

The Sentinel



Priest's Ponderings

Recently, I caught one of our younger members exploring the area behind the altar. I call that space, "the cockpit," as I am not aware of any official liturgical designation.

He was concerned that he may be off-limits, and he asked, "Do you think God will set me on fire?" I assured him that pyrotechnics in the name of God only occur at the Cornerstone Church around July 4th, so he did not need to worry.

Fire generally has a bad connotation, unless we are cold and seeking heat. Heretics were burned at the stake in the past when the church deemed they taught false doctrine. We burn (or bury) consecrated items once they are no longer useful. We go to great lengths to avoid fire hazards in our homes. If you ever have experienced a fire, then you know the horrible stench that lingers, as well as the destructive forces.

As we come to the season of Pentecost on May 24th, so we give thought to the Holy Spirit. What is the Spirit's symbol? Fire. Why? When the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples at the Feast of Pentecost so "divided tongues, as of fire rested" on them (Acts 2:1ff).

Fires are fierce, difficult to control and manage. They change everything in their path. We fear them. All of these are aspects of the Holy Spirit, too. Who knows where it will go next, and what it will do? Who can gauge its power?

Unlike the youngster at the altar, maybe we should seek to be set on fire, yet by the Holy Spirit. Such a prospect does not bode well for reserved Episcopalians, but it is exactly what we need as we close Easter and head into the season of the Holy Spirit, which we engage with Pentecost.

RSC+

Dates to Remember

Mother's Day -If you would like to observe Mother's Day this year on May 10th, then seize the opportunity by giving Altar Flowers to honor your mom. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Ascension Day Eucharist -One of the high feast days of the church year is the Ascension of our Lord which is celebrated 10 days prior to the Feast of Pentecost. This year we will have a Eucharist on Thursday, May 14th, at 6:30 pm. Join us for the fun!

Summer Schedule -Our summer schedule begins on Sunday, May 31st. Our Sunday late service moves to 9:30 am, and there is no Adult Sunday School class until after Labor Day. A communion service on Saturday at 3:00 pm will remain available, as well as the Sunday 8:00 am service. The choir will meet during the summer at the discretion of our Music Director & Organist.

Homeless Meal - We have agreed to volunteer on the 5th Sunday of the month. Our next time will be May 31 –see page 2 for more details

A "Joyful" Parish Picnic?

We usually begin our summers by having a parish picnic after the late service. Also, it is time to honor the teachers of our partner school, Tom Joy Elementary. Why not do both at the same time? Watch your bulletins for more details. The Vestry had not decided a date at the press time of this newsletter.

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Calendar

Summer Schedule Begins on 5/31

Saturday, May 9th
Youth Group at 5:30 pm

Thursday, May 14th
Ascension Day Eucharist at 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 19th
Vestry meeting at 6:30 pm

Friday, May 29th
Summer *Sentinel* article deadline

Sunday, May 31st
Feed the Homeless
at Church of the Holy Trinity

Happy Birthday

Jimmie Scott	5/1
Don Jones	5/5
Joy Mayfield	5/6
Lacey Lyons	5/9
Vera Lock	5/15
Harrison Pace	5/21
Kay Womack	5/25
Rick Webb	5/27
James R. Webb	5/27

Member Spotlight: Membership Quiz

No volunteers stepped forth to reveal aspects of their lives, and the Coalition of the Willing have spoken, it seems, in previous newsletters. Take the quiz below, and see if you can answer questions about other members of our flock. If you can't, then perhaps you need to mingle more often.

- 1) Whose grandfather was an Episcopal priest? (Cindi Spain)
- 2) Who had a career in the band for the Air Force? (Fran Arnold)
- 3) Who scored a 31 on his ACT Test recently? (Andrew Jones)

Saint of the Month the Venerable Bede

Saint's Day of May 25th - St. Bede (c. 672-735), known as the Venerable Bede, was an English monk, scholar, and theologian. His works were the crowning cultural achievement in England in the 8th century, "The Age of Bede."

"There is a way to live a simple, joy-filled, peaceful life. The key is learning how to be led by the Holy Spirit, not the expectations of man." -Joyce Mayer

April Lay Assignments*May 3rd*

Eucharistic:	Jane Emery & Jim Cate
Lector:	Harry Spain
Crucifer:	Jonathan Dupuy & Alex Magnis
Ushers:	Rick Webb & George Womack
Altar Guild:	Karen Cate & Joan Wells
Coffee Hour:	The Emerys

May 10th

Eucharistic:	George Mickle & Cindy Reese
Lector:	George Mickle
Crucifer:	Michael Schoenenberger
Ushers:	Larry Emery & Joe Reese
Altar Guild:	Mary Elizabeth Womack & Betty Odom
Coffee Hour:	The Jones' Family

May 17th

Eucharistic:	Tony McFarland & Sarah Mace
Lector:	Tony McFarland
Crucifer:	Alex Magnis
Ushers:	Rick Webb & George Womack
Altar Guild:	Sandra Womack & Janet Deweese
Coffee Hour:	The McFarland's

May 24th

Eucharistic:	Rick & Cindy Webb
Lector:	David Gaines
Crucifer:	Erick Cate
Ushers:	Larry Emery & Joe Reese
Altar Guild:	Cindi Spain & Judy Stewart
Coffee Hour:	A Gifted Volunteer!

May 31st

Eucharistic:	David Gaines & Jane Emery
Lector:	Michael Mauk
Crucifer:	Erick Cate
Ushers:	George Brummett & Pete Mace
Altar Guild:	Cindi Spain & Judy Stewart
Coffee Hour:	A Generous Volunteer!

Bede was born in North Umbria, near Jarrow. When he was 7, relatives brought him to the Benedictine abbey at nearby Wearmouth; he passed the remainder of his life at Wearmouth and later at a new monastery at Jarrow. The period during which Bede lived was the "golden age of English monasticism," and close relations with Rome and the papacy resulted in a free exchange of information and culture.

Bede's major achievement is his *Historia ecclesiastica gentis anglorum (Ecclesiastical History of the English People)*, which he finished in 731. It includes many documents giving important information about the early English Church, and he reveals his narrative talents in many fascinating tales, such as that of Caedmon, the peasant who miraculously becomes the first religious poet in English.

Bede died at Jarrow in 735. He soon became a legend, revered for his holiness and learning. His greatest work, the *Ecclesiastical History*, was a constant model for historians throughout the Middle Ages.

Feeding the Homeless

As part of our outreach efforts at St. James, we are assisting Fr. Bill Dennler, at the Church of the Holy Trinity in downtown Nashville, with his ministry to homeless individuals. Every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 he has "Church in the Yard." This is a full church service plus a meal. Area churches volunteer to provide the meals on these Sundays and we have agreed to volunteer on the 5th Sunday of the month. Our next time will be May 31, we provide a sack lunch that includes: 1 sandwich, 1 bag of chip, 1 piece of fresh fruit, and 1 dessert (cookie, snack cake, etc.).

>As you prepare individual sack lunches, please use a marker to write on the outside of the bag the type of sandwich within, example: "ham & cheese"

>Some of the lunches we took last time were bagged in plastic zip-loc bags. This was HUGELY popular, as people were able to use the plastic bags later to keep personal belongings dry

>Please do not prepare any mayonnaise based sandwiches, they tasted great, but became very messy

>Provide a variety of soft and hard fruit

>We also need volunteers to bring beverages (ice tea/lemonade)

We need volunteers to prepare and serve these meals (at least 200 meals). Volunteers will commit to preparing the number of meals they want to provide, and bring them to the church on that Sunday. Even if you can only provide a couple lunches, every little bit counts and matters. We will also need 4-6 volunteers to serve the meals that Sunday afternoon. There will be a sign up list on the bulletin board. Thanks for your efforts!

-Ken Saefkow, Outreach Chairman

From The Loft

As we approach the end of the choir year, I take this opportunity to thank the congregation for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving as Organist and Choir Director. St. James is filled with a committed group of people! I have enjoyed getting to know and working with so many of you, Thank you for all the support in this transition period!

As we are about half way through the Easter season, there are few announcements to report. The choir's last rehearsal is May 27th and resumes the Wednesday after Labor Day, September 9th. For this Summer, if anyone would like to sing a solo or share any other musical gifts, you can perform during the offertory. When choir resumes in the Fall, I look forward to more people joining the choir and supporting the music liturgy at St. James. If there are any questions or concerns, feel free to call or email me.

-John Lucciano, Organist and Director of Music

Vestry Notes

The Vestry had yet to meet at press time for the newsletter.

At its April meeting on 4/28, it will discuss:

- >Date & Time of the Summer Parish Picnic
- >Prospective Event with Staff of Tom Joy School
- >Homeless Luncheon on 5/31
- >Proposal for \$100 Donation to Gideon's International
- >Replacement and/or Disposal of Termite Invested Barn Behind Church
- >Priest's Office Conversion to Sunday School Class
- Potential Summer Outing

Parish Financial Highlights		
	March	Year To Date
Income	\$14,706	\$35,091
Expenses	\$11,389	\$33,547
Balance	\$3,316	\$1,543
<i>For more information, see Jim Cate, Treasurer.</i>		

Board of the Episcopal School

ESN Becomes a Reality!

What is ESN you ask? It is the short version of Episcopal School of Nashville which is on track to be open for PreK thru 2nd grade in the fall of 2016.

There are still many steps ahead before the first day of school; however, one task has been completed - that of hiring a Headmaster: Harrison Stuart, currently living in Virginia with his wife Katherine, two sons, and twin baby daughters. Harrison was previously at the Episcopal School of Knoxville.

You can meet Harrison at a reception in his honor at St. Ann's on Sunday May 17th from 4-6 or at St. George's on Wednesday May 20th from 4:30-6:30.

The board members are making great strides in making the school happen.

They are thrilled with the response from Nashville parishes to help achieve success.

St. James has stepped up with representatives willing to help however possible: Debbie Denning, Christy Lyons, and Jean Bishop so far have attended the open board meetings.

Any parishioner is welcome and invited to the open meetings - the next one to be scheduled in May.

Committee members are busy with their assigned tasks and are looking for VOLUNTEERS to help along the way.

More information will be forthcoming to every parish, but in the meantime please visit the website www.esnashville.org to sign up for emails and also visit the Facebook page at ES Nashville (Episcopal School of Nashville) and like their page to show your support: (continued on page 4)

Ministries

Our monthly collection for Room in the Inn is Men's T-shirts, L to 4XL. Please leave your contributions in the Outreach Box on the piano bench at the front of the nave.

Youth Ministry

We have two programs for the youth of the parish.

Teenagers and Middle Schoolers join Father Courtney, Lacey Lyons, and Joel Sinha for dinner and discussion on May 9th at 5:30 pm at the church. We will continue review of the Catechism in preparation for the Bishop's visit and Confirmation in August.

Sunday School

Class meets at 10:30 am in the Sunday School room for the younger folks (4-8 years old) under the direction of Tonya Jones.

Children's Church

Meets at 10:30 in the priest's former office for the elders (9-12 years old) with Lisa Cate.

Both classes use a Bible study format reinforcing a different practical theme each week.

Indeed something for everyone!

Taekwondo

The St. James Taekwondo program offers an opportunity for its participants to develop in many ways. In addition to physical benefits such as: coordination, fitness and flexibility; Taekwondo also develops other characteristics. Students find that over time concentration, focus, self-discipline, self-esteem and perseverance improves. These mental benefits are a result of the carefully designed Taekwondo program in which our program is proud to offer.

Contact Us

St. James the Less Episcopal Church
411 West Due West Avenue
Madison TN 37075
Phone: 615.865.4496
Website: www.stjamesmadison.net
Priest-in-Charge: Father Robin Courtney

Church Schedule

Saturday

Priest's Office Hours
2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Sunday

Holy Eucharist – 8:00 AM
Adult Education – 9:30 AM
Choral Holy Eucharist – 10:30 AM
Sunday School (ages 5-12) – 10:30 AM

Wednesday

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

News from the Diocese of Tennessee

Bishop Bauerschmidt reports that last week he traveled to the Episcopal Camp and Conference Center at Kanuga for the spring meeting of the House of Bishops. This year continued the mixed format of retreat time and business, oriented toward preparation for the General Convention this summer.

Preparation for the General Convention centered on discussion of the two reports that will make their way to the triennial gathering this year: the report of the Task Force on Marriage, commissioned in 2012; and on the report of the Task Force on Re-imagining the Episcopal Church (TREC), also commissioned in 2012. Both reports are available on the web.

The resolutions from the Task Force on Marriage concern a general re-writing of the church's canons on marriage to be "gender neutral". The proposals mirror cultural shifts and represent a major modification of the church's traditional teaching. The report that accompanies the resolutions is of an uneven quality, prepared by a Task Force that included not a single proponent of the church's traditional teaching. Bishop Bauerschmidt will serve on the Special Legislative Committee on Marriage at this summer's Convention.

During the business session, the bishops passed a resolution calling on the presiding bishop, in consultation with the president of the House of Deputies, to appoint an independent commission to "explore the canonical, environment, behavioral and procedural dimensions of matters involving the serious impairment of individuals serving as leaders in the church, with special attention to issues of addiction and substance abuse".

Episcopal School Continued

Speaking of volunteers, Fr. Rick Britton at St. Ann's is chair of the reception and will need our help to provide goodies and people to welcome ESN new headmaster on May 17th. Please let Debbie, Christy, or Jean know if you can help!


