

The Sentinel

Priest's Ponderings

The priest has a perspective of the congregation like no one else in the parish. I face you each Sunday and see more than you probably realize. I recognize, too, that you probably see more of me than I realize, too!

So what do I see? A very diverse group of people. Some are old, while some are young. Some are married, while others are either single, divorced, widowed, or widowers. Some are energetic, while others need a rest. Some run triathlons, while others need the support of oxygen canisters. I know of only one of you who is pregnant, but there may be more! Most are caucasian, but we probably are more ethnically diverse than most parishes.

Week after week all of us make it into church for various reasons, but the common need is for spiritual sustenance and growth. We seek God and a deeper knowledge of him. We have many questions, so we come to the church conscious of some of our needs, while developing new ones as we continue to grow spiritually and experience life in all of its wonder and challenges.

As we come to September, so the church awakens after a summer of rest. We have slowed down a bit for a few months, but now it is time to get back into the saddle, so to speak. I think all of us are ready, and over the summer we have gained new members who will be joining us in our fall programs and activities.

We have a variety of ministries for all ages. All we need is you! God takes care of everything else.

RSC+

Saint of the Month Constance and her Companions Commonly called, "The Martyrs of Memphis", 1878

Feast Day September 9 -In August, 1878, Yellow Fever returned to Memphis for the third time in ten years. Many citizens fled the city leaving 20,000 to face the pestilence. By the end of the plague more than 5,000 people had died.

In that time of panic many brave men and women; both lay and cleric remained as volunteers to assist the sick. Notable among these were Constance, Superior of the Sisters of St. Mary in Memphis and her companions. In 1873 the Sisters came to Memphis at the request of Bishop Quintard to found a girl's school adjacent to St. Mary's Cathedral.

When the epidemic began George C. Harris, Dean of the Cathedral and Sister Constance organized relief work. Helping them to minister to the sick were six of her Sisters, The Rev Charles C. Parsons, Rector of Grace and St Lazarus Church, Memphis and the Reverend Louis S. Schuyler assistant at Holy Innocents, Hoboken. The Cathedral group also included three physicians, two of whom were ordained Episcopal priests, and nurses from Memphis and New York. They have since been known as the "Martyrs of Memphis."

The Cathedral buildings were located in the most infected region of Memphis. Here among unspeakable horror these women and men of God gave relief to the sick, comfort to the dying and homes to many orphaned children. Only two workers escaped the Fever. *(continued on page 2)*



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Calendar

All Wednesdays in September
Grief Group at 6:30 pm

Saturdays beginning September 6th
Eucharist at 5:00 pm

Saturday, September 6th
Youth Group at 6:30 pm

Sundays beginning September 7th
8:00 am -Holy Eucharist
9:30 am -Adult Sunday School
10:30 am -Choral Eucharist
10:30 am -Sunday School (ages 5-12)

Wednesdays beginning September 10th
Choir Practice at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, September 16th
Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm

Friday, September 26th
October Sentinel Article Deadline

Saturday, September 27th
Clean Up Day from 9 am - 1 pm

September Birthdays

Joan Wells	9/2
Cindy Webb	9/7
Suzanne Glafka	9/8
Jacob Smith	9/14
Leon McAulay	9/18
Betty Odom	9/27

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

Member of the Month: Cathy Caster

Cathy Caster has been a member of St. James the Less since 2000, when she wandered into the Church seeking some kindred spirits. She is a born and raised "West Virginian" who left home at 17 and never looked back. After 4 years on an acting scholarship at West Virginia University, she made her maiden voyage to Tennessee to attend graduate school at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. It was at the University of Tennessee that fate intervened and assigned Cathy to the great Broadway director, Albert Marre, who was in Knoxville directing a "pre-broadway" play. When the play moved to the Palace Theatre in New York City, Marre and the other cast members convinced Cathy to move there and try her hand at acting and directing. She lived and worked in NYC for 13 years: first as an assistant to Albert Marre, then as a restaurant and public relations manager.

In 1992 she made the decision to move to Nashville. She chose Nashville because her best friend had moved to Nashville the previous year, and because she wanted to return to academic life. Her mother suggested that she would make a good lawyer (something about being pig-headed and loving to argue). She

"People don't notice whether it is winter or summer when they are happy" -Anton Chekov

September Lay Assignments

September 7th:

Eucharistic: Jane Emery & Jim Cate
 Lector: Harry Spain
 Crucifer: Joel Sinha
 Ushers: Larry Emery & Joe Reese
 Altar Guild: Karen Cate & Joan Wells
 Coffee Hour: The Sinhas & Father Courtney

September 14th:

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

September 21st:

Eucharistic: Tony McFarland & Sarah Mace
 Lector: Tony McFarland
 Crucifer: Joel Sinha
 Ushers: George Brummett & Mike Deweese
 Altar Guild: Sandra Womack & Jane Deweese
 Coffee Hour: A Kind Person

September 28th:

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

enrolled in Nashville School of Law and received her degree in 1996. Cathy spent 15 years as an attorney for the State of Tennessee and 7 years in private practice. She has been a teacher, an artist, a photographer, and a Committee Chairperson. She recently joined the Centerstone staff as the attorney for "Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families". (SSVF)

For many years, Cathy was responsible for the Blessing of the Animals at St. James, as well as Vacation Bible School during its tenure. One of her favorite quotes is from Albert Einstein: "The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge, but imagination."

Fall Clean Up Day

The Clean-Up Day in the Spring was so much fun we have decided to have another in the Fall on Saturday, September 27th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. For more information (or an assignment) see Harry Spain, Junior Warden.

Saint of the Month (continued from page 1)

The six martyred Sisters and priests are buried in Elmwood Cemetery. The monument marking the joint grave Fathers Parsons and Schuyler bears the inscription: "Greater Love Hath No Man."

The High Altar at St Mary's Cathedral, Memphis is dedicated to the Sisters.

News from Tom Joy Elementary School

We enjoyed having the principals of the school, Ricki Gibbs & Sandra Moorman, speak to us in August, and we are pleased that Louise Jones, Janice Whiteman, Jimmie Scott, Marcille Gustina, Joy Mayfield, Father Courtney, and Ann Toliver will be reading with the students. If you would like to join in the fun, there is still plenty of time.....and need!

During September we will be collecting items for our companion school. Beth Coppersmith, a member of our parish & faculty member there reports: If the church wanted to do something fun for the teachers during TCAP testing week they could send a survival kit: chocolate, chocolate, and more chocolate to the faculty or gift cards to Happy Hour at a local watering hole! Class rooms could use donations of used magazines: anything with pictures: gardening, birds, food, animals, or cars.

From The Loft

Welcome to a new season. In our secular world, we mark January 1st as the beginning of a New Year and make big plans and promises. (Let's don't talk about how many we complete.) In our church world, the New Year begins in September when we return to the regular service times on Sunday and return to choir rehearsals on Wednesdays etc.

Did I say choir rehearsals? We begin our Fall Choir Rehearsal Schedule on Wednesday, September 10. If you would like to sing with us, please see me at church or email me at glish@bellsouth.net. There are no try-outs required. The choir members are friendly. We do not sing difficult music. As for the choir director – she appreciates the group and tries to keep the group encouraged.

For all who say they can't sing or do not choose to sing in the choir, remember you have a place. It takes us all to make the program go – the choir, the singers in the congregation and the good will and support of the non-singers.

If you have favorite hymns or solos you want to hear or something you don't want to hear, PLEASE tell me.

In a few weeks, we will begin preparing music for Advent and Christmas. I am looking forward to a good season.

I deeply appreciate the support of the choir this summer. I thank them for the solos and the choir numbers they have presented. When you see a choir member, let them know you support them. We miss O.C. Hays and hope he can return soon.

In His Service,
Genevieve Lish, Organist/Choir Director

There are Ladies Present

Watch the weekly bulletin for information about the Ladies' Group of St. James having a meeting soon. The group will make plans for the rest of the year and discuss the formation of a parish chapter of the Daughters of the King, which is a ministry of the larger church and devotes itself to prayer and service to others. We have several new members who have been involved in chapters in their previous churches and wish to see if such would be feasible for us. For more information see Debbie Denning or Father Courtney.

Vestry Notes from August

In August the Vestry awakened from a summer of slumber and discussed:

- Future plans for parish building development with AOA Architects
- A Building Usage Agreement for outside groups using our space and required by the Diocese of Tennessee
- A Fall Clean-Up Day on September 27th
- Completion of the shrub and tree removal from the property perimeter
- Attendance at a Nashville Sounds' game as a parish outing as weather permits
- A Parish Picnic & Hayride at the home of Rick & Cindy Webb in October

Financial Update

August's income statements were in review at press time of the Sentinel, but we are pleased that we are in the black for the year and running at a surplus of approximately \$4,200.00. For more information, see Jim Cate, Treasurer.

Ministries

Tom Joy Elementary

Class rooms could use donations of used magazines: anything with pictures: gardening, birds, food, animals, or cars. Drop off is outside of Father Courtney's office. Kudos to all for their faithfulness and generosity! (*see page 2 for more*)

Youth Ministry

Teenagers and Middle Schoolers will join Father Courtney, Lacey Lyons, and Joel Sinha (our newest advisor) for dinner and discussion on September 6th at 6:30 pm at the church. This year we shall devote ourselves to acolyte training, preparation for Confirmation, and a community service project. We are pleased to have a group of 5-6 members!

Elementary Schoolers had a fantastic summer and we look forward to the new season. Our fall season will be three parts: 1. In the Beginning, 2. Beginning of God's People and 3. Hope for God's People.

Ladies Group

The Ladies' Group of St. James having a meeting soon. For more information see Debbie Denning or Father Courtney. (*see page 3 for more*)

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 and finding resources to assist them.

Taekwondo

Our participants would like to extend many thanks to the Church for the use of the space. Thanks to St. James students have the opportunity to develop life changing leadership skills.

Contact Us

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Madison TN 37075
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Website: www.stjamesmadison.net
Priest-in-Charge: Father Robin Courtney

Church Schedule

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

Grief Group – 6:30 PM
Choir Practice – 7:00 PM

Monday & Thursday

Community Taekwondo – 5:00 PM

Saturday

Eucharist – 5:00 PM

St. James the Less

Episcopal Church

411 West Due West Avenue
Madison, TN 37115

News from the Diocese of Tennessee

So what is Cursillo? Cursillo is a movement within the Episcopal Church that rises up and supports Christian leaders in ministry, helping them live out the Great Commission. During a three-day retreat, participants focus on the essentials of the Christian message, hear the call to take up their role as leaders in all the environments in which God has placed them, and receive tools to support their individual personal commitments to increased piety, study, and action through small friendship groups. Clergy and laity unite in mutual ministry to participate in Christ’s mission of reconciliation to the world. [The National Episcopal Cursillo](#) is based in Myrtle Beach, SC. [Tennessee Episcopal Cursillo](#) is based in Murfreesboro, TN.


