



The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee

Welcome Home!

**Connections:** *home... parish... diocese*

## Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and the Blessing of the Animals



Vol. 3, No. 10 October 2009

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## The Episcopal Church

### In the Anglican Communion

A global communion of  
77 million Anglicans in  
25 member provinces

#### Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon.  
Rowan Williams  
Anglican Consultative Council  
Partnership House  
157 Waterloo Road  
London, England

Episcopal Seat:  
Canterbury Cathedral

### In the United States

A communion of 2.5 million  
members in 112 diocese  
in the Americas and abroad  
Established 1789

#### Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev.  
Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Episcopal Church Center  
815 Second Avenue  
New York NY 10017  
800-334-7626

Episcopal Seat:  
Washington National Cathedral  
Mount St. Albans  
Washington DC 20016

### In the Diocese of Tennessee

A communion of 16,000  
Episcopalians in  
48 congregations  
in Middle Tennessee  
Established 1828

#### Bishop

The Rt. Rev. John C. Bauerschmidt  
Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee  
50 Vantage Way, Suite 107  
Nashville TN 37228  
615-251-3322

Episcopal Seat:  
Christ Church Cathedral

The Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee  
is to encourage and equip one another  
as baptized people of God, to witness  
to the transforming and reconciling power of Jesus Christ.

Welcome to the October 2009 issue of *Connections: home... parish... diocese*. We will accept submissions for *Connections* from throughout the diocese. **As space permits**, we will use as much content as possible, subject to editorial revision. Short announcements of 100 words or less may be sent via email to [connections@episcopaldiocese-tn.org](mailto:connections@episcopaldiocese-tn.org). For feature-length stories, contact us in the diocesan office at 615-251-3322.

Digital photos can be submitted as above and must include activity, date and identities of everyone in the photo.

**Submissions are accepted until 12:00 Noon on the 15th of the month prior to upcoming issue and will be given consideration on a first come/first served basis.**



## Safeguarding God's People\*

Protecting children from sexual abuse.

Preventing adult sexual misconduct.

*A diocesan workshop for vestries\*, nursery workers,  
Sunday school teachers, volunteer youth leaders and  
employees, part-time and full-time,  
anywhere in the diocese.*



October 24 9AM-12N Church of Our Saviour Gallatin

October 24 9AM-12N Trinity Church Clarksville

Please call the diocesan office at 615-251-3322 to sign-up.

**\*Newly elected vestry members should attend.**

Safeguarding God's People is a curriculum provided by the Church Pension Group.

### Receiving *Connections* - three ways, your choice.

**Online Edition:** *Connections* is posted on the diocesan website for viewing, reading or printing! Visit [www.episcopaldiocese-tn.org](http://www.episcopaldiocese-tn.org) for the Online Edition of *Connections*. Past issues are archived.

**Email Updates:** If you would like to be added to the diocesan Email Distribution List, visit the diocesan website and subscribe. A reminder will be sent to you when the latest *Connections* is posted.

**Print Subscription:** If you do not have Internet capabilities, or you simply prefer the Print Edition of *Connections*, call the diocese office at 615-251-3322 to subscribe. *Connections* will be mailed to your home.

If you previously subscribed to the Cross & Crozier, please re-subscribe using one of the methods above.

### ***Connections: home... parish... diocese***

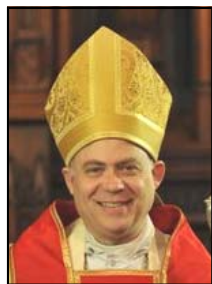
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Content Coordinator: Cathy Hendrix

## Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is “the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord’s Day,” as our Prayer Book says (BCP, pg. 13); but someone who attends Episcopal worship doesn’t need to read the Prayer Book in order to figure out that the Eucharist is at the center of our life.



The ancient answer to the question, “Who are Christians?” was “The People who gather on Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist.” Whether celebrated richly or simply, on Sunday or on a weekday, the worship of God in

Holy Communion is central to those who have received from Jesus the commandment, “*Do this for the remembrance of me*” (Lk. 22:19).

So what’s it all about?

The Christian tradition suggests that the answers are manifold and the subject never exhausted. Holy Communion (as the name suggests) unites us to Christ, to his sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection. It gives grace through the Body and Blood of Christ, received by faith.

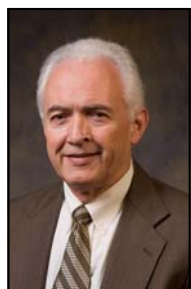
In the Eucharist, we have the forgiveness of our sins, and also a pledge of heaven, through this celebration which foreshadows the Great Feast that Jesus presides over in the Kingdom. Those who come to this Sacra-

ment must examine their lives, repent of their sins, and “be in love and charity” (BCP, pg. 330) with all.

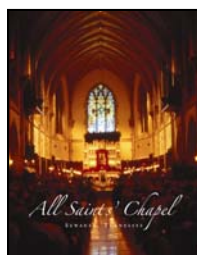
It’s a marvelous thing that in this Sacrament God connects objective and material things with subjective and spiritual realities, and makes those things the means by which he works. Bread and wine, of course; but also the movement of the body in standing and kneeling, the articulation of the voice in speaking and singing, the beauty of holy images and artifacts, and even the pause of silence and the flash of sunlight in the midst of worship.

God followed this principle of spiritual reality mediated through material things when the Son came into the world and took human flesh in Jesus Christ. Perhaps we too will be able to perceive him as we gather at Communion, not only in the Sacrament of the Altar itself, but also in the hearts of the worshipers gathered around it. — *Bishop John*

## Waring McCrady Signs New Book in Sewanee



Professor Emeritus of French, J. Waring McCrady captures the majesty and meaning of Sewanee’s All Saints’ Chapel in his new book, with photographs by William Strode. A book signing will be held at the University Bookstore from 11:30AM to 1:00PM on Saturday, October 10.



*All Saints’ Chapel* explores the tradition, the architecture, and the life of the Chapel in photographs historic and current, including eight transparencies of its resplendent stained glass windows. Mr. McCrady’s commentary describes the content and meaning of the windows, explains the history of the Chapel and points out the fascinating quirks and details that might otherwise be missed. Former University Chaplain Tom Ward provides the book’s introductory essay.

The book was made possible by a gift from William M. Spencer, class of 1941; proceeds will support an endowment for All Saints’ programs and ministry.

Mr. McCrady is the son of the University vice chancellor who designed and oversaw the historic transformation of the Chapel during the 1950s. Photographer William Strode shared two Pulitzer Prizes as a photographer for The Courier-Journal and was named national Photographer of the Year before he was 30. His photos appeared in exhibitions at the Smithsonian Institution, the Corcoran Gallery, and the Museum of Modern Art.

### *Clergy events to save the date for...*

February 1-4, 2010

2nd Annual Clergy Retreat  
St. Mary’s Retreat Center Sewanee

April 13-15, 2010

Clergy Workshop with Dr. Stephen Fowl,  
Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore MD  
St. Mary’s Retreat Center Sewanee

## Blessing the Animals, Celebrating St. Francis

*“We do not bless animals to make them holy. We bless them because they are holy and worth blessing.”*

Almost every parish in the Diocese of Tennessee will be holding a Blessing of the Animals on the weekend of October 3-4, a time most closely associated with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The story of St. Francis is well documented. The son of a prosperous merchant, Francis was born in 1182 and spent his childhood in a carefree manner.

As a young man, he attempted to achieve military glory but after encounters with people less fortunate, such as beggars and lepers, he renounces all material belongings and devoted himself to serving the poor, living in poverty himself.

In 1210, Pope Innocent the Third confirmed the religious order Francis founded, the Order of Friars Minor. The numbers grew rapidly all over Europe. By 1221 however, Francis lost control of the order. His insistence on strict poverty was too difficult for the members of the order to maintain.

During the last years of his life, his body was failing but his joy was not. He composed the “Canticle of the Sun” in which he celebrated Brother Sun and Sister Moon as the blessings he was thankful for. This writing is the very reason St. Francis is today referred to as the first environmentalist.



Shortly before his death in 1226, Francis, who by then was in great pain and suffering, received the stigmata on his hands, feet and side.

In 1228, Pope Gregory the Ninth, canonized Francis and oversaw the building of the basilica in Assisi where Francis is buried.



With no material possessions, Francis spent much of his time communing with the natural world around him. Legend has it that his rapport with animals was so great he preached to the birds and they stopped to listen. It is said he once tamed a wolf with his gentle words.

This is, perhaps, why St. Francis is associated with the Blessing of the Animals though it is difficult to determine the origin of the practice. Some see it as a pagan ritual; others think it originated as a blessing for farm animals.

Today’s Blessing of the Animals (or Pets, as some call it) is neither of those things. It is a joyful event, celebrating our animal companions while honoring God’s creation.

The Rev. William “Doc” Martin of Grace Church Spring Hill echoes this, “The Blessing of the Pets is very important to the people of Grace. They ask about it months in advance. We have a newlywed couple in our congregation with a less-than-year-old lab-pit bull mix. They are praying that the dog can be blessed before this huge (and growing daily) dog tears down their house. We have a lady in our church who has dementia. She is a former performer, always comes to church dressed to the nines, and brings her toy poodle, Romeo. While others might be offended by a dog in worship, Grace has fully em-

braced the dog because we understand that Romeo is a part of what anchors this person to reality.



“So, one can easily see that the Blessing of Pets is not some crowd drawing side show, intended to make people feel good about the pets in their lives. It is truly a celebration of the goodness of God to all His creatures. We are excited to be a part of that celebration on Sunday, October 4 at 2 PM.”

The Rev. Vicki Burgess of St. Philip’s Church Nashville might have bad news for Grace’s newlyweds. “What I like to gently remind the community folks who show up at our church for a blessing of their pets is a little bit of the theology of blessing - that is, it’s not so much that there’s something new or magic or even exorcism-like about blessing their pets (no, little Scruffy will not suddenly stop digging in the yard after the service), but that the prayers and action of blessing are the outward signs of the ways God blesses us through the companionship of pets, that the pets already have blessed and will continue to bless the owners; we’re just celebrating that in a solemn and joyful way at church on a day dedicated to St. Francis, a lover of all of God’s creation.”

Trinity Church Winchester is holding their Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3 at 10:00 AM. The Rev.

Chris Bryan will conduct the service, assisted by several other area priests. The public is invited to bring their cats, dogs and other animals.

The Rev. Rob Courtney of St. James the Less Madison recalls, "In seminary around the first of October, great chatter would arise among my classmates about the blessing of animals. 'How can you bless a creature that does not have a soul?' was the question of the day. I appreciate the answer one classmate provided in saying, 'Just look into your pet's eyes. You can see something there worthy of a blessing, whether it be a soul or something else.'"



Christ Church Cathedral has had quite a varied assortment of animals blessed. The cover photo taken by Warren Wescott depicts a Metro police officer

riding his horse right up to the altar. And along with the usual dogs and cats, they've had donkeys, birds, fish, snakes and even llamas.

When it comes to animals, things don't always go smoothly, as the Rev. John Janeway can attest. While serving as rector at St. Thaddeus Church Chattanooga, he recalls a fluffy white dog, unrestrained, entered the area where the Blessing of the Pets was about to begin. Fr. Janeway heard laughter and turned to see the dog (which he swears must have been Baptist) drinking the holy water. "Fortunately," he says, "the pup left a little for the Episcopalians."

The Rev. Joseph Davis from Church of the Resurrection shares a story he refers to as Liturgical Reciprocity:

"Every year, on the Saturday closest to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we have the little service called the Blessing of Pets. This year was much like every other year in that respect. Many people brought their pets

to the area outside the church by the statue of St. Francis, where we normally have the Blessing of Pets. We had the lesson from Genesis about God creating every living thing. We read a psalm together. We thanked God for our pets. I blessed them and sprinkled them with holy water, to show that they belong to God, who loves everything that he has made. Someone held my dog Bo on a leash so I could lead the prayers and sprinkle all the different animals.

"Afterwards, people and animals visited for a while. I took Bo's leash back and was talking to a visiting family that had never come to our church. Suddenly, I heard one of our ladies say in a calm voice laced with Episcopalian propriety, 'Oh, look at Bo!' There he was, lifting his leg at my feet, sprinkling my cassock and shoes. This is what is known as liturgical reciprocity.

"At first, I couldn't figure out why Bo was doing this. Someone said, 'He marked you.' I didn't understand at first, but I filed that comment away. Later, it dawned on me what Bo had done.

"I was so concerned with blessing all the pets and with talking with everyone, that I had no idea of Bo's perspective on the whole event. He saw me with more dogs than he had ever seen me with. In all likelihood, I was being much too friendly with those strange creatures for him not to feel a bit nervous. So the first chance he got, he sprinkled me back. In dog language, he wrote his initials on my foot.

"I was concerned with my concept of blessing the pets, and he was concerned with the fact that I belonged to him, not any of those other dogs.

"The real blessing, the real matter to give thanks for, is not just that our *pets* belong to *us*, but that *we* belong to *them*. Bo made this clear, as only a dog can, and marked me as his own. This liturgical reciprocity was a sign of the real blessing of pets. But for Bo's action, I would have missed the point."

Some of the services include remembrances of pets who have been lost. The Rev. Ann Van Dervoort from St. Paul's Church Franklin says, "In addition to the overall blessing and the individual blessings, we read a list of beloved animals who have died and animals who are sick and elderly and can not be at the blessing on that day. We also pray for those who work with and care for animals, and animals who were euthanized."

You might think that, with so many and varied pets and animals, there would be chaos but the Rev. Linda Hutton says at St. James' Church Sewanee that's just not the case. "During the past six years at the Blessing of the Animals at St. James in Midway, the dogs would wander about tugging on leashes barking greetings to one another or warnings. At the start of the liturgy when the people and their pets made a large circle, the dogs without fail, all lay down and are quiet throughout the service."



The Rev. Dorothy Hartzog of Trinity Church Clarksville shares this quote from author Alice Walker, "As we treat animals, we treat people and vice versa."



Those who bring their pets to a blessing service most likely cherish them as beloved members of the family. Maybe

that same love and caring can be offered to the "least of God's servants" as St. Francis called his homeless, hungry and poverty stricken brothers and sisters in need.

## Clergy News -

The **Rev. Joel Hassell** has resigned as rector from Church of the Messiah Pulaski upon reaching retirement age. Associate rector the **Rev. Mary Hassell** is now currently non-parochial with her last day at Church of the Messiah being September

20. The **Rev. Rick Britton** of St. Ann's Church Nashville has been invited to serve on the Visiting Committee for the School of Theology Sewanee. The **Rev. Patrick Soule** has accepted a call at St. Andrew's Church Corpus Christi TX. October 18 is his last day at St. Philip's Church Nashville. Best of luck to Fr. Patrick and his family.

## Parish News -

Recent confirmations: Jesse Austin, Robert Gropp, Emily Fleming, Linda Houck, Callie Huffman, Jane Jestus, Elizabeth Kelly, William Kelly, **St. Michael's Church Cookeville.** Recent receptions: Brad Houck, **St. Michael's Church Cookeville.** Recent baptisms: Sydney Monday, Stella Huffman, **St. Michael's Church Cookeville;** Sloan Day, Gabriella James, Andrew Kamp Jr., Coleman Lassiter, **St. Paul's Church Franklin.**

**St. David's Church Nashville** is planning for their Third Annual Christmas Bazaar, coming up on November 14 from

9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. There will be crafts, food and a booth for the Mekong Blue Silk Scarves (*see page 11*). To participate, contact St. David's office at 615-352-0293. **Trinity Church Clarksville** has started having Community Taize Service each Tuesday at 12:15 PM. **St. Joseph of Arimathea Hendersonville** recently installed a new sound system in the church. After the Rev. Jill Zook-Jones strained her vocal cords, they decided it was time for an upgrade. Fortunately, she has recovered nicely. **St. Ann's Church Nashville** welcomes seminary intern Kira Schlesinger. She is attending Vanderbilt Divinity School and is a postulant in the Diocese of Texas.

## Youth News -

The **CHAOS** teens of St. Mary Magdalene Church Fayetteville will host a Halloween Party for the younger children of the parish with games and, of course, candy. **Fire On The Mountain** youth group in Sewanee welcomes two college interns, David Cousins and Kiki McCaslin, assisting

the youth program. The **Youth** of St. Ann's Church Nashville spent a week in Port Saint Joe FL, staying at Long Avenue Baptist Church and working with TeamEffort to clean up and make repairs at homes in the area. Read about their trip at <http://stannsnashvilleyc.blogspot.com>. You can also read about their recent Fall Retreat to Standing Stone State Park.

## The Rev. Mickey Richaud Reviews Kinnaman and Lyons' *Unchristian*

A book originally published in 2007, and now in its seventh printing, takes a hard look at what "outsiders" think of Christianity. *Unchristian*, the product of David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons, has as its subtitle, *What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity ...And Why It Matters*. That rather long title does say it all! A group of members of Trinity Parish Clarksville, have spent the last several weeks discussing the book, with reactions of surprise, maybe a little anger, disappointment and a new sense of how better to address the perceptions that are presented.

First, an explanation of the term "outsiders": Kinnaman chose that term in order not to alienate people with terms like unchurched, atheists, pagans, the lost, or worse. Basically, the book defines an outsider simply as one looking at the Christian faith from the outside. They may be former church-goers (more often than not!), or those of another faith or those who have never attended church. The bottom line is that many outsiders have some surprisingly (or maybe not-so-surprisingly) negative conceptions of Christians.

The book covers six broad themes which explore these negative conceptions: hypocritical; too focused on getting converts;

antihomosexual; sheltered; too political; and judgmental. The book looks into each of these perceptions, describing how outsiders arrive at them, and how these perceptions affect their understanding of Jesus.

Kinnaman's experience as a pollster with the Barna research organization ensures that the data collection is viable and credible. And while several of us had thoughts like, "We Episcopalians aren't really like that... are we?" there was the realization that, as Christians, even though we may think of ourselves as being somehow exempt from some of the sentiments, we are part of the Church, the body of Christ. To outsiders, all Christians are pretty much the same, regardless of denominational differences.

While the intent of the book is not to offer answers or remedies to these issues, it is an excellent resource for getting a sense of what outsiders really think about Christianity, and is a great beginning place for discussions about how to respond. To quote Kinnaman: "I have seen leaders, churches, businesses, and other ministries miss the chance to have a spiritual impact because they failed to respond properly to valid criticism. God allowed them to see something about themselves, but they did not have 'ears to hear or eyes to see' what was revealed to them." Kinnaman does offer some thoughts as to how responses might be shaped, but he is also quick to point out that his main focus is to stimulate conversation. That he does – in spades! – *The Rev. Mickey Richaud, Trinity Church Clarksville*

# Why Be an Episcopalian?

Friday evening October 30  
and Saturday morning, October 31  
at St. George's Church Nashville



- *Would you like a richer understanding of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican tradition?*
- *Are you new to the Episcopal Church and have questions?*
- *Are you curious about the faith and beliefs of the Episcopal Church?*

## You are invited...

**Friday evening, October 30, beginning with dinner at 6:00 pm.**

Keynote address by

The Rt. Rev. John C. Bauerschmidt, Bishop of Tennessee

*"Why am I an Episcopalian?"*

followed by questions and answers

**Saturday morning, October 31, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

Presentations by clergy and lay leaders, as well as questions and answers

*"Why believe at all?"*

(essential questions of faith in contemporary times)

*"What are the key beliefs and practices of the Episcopal faith?"*

(a compelling survey)

*"How did the Episcopal Church develop?"*

(the dramatic story of the church's history)

*"How do Episcopalians worship?"*

(explanations of liturgy and customs)

*"What happens in church and why?"*

(insights about the prayer book, scripture, sermons, and Eucharist)

concluding with a guided tour of the church worship area

## Reservations are requested for dinner.

For cost of meal and more information, call 615-385-2150 ext. 262 or email [reserve@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:reserve@stgeorgesnashville.org).

For information on the event, contact The Rev. Tim Jones, 615-385-2150 ext 217, [tim.jones@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:tim.jones@stgeorgesnashville.org) or Seawell Brandau 615-352-4824, [brandausj@comcast.net](mailto:brandausj@comcast.net).



**St. Mary's Sewanee  
2009 Fall/Winter  
Programs & Retreats**

October 4-5, 2009

*Spirituality & the Arts  
Creating a Garden Sanctuary*

Presenter:

June Mays

October 18-20, 2009

*Centering Prayer as an  
11th Step Practice*

Presenters:

Roberta Oster

Becky Hannah

October 30 - November 1, 2009

*Seeking Our Hidden  
Wholeness in Christ*

Presenter:

The Rev. Marjorie Thompson

November 13-15, 2009

*Tongued with Fire:  
The Poet's Voice and  
Our Faith Journey*

Presenter:

The Right Rev. Henry Parsley,  
Bishop of Alabama

December 11-13, 2009

*Advanced Centering  
Prayer Retreat*

Presenter:

The Rev. Tom Ward

For more information  
please check our website:  
[www.StMarysSewanee.org](http://www.StMarysSewanee.org)  
or telephone us at (931) 598-5342

## St. Paul's Franklin Walks On

Starting this month, every Thursday at 9:00 AM, a group will meet in the courtyard at St. Paul's Church Franklin, rain or shine, for exercise and fellowship. The group will be walking around town, starting with 30 minutes and adding a more time each week until they reach 1 hour. For more information on joining the walkers, call Caroline Butler at 615-390-1123 or email [csbutler@comcast.net](mailto:csbutler@comcast.net).

## Church of the Resurrection Gets (Re) Committed

Sunday, October 11 is the Recommitment Sunday Breakfast at Church of the Resurrection Franklin. This event launches their fall stewardship campaign. Members and friends of the parish are invited to reconnect as a family in Christ and to set the tone for prayers and support of the congregation. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall.

## The Surface of Grace

The recent Bake, Book and Tag Sale at Grace Church Spring Hill was a huge success - over \$1,900 was collected in one day.



The funds were earmarked for repairs to the parking lot and other maintenance around the church. On Monday morning following the sale, the parking lot was resurfaced, sealed, and painted for parking, including designated spaces for handicap parking.

## The Rev. Randy Hoover-Dempsey Attends Workshop



The Rev. Randy Hoover-Dempsey, interim rector of St. Mary Magdalene Fayetteville, attended a three-day workshop on Interim Ministry in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Sponsored by the Interim Ministry Network, the focus of the conference was to educate interim ministers about the unique tasks that parishes need to accomplish in the transition period between permanent rectors. Also considered was the question, "How is interim ministry different from being the permanent rector?"

Fr. Randy said that the course was excellent, "The co-leaders were able to illustrate their ideas with examples based on their practical experience in interim ministry."

## Trinity Clarksville Knitters Benefit Ministry on the River

The Trinity Knitters, led by Shirley Hood and Gail Knickerbocker, have been busy knitting scarves and stocking caps for the seamen who work year round on barges in the local and regional waterways. If any other knitters throughout the Diocese of Tennessee would like to participate in this knitting ministry, contact Trinity Church Clarksville at 931-645-2458 and they will forward the knitting patterns. Scarves and hats have to be knit in a specific fashion to be conducive to a safe working environment.



Established in 1998, SCI's Ministry of the River is the nation's only full time pastoral care ministry on the Ohio, Lower Mississippi, Tennessee and Cumberland systems. The program includes a pastoral outreach system for river workers and their families extending from Pittsburgh to Houston.

This network of clergy and lay volunteers serves as a resource to mariners who visit inland ports as well as to those who spend long stretches seaside.

Towboat mariners work a variety of schedules ranging from one week on a boat and one week off to 30 days on and 30 days off. Land-based support systems are not equipped to handle most of the unique challenges which mariners face. Ministry on the River serves more than 30,000 inland mariners. How can those in the Diocese support this special ministry?

1. Pray for Ministry on the River.
2. Be part of the knitting ministry: scarves, caps, socks.
3. Help "Christmas on the River" and "Easter on the River" programs.
4. Support the "Pass It On Books and Videos" and "Bible" programs.
5. Money: financial support is always needed - make checks payable to Trinity Episcopal Church and designate Ministry on the River.

Trinity has assisted in the past with one special collection. Children (Girl Scouts) have made Christmas cards. The Trinity Needles have made stocking caps. In late October collection boxes will be placed in the church and Parish House, labeled "Christmas on the River." Requested items are: sealed packages of holiday sweets, sugarless gum, microwave popcorn, individual packages of cocoa; unscented (2-4 oz) hand lotion and lip balm, playing cards, crossword, word search and Sudoku puzzle books.

If your parish would like to support Ministry on the River in any of these ways, contact Trinity Church for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

## Diocesan Chorister Festival

at

Christ Church Cathedral

**Saturday and Sunday, January 30 and 31, 2010**

with the participation of Bishop Bauerschmidt

Open to all Diocesan Treble Choristers  
age 4th grade and above  
who have a Director to help them prepare.

More details about schedule and repertoire  
to follow very soon.

Hosted by Christ Church Cathedral Choristers  
Michael Velting, Organist and Choirmaster  
Jon Johnson, Assistant Organist and Choirmaster



**Dr. Dale Adelmann, Guest Director**  
Canon for Music  
The Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta

## God's Green Earth...

Here comes fall. Here comes harvest. Here comes Halloween! Once a Celtic festival celebrating the season's bounty, its origins can be traced to the 7th century. The day to remember the dead was called All Hallows Day and the festival held the night before was All Hallows E'en (or evening).

Pope Boniface IV introduced All Saints' Day and it was observed on May 13. Later, Gregory III changed the date to November 1, the date we currently recognize as All Saints' Day. The date of the festival was also changed to the night before, October 31, and the name Halloween stuck. Other cultures, Christian and pagan, have traditions and legends surrounding the day but for Roman Catholics, Episcopalians and Lutherans, Halloween is simply a secular and commercial holiday.

Historical myths and practices aside, today's Halloween can be Hallow-green. GreenHalloween.org is a blog that covers just about everything you need to know to practice sustainability and good green habits. They suggest making choices that are both people healthy and Earth friendly.

Many commercially manufactured costumes for children are made with PVC, which releases toxins. Sure, your child may be only wearing it for a few hours but what happens when Halloween is over? That pirate/princess/superhero outfit will be in the landfill for a long, long time. GreenHalloween recommends costumes made of natural material or recycling clothing from a thrift store... or, consider a costume exchange with other children of the same age and size.

And rather than sending your child house to house for trick-or-treat, host a Halloween party for the whole crowd. You will have more control over the quality (and quantity) of treats and may even be able to share green tips. Make sure that apples or other natural treats are organic and pesticide free. Choose candy that is made with Fair Trade ingredients, with no artificial color or flavors, and have limited packaging. Healthy Halloween recipes are available in *Creepy Cuisine*, published by Random House and *The Penny Whistle Halloween Book*, published by Fireside.

You don't have to forego decorations either. The traditional Jack-O' Lantern couldn't be more natural. Take a family trip to a local pumpkin patch to choose your own. Gourds, apples and decorative corn also lend a festive feel. Recycled and recyclable dinnerware (#5 plastics) are dishwasher safe and can be used dozens of times. If you're going to use candles, make them soy or beeswax — and keep them out of the reach of children.

When the party is over, send your guests home with pencils made from recycled material, coloring books with Earth-friendly themes, seeds and seedlings... all in an organic cotton bag.

Most of all, keep it fun, keep it safe and keep it green! BOO!

# From Summer Missions to Fall Kick-off and Beyond

What do you get when you mix youth (grades 6 -12), service work, travel, local outreach, a large obstacle course, prayer, and rapping sextons? You have a glimpse of the youth life at Christ Church Cathedral from June to September.

Our summer was packed full of mission trips including Bolivia, Galveston and three urban experiences in Nashville.



Sophomores took part in a new mission to Galveston. The Rev. Gene Manning and Youth Minister Caroline Rossini traveled with nine youth in June to participate in Hurricane Ike relief work. The group was joined by Cathedral volunteer, Iain Hyde, whose work with FEMA provided invaluable insight and disaster relief expertise. Partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, our group was assigned to projects that enabled them to meet, pray, and bond with residents of Galveston. Sleeping in a converted elementary school along with 400 other volunteers from around the country, they rose early each morning and put in a full day of work. A beautiful beachside prayer service brought their week to a close but their encounters with God's grace will be with them for a lifetime.



Named fittingly to enable youth to experience first-hand the needs of our own city, the "Urban Missions" are for youth in grades 7 through 9 from the Cathedral and other churches in the diocese. One such mission in July, "Urban II," is one of

our most popular and intensive annual missions and is this year was no exception for our group of eager high school freshmen. They hit the local roads to work with and learn about numerous service agencies supported through the Cathedral's Community Outreach Committee. Those five days of reflection, education, hard work, and fellowship included visits to agencies such as Magdalene House & Thistle Farms, Campus for Human Development, Siloam, Oasis, St. Luke's

Community House, Preston Taylor Ministries, East Nashville Hope Exchange, Matthew 25, Cumberland River Compact, and Second Harvest.

As is the case with youth ministry, we barely missed a beat and dove from summer mode directly into a block party-themed Youth Kick-Off on September 13, held right in the parking lots at 9th and Broadway. About 100 youth, adult volunteers, clergy and staff converged upon our blacktop to eat tacos, run the 50-foot inflated obstacle course and enjoy the music of Will Fulcher, James Williams, and Marcus Frazier (AKA "The Rapping Sextons").



Whether we are led in prayer to a rap beat or hauling trash in Galveston, energy, enthusiasm, compassion and a welcoming spirit abound *all* year at Christ Church Cathedral. Our doors are open to any youth in the diocese who would like to try out EYC, YOP (Youth Outreach Project), Sunday school, bible studies or our summer missions. For more details, visit [www.christchurchcathedral.org/youth](http://www.christchurchcathedral.org/youth). — *Monica Urness, Youth Programs Coordinator, Christ Church Cathedral Nashville*




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## OCTOBER 2009 CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS *ALL YOUTH IN THE DIOCESE ARE WELCOME!*

**Sunday, October 4, 2009:** EYC "Speed Friendling," 6th-12th graders, 4:00PM -5:30PM in the Youth Room, located in the bottom level of the 810 Building (directly across from the Cathedral.)

**Sunday, October 18:** Youth Outreach Project: 4:00-5:30PM. Details will be coming out soon!

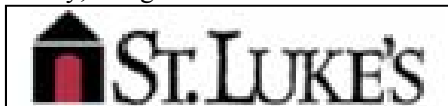
**Wednesday's "Chaos and Bible Study"** for 6th-8th grades on October 7, 14, 21, and 28. We meet at 5:30PM for dinner in Cheek Hall or join us at 6:15PM in the Youth Room. End time is 7:30PM. Parents waiting can take part in the Wednesday Night Adult Education Series at the Cathedral.

**Sunday High School Bible Studies:** Starting in October. Details to follow soon!

To take part in any event or for more information, please contact Caroline Rossini, Cathedral Youth Minister, via email at [crossini@christcathedral.org](mailto:crossini@christcathedral.org), 615-255-7729 or visit the website at [www.christcathedral.org/youth](http://www.christcathedral.org/youth) for updates and details.

# St. Luke's Community House Needs YOU

Each year, St. Luke's Community House offers Holiday Assistance Programs for families in West Nashville. Toy Store is a program that allows families to "shop" for a toy for each child in the home. Adopt-A-Family allows entire families and senior citizens of West Nashville to complete a wish list. The family is then matched with a donor who provides gifts to the family, using the wish list.



In 2008, more than 940 children for Toy Store, 351 families through Adopt-A-Family, and more than 60 Seniors were served.

In order to provide holiday cheer to families again this year, St. Luke's needs help. Choose a time to volunteer or adopt a family. Here is a list of holiday volunteer needs:

## Toy Store and Adopt-A-Family Registration, October 5-30

Volunteers are needed to determine eligibility and register families for Toy Store & Adopt-A-Family. Registration hours are Monday-Friday, 10:00AM-Noon and 2:00-4:00PM. Volunteers should commit to a minimum of 2 hours a day, once a week, during the month of October.

## Adopt Your Family or Senior, Beginning October 19

Anyone interested in adopting a family or senior should contact the St. Luke's Volunteer Manager Christie Bearden at [christie.bearden@stlukescommunityho.org](mailto:christie.bearden@stlukescommunityho.org). However, if you are associated with St. George's Church Nashville, please contact Liz Himes at [liz.himes@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:liz.himes@hcahealthcare.com).

## Toy Store Set-up Part 1, November 30

Two or three volunteers will meet at the Marine Corps/Toys For Tots warehouse in Smyrna to assist in loading toys in the bus to bring to St. Luke's. Additionally, 10-15 volunteers will meet at St. Luke's to unload the toys.

## Toy Store Set-up Part 2, November 30

Fifteen to twenty volunteers are needed to unbox/unbag and organize the toys by age onto the Toy Store tables.

## Toy Store Shoppers, December 1 & 2

Volunteers are needed to help parents "shop" for toys at the Toy Store. Volunteers should commit to a minimum of 1 hour on December 1 & 2, between the hours of 8:30AM-6:30AM each day. Five volunteers are needed at all times.

## Toy Store Clean-up, December 3

Up to thirty volunteers are needed to box up, label and move all left-over toys to storage on December 4, after 11:00AM.

## Adopt-A-Family Distribution Volunteers, December 7-18

Volunteers are needed to receive gifts from donors and distribute gifts to families. These volunteers must be able to lift a minimum of 20 lbs. repeatedly. Volunteers should commit to a minimum of two, 2-hour shifts during December 7-18 from 9:00AM-4:30PM. A minimum of 5 volunteers are needed at all times.

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## A Fashion Statement For Change

I am excited to announce a new outreach and mission project that is kicking off in Middle Tennessee this month to help give hundreds of women and their families an opportunity to escape a life of poverty. Mekong Blue benefits the women and children of Cambodia's embattled Stung Treng region and the congregation of St. David's Church Nashville is extremely proud to be working to raise awareness of this important project in the United States.

Mekong Blue is a project of the Stung Treng Women's Development Center (SWDC), a non-

governmental organization in Cambodia. Since 2002, the women of the SWDC have hand-woven beautiful silk scarves as a way to overcome poverty and illiteracy and provide better lives for themselves and their children by learning a trade and skill in a supportive and fair working environment.

The journey to bring this project to America started about a year ago when I began searching for a way to make Mekong Blue silk available to a greater number of customers. Until now, Mekong Blue scarves have not been available in the United States, but thanks to the dedication and support of the parishioners of St. David's, and great help from Seigenthaler Public Relations, Middle Tennesseans will be the first in America to be able to purchase Mekong Blue Scarves and support the life-changing work of the SWDC.

Mekong Blue Scarves are unique works of art and are regarded as one of the finest silk products in Cambodia. The 2009 Mekong Blue Scarf collection includes a selection of 12 silk scarves, each individually woven from 100% natural silk and hand-dyed in brilliant shades ranging from deep scarlet to shimmering gold. Each scarf ranges from \$45 - \$60 and all the proceeds from each sale go directly back to the SWDC to continue providing education and training, meals, daycare and - ultimately - a better life for so many.

To learn more about Mekong Blue silk scarves and to purchase your very own, please visit [www.BlueSilk.org](http://www.BlueSilk.org). — *The Rev. Ann B. Walling*





*The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee*



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## *Around the diocese*

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### October 2009

- 2-4 Parish Retreat, St. Michael's Church Cookeville
- 3 Fall Bazaar/Silent Auction, Trinity Church Clarksville
- 3-4 Blessing of the Animals, Parishes in the Diocese of Tennessee
- 4 *Bishop's Visitation, St. Francis' Church Goodlettsville*
- 4 Annual Pig Roast and Street Fair, St. Bartholomew's Church Nashville
- 4-5 Spirituality and the Arts: Garden Sanctuary, St. Mary's Retreat Ctr. Sewanee
- 9-10 Women's Retreat at DuBose, Church of the Resurrection Franklin
- 10 BBQ and Bake Sale, Church of the Advent Nashville
- 10 International Fall Fest, St. Mark's Church Nashville
- 11 *Bishop's Visitation, Church of the Holy Spirit Nashville*
- 11 Recommitment Breakfast, Church of the Resurrection Franklin
- 16-18 John Philip Newell Symposium, Christ Church Cathedral Nashville
- 16-26 Mission Trip to South Africa, St. George's Church Nashville
- 18 *Bishop's Visitation, St. James' Church Dickson*
- 18 *Bishop's Visitation, Calvary Church Cumberland Furnace*
- 18 Organ and Percussion Concert, Christ Church Cathedral
- 18-20 Centering Prayer Retreat, St. Mary's Retreat Ctr. Sewanee
- 22-25 Cursillo, DuBose Conference Center Monteagle
- 23 Friday Night Lights: Sabbath for the Parish, St. Paul's Church Franklin
- 25 *Bishop's Visitation, Trinity Church Winchester*
- 26-29 Clergy Retreat, St. Mary's Retreat Ctr. Sewanee

*Italics denote Bishop Bauerschmidt's visitations*  
**For a full listing of events throughout the diocese,  
see the Calendar of Events at [www.episcopaldiocese-tn.org](http://www.episcopaldiocese-tn.org)**