

Last month, I began with “April showers bring May flowers”. It is May, where are the flowers? The showers of tears for the Crucifixion did bring us F is “Faith; L is “Love”; O is Obedience; W is “Worship”; E is “Easter”; R is “Resurrection”; S is Savior.

All of these came in our worship from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday including Maundy Thursday, the message of the Stations of the Cross, and ending with a glorious Easter Sunday and the choir singing “Then Came the Morning” with the Resurrection.

Thanks to the choir always for their faithfulness, and especially during this special time.

Let’s look ahead and see how we can continue with the F-L-O-W-E-R-S. My job is to think in terms of the Music Program. The choir will soon begin preparations for the summer worship services. We do not practice in the summer. I plan to ask them their preferences for solos and choir anthems. There are 14 Sundays from June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>.

We use 4 hymns per Sunday. This is where I need your help. I will have a sign-up sheet(s) on the bulletin board. Please list any hymns (preferably from the hymnbook) you would like to sing this summer. You don’t have to sign your name. If you have a request for a special solo, please add it also. Together, musically, I think we can have interesting and inspiring summer music. We can enjoy the blooms of the F-L-O-W-E-R-S together as we worship through Music, Liturgy, Scripture, and the Sermon.

Thanks to all of you for supporting the program

In His Service,  
Genevieve Lish, Organist/Choir Director

## ***Missionary Among Us***

Debbie and Don Denning report many of you have expressed interest in their son, Dustin’s, efforts to join his church’s mission team in Cape Town, South Africa. A casual dinner with cash bar has been planned on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Old Hickory Country Club, 1904 Old Hickory Blvd, to give Dustin the opportunity to tell how God has called him for this service and talk about the programs in which he will participate. (He will be in Virginia for training this summer and should go to Africa in late August or early September.) If anyone would like to come to the event, let Debbie know by May 5<sup>th</sup>. Her cell is 417-1807 and e-mail is 101651@bellsouth.net The family appreciates your continued prayers and support as Dustin prepares and embarks on his journey.....with yours and God’s help ☺

## ***Vestry Notes from March***

The April meeting of the Vestry was cancelled due to Holy Week.

## ***Financial Update***

March’s income statements are in review, but we are pleased that we are in the black for March and for 2014 year to date.

For more information, see Jim Cate, Treasurer.

## ***Ministries***

### *Room in the Inn*

The current donation for Room in the Inn is sandals for use in public showers or casual wear. What a neat way to remember Jesus’ garb! Drop off is outside of Father Courtney’s office. Kudos to all for their faithfulness and generosity!

### *Youth Ministry*

Teenagers and middle schoolers will join Father Courtney & Lacey Lyons for dinner and discussion on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm at Logan’s Steakhouse in Rivergate. We shall make plans for Youth Sunday on May 11<sup>th</sup> and celebrate Joel Sinha’s upcoming high school graduation.

Elementary schoolers had stellar attendance in April! Thanks to all the parents and grandparents who have brought the little ones. ☺  
In May we will learn how Peter lead the early church. Keep the youngsters coming!

### *Community Grief Group*

Grief Group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Flyers are available in the front hallway if you know of anyone who could benefit from learning more of the grief process. The group has seen increased activity over the past few weeks. Word is getting out, and folks are finding relief. ☺

### *Taekwondo*

The blessing I have of teaching beautiful people leadership through the use of Taekwondo and the principles which it instills is beyond my wildest dreams. Please join me to give congratulations to all of the St. James students who competed April 26<sup>th</sup> at Goodpasture School. Seven of our students participated and we won ten awards! Thanks to St. James Church for making the St. James Taekwondo program possible.

**Contact Us**

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411 West Due West Avenue  
Madison TN 37075  
Phone: 615.865.4496  
Website: [www.stjamesmadison.net](http://www.stjamesmadison.net)  
Priest-in-Charge: Father Robin Courtney

**Church Schedule**

*Sunday*

Holy Eucharist – 8:00 AM  
Adult Sunday School – 9:30 AM  
Choral Holy Eucharist – 10:30 AM  
Elementary Education – 10:30 AM

*Wednesday*

Grief Group – 7:00 PM  
Choir Practice – 7:00 PM

*Monday & Thursday*

Community Taekwondo – 5:00 PM

**St. James the Less**

*Episcopal Church*

411 West Due West Avenue  
Madison, TN 37115

**Daughters of the King Meeting**

**Sarah Mace reports:** Last month I attended the big diocesan assembly for Daughters of the King, held at St. George's. When I said I attend St. James the Less, several people there said they know and really liked our own Father Courtney. I wore a casual, "Hillary" pants suit and chunky heels. First thing, as I step out of the car, the heel breaks off of my shoe! I limp in and ask if anybody can find me some glue. The all-purpose guy takes the shoe to see what he can do. He says you might as well take off the other shoe, as it will take awhile for glue to dry. I look at my feet and see that the shoes have dyed my feet navy blue! Swell. Now I have to go around looking dirty as well as undignified. At the end of the assembly the guy says the glue isn't holding. I said just toss them in the trash. Who needs shoes that dye your feet blue? So I get home where my husband, Pete is working outside. I limp up the gravel driveway in my bare blue feet, (ow, ow!). Pete is like: What happened? I say, "Those Daughters are a tough bunch. They took my shoes." Pete fell for it. He's all, 'WHAT!' and looking around for his white horse and shining armor. My hero!

**News from the Diocese of Tennessee**

Camp Gailor-Maxon has served Episcopalians across Tennessee since the 1920s, bringing kids together from all over the state to live, play, talk, eat, sing and worship together as a community of faith. The one week program includes group discussions, daily worship, silly camp songs, skits, and fellowship designed to help kids explore their faith fearlessly, ask questions and be themselves. Activities include hiking, swimming, bonfires, games, crafts and rock climbing/rappelling. Sessions begin in June for varying age groups. For more information, call the diocese at 615-251-3322.



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