

# The Sentinel

## Priest's Ponderings

Summertime was the joy of my life when I was younger. Having three months off from school was a true blessing, and in college, it became four months of reprieve from the classroom. I recall family vacations, spending time with friends, and having total freedom.

The summer break has been redefined by many educational institutions. It does not last the amount of time as in the past, and other breaks during the year have been lengthened. I suppose such is practical and helps the student retain and be better able to gain new knowledge.

The work world seems to grant 2-3 weeks of vacation, along with the regular holiday observances to employees. The bank required us to take two weeks of vacation time during the same month so that the auditing department could determine if an officer was stealing. In hindsight, I see the employee benefited, too, as it gave a chance for him/her to take a complete break from the workplace.

This summer I hope you will enjoy the longer periods of daylight as well as the warmer temperatures. Acknowledge your freedom during times of vacation, as well as when at work. Slow down a bit, if you can, and behold God at work in nature and in your own life.

I suppose I should say, too, "Come to church!" We keep going on, because the work of God never stops. However, times of respite are certainly permissible.....and divinely sanctioned ☺

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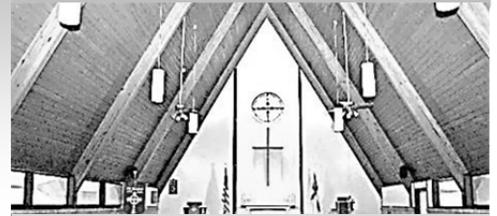
## Parish Picnic

We usually have a potluck when the Bishop visits in the summer, but he is not coming this year due to his sabbatical. Join us on Pentecost Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, after the late service for a summer picnic to celebrate the arrival of summer. **A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall.** Our thanks to Sandra Womack & Dari Shadwick for coordinating this event!

## Member of the Month: Tony McFarland

When Fr. Rob asked me to be the Member of the Month and write up my St. James bio I was thrilled (well, ok, reluctantly willing) to oblige. After all, I have been here a while, so I should have something to say.

Little did I know at the time that I would have to follow Debbie Denning as the Member of the Month. I've been at St. James for about 43 years. Debbie, however, has been a member since 1958 (you can do the math). As of the writing of this article (May 16<sup>th</sup>), my wife (Mary Jane) and I are celebrating 33 years of marriage. Debbie and Donnie have been married almost 44 years. Debbie's parents, Sue and O.C., were among the original group that started St. James. My parents (George & Gwen) transferred in with me and my sister (Joni) in approximately 1972. Debbie is one of five children, I'm one of two. *However*, Mary Jane and I have three sons (Matthew, Pat(rick) and Thomas -- not intentionally named after three saints), while Debbie and Donnie have only two. Score one for the McFarlands. Jumping slightly ahead, when I first joined St. James, my Sunday School teachers and EYC leaders were Donnie and Debbie (though they may not remember or be unwilling to admit it). My mother was from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, the youngest of five children, *(Continued on page 2)*



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## Calendar

*Wednesdays in the Summer*  
Grief Group at 6:30 pm

*Tuesday, August 19th*  
Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm

*Friday, August 22nd*  
Deadline for articles  
for the September *Sentinel*

**Tony McFarland** (Continued from page 1)

and a cradle Methodist. Dad was from Elkton, Tennessee, the second youngest of seven children, and a cradle Baptist. They were secretly married in Alabama when Mom was 17 because the minimum age in Tennessee at the time was 18. Sometime thereafter, Dad joined the Methodist church, perhaps to appease Mom's family.

My sister (Joni) and I grew up in the Methodist church (Inglewood Methodist) on Gallatin Road. I was told that our parents had a falling out with the church in roughly 1971 because they wanted more resources devoted to the children, while others were inclined to devote them to the more senior members. My parents then went weekly church-shopping with me and Joni in tow. I don't remember how many churches we visited, or how long we were itinerant Christians, but it seems like we wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Some churches we toured simply weren't that welcoming. Others were welcoming, but frankly had weird views on Christianity and religious doctrine. [I'm reminded of the joke about the Frisbeeterians, who believe that when we die our souls get stuck on

**Summer Birthdays****June**

Jane Emery	6/1
LaDonna Graves	6/6
Steve Womack	6/11
Genevieve Lish	6/18
Justin Lane	6/22

*"It's a smile, it's a kiss, it's a sip of wine ... it's summertime!" Kenny Chesney*

**July**

Joshua Sinha	7/1
Janice Whiteman	7/3
Shaon Halder	7/9
Rachel Womack	7/11
Thomas McFarland	7/13
Dari Shadwick	7/14
Therese Remus	7/19
Lisa Cate	7/28
John Whiteman	7/30
Asleigh Smith	7/31

**August**

Erick Cate	8/9
Mary Eliz Womack	8/17
Leigh Smith	8/19
Pete Mace	8/22
Evelyn Sharp	8/23
Therese Plante	8/23
Larry Emery	8/28
Laura Drake	8/28
John Graves	8/29
Sandi Windorfer	8/29

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

the roof.] Each week we stopped in another church, until we landed at the doorstep of St. James. Fortuitously, the Sunday we visited was the then-current vicar's last day, so we felt, in fairness, we should come again the following week. Two weeks of contact with the friendly worshipers at St. James was all it took for us to find our new church home.

When we joined, the youth group met in the converted detached garage at the back of the property. One of our projects was to make acrylic-topped tables from oversized telephone cable spools of questionable origin. As part of a group painting project, I helped hold Ronica Chancey upside down so she could put her footprints on the ceiling.

In addition to the garage, the church consisted of the existing nave, and an old detached house (later demolished when we built the current structure). When it rained, you got wet going from the house to the church for worship. The boiler in the house typically took Sundays off, so the house was always cold in the winter - - causing everyone to angle for position next to the floor vents to get what little heat was available.

Mary Jane and I were exceedingly pleased that our wedding reception in 1981 was the first formal event in the new church building rather than the last one in the old house.

For several years I was one of the junior chefs when we smoked only about 3 or 4 pork shoulders. Eventually, I advanced to senior overnight shoulder-taster, coal-stoker and kegmeister by the time we'd expanded to cooking 200 shoulders. Unfortunately, I was greeted by the fire department when I arrived for my shift the year we burned down the BBQ pits and adjoining garage. However, I do remember that the neighborhood never smelled so delicious. Of course, no one knew at the time that the BBQ pit conflagration was just a warm up (bad pun) for the fire in the church sanctuary. Since then I have served on the Vestry several times, including two stints as Senior Warden. I've been honored to serve as a licensed Lay Reader and Chalice Bearer for as long as I can remember. Most Sundays I attend and serve at the 8:00 service, but I do handle Layreader and Chalice Bearer duties once a month at the late service. For several years I attended the annual Diocesan men's retreat, at least until St. James finally retired the attendance bucket. I also taught the adult Sunday School class for a number of years until I was mercifully replaced by Father Rob. (Continued on page 4)

## ***From The Loft***

For the summer, I share with you a song and a scripture that mean a great deal to me. They are a testimony to God's Love and provision for us.

The song is: "*Something Beautiful*" by Bill Gaither

If there ever were dreams  
That were lofty and noble  
They were my dreams at the start  
And hope for life's best were the hopes  
That I harbor down deep in my heart  
But my dreams turned to ashes  
And my castles all crumbled, my fortune turned to loss  
So I wrapped it all in the rags of life  
And laid it at the cross.

Chorus:

Something beautiful, something good  
All my confusion He understood  
All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife  
But he made something beautiful of my life

The scripture is from Psalms 30: 10-12

<sup>10</sup> Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper.

<sup>11</sup> Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

<sup>12</sup> To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

Thanks to Jane Emery for her work in arranging and supervising the recent choir party. Thanks to the choir for their continuing support of the program.

In His Service,  
Genevieve Lish, Organist/Choir Director

## ***Vestry Notes from May***

- Approved having the hedges trimmed and other shrubbery removed from the boundaries of our church property
- Approved hiring EOA Architects to draw plans to enhance our usage of space as well as suggest further building projects
- Appointed Harry Spain to determine vendors to enhance our sound system for the pulpit, lectern, and prayer desk
- Learned that we have new LED lighting in the sanctuary that should outlive most of us!
- Expressed excitement at our Pentecost Picnic scheduled on June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Heard the Webbs are inviting us to a Fall Picnic and hayride at their home after Labor Day
- Discussed an outing to a Sounds baseball game and asked Rick Webb to determine a good time
- Heard that Father Courtney is still considering a move to the Madison area, but needs to confer with the Bishop as to his thoughts on the proposal
- Decided to take June and July off, but can meet if needed.

## ***Financial Update***

Our financial status remains in the black through the month of April. Great job, folks! Don't forget about your pledges during the summer months. *For more information, see Jim Cate, Treasurer.*

## ***Ministries***

### *Room in the Inn*

Watch the summer bulletin for updates of our outreach requests for Room in the Inn. Kudos to all for their faithfulness and generosity!

### *Youth Ministry*

Teenagers and middle schoolers are on break for the summer. Watch the weekly bulletin for fall events!

Elementary schoolers continue to see good attendance. Keep the youngsters coming this summer! We will have a lot of fun while we learn of God's many plans for us as we grow in Faith.

### *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.

### *Taekwondo*

We teach a philosophy of constant and never ending improvement that is introduced in four stages. The first stage is goal setting, "In the initial stage of philosophical development, students must use their imagination to set goals beyond their current limitations and, from this, visualize their achievements in advance. This, in turn, strengthens their belief system to the point that specific goals are possible and obtainable."

**Contact Us**

St. James the Less Episcopal Church  
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  
Choral Holy Eucharist – 9:30 AM  
Elementary Education – 9:30 AM  
  
*Wednesday*  
Grief Group – 6:30 PM  
  
*Monday & Thursday*  
Community Taekwondo – 5:00 PM

**St. James the Less**  
*Episcopal Church*  
  
411 West Due West Avenue  
Madison, TN 37115

**Tony McFarland** (Continued from page 2)

Currently, I'm a member of the Diocese's Constitutions and Canons Committee, sometimes known as the star chamber.

I was fortunate to participate in one of St. James' most joyous moments when we marched down the aisle at Convention and advanced to Parish status. I'm told, but cannot confirm, that St. James set the record for the number of years a congregation held mission status before becoming a Parish.

Finally, many of you know that Mary Jane and I have always attended different churches. She is Catholic (with a capital "c", and presently goes to Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Hendersonville, after having attended St. Joseph's since she was in grade school. She and I agreed a long time ago I wouldn't ask her to join the ECW or memorize Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses, and she wouldn't ask me to eat fish on Fridays or count on rosary beads. The arrangement seems to have worked well over the years. So far. . . Happy trails.

**News from the Diocese of Tennessee**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Brentwood, announces a Women's Summer Bible Study.

"Wising Up," a Beth Moore series, will be held on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. beginning May 29 and will continue throughout the summer. If you've felt gullible or naive, if you want to gain more knowledge and discretion, this study could be for you.

For more information about joining the women of Good Shepherd for this summer study, contact Gwen Antypas at [Acertiger1@gmail.com](mailto:Acertiger1@gmail.com)



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