



The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee

Welcome Home!

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

Helping Holy Land Christians



Vol. 5, No. 10 October 2011

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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 dioceses
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
47 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 2011 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. 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 10th of the month prior to the 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 29 Trinity Church Clarksville 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
November 5 St. Paul's Church Murfreesboro 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
November 17 Christ Church Cathedral Nashville 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

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.

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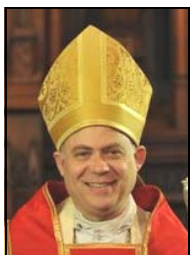
Connections: home... parish... diocese

Published by the Diocese of Tennessee.

Publisher: The Rt. Rev. John C. Bauerschmidt

Editor: Cathy Hendrix

Quito



At the time of writing this I've just returned from the meeting of the House of Bishops in Quito, Ecuador. It was a demanding trip.

You may know that the two Anglican dioceses in that country are a constituent part of the Episcopal Church, along with the Church in some other countries like Honduras, Venezuela, Columbia and Taiwan.

There are reasons for this that go back to the history of the Episcopal Church's missionary efforts in the 19th and 20th centuries, not to mention the development of American trade and our consequent foreign policy during that same time period. I believe this is the first time that the bishops of the Episcopal Church have met for business outside the United States.

We took the unique opportunity presented by the hospitality of the Church in Ecuador to educate ourselves about the situation of the Church in Latin America, and about the conflict that has arisen in the Diocese of Ecuador Central, our host in Quito. We heard presentations on immigration, climate change, foreign debt and the ecumenical scene in Latin America; the bishops of our Church from this area were able to take a leading role in our discussions, being on their own "home turf" as it were. There were also presentations on Liberation Theology, less informative and less convincing in my view. The unhappy conflict between the relatively new bishop of Ecuador Central and diocesan leaders struggled for resolution during our meeting, as well, leading to the resignation of the bishop and other leaders and the appointment of a provisional bishop. This is a longstanding conflict that has eluded resolution for years, dating back before the election of the present bishop, and we may



hope that a new chapter is beginning for this diocese.

The most important impression I took away from this meeting is one I first formed at the 2008 Lambeth Conference in Britain, which gathered bishops from all over the world for encounter and discussion. An earlier trip to Ecuador in 2009 and to South Africa in 2010 have left the same impression, one strengthened by the presence of substantial numbers of Korean, Karen and Sudanese and other African Anglicans within our own Diocese: that is, that the world is linked by close connections, and that cultural diversity is balanced by ties which link all of us.

Colin Thuberon, in *Shadow of the Silk Road*, writes about the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean world, one of the great and continuing crossroads between different peoples and cultures. Cultural purity is an illusion, Thuberon writes, and no people or society is ever really homogeneous or constant. To follow this metaphorical road that links all civilizations is to encounter an interlocked diversity.

What's true for the world is true for the Church. If our diverse cultures are connected and interlocked, part of the glue is the Gospel that is proclaimed in all the world. Christianity is one of two faith traditions (Islam of course is the other) with a concept of universal mission. Christianity is a global phenomenon, which holds up the possibility for

real connection and understanding in Christ. There is a sense of global vision and global community in our world today, and a realization that we are connected to a much larger world in which what affects one affects all. The roots of this modern understanding are found in the Gospel first proclaimed after Jesus' death and resurrection. Christians of all people know we cannot live in isolation. Christianity demands a global vision and a recognition of the corresponding ancient truth enshrined in the Creeds of the Catholic or universal nature of Christian community.

I am grateful to all of you for your support in this ministry that we share in the Diocese of Tennessee. I'm particularly grateful for prayers that sustain me in my travels along the roads of Middle Tennessee and beyond. Those roads are places of encounter and connection, and we are travelling them together. — *Bishop John*

Faithful and Focused Annual Fund Drive

Pledge Card and
Complimentary
Bookmarks
are still available
at the
Diocesan Office.
Call 615-251-3322
for more details.

All Women Are Daughters

November 11-13
Dubose Conference Center
Monteagle

*The Rev. Cynthia Seifert,
Keynote Speaker*

Details and Registration:
<http://www.duboseconf.org/awad>

Holy Land Christians – Can We Help?

Why is Christianity dying out in the land where it began? And what are the consequences, not only for the future of Christianity but for the Middle East itself? Some folks are even heard to say, “I didn’t know that there are Christians in the Holy Land!”

At St. George’s Church Nashville, after a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2007, some concerned parishioners were wondering the same thing and so a new initiative, “Helping Holy Land Christians,” began, now with a current leadership team of ten members. The basic truth: Christians everywhere are our sisters-and-brothers-in-the-Faith, and they are endangered in many places in the world including the Holy Land.



Dr. Paul Teschan, co-chair of the effort with Linda Crane, says, “We sought advice around the parish. Among more than 60 feedback-messages, we found the sound advice that our ‘help’ should feel like ‘help’ to the ones we’re trying to help.” The other responses grouped into four areas of interest:

- Our continuing education here
- Supporting their education there
- Personal communication with Holy Land Christians
- Commerce: expanding constrained markets for Christian artisans.

But how could we find the ways to help people in the Holy Land that they would

find helpful? At the top the list: our education about what it’s like to live there as a Christian now, to avoid the arrogant assumption that we already know what help they need.”



St. George’s members started to learn during pilgrimages to the Holy Land in 2007 (I) and 2008 (II) and in the teaching-preaching mission at St. George’s in 2010 by Fr. Kamal Farah, an Arab Anglican priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

They also learned that Christians there are encouraged by evidence that some American Christians care about them.

They learned that ancestors of a local family converted to Christianity in 64 AD, and those of another family “sent St. Paul off to Rome,” 6 centuries before Islam and 19 centuries before creation of the State of Israel. As the Holy Land’s mixed population grew the probable Christian majority in Apostolic times declined to approximately 25% in 1950 and to about 2% today.

Since 1940, the number of Jerusalem Christians declined from 45,000 to less than 10,000. Parallel declines were recorded in Bethlehem (80% to 10%) and in Ramallah (60,000 to 6,000). Muslims comprise two-thirds of the population in Nazareth.

Interethnic and interfaith discrimination and tensions have led many Christians to seek better opportunities in other lands; and that the decision to remain is favored by employment, family ties, property, no other place to go or inability to afford the cost of emigration. Many wonder whether anyone in the West cares?

The main Christian enterprises in the Holy Land are education to qualify for employment and stay in the country; hospitals and health ser-

vices not otherwise provided; and advocacy for human dignity and rights for all persons - from a posture of love and respect for each party in conflict. Fr. Farah said, “We partner with all who witness for Jesus. We promote social services. We pray for unity between Christians, Muslims and Jews. We’re not now responsible for history!” One of his friends, a (Muslim) Imam, told him, “In this land, no Jesus, no peace.”

Fr. Farah explained that much of the conflict stems from ignorance and arrogance, that knowledge dispels ignorance and prayer dispels arrogance; and “since the US media do not usually reflect the truth of how we live, your visits to the Holy Land can help you understand its origins and ‘learn how we live.’” His invitation: “So come and swim in our water!”

Other ideas occurred to the team: We should enter into prayer, study and also dialogue with Holy Land Christians. We need Sunday school classes for adults (possibly also for youth and children) to explore the origin, history, current situation and responses of Palestinian Christians. We need more input from Fr. Farah about types of educational needs and opportunities in the Holy Land, more educational tours to the Holy Land using Fr. Farah’s knowledge and expertise; more visits to us by Holy Land Christians; and we should ask Fr. Farah and his colleagues for stories of Holy Land Christians to share with us. Our travelers’ reports to our congregation will help educate us as well. And how about service internships to share each others’ special knowledge and skills, in consultation?

Several caring opportunities, now being acted upon, were revealed during St.



George’s pilgrimages I and II, Fr. Farah’s visit to the parish and through other information sources: A local selection committee based in Nazareth identified five



Christian children in primary grades 2 to 8 for scholarship support warranted by their academic promise and severe financial need. The \$2,500 annual scholarship approximately covers tuition, fees, uniforms, supplies and transportation. All but Emil attend schools in Nazareth. Rosette is a second grader with two siblings and a family income of about \$1,200 per month. Reema, a fourth-grader, has three siblings supported by a monthly family income of \$1,300. Emil is also in the 4th grade, in the Bishop's School for Boys in Amman Jordan. An only child, his father recently lost his job in

Libya in the upheaval. Elia is in the 7th grade, has two siblings in a family with income at \$1,000 per month. And Sausan in the 8th grade with three siblings depends on a monthly family income of \$2,000.

Understood as an investment in the futures of these God-beloved little ones, the needed funds were contributed this year by fifteen donors to augment the allocation from St. George's Outreach committee's budget. But the focus is much beyond "just send money" to building personal relationships, especially with these children and their families and their teachers in their schools. So the "Helping Holy Land Christians" team is now exploring possible penpal relationships between those children and ours, by mail, by email,

maybe even by Skype-like two-way audio-visual connections.

The team was encouraged to help some Holy Land entrepreneurs: "Olive Branch Olive Oil," olive oil produced by Christian and other farmers, is on sale in St. George's bookstore. A trial shipment of both elegant and utilitarian items carved of olive wood by Christian artisans near Bethlehem sold out rapidly. More have been ordered, in each case to enlarge the producers' constricted local market opportunities.

Sale of additional product lines in the parish and around diocese is being explored. But how do these artisans live? What are their hopes and future expectations? Again, this is to learn more about what it's like to live and work as a Christian in the Holy Land.



Thus, during St. George's "Pilgrimage III" to the Holy Land in November, focus will shift more toward "persons and relationships" and away from just "dollars and things." Can somebody's caring, educational opportunities and expanded markets counteract for some the compulsion to escape by emigration? The team's approach is not grandly geopolitical but local, personal and in the service of Christian family solidarity.

If you are interested in this adventure please address "Helping Holy Land Christians" c/o St. George's Episcopal Church, 4715 Harding Road, Nashville TN 37205; alternately, email info@stgeorgesnashville.org; or phone 615-385-2150.

The Tale Of The Tiles

Ceramic tiles made in Jerusalem is one of the product lines made by Christian artisans that are being brought to Nashville by the Helping Holy Land Christians project at St. George's Church Nashville.

The tiles are made by the Balian Family of Jerusalem whose shop has been producing hand painted ceramic work and pottery since 1922. The family is of Armenian Christian extraction and came to Jerusalem from Turkey to work on restoring tiles at the Dome of the Rock.

Balian Armenian Ceramics have been exhibited all over the world in museums and institutions, including a solo exhibition at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC in 1992 and, later that year, at the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Boston. The ceramic work ranges from 6 inch-square tiles to major, mosaic-like installations that cover full walls.

The tiles that St. George's offers will come in four patterns. Each pattern has a unique border and either a Biblical quotation or the St. George's church logo. The quotations were selected earlier in the year by members of St. George's clergy. The tiles will be available before Christmas in the St. George's Bookstore.



Additional information about Balian Armenian Ceramics can be found at www.armenianceramics.com.

Clergy News -

The Rev. Bill Barton, vicar of Church of the Holy Comforter Monteagle, Church of the Epiphany Sherwood, Christ Church Alto and priest-in-charge of Trinity Church Winchester attended CREDO at the Solomon Episcopal Retreat Center in Louisiana. **The Rev. Canon Pamela Snare** recently attended EBAC - the Episcopal Business Administration Conference, held in New York City. Diocesan CFO Jan Pate attended as well.

Parish News -

Recent confirmations: Correction from last month - Jenna Choi, Jihee Woo, Bokia Oh, Moojak Chon, Joseong Jo, Rujin Kim, Scott Nelson, **Church of the Holy Spirit Nashville**; Margaret Adams, Sarah Aronson, Emma Choate, William Fleming, Logan King, Blake Knox, Caroline Stafford, Elizabeth Webb, **St. Michael's Church Cookeville**. Recent receptions: Joe Pegel, Donna Pegel, Donna Princehorn, Bill Chairs, Deborah Chairs, Susan Macindoo, **Church of the Holy Cross Murfreesboro**; Jerry Sedgewick, **Grace Chapel Rossview**. Recent reaffirmations: Larry Lynch, Timothy Princehorn, **Church of the Holy Cross Murfreesboro**. Recent baptisms: Corine Malcom, Tobias Caldwell **St. Paul's Church Murfreesboro**; Erik Marsh, Athalia Kipp, **St. Bartholomew's Church Nashville**; Emma

chester attended CREDO at the Solomon Episcopal Retreat Center in Louisiana. **The Rev. Canon Pamela Snare** recently attended EBAC - the Episcopal Business Administration Conference, held in New York City. Diocesan CFO Jan Pate attended as well.

Williams, **St. Paul's Church Franklin**; Elizabeth Steele Charles Bridges III, Jaidan Keifer, **Christ Church Cathedral Nashville**.

The Fall United Thank Offering Ingathering will be held in most parishes throughout the diocese on Sunday, October 9 and October 16. Money collected is used to fund grants supporting projects that meet compelling human needs. Look for the "little blue box." **St. Mark's Church Antioch** will be volunteering with Habitat For Humanity on October 22. If you'd like to sign up to join them, contact the church at 615-361-4100. The Magdalene Guild of the Daughters of the King from **St. Mary Magdalene Fayetteville** has scheduled a spiritual retreat on Saturday, November 5. For information on attending, contact Celia Wallace at 931-433-2911.

Youth News -

The young people at St. Agnes' Church in Cowan went on a rafting venture down the Hiwassee River in East Tennessee in July. We held church that day an hour earlier than normal, had a quick lunch in the parish hall, and loaded into a rental van for the two-hour drive to Reliance TN near Cherokee National Forest.

We were thoroughly impressed with the Hiwassee River. This is undoubtedly the cleanest river we have been on so far. The water is also a very cool 54 degrees Fahrenheit that feels perfect on a hot summer day. The splendid Appalachian scenery is another plus.

The rapids were just enough to give us some thrills along the way, but without "sudden propulsion" of the nearby Ocoee. In other words, only those who intended to fall out of the raft did so, and everybody laughed just the same.

We learned about teamwork and cooperation at points where the river was impassable due to rocks and vegetation. It only added to the fun and sharpened our creativity. We stopped and parked at one of the small islands to rest a spell when one of our female companions let out a scream heard for miles around. There was a giant grass spider about six feet from her raft!

At the end of the ride, all of us changed into dry clothes, freshened up, and drove to Chattanooga. We stopped and had dinner at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Garden Room restaurant. For the oldest "kid" in the group it brought back

memories, and for others it was their first time inside the famous Tennessee landmark.

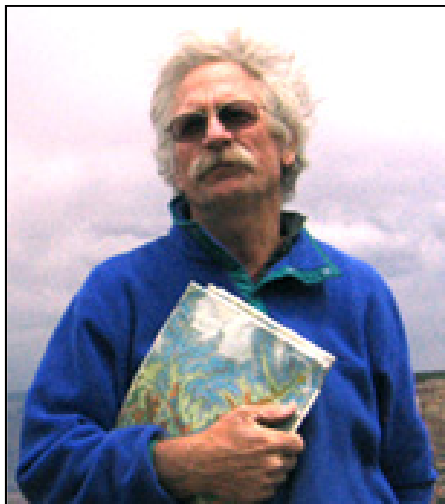
Our group may disagree on which is better, classic country music or the "new stuff," but we agreed wholeheartedly that this was the best outdoor venture we've taken so far. The very next Sunday we held the annual St. Agnes' Family Picnic at the Pearson farm where we shared our photos and stories from the trip. That event marked the end of summer as most in our group started school the next day.

Our youth group also went to All Saints Chapel on July 23 for the Sewanee Summer Music Festival Brass Concert. The fun and activity will continue into the fall as we are planning a movie and discussion night, a cool weather mountain hike, a wild game supper and a fall Sunday school series. — *L. Jarod Pearson, Senior Warden, St. Agnes' Church Cowan*



Bran Potter To Present At St. Mary's Sewanee

Bran Potter, a Snowden Professor of Geology at the University of the South, will offer "Rediscovering the Natural World" at St. Mary's Sewanee, October 28-30.



On this retreat, the Cumberland Plateau will be considered a laboratory of sorts. Attendees will discuss the origin of the landscape and note the visible human influence.

Participants will walk the Lost Cove area, exploring the land and enjoying the fall colors. They will learn the history of the plateau, its

coves and its human history. There will be time to reflect on the power of the natural world as it relates to their lives and faith.

Bran was raised in Clinton NY and received his B.A. at Williams College, his M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts and is currently teaching Structural Geology, Tectonics and Sedimentology at the University of the South.

His teaching is centered in a variety of field-oriented geology courses. In recent years, his Walking the Land class has allowed him to traverse the Sewanee landscape within a literary and historical context.

Bran has spent time with Sewanee students in the southwestern United States, exploring the Grand Canyon and Canyonlands regions.

The retreat will begin at 6:00 PM on Friday, October 28 and will run through 11:00 AM on Sunday, October 30 at St. Mary's Sewanee.

There are residential and commuter rates available. To register, contact St. Mary's by calling 931-598-5342 or toll-free, 800-728-1659.



St. Mary's Sewanee 2011 Fall Programs and Retreats

October 23-24, 2011

Doxasoma: Prayer and Practice
Presenter: Angela Doll Carlson

October 28-30, 2011

Rediscovering the Natural World
Presenter: Bran Potter

November 11-13, 2011

*Recovery, the Sacred Art:
The Twelve Steps as Spiritual Practice*
Presenter: Rabbi Rami Shapira

November 13-14, 2011

*The Language of Loss:
Putting Grief into Words*
Presenter: Amy Lyles Wilson
Tom Ward

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

Brotherhood Of St. Andrew New Chapter Chartered



A new chapter of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has recently been chartered at St. George's Church Nashville. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is an international ministry to Christian men and boys in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion, founded in 1883 and incorporated by an Act

of Congress, signed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 and with the sole object to spread Christ's Kingdom among men.

The Brotherhood's vision is to strive to develop and equip men and boys for faithful discipleship to effect changed lives throughout the world for the greater glory of God through the disciplines of Prayer, Study and Service. With chapters throughout the US and worldwide, St. George's is excited to be offering this valuable new ministry.

The St. George's Chapter welcomes men from all parishes in the Diocese of Tennessee to join this chapter or attend a meeting to decide whether their parishes would benefit from their own Brotherhood of St. Andrew chapter.

For more information on the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and how to join or for meeting times, contact Evans Clements by phone at 615-383-7446 or e-mail him at brothersandrewstgeorges@gmail.com.

The Van Dykes Attend A Think Tank In Paradise

The Rev. Bude Van Dyke and his wife, Pam, attended a Think Tank Summit at the Hui on the island of Molokai, Hawaii sponsored by the Red Bird Foundation. The larger event this think tank was to inform was the Womenspeak Conference, an internationally attended event, offered every three or four years by Paula D'Arcy and the Foundation.



Eighteen people were invited from around the United States, two authors, and others involved in various ministries, helping professions and industry, and they met for a week to discuss topics such as: How do we invite the possibility and the deep longing in each of us? What does it really mean to choose love? What is called for from each of us and our circles of influence in the decade to come to bring about the spiritual healing needed at this time in human history? How do we invite and gather others? How much do you think is possible for humankind? How do we create space to help ourselves and each other get beyond the polarities?

Bude says, "One of the interesting (subtext: challenging and refreshing) components of the gathering ethos for the week was that participants were not allowed to disclosed what their vocations were until the last night of

the gathering. And since the place we were staying was at about 2,000 feet in elevation, we were able to see the inspiring constellation called the *Southern Cross* just above the nighttime horizon."

St. Peter's Columbia Helps People Helping People Day

The co-operative ecumenical effort known as People Helping People Day will take place on Saturday, October 8 in Columbia. The Outreach Committee of St. Peter's Church put together a team to adopt a home in the College Hill area of town.

The collective effort will provide exterior home renovations and repairs for the needy, handicapped and aged of Maury County. Since 2009, the organization has made improvements over 20 houses. Their goal was to assemble 50 teams of workers but as of last count, there are 80 teams. Volunteers can still participate by calling Connie Hardin at 931-381-1260 or Gale Moore at 931-388-6290.

For more information on the organization, visit their website at <http://peoplehelpingpeopleday.org>.

Medical Equipment At St. Barnabas' Tullahoma

St. Barnabas' Church Tullahoma has organized a medical equipment loan program after receiving donations of medical equipment from the late Col. Henry Sherborne's household along with items from other church members. The Outreach Committee of St. Barnabas' set up a system and the husband of one committee member inspects and repairs as needed each piece of equipment in inventory - from motorized wheelchairs to walkers, crutches and more. To utilize this

service or to donate equipment in good working order, contact the church at 931-455-3170.

ECW Installs New Officers

The Diocese of Tennessee Episcopal Church Women held their 124th Annual Fall Meeting September 10 at Church of the Holy Spirit Nashville.

Bishop John Bauerschmidt was the Celebrant and delivered the sermon, after which he installed the officers.

New officers are as follows:

President - Marquenda Dunnivant, Church of the Messiah Pulaski; Vice President/President elect - Kathryn Hinton, Holy Trinity Church Nashville; Treasurer - Lisa Rhea, St. Bartholomew's Church Nashville; Recording Secretary - Dr. Monetha Reaves, Holy Trinity Church Nashville; Corresponding Secretary - Carol Lynn McCarty, Church of the Advent Nashville; Church Periodical Club - Gail Watson, Otey Memorial Parish Sewanee; United Thank Offering - Judy Hines, Church of the Messiah Pulaski; Altar Guild - Rebecca Markert, Holy Trinity Church Nashville; Resolutions and Historian - Leslie Ewing, St. Bartholomew's Church Nashville; Communications and Webmaster - Jenny Ladefoged, St. Ann's Church Nashville.

A delicious lunch was served in the parish hall. The Rev. Randy Dunnivant, from Church of the Good Shepherd Brentwood, was the guest speaker. His talk was titled "Influencing Those Around Us."



In the ECW's online newsletter, Marquenda says, "I look forward to serving as president for ECW, for the challenge it will present to me, and the opportunity to get to meet and know other women in the diocese."

Fall Festivals For Family Fun



On Sunday, October 2, St. Bartholomew's Church Nashville will hold their annual Pig Roast and Fall Festival beginning at 11:45 AM. They will serve BBQ pork and chicken. The event will feature live music and kids' activities, including jump houses.

Families are invited to bring a tent and campout on the grounds of St. Bartholomew's on Saturday night. For more information

on the event and tickets, contact them at churchoffice@stbs.net.

On Saturday, October 15, Trinity Church Clarksville will present their 3rd Annual Pumpkin Chuckin' Fall Festival and Craft Fair from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Homemade Brunswick Stew is on the menu and activities include a silent auction, a raffle, crafts, a cake walk, live music and games. The famous Pumpkin Chunkin' catapult will be in operation all day.

Entry to the event is free; there are some costs for games and bouncies. For more details, contact Kendall Welsh via email at kendallwalsh@gmail.com.

God's Green Earth

Last year, around the time of Blessing of the Pets, this space focused on cats. Kitty litter to be precise. In the interest of fairness for all the dog people out there, here are some tips for keeping Fido green. The website www.raiseagreendog.com offers a wide variety of tips on your dog's health and happiness.



Based out of Indianapolis, the blog began in 2007 and is now a website devoted to helping dog lovers sort through the merits of eco-friendly dog products and environmentally safe household products, travel, grooming and more.

With the changing season, you may be thinking about fall lawn care. And with mild temperatures, your dog may enjoy spending more time outside. To ensure the safety of your pets, your family and the environment, consider an "organic lawn."

Chemical lawn fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides are harmful to dogs and humans. Exposure to the chemicals used has been linked to cancer in dogs and other major illnesses. They have harmful effects on the environment. www.BeyondPesticides.org has a lot of information relating to the affects of such lawn care products.

But having an "organic lawn" will protect your whole family and is not that difficult to implement and maintain.

In the Fall, pull up weeds, dandelions for example, with a good puller to get the roots out (so they won't come back). Rake up debris and leaves, composting them for next Spring's mulch. Spread a good quality un-coated grass seed which contains no growth hormone or other harmful additives, being especially generous in thin or bare patches of your lawn. The more grass you have, the less room there is for weeds to take over. If your area is not getting frequent rain, water the seeded areas occasionally for the next 4-6 weeks. After the seed has a good start, or if you are not re-seeding, put down a good organic fertilizer to give your lawn nutrients to prepare for the upcoming Winter.

The organic fertilizers, whether pellets or sprays, are made from natural products such as fish emulsions, feather meal, bone meal and soybean meal. You will be able to determine which type works best for you and your pet. If your dog is likely to eat the pellets, while they will not harm your pet, they won't do much good in his tummy - a spray may be the better choice for you.

If you need an organic product to replace weed killers, Raise A Green Pet recommends BurnOut, an environmentally friendly product made of concentrated vinegar. It works best when used in weather over 80 degrees.

Of course not all topics at Raise A Green Dog are so serious - they will also point you in the right direction for eco-friendly dog clothes... if you are into that sort of thing.

Praxis Forum At St. George's Church

Ever wonder what Sunday has to do with Monday? Or what it means to be "salt and light" in the world of business?

PRAXIS FORUM

... a conversation about
Christian faithfulness in all of life

Praxis Forum's *The Other Six Days: Following Christ in the Marketplace* will be presented on Saturday, October 29, from 9:00 - 11:45 AM at St. George's Church Nashville.

St. George's Institute hosts an "integration conversation" with a panel of experienced business people discussing the practicalities of following Christ in the marketplace.

Panelists include Tami Heim, former president of Borders, Inc., and

brand development partner in *The A Group*; Joe Cook, co-founder of Mountain Group Capital, a family funded private equity group and past chairman of the Martha

O'Bryan Center; Tom Dent, Executive Chairman of Re:Cognition Health Ltd., a newly launched company in London; and Erick Goss, managing partner and founder of Creative Trust Media (CTM) and Adjunct Professor for Internet Marketing at Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management.

The forum will be moderated by Dr. Morgan Wills, senior staff physician at Siloam Family Health Center, and founding director of the Vanderbilt Medical Campus Outreach ministry.

To register for the forum, visit www.praxisforumnashville.com or call the Rev. Timothy Jones at 615-385-2150 for more details.

ER-D's Program For Pet Blessings

Episcopal Relief & Development's Christian Formation curriculum, The Abundant Life Garden Project, is an interactive, Scripture-based elementary school-aged children's program. In an effort to help children learn to be thankful for the bounty God has provided in Creation, the program focuses on five thematic modules: Water, Seeds, Soil, Animals and Harvest. The classes often raise funds to purchase gifts in the Gifts for Life catalog.



Episcopal
Relief & Development
Healing a hurting world

This year, The Abundant Life Garden Project developed a special St. Francis Day module as many parishes celebrate with a Blessing of the Animals service. It is suggested that the program can be used for children's chapel, Sunday school or even the general worship service. The material provided includes a litany, a

homily, discussion questions and child-appropriate prayers.

To receive a free, downloadable copy of the program, email churchengagement@er-d.org. For more information on The Abundant Life Garden Project, visit their website at <http://www.er-d.org/Children/#Abundant>. Contact the Episcopal Relief & Development Coordinators for the Diocese of Tennessee, Susan Cowperthwaite at cowper-susan@gmail.com or Paul Deepan at pauldeepan@gmail.com for more ways to incorporate the work of ER-D into your parish outreach.



Justin Cole Attends Eco-Justice Program In Seattle

“We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.”

From A Prayer of Oscar Romero, by Ken Untener

Last month, I traveled to Seattle joining 15 other young adults from around the country for the Episcopal Leadership Institute for Young Adult’s “Eco-Justice Immersion Experience 2011.” Over the course of 6 days we met with a variety of church and environmental leaders for training in theology, advocacy and leadership, experienced a beautiful hike in the Cascade Mountains and worked together dreaming up ways to take what we learned and put it into action in our own communities.



We all arrived with a variety of interests and backgrounds, but there were two things just about all of us had in common: a passion for the work of caring for creation, and a sense of grief over the scope of the problems we face. Experiencing grief over the wrong in the world and lamenting that wrong is part of what we are called to as a kingdom people, but it can be an

exhausting endeavor. It’s easy to let our grief bog us down and keep us from doing what we know we should do. We can’t see how our efforts will even make a difference. We are paralyzed.

It would be impossible for me to share everything I experienced in my trip to Seattle here, but one important lesson I took away was a lesson in hope. Hope is what pulls us out of that state of paralysis. Hope is what inspires us to take action. Hope is what the church has to offer the environmental movement. As Christians, we believe that God has, in Christ, begun the work of redeeming all of creation. We know how the story ends! This frees us to join the movement of the Spirit, and participate in that healing and restoration.

One of our speakers in Seattle was Jessie Dye with Earth Ministry. Earth Ministry is an ecumenical organization that works to engage the Christian community in environmental stewardship. Dye spoke passionately about the need to break away from what she called ‘environmental sainthood’: an all-or-nothing approach that demands that people make sudden, drastic changes to their lifestyle.



This attitude is often perceived as harsh and judgmental and turns people away from any sort of action. Dye proposed a ‘developmental approach,’ meeting people where they are, encouraging them to take one step at a time, because small steps matter. Small steps will build into something big. Though some will argue that we cannot afford to take small steps, Dye argues that we cannot afford to demand the ‘all or nothing’ approach. It leaves too many fatigued and hopeless, sitting on the sideline.

Small steps are hopeful steps. They express a faith that though we might not be able to see an impact, God is using us. Another participant in the Seattle program, Rick Richards, shared with the group the prayer that I excerpted above. I continue to carry those words with me as a reminder that what I do to care for creation is important, even if the impact seems small. I am not the master builder, but a worker, and one among many.

One of the greatest blessings of this trip was hearing from the other young adults participants. There is some amazing ‘creation care’ work happening throughout the Episcopal church and my week in Seattle allowed me to connect with a small group of people engaged in that work all across the country. I continue to carry with me the thoughts, ideas, and stories of all the people I met in Seattle. We became quick friends, and I’m confident that the network of support that we formed will continue to inspire all of us to keep on with the work, and to invite others to join in. One small step at a time. — Justin Cole, St. Bartholomew’s Church Nashville



The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee

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Around the diocese

October 2011

- 2 *Bishop's Visitation, St. Augustine's Chapel Nashville*
- 2 Blessing of the Pets, Parishes throughout the Diocese of Tennessee
- 2 Concert of Scottish Song and Verse, St. Paul's Church Franklin
- 7 First Friday Dinner, St. Barnabas' Church Tullahoma
- 9 *Bishop's Visitation, Church of the Messiah Pulaski*
- 9 In Excelsis Concert: Evensong, St. George's Choir, St. George's Church Nashville
- 14 Carol Williams Organ Concert, Christ Church Cathedral Nashville
- 15 Soup and Beverage Tasting, St. Bartholomew's Church Nashville
- 16 *Bishop's Visitation, St. Mark's Church Antioch*
- 20-23 Cursillo, DuBose Conference Center Monteagle
- 23 *Bishop's Visitation, Trinity Church Winchester*
- 23 *Bishop's Visitation, St. Agnes' Church Cowan*
- 27-30 Sister Helen Prejean, Christ Church Cathedral Nashville
- 30 *Bishop's Visitation, St. James' Church Dickson and Calvary Church Cumberland Furnace*

Italics denote Bishop Bauerschmidt's visitations

**This is a sampling of events in the Diocese of Tennessee.
For a complete listing of events throughout the diocese,
see the Calendar of Events at www.episcopaldiocese-tn.org**